



LIBERIA

Mapping REDD+ Finance Flows 2009-2012

2013

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December 2013

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Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS) is an environmental organization pioneering programs to provide for the payment of ecosystems services in Liberia. Since 2004, its activities have been directed towards environmental education, scientific research, the facilitation of conservation, social justice and respect for human rights. SADS has a strong focus on local empowerment, using participatory approaches to engage rural populations in identifying assets and needs, and ultimately promote sustainable community development.

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Executive Summary

Liberia contains approximately 4.3 million hectares of lowland tropical forest that comprises 43% of the remaining Upper Guinea forests of West Africa, which extend from Guinea to Togo. While the overall extent of these forests has dwindled to an estimated 14.3% of its original extent, Liberia still hosts two massifs of forest including evergreen lowland forests in the southeast and the semi-deciduous mountain forests in the northwest. The forests' biological diversity encompasses the last long-term viable populations of several endemic species, ecosystem services, and potential to contribute to the country's development goals. Liberia is listed as one of 34 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 a safety net for vulnerable and marginalized people, especially those living around forest areas, and for the broader community during times of stress.

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). Deforestation and forest degradation remained low during the civil conflict, but as peace was restored, pressure on the forest and its natural resources escalated. Pressures include illegal and uncontrolled logging and poor overall management and weak oversight of the forest sector. Between 1990 and 2010, Liberia lost 12.2% of its forest cover.¹

Liberia is currently in the process of developing a national strategy and capacities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forest loss and degradation, through support from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and other donors. Designing and implementing an effective REDD+ strategy which will directly contribute to long-term sustainable economic growth, requires both consistent long term financial commitments and a transparent financial tracking system to show all funds and activities supported to date.

Forest Trends, Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS), the Forest Development Authority (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia have been compiling information on the flows of finance for REDD+ activities as part of the international REDD+ Expenditures Tracking project (REDDX). Based on detailed surveys and interviews with key stakeholders including donors, implementing organizations, beneficiaries and government agencies, REDDX provides a transparent and publicly available account of financial flows for REDD+ in Liberia.

Over US\$9.5 million has been committed for REDD+ activities in Liberia, with US\$5.3 million disbursed between 2009 and 2012. Together, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Government of Norway and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation account for 84% of all REDD+ financial commitments demonstrating the growing importance of both government and non-government actors in financing Liberia's REDD+ process.

A large portion of initial institutions or "first recipients" receiving funding for REDD+ activities in Liberia are based in-country. The Government of Liberia is scheduled to receive around 39% (US\$3.8 million) of the total commitments to Liberia and local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions are scheduled to receive 29% (US\$2.7 million) of the total commitments.

The finances are currently flowing to 17 projects aimed at the following activities:

- i. Stakeholder Engagement
- ii. Rights and Tenure
- iii. MRV and reference levels
- iv. Policy and Law Analysis & Development, REDD Strategy Development and Advocacy
- v. Institutional Strengthening
- vi. Forest Carbon Projects design
- vii. Improved forest and land management to reduce deforestation and degradation (Implementation)
- viii. Carbon offsets and performance based payments for improved forest and land management.²

¹ *State of the World's Forest*. FAO (Rome, Italy: Food and Drug Administration, 2010)

² For definitions, see "Glossary and Common Reported Terms."

Results emerging out of this first round of REDD+ expenditures tracking demonstrate some key challenges in successfully implementing REDD+ in Liberia. These include:

- ❖ **A lack of sufficient long term financing for REDD+.** Results show that there is a significant gap between total finances committed and levels needed for long term implementation of REDD+.
- ❖ **Bureaucratic processes delaying initial disbursements.** For example, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank committed US\$3.6m to the Government of Liberia after approving the country's REDD+ Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in October 2011, but initial funds weren't disbursed until June 2012.
- ❖ **Low capacity of in-country actors to fully execute and implement a REDD+ program.** The concepts and systems needed for REDD+ are still new to many stakeholders. This is impacting the ability for national civil society organizations, private sector actors and community-based organizations to be involved in the development of Liberia's national REDD+ strategy.
- ❖ **Ineffective engagement of private sector to date.** The private sector (especially forest concessioners) has not been active in the development of the national REDD+ strategy. REDD+ has not been effectively presented as an opportunity for sustainable forest management and future revenue generation, which is impacting private sector participation.
- ❖ **Until now, a lack of transparent information on REDD+ finance and activities leading to duplication of efforts in Liberia.** Very few REDD+ activities or donors are known by the national government and some of the main REDD+ stakeholders. This has led to several organizations either duplicating activities or failing to focus on national priorities in reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

With the current low levels of REDD+ commitments, it will be important for Liberia to include all stakeholders in the development of a REDD+ strategy and consider how to most effectively direct finance to any gaps in REDD+ activities currently supported. In particular, there should be greater engagement with the private sector.

The national government of Liberia should take more direct action in coordinating and implementing REDD+ and prioritize regular REDD+ meetings to facilitate dialogue between the main REDD+ stakeholders in Liberia and to ensure public participation and information sharing. The REDD+ secretariat within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) should be strengthened and focus on developing national carbon policies and regulations to support the REDD+ process. The FDA should also look to establish a comprehensive REDD+ registry to monitor and audit the REDD+ activities implemented.

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Acronyms

CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CFF	County Forest Forum
CI	Conservation International
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERADRO	Environmental Relief and Development Organization
FACE	Farmers Associated to Conserved the Environment
FCL	Forest Cry Liberia
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership facility
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FLY	Federation of Liberia Youth
FT	Forest Trends
LACE	Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment
LC	Land Commission
LMI	Liberia Media Initiatives
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoGD	Ministry of Gender and Development
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
NACUL	National Charcoal Union of Liberia
NBC	National Bureau of Concession
NCRC	Nature Conservation Research Center
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
REDD	Reducing Emission for Deforestation and Degradation
R-PP	REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal
RTWG	REDD+ Technical Working Group
SADS	Skills and Agricultural Development Services
SAMFU	Save My Future Foundation
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature
SEC	Society for Environmental Conservation
WB	World Bank
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Glossary and Common Reported Terms

REDD+: REDD+ is defined by the UNFCCC as “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”. The details behind the “+” are not yet defined, such as eligibility of activities, requirements on land type, species, etc. Thus, some questions remain regarding how exactly the plus will work.

REDD+ finance: A working definition of “REDD+ finance” remains heavily debated within the international policy context. For the sake of this project and to promote consistency with other REDD+ tracking initiatives and broader international approaches to REDD+, it was agreed that REDD+ finance will include:

1. International REDD+ Finance: Any international financial transfers earmarked to support REDD+ mechanisms or initiatives, as currently defined by the UNFCCC, that are developed with the aim of reducing net GHG emissions from the forestry sector.
2. National REDD+ Finance: Monies earmarked and spent for any activities or actions that fall within the scope of the REDD+ definition found within an individual country’s approved REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal or other existing country REDD+ strategy.

Commitment: REDD+ defines “commitment” as a formal indication from a donor that they will fund REDD+ activities in a country. This “commitment” will be backed up by a legal or formal agreement specifying the total amount of funding for the recipient, a timeline for activities and a schedule for when finance will be spent. (This is not to be confused with a “pledge”).

Disbursement: A “disbursement” in the context of the REDD+ initiative is the transfer of funds from a donor to a recipient or from a recipient to an additional recipient in the funding chain.

Expenditure: An “expenditure” in the context of the REDD+ initiative is when REDD+ finance is actually spent or expended on REDD+ activities on the ground.

Institutions

Donor government agency: A federal agency or ministry in the donor or recipient country. Examples of donor government agencies are GIZ (Germany), KfW (Germany), JICA (Japan), DEFRA (UK), and FORMIN (Finland). Donor governments are increasingly in both the developed and the developing world and are increasingly transferring funds outside traditional bilateral funding mechanisms (from a donor government to a recipient government).

Multilateral financing institution: International organizations that are comprised of members from many countries. Examples include the World Bank, UN-REDD, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IDB, ADB, IFAD and ITTO. The UN-REDD Programme builds on the convening role and technical expertise of its three participating UN organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Private Foundation: A charity that receives the majority of its support from individual and corporate donations, not public funds, and whose funds and programs are managed by its own trustees or directors. Some examples are Climate Works, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Moore Foundation, and Packard Foundation.

International NGO/Academic institution: International NGOs/academia includes international, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such environmental organizations *and/or* independent academic institutions with headquarters outside the recipient country. In general, academic institutions that are funded by governments, such as national universities and research centers are grouped under “donor governments”. Many international institutions receive

donor funding for REDD+ activities to be implemented at the international, regional and/or national level. Their finance is typically spent in the following ways:

- At headquarters on their own staff and operations supportive of donor and/or recipient country objectives;
- At regional or national offices on their own staff and operations supportive of donor and/or recipient country objectives;
- Passed on to other international organizations through sub-grants, or consultancies to implement activities (and who may, in turn, pass on to additional organizations);
- Passed on to other national organizations through sub-grants or consultancies to implement activities (and who may, in turn, pass on to additional organizations);
- Passed on directly to local communities or households for payments for environmental services.

Local NGO/Academic institution: Civil society organizations and academic institutions based in the REDD+ recipient country.

REDD+ Activities and Projects

Stakeholder engagement: Funding aimed at improving participation of non-governmental stakeholders through the design, implementation, and/or monitoring phases of REDD+, and/or funding that promotes media outreach.

Rights and tenure: Funding directed at addressing issues of rights and tenure – including clarifying land, property and carbon rights.

MRV and reference levels: Funding aimed at improving the monitoring, reporting and/or verification of REDD+, including changes in forest cover, forest degradation, biodiversity, or social and governance levels. Funding to define or implement reference levels to measure emissions, co-benefits and governance in country.

Safeguards: Funding aimed at identifying barriers to forest conservation and enabling social and environmental benefits.

Policy and law development: Funding aimed at promoting research, advocacy and outreach to policymakers including policy and law analysis, policy development, REDD strategy development & advocacy.

Institutional strengthening: Funding aimed at developing in-country public institutions, ministries, staffing capacity and resources for REDD+.

Forest Carbon Project Design: Funding aimed at developing project design documents (PDDs) and validation activities. This includes credited projects that go to the market and those that want REDD+ payments.

Improved forest and land management: Funding supporting protected areas, sustainable forest management, and reforestation management activities – including enforcement and compliance.

Carbon offsets or performance based payments: Funding aimed at carbon offsets, direct payments, actual benefits sharing, and actual payments such as incentive and performance-based payments.

Introduction

Over US\$7.3 billion has been pledged to support REDD+ Readiness in the run up to 2015. However, information remains limited on how much of this finance is actually flowing to national level initiatives, the types of REDD+ activities supported and the organizations managing and actually implementing REDD+ on the ground.

To address these gaps, Forest Trends developed REDDX, a REDD+ Expenditures Tracking initiative, in 2011 to follow REDD+ finance from donors to in-country recipients and ultimately REDD+ projects and activities on the ground to determine:

- ❖ Actual commitments and disbursements of REDD+ finance;
- ❖ Timelines between when funds are committed and actually disbursed;
- ❖ The types of organizations receiving and implementing REDD+ activities; and
- ❖ Types of activities supported by the current financial commitments.

Through this initiative, REDDX seeks to improve transparency around REDD+ financing mechanisms and ultimately provide information that will help governments and other REDD+ stakeholders better assess gaps and needs against national REDD+ strategies.

Liberia is one of fourteen tropical forest countries participating in REDDX (the other REDDX countries currently include Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico and Peru in Latin and South America, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania in Africa and Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam in Asia-Pacific). Emerging results and trends across the fourteen countries demonstrate that REDD+ financial commitments have slowly, yet steadily increased since 2009. Most commitments are multi-year grants with long disbursement schedules. At the end of 2012, 32% of REDD+ committed funds tracked had been released to first recipients/implementing organizations.³ The majority of REDD+ finance continues to be committed by donor country governments and multilateral financing institutions but private foundations have also played a significant role particularly in the early years of the REDD+ process.

REDD+ financing results for REDDX countries are published through Forest Trends' REDDX website and report series available at reddx.forest-trends.org.

This report specifically focuses on the national results for Liberia and is implemented by the Skills and Agricultural Development Services in collaboration with Liberia's Forestry Development Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency.

³Based on REDDX results tracked in seven countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, and Vietnam).

Methodology

The process of tracking REDD+ finance in Liberia started in February 2013 and focused on collecting data through three main methods (direct face-to-face interviews, phone interviews and internet literature reviews). The target groups for this tracking initiative were organizations/institutions implementing or responsible for REDD+ and its enabling activities in Liberia.

Data collection was based on:

- ❖ Standardized formats and guidance provided by Forest Trends across all participating countries and partners globally. Key data fields collected and tracked include:
 - **Key actors in the REDD+ process** including donors, the full chain of recipients, implementing agents and co-financers.
 - **REDD+ financial arrangements** including total commitments, commitment types (grants, loans, performance based payments, in-kind technical assistance etc.) the schedule for disbursing funds and total disbursements to date.
 - **REDD+ projects and activities** including the start and end date for projects, the REDD+ activities supported and the extent to which activities fit within the national definition of REDD+.
- ❖ Interviews with key representatives from institutions providing or receiving REDD+ finance to collect more information not available in the public domain. A structured questionnaire template was used, and responses were written electronically and verified with the respondent. This also helped tease out points of confusion or discrepancy. All interviews were arranged in advance.
- ❖ Follow-up communication via email, phone calls and in-person visits to clarify and supplement data from relevant staff for each institution/organization. This also served to validate collected data.
- ❖ National stakeholder information and awareness workshop, in order to provide adequate information about the REDD+ initiative and also solicit stakeholders' views on methodology used to collect data. The national stakeholder information and awareness workshop was held on 12th March 2013 and was attended by twenty- seven participants representing civil society, community, media, international organization, private sector and government agency (*see annex 1 for participants list*). Hon. Emmanuel Muneneh, Deputy Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Hon. Anyaa Vohiri, Managing Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The workshop focused on the project concepts and aims. In the discussion session, participants defined the scope of the project including the finance and activities that would be tracked as "REDD+ finance".
- ❖ A national data validation workshop was held on October 29, 2013 to provide relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to reflect on the data collection process, results, challenges and methods. Twenty- seven participants from civil society, communities, media, international organizations, private sector and government agencies attended (*see annex II for participants list*). This workshop was chaired by Mr. Mitchell Kumbelay of Liberia's Forestry development Authority.

National Context

Forestry and Land Use

Liberia contains approximately 4.3 million hectares of lowland tropical forest that comprises 43% of the remaining Upper Guinea forests of West Africa, which extend from Guinea to Togo (Map 1, Annex 3: Map of forest resources in West Africa). While the overall extent of these forests has dwindled to an estimated 14.3% of its original extent, Liberia still hosts two massifs of forest including evergreen lowland forests in the southeast and the semi-deciduous mountain forests in the northwest. The forests' biological diversity encompasses the last long-term viable populations of several endemic species, ecosystem services, and has significant potential to contribute to the country's development goals. Liberia is listed as one of 34 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, and for the broader community during times of stress.

Challenges in Reducing Deforestation

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). Deforestation and forest degradation remained low during the civil conflict, but as peace was restored, pressure on the forest and its natural resources has been escalating. Pressures include illegal and uncontrolled logging and overall poor management and weak oversight of the forest sector. Between 1990 and 2010, Liberia lost 12.2% of its forest cover.⁴

Management and Efforts to Prepare for REDD+

In 2006, the newly elected government started to follow the Forest Concession Review Committee (FCRC) recommendations and established the National Forest Reform Law (NFRL) of 2006 (followed by the National Forest Sector Strategy in 2007) that provided the framework for the sector's legal, participatory, and transparent operation. In 2006, the United Nations Security Council voted to lift existing timber sanctions. Finally, in 2009 the Community Rights Law (CRL) with Respect to Forest Lands was passed to recognize local community rights to own forest resources on community forest lands.

These reforms highlight a move towards sustainable forest management as a national goal and promoted closer relationships between commercial operators and affected communities. This introduced the "Three C's (3Cs)" approach that aims to balance and integrate community, commercial, and conservation uses of Liberia's forests.

In June 2012, Liberia's REDD+ Preparation Proposal (R-PP) prepared for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was endorsed with funds committed to help implement the proposal. The R-PP introduced a wide range of new priorities and instruments to manage Liberia's forests in a balanced way for long-term sustainable economic growth; to support the livelihood of local and rural communities; and to ensure that its important national and global heritage is conserved. The amount budgeted for the R-PP is US\$7.7 million with the FCPF committing US\$3.6 million towards this total.

The R-PP is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- a. National, county and local capacity sufficient to understand and engage in the R-PP implementation process;

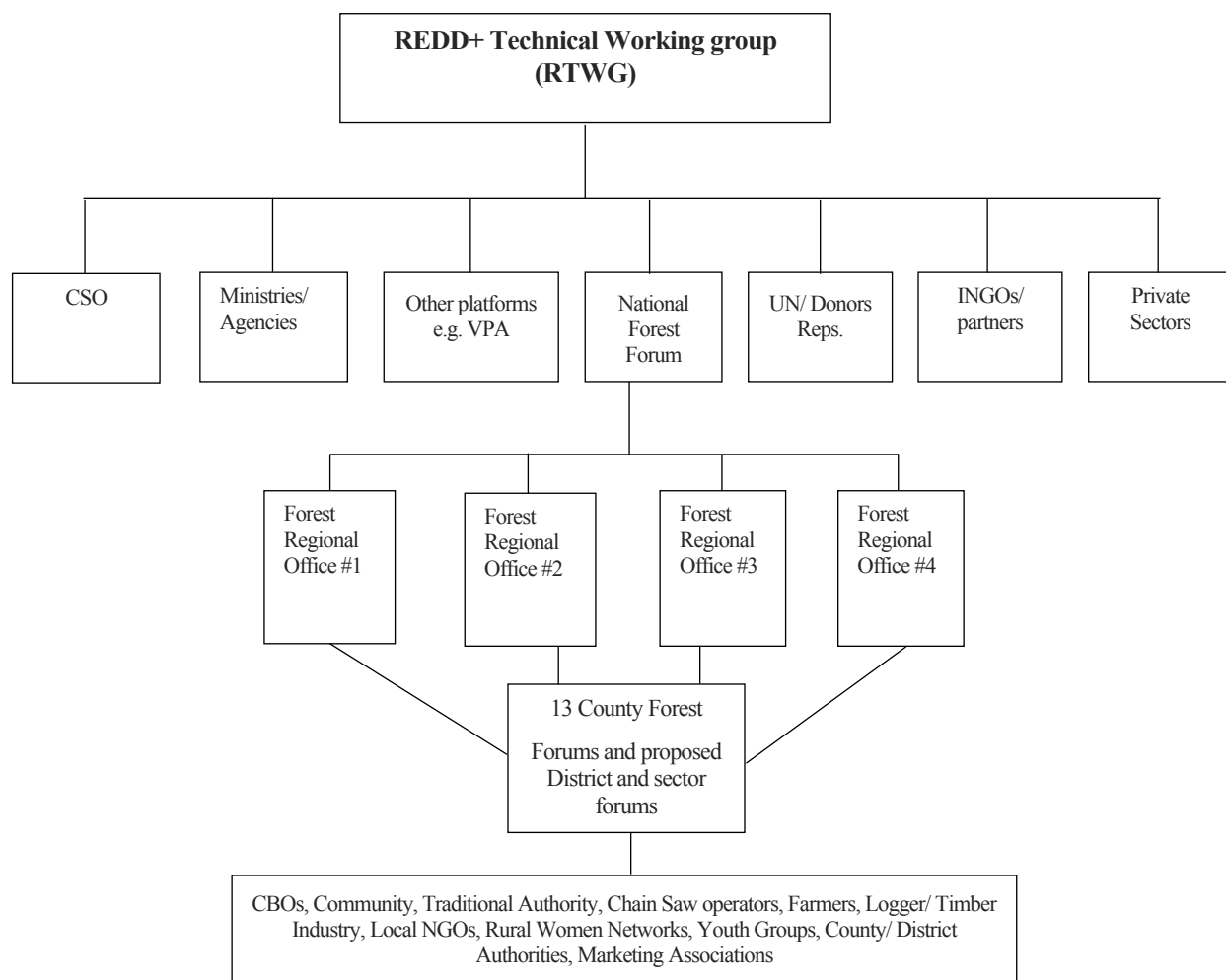
⁴FAO, *State of the World's Forests* (Rome, Italy: Food and Drug Administration, 2010).

- b. Key REDD+ knowledge gained and shared among stakeholders, including the legal context, carbon (biomass) and socio-economic baselines, and reference emission levels (REL);
- c. Key systems for REDD+ (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification, FPIC, tenure arrangements and benefit distribution systems) explored and developed;
- d. All stakeholders fully aware of and participating in REDD+ / the R-PP and consulted on each component, activity and phase during planning and implementation.

The national government coordinates all REDD+ activities and finance in Liberia through the REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG). This is composed of technical experts from across civil society, international organizations, the private sector, community based organizations and government agencies. The RTWG is co-chaired by the Forestry Development Authority and the Environmental Protection agency of Liberia.

The government has not yet established any system to track finance committed to implement REDD+ activities and programs. It is only through the REDD+ Technical Working Group that project implementers are invited to make presentation on various REDD+ projects.

Figure 1: National REDD+ Management Structure



Source: Liberia Readiness Preparation Proposal

Liberia is fortunate to have been assisted in an economic analysis of REDD strategy options for a Low Carbon Economy which constitutes a major contribution to the preparation of a REDD-plus strategy to address D&FD⁵. This document identified three sectors as priorities for the development of a national REDD strategy with immediate outputs, namely:

- a. Forestry Sector
 - i. Raised Commercial Forestry Standards
 - ii. Reduced area footprint of commercial logging
 - iii. Regulation and management of chainsaw logging
 - iv. Integration of Conservation and PAs into REDD & acceleration of the timeline
- b. Agriculture Sector
 - i. Transform shifting cultivation into permanent /semi-permanent agriculture
 - ii. Plantations and permanent agriculture sited on degraded forest lands
- c. Energy Sector
 - i. Regulate and manage wood fuel energy
 - ii. Introduce more efficient kilns and cooking stove

⁵ Keith Lawrence, Eduard Niesten, Eric Werker; Economic Analysis of a Carbon Economy for Liberia, 2009.

Findings

Overview

Between 2009 and 2012, US\$9.5 million was committed for REDD+ activities in Liberia, with international multilateral development banks accounting for more than 40% of this finance. The majority of multilateral funding has been channeled through the Ministry of Finance. The largest donor government agency commitments have been made by the governments of Norway, the United States, Germany, and Finland.

Liberia was one of the first countries to be identified as a REDD+ country by the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in 2008. Since then, Liberia has only been able to access Readiness grants, and efforts are being made to secure funding from the World Bank's Forest Investment Program (FIP). Liberia is not a UNREDD country, but, currently enjoys and participates in the REDD+ Partnership meetings and training initiatives.

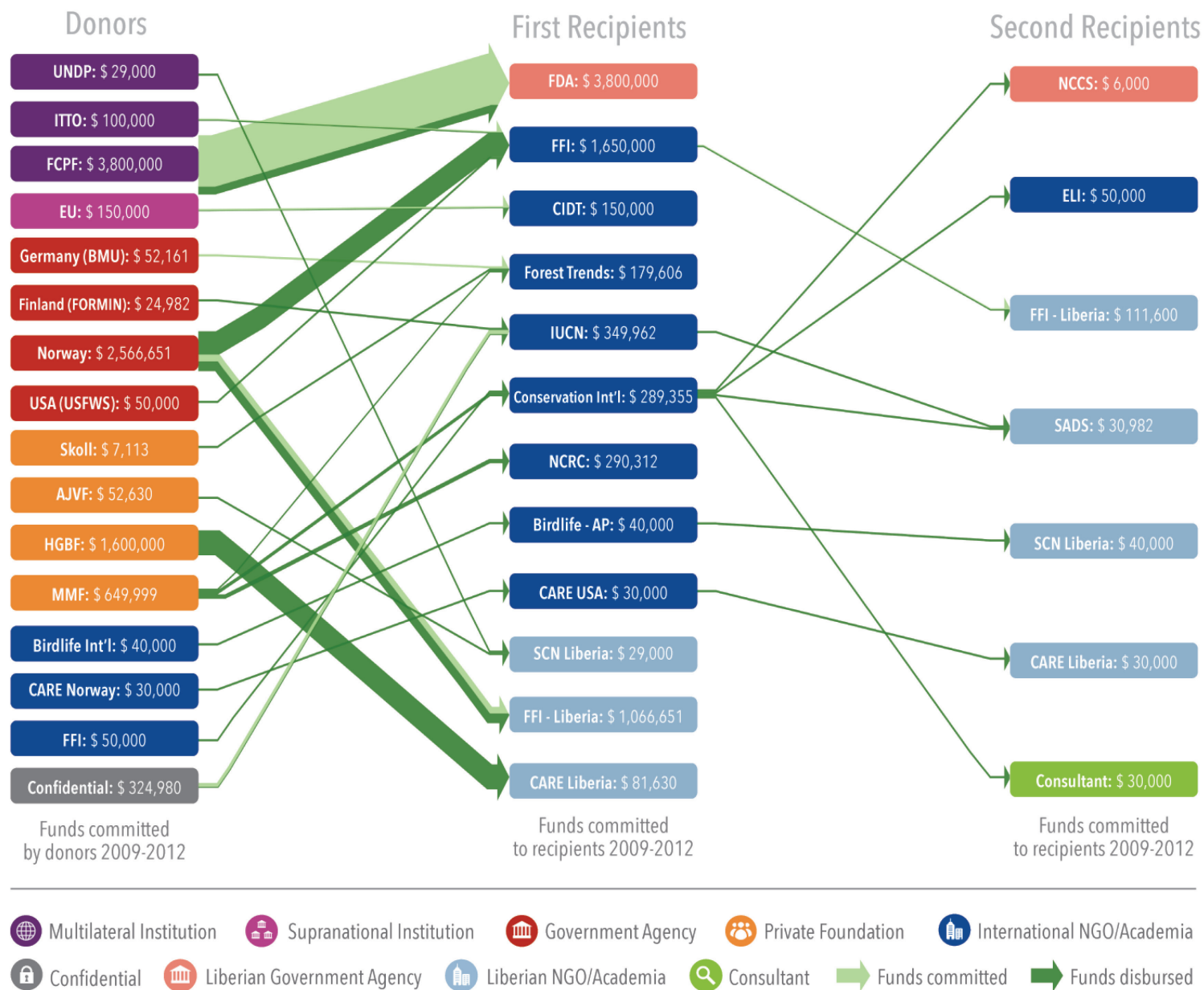
The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility constitutes 93.2% of total committed funding from international sources. This financial commitment was initiated in 2009 for the period of 2009 through 2016. A total of around US\$4 million was committed for R-PP development and implementation.

The main objective of the Readiness grant is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the government and local stakeholders and to develop a national REDD+ strategy. This funding is being directed to the Forestry Development Agency, the government agency responsible for REDD+ and its enabling activities.

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is the second largest donor committing 7% of total funding flowing to Liberia. All funding has been committed through international non-governmental organizations. The majority of the Norwegian funding is allocated to developing pro-poor REDD+ and empowering grassroots REDD+ institutions to inform national REDD+ strategy development through REDD+ demonstration projects.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) accounts for approximately 2.5% of the total commitments to Liberia, with funding flowing primarily to the Fauna and Flora International- a UK international conservation organization.

Figure 2: Funds Committed and Disbursed for REDD+ Activities in Liberia through 2012



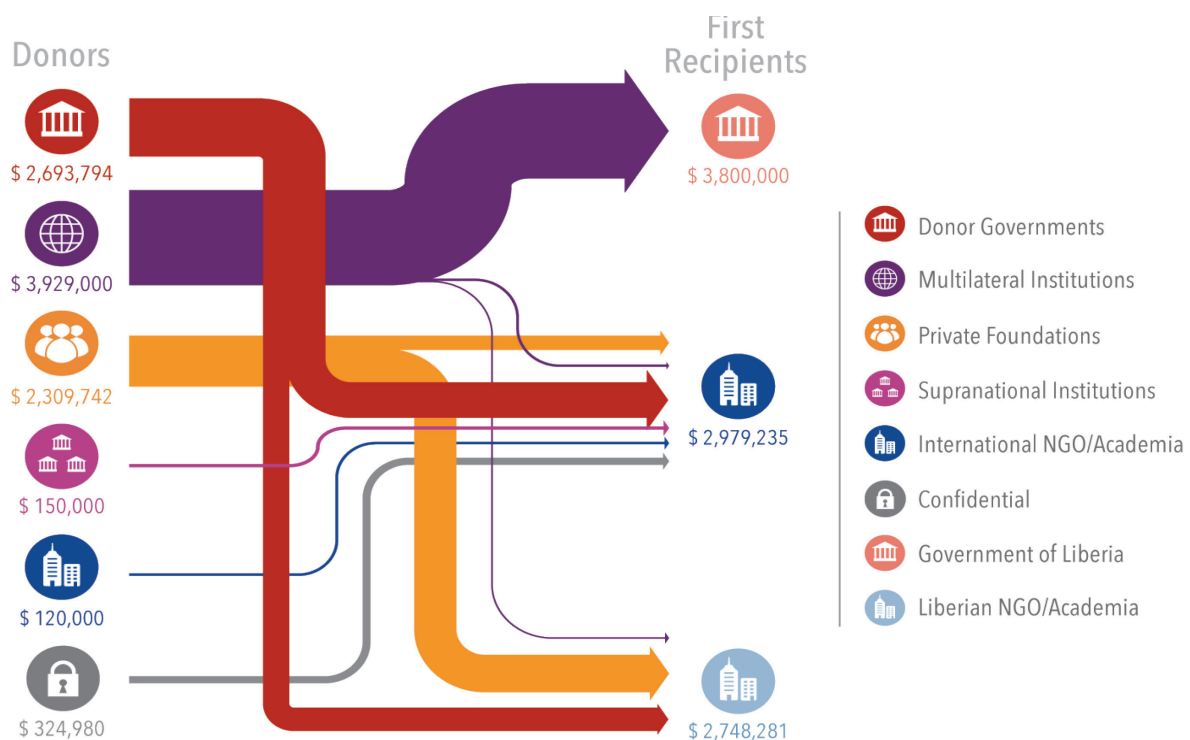
REDD+ Finance Flowing to Liberia

Multilateral commitments to the Government of Liberia account for 41% of all REDD+ financing flowing to Liberia between 2009 and 2012. Donor government agencies are funding both international NGOs/academia and local, Liberian NGOs/academia but have not committed funds directly through bilateral agreements with the Government of Liberia.

Private foundations have committed 72% of their funding to local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions and around 18% of their funding to international NGOs/academic institutions.

International NGOs/academic institutions have committed US\$120,000 to other international NGOs/academic institutions for implementation of REDD+ activities in Liberia. In general, international NGOs/academic institutions tend to be recipients of REDD+ funding rather than donors. However, in some instances, international NGOs and academic institutions mobilize funding through direct public donations which are spent on activities. International NGOs/academic institutions are listed as donors when finance cannot be tracked back to another donor organization.

Figure 3: Flows of REDD+ Finance between Donors and First Recipients in Liberia, 2009-2012



Together, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Government of Norway and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation account for 84% of all REDD+ financial commitments to Liberia between 2009 and 2012.

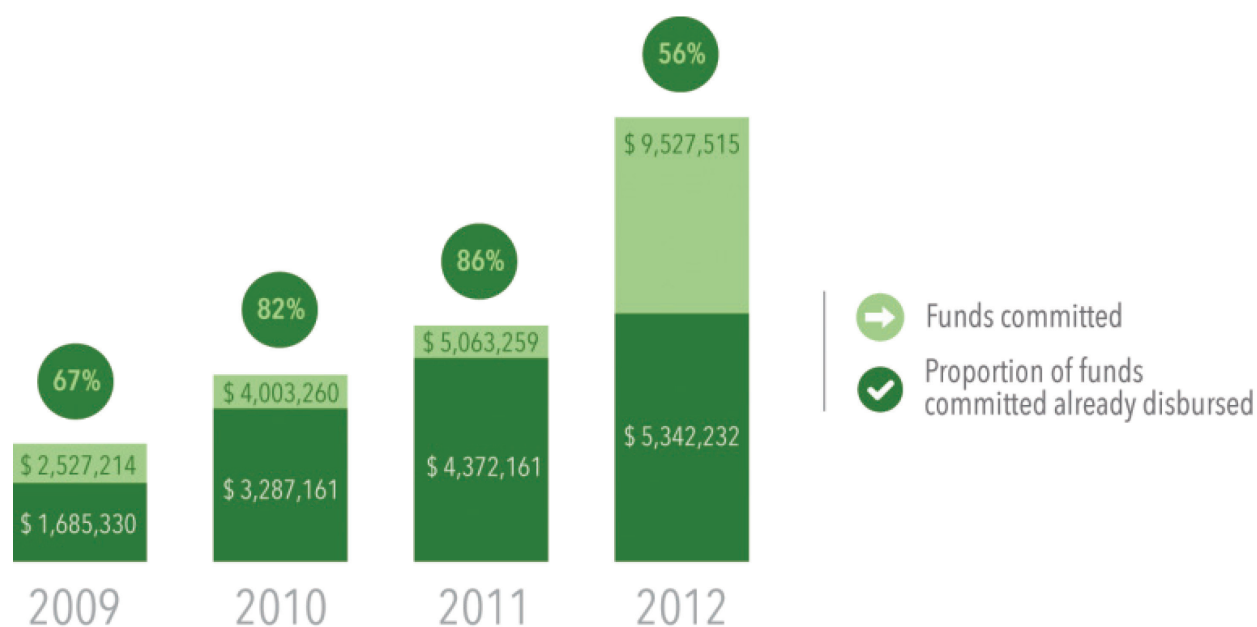
Private foundations, including the AAGE V. Jensen Charity Foundation (AJVF), the Howard G. Buffett Foundation (HGBF), the McCall MacBain Foundation (MMF) and the Skoll Foundation have already disbursed all committed funding to recipients.

International NGOs (Fauna and Flora International, Birdlife International, CARE International) have together committed and disbursed a total of US\$120,000 for REDD+ activities in Liberia.

Levels of REDD+ Finance

As seen in Figure 4, total cumulative commitments increased relatively consistently reaching US\$5 million by the end of 2011. Commitments increased by 53% in 2012, taking the total REDD+ finance tracked in Liberia to US\$9.5 million. Donors have been relatively quick at disbursing funding to date. In 2010 and 2011, over 80% of committed funding had been released by donors. With a number of multi-year commitments signed in 2012, it is expected that the disbursement rate will increase over the next few years.

Figure 4: REDD+ Funds Cumulative Commitments and Disbursements in Liberia, 2009- 2012



Donors

Figure 5 shows the relative levels of funding donors have committed as well as the proportion disbursed to their recipients through 2012. The percentage of committed funding that has been disbursed varies from 100% to 0%. However, the majority of listed donors tend to have a disbursement percentage greater than 76%.

International NGOs (Fauna and Flora International, Birdlife International and CARE International) have together committed and disbursed a total of US\$120,000 for REDD+ activities in Liberia. In general, international NGOs/academic institutions tend to be recipients of REDD+ funding rather than donors. However, in some instances, international NGOs and academic institutions mobilize funding through direct public donations which are spent on activities. International NGOs/academic institutions are listed as donors when finance cannot be tracked back to another donor organization.

Figure 6 shows the geographic distribution of the main donors to Liberia and cumulative support by geographic location of donor headquarters. This chart therefore shows the growing importance of both government and non-government actors in financing for REDD+. For Liberia the majority of funding is coming from the US, Norway and international multilaterals.

International NGOs (Fauna and Flora International, Birdlife International, CARE International) have together committed and disbursed a total of US\$120,000 for REDD+ activities in Liberia. In general, international NGOs/academic institutions tend to be recipients of REDD+ funding rather than donors. However, in some instances,

international NGOs and academic institutions mobilize funding through direct public donations which are spent on activities. International NGOs/academic institutions are listed as donors when finance cannot be tracked back to another donor organization

Figure 5: Proportional Total Donor Commitments and Disbursements, 2009-2012

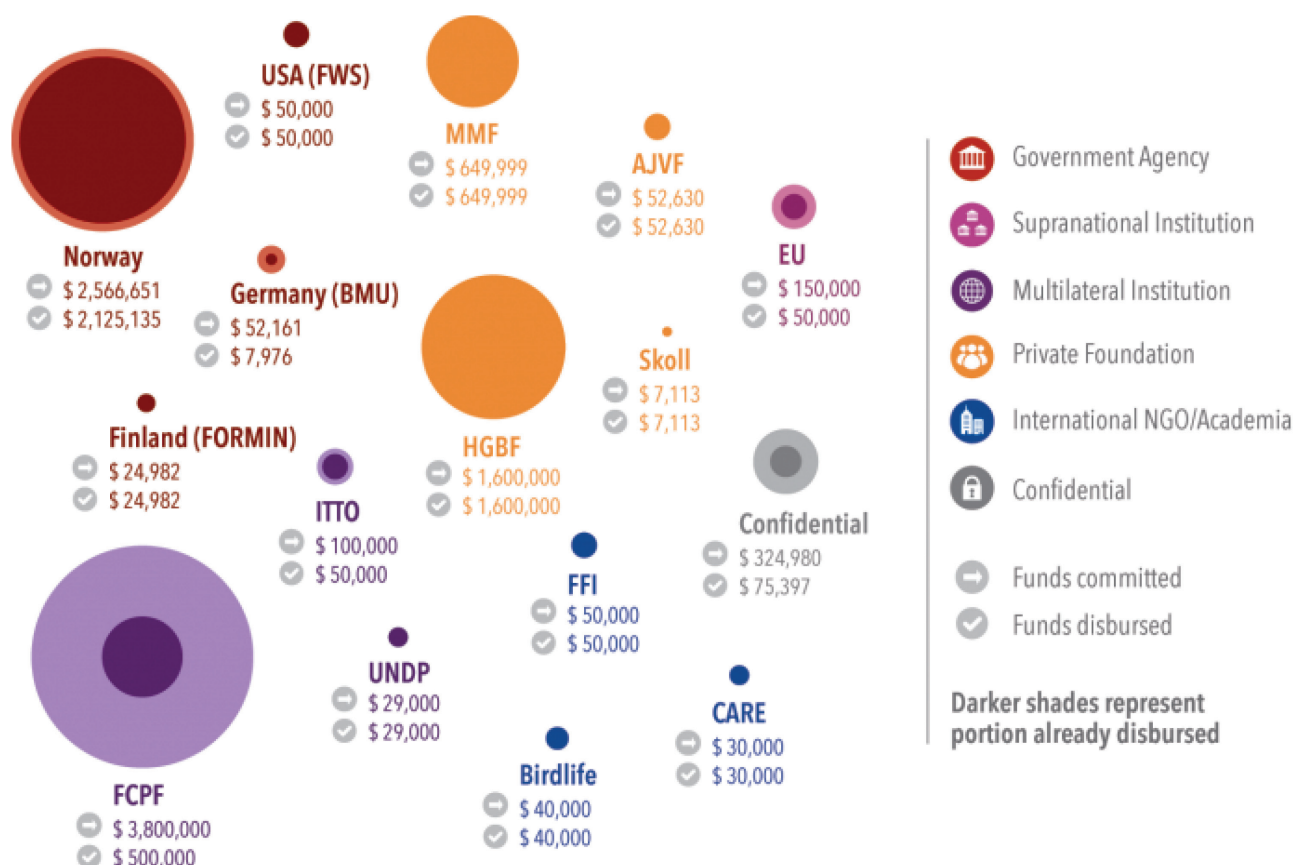
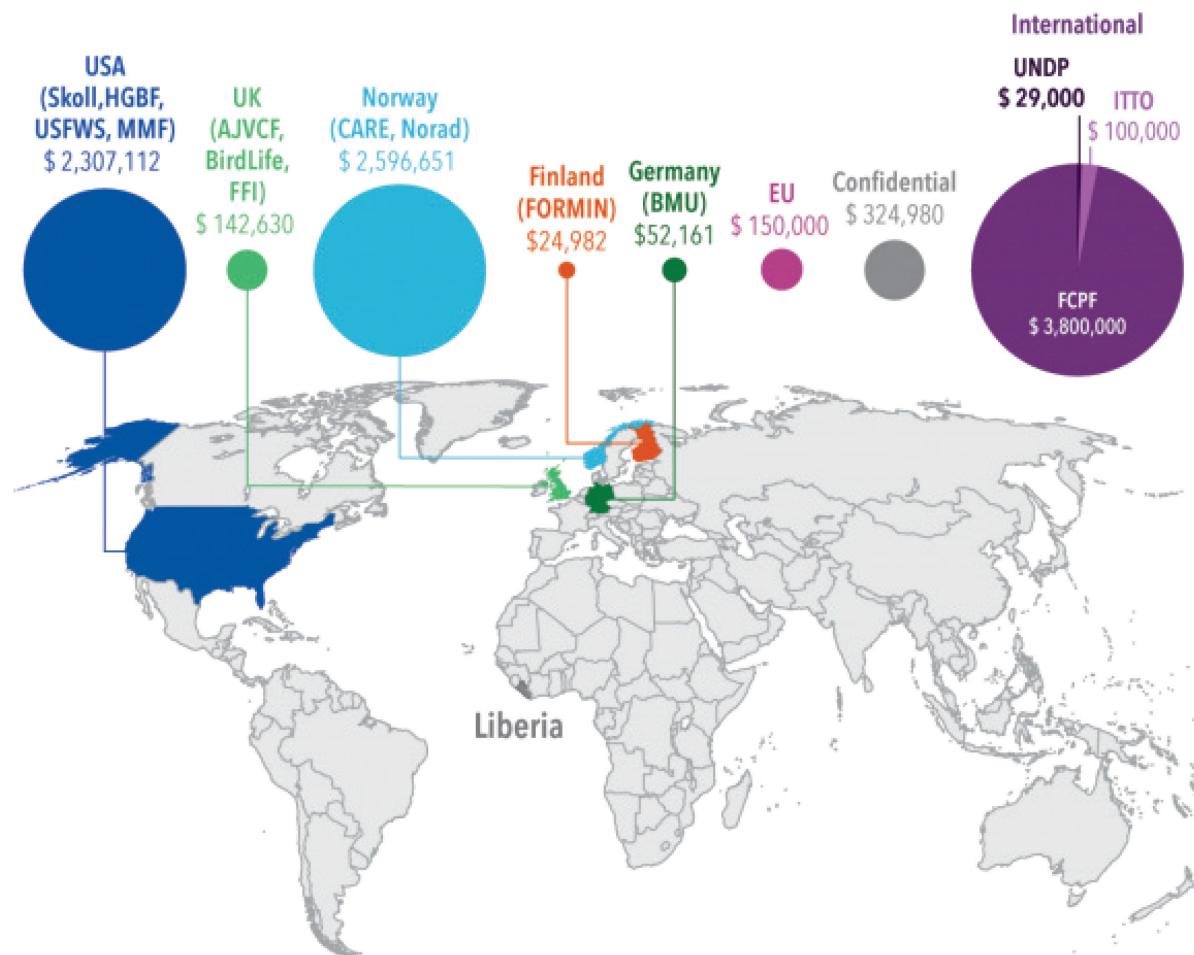


Figure 6: Donor Commitments by Location, 2009-2012



Recipients

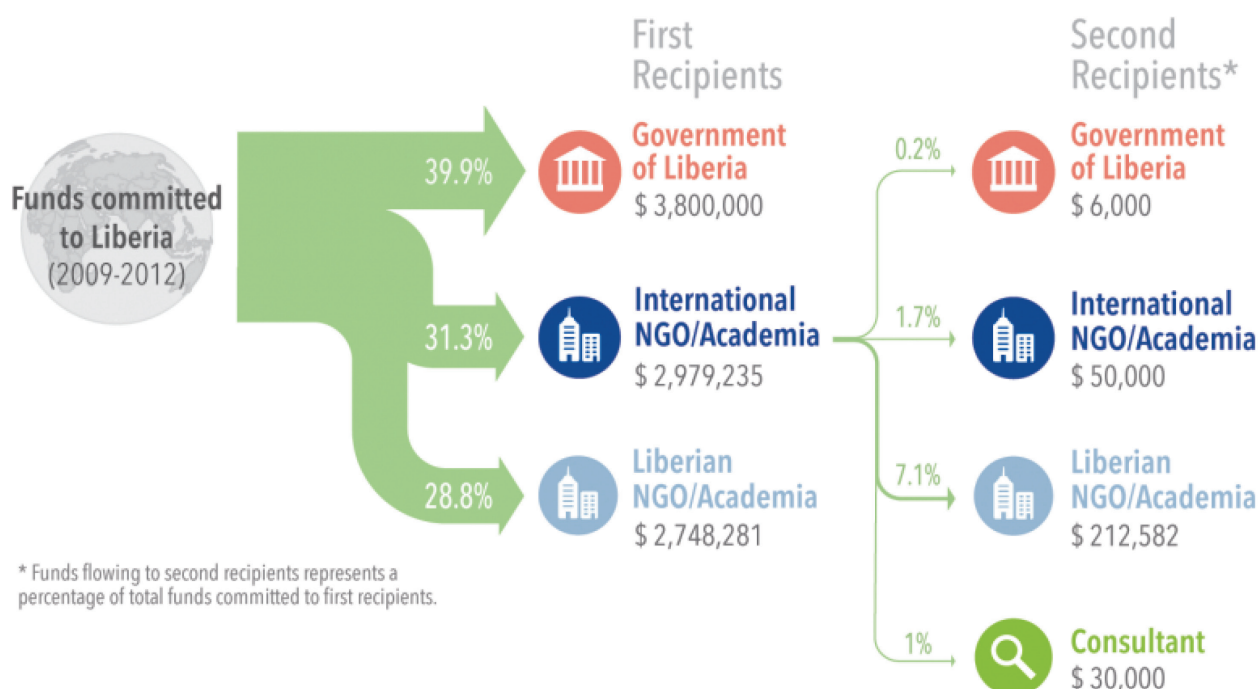
A large portion of initial institutions or “first recipients” receiving funding for REDD+ activities in Liberia are based in-country. The Government of Liberia is scheduled to receive around 39% (US\$3.8 million) of the total commitments to Liberia and local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions are scheduled to receive 29% (US\$2.7 million) of the total commitments or.

International NGOs/academic institutions are scheduled to receive 31% (US\$3 million) of REDD+ finance committed in the period between 2009 and 2012.

“Second recipients” receiving REDD+ finance are also displayed in figure 7. In Liberia, of the US\$3 million committed to international NGOs/academic institutions, 7.1% (US\$212,582) has been passed on to local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions, 1.7% (US\$50,000) has been passed on to other international NGOs/academic institutions, 0.2% (US\$6,000) has been passed on to the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs and 1% (US\$30,000) has been committed to international consultants to implement activities.

Low percentage transfers of funding from first to second recipients should not be seen as a failure to implement REDD+ activities in Liberia. First and second recipients may pass funding to other organizations to implement activities, commit funding directly to local communities or households for payments for environmental services, or implement the activities directly themselves. A clearer picture will emerge as additional REDD+ data collection continues.

Figure 7: Commitments to Recipients by Location and Type

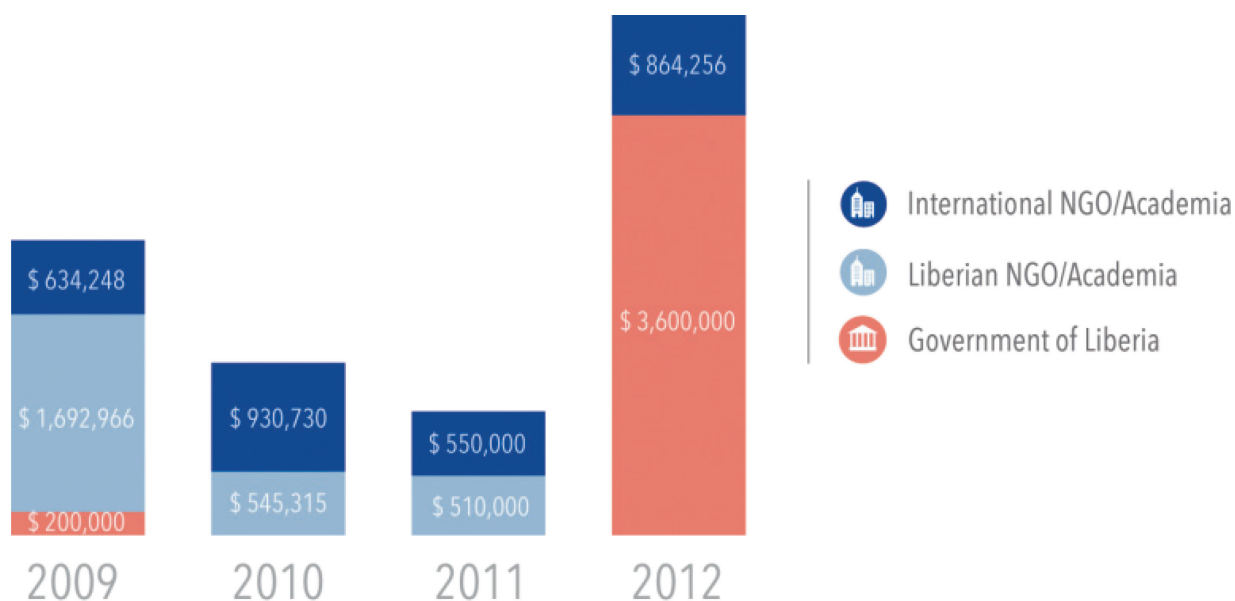


An annual breakdown of funding committed to first recipients shows that local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions account for 67% of all funding committed in 2009. Local Liberian institutions also account for 37% of total 2010 and 48% of total 2011 commitments to Liberia.

However by 2012, over 80% of commitments are flowing to the Government of Liberia following larger multilateral commitments, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) implementation grant.

International NGOs/academic institutions received annual commitments ranging between US\$550,000 and US\$930,730 in the period 2009 -2012.

Figure 8: Commitments by Institution Type and Year



REDD+ Activities

REDD+ activities supported by the different donor institution types is highlighted in figure 9. The list of activities and definitions was drawn from broad agreement among REDD+ experts, including the civil society national partners collecting data across the initiative countries.

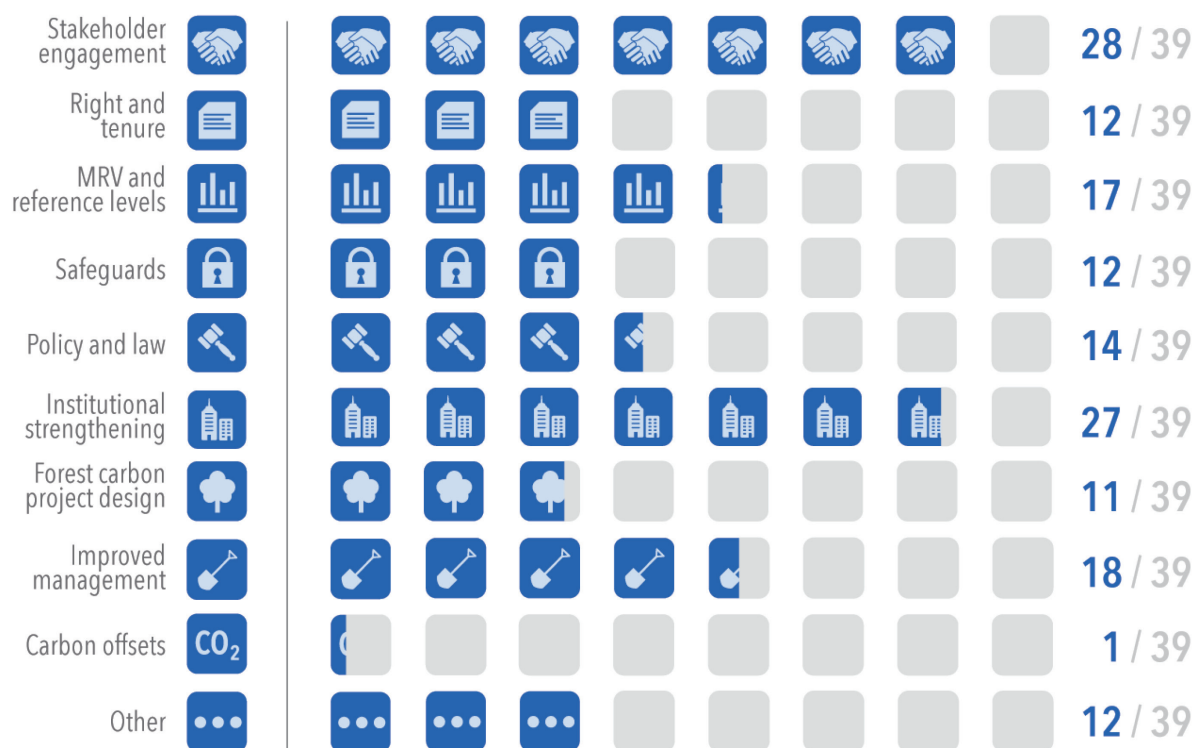
It is important to note that the absence of support for an activity from a specific donor type does not constitute a lack of attention to the activity overall, since the activity could be well-funded through other donor types.

In Liberia, the activities that received support from all donor types (governments, multilateral institutions, international institutions and private foundations) were stakeholder engagement, policy and law analysis & development, REDD strategy development & advocacy, institutional strengthening and implementation of improved forest and land management to reduce deforestation and degradation. The chart below (figure 9) shows the number of REDD+ activities at least partially supported by donor commitments. The main activities included in projects were stakeholder engagement, policy and law analysis & development, REDD strategy development & advocacy, institutional strengthening and implementation of improved forest and land management to reduce deforestation and degradation.

Figure 9: REDD+ Activities in Liberia

	Stakeholder engagement	Right and tenure	MRV and reference levels	Safeguards	Policy and law	Institutional strengthening	Forest carbon project design	Improved management	Carbon offsets	Other
 Donor Governments	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
 Multilateral Institutions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
 Private Foundations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
 Confidential	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
 International NGOs/Academia	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗

Figure 10: Proportion of REDD+ Activities Partially Funded by Initiatives in Liberia



Each icon represents four projects.

Conclusions and Challenges

Over US\$9.5 million has been committed for REDD+ activities in Liberia, with US\$5.3 million disbursed between 2009 and 2012. Together, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Government of Norway and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation account for 84% of all REDD+ financial commitments demonstrating the growing importance of both government and non-government actors in financing Liberia's REDD+ process.

A large portion of initial institutions or "first recipients" receiving funding for REDD+ activities in Liberia are based in-country. The Government of Liberia is scheduled to receive around 39% (US\$3.8 million) of the total commitments to Liberia and local, Liberian NGOs/academic institutions are scheduled to receive 29% (US\$2.7 million) of the total commitments.

The finances are currently flowing to 17 projects aimed at the following activities:

- ❖ Stakeholder Engagement
- ❖ Rights and Tenure
- ❖ MRV and reference levels
- ❖ Policy and Law Analysis & Development, REDD Strategy Development and Advocacy
- ❖ Institutional Strengthening
- ❖ Forest Carbon Projects design
- ❖ Improved forest and land management to reduce deforestation and degradation (Implementation)
- ❖ Carbon offsets and performance based payments for improved forest and land management⁶

Results emerging out of this first round of REDD+ Expenditures tracking demonstrate some key challenges in successfully implementing REDD+ in Liberia. These include:

- ❖ **A lack of sufficient long term financing for REDD+.** Results show that there is a significant gap between total finances committed and levels needed for long term implementation of REDD+. The R-PP grant committed by the FCPF covers just half of the activities planned to help develop and inform a comprehensive national REDD+ strategy.
- ❖ **Bureaucratic processes delaying initial disbursements.** For example, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank committed US\$3.6m to the Government of Liberia after approving the country's R-PP in October 2011, but the first funds were not disbursed until June 2012.
- ❖ **Low capacity of in-country actors to fully execute and implement a REDD+ program.** The concepts and systems needed for REDD+ are still new to many stakeholders. This is impacting the ability for national civil society organizations, private sector actors and community-based organizations to be involved in the development of Liberia's national REDD+ strategy.
- ❖ **Ineffective engagement of private sector to date.** The private sector (especially forest concessioners) has not been active in the development of the national REDD+ strategy. REDD+ has not been effectively presented as an opportunity for sustainable forest management and future revenue generation, which is impacting private sector participation.
- ❖ **Until now, a lack of transparent information on REDD+ finance and activities leading to duplication of efforts in Liberia.** Very few REDD+ activities or donors are known by the national government and main REDD+ stakeholders. This has led to several organizations either duplicating activities or failing to focus on national priorities in reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

⁶ For definitions, see "Glossary and Common Reported terms" set out on page 7.

Recommendations

With the current low levels of REDD+ commitments, it will be important for Liberia to include all stakeholders in the development of a REDD+ strategy, and to consider how to most effectively direct finance to any gaps in REDD+ activities currently supported. In particular, there should be greater engagement with the private sector.

The national government of Liberia should take more direct action in coordinating and implementing REDD+ and prioritize regular REDD+ meetings to facilitate dialogue between the main REDD+ stakeholders in Liberia and to ensure public participation and information sharing. The REDD+ secretariat within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) should be strengthened and focus on developing national carbon policies and regulations to support the REDD+ process. The FDA should also look to establish a comprehensive REDD+ registry to monitor and audit the REDD+ activities implemented.

Annexes

Annex 1: Liberia's REDD Finance Tracking Initiatives Validation Meeting Participants Attendance List

#	Name	Institution
1	Dickson J. Chowolo	Forest Cry Liberia
2	Hawa K. Walker	EPA
3	Andrew S. Giahquee	SADS
4	Renee A. Murray	CI Liberia
5	Chea B.Garley	MOA
6	Darlington S.Tuagben	USAID
7	Francis K. Colee	Green Advocates
8	Emmet	MGD
9	Harnon w. Garbo	FACE
10	Aaron D. McGee	FLY
11	E. Joseph Mendegila	FCL
12	Edwin W. Walker	NBC
13	Jeremiah F. Karmo	FDA
14	Mitchell S. Kumbeley	FDA
15	Fole	Land commission
16	Sonpon D. Freeman	Land commission
17	G.Garvoie Kordoh	FTI

18	Advectus B. Robeis	FTI
19	Saybah K.Massah	SCNL
20	T. Korta Dogba	LMI
21	David Rothe	FFI
22	Abimbola Adubi	World Bank
23	Peterson H. Nyemah	MOA
24	Zinnah Mulbah	EPA-RIU
25	Princess H. Blamo	Society for Env.conservaion
26	Ephraim S. Swen	Procurement Specialist/FDA
27	Bah-wah Brownell	Green Advocates

Annex 2: Liberia's REDD Finance Tracking Initiatives Awareness and Information Sharing Meeting Participants Attendance List

#	Name	Institution
1	Zinnah Mulbah	EPA
2	D. Gayflor Kpadeh	ZCFMB
3	Catherine W. Kpayieli	SADS
4	Aaron S. M. Weneh	FCL
5	Edwin W. Walker	NBC
6	K. Amos Karmah	Acord-liberia
7	Francis R. Colee	Green Advocate
8	Ophela Darlor	FDA
9	J. Samuel A. Weeks, Sr	FDA
10	Emmanuel Munyeneh	FDA
11	Andrew S. Dolo	SEC
12	Harnon W. Garbo	FACE
13	Henry Smith	SEC
14	Anyaa Vohiri	EPA
15	Peaches Y. Suah	EPA
16	Garmai D. Momolu	MOGD

17	Palin A. Dralley, Jr	YOLLEDA
18	Dr. Ndam Nouhou	FFI-REDD
19	Henry Khonyongwa	CARE
20	Korto Dogba	LMI
21	Sayban K. Massah	SCNL
22	Kumeh S. Assaf	UNDP
23	Janjay K. Smith	SADS
24	Benjamin S. Karmoh	EPA
25	Charles O. Smith	SADS
26	Jeremiah Karmo	FDA
27	Hawa K. Walker	EPA

Annex 3: Map of Forest Resources in West Africa



Source: Fauna & Flora International/Conservation International in WB (2013) "Liberia: Assessment of key governance issues for REDD+ implementation through application of PROFOR forest governance tool"

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