

CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

Date Prepared/Updated: February 14, 2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data		
Country: Liberia	GEF Project ID:	CI Project ID:
Project Title: Improve sustainability of mangrove conservation as a building block towards the creation of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas		
Estimated Appraisal Date: End of PPG phase and before beginning of full project implementation		
Executing Entity: CI-Liberia, EPA Liberia		
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity and Land Degradation (GEF STAR)		
GEF Project Amount: USD 1,190,000		
Other financing amounts by source: 4 million, Government of Liberia, CI and partners, WB FCPF, GCF (please refer to PIF for details)		
Reviewer(s): Miguel A. Morales		
Date of Review: February 13, 2014		
Comments:		

B. Project Objective:

To strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of globally important mangrove forests through effective participatory land-use planning and establishment of marine and coastal protected areas in Liberia

C. Project Description:

Biological diversity in Liberia has declined significantly over the years with the significant degradation of the country's ecosystems and the rapid loss of many species. In Liberia, one can find mangroves near lagoons and rivers from Cape Mesurado to Cape Palmas. Unfortunately, most primary mangrove forest has been lost in Liberia due to road building, landfill, fuelwood collection and urban expansion. The greatest damage to the mangrove forests has occurred near larger towns such as Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville, and Harper. In fact, *Rhizophora racemosa* has been eradicated in many areas due to urban growth

Updated information is sketchy and conflicting on the extent of mangroves in Liberia. The UNEP report (Mangroves of Central and Western Africa, 2007) provide the following overview on the extent of mangroves in Liberia, however the report failed to provide any explanation on the variance between 2005 (65% decline) and 2006 (43% decline), based on 1980 estimates (see chart on next page).

Table of Mangrove area estimates

Source Year	1980	1990	1997	2000	2005	2006
Area [km ²]	193	143	427	92.5	67.5	110

Mangroves are valued economically because of their utility as fish nurseries and the support they provide to traditional fisheries. In particular, the mangrove systems around Monrovia are important breeding grounds for various commercially viable aquatic species, including fish, crabs, shrimps and water snail (Wiles, 2005). The fishery sub-sector provides about 65% of the protein needs of the country and contributes about 10% to GDP (Government of Liberia, 2004). Local communities depend on mangrove wetlands for subsistence and local commerce, using wood to provide energy supplies, food, shelter, water and medicine and raffia palm for weaving and other ecological services. The economic pressures and limited employment opportunities during and after the war have compelled many families to grow rice for the first time in order to survive. This drove cultivation of land that had never previously been considered for rice production, such as the coastal mangrove swamps. As a result, there are many more families producing rice now than in pre-war times, albeit with smaller plots (UNEP 2007).

Project Components and Main Activities:

Component 1: Enabling conditions for establishment of coastal and marine protected areas in 20% of priority mangrove forests (15% as National Protected Areas and 5% as Community conserved mangrove forest (ICCAs)

Main activities:

- Multi-stakeholder identification and delineation process for the establishment of national and community protected areas in priority mangrove forest areas completed by Q1Y2
- Participatory management plans for two proposed national protected areas developed by Q1Y3 and on-the-ground management activities initiated by Q2Y3
- Financial plan, including establishment and management costs in short, medium and long terms, for the inclusion of priority mangrove forests into the Protected Areas Network of Liberia, completed by Q2Y3
- At least 2 areas for community conservation, totaling at least 5% of priority mangroves, identified and protected through community based conservation agreements or other legal mechanisms by Q3Y3
- Advocacy to create awareness and support for the creations of new coastal and marine protected areas within the appropriate government agencies, ministries and legislature completed by Q4Y3

Component 2: Reducing pressures to priority mangrove areas through integrated land-use planning and improving local community livelihoods

Main activities:

- Multi-stakeholder integrated land-use planning and decision support toolkit (with key information gathered) for priority mangrove forests and immediate buffer areas in the wider landscape completed and applied to the priority mangrove areas by Q4Y1
- Five-year monitoring and evaluation program for the mangrove forests developed by Q4Y2 and being implemented by the EPA by Q1Y3
- Plans for demonstration sites developed for sustainable management and restoration by local communities within 4 priority mangrove areas by Q3Y3 and implemented by Q4Y3
- Conservation agreements signed and being implemented with at least 10 communities providing local economic development (alternative livelihoods) and community involvement in mangrove

protected areas management (governance) strengthened in and around key proposed protected areas by Q3Y3

- Capacity building programs, based on needs assessment, designed and delivered to at least 50 government officials and 1,000 members in 4 local communities by Q2Y3

D. Project location and physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

This project will be executed along coastal areas of Liberia, focusing on critical mangrove forests. Specific sites will be identified during PPG phase. However, most mangrove areas are being used by local communities for fuel wood, charcoal, building supplies and other household needs. The biodiversity within mangrove forests is also being used for food and medicines.

E. Executing Entity’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

According to the results of the capacity assessment of the Executing Agency, based on the information provided it is *difficult to assess if past experience is sufficient at this stage without an understanding of the level of involvement of the ZA based technical staff*. Therefore, the recommendation of the capacity assessment is:

- *All staff working on project to complete environmental and social safeguards training to build understanding of these policies and how they apply to this project, and*
- *GEF PA should include in the project progress reports a section on safeguards compliance and oversight to ensure regular monitoring of this aspect.*

II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)		X		<i>Feb 13, 2014</i>
<i>Justification:</i>				
Natural Habitats		X		<i>Feb 13, 2014</i>
<i>Justification:</i>				
Voluntary Resettlement - Displacement	X			<i>Feb 13, 2014</i>

<u>Justification:</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed project intends to better assess and quantify the uses of natural resources by local people and to develop and promote alternatives within the communities. The project also plans to conduct detailed land use planning with these communities and other stakeholders to ensure the maximum benefits to both biodiversity and livelihoods are promoted. Through the creation of community and national protected areas, specific areas will be designated as core conservation areas where access will be restricted. The project seeks to negate or minimize the effects of restricted access through the provision of sustainable livelihoods in other areas. In all cases this will be done in a participatory process fully respecting the principles of FPIC. CI Liberia has recently developed a toolkit for stakeholder engagement best practice including FPIC which will be used throughout this project. Also our proposed implementation of conservation agreements fully incorporates FPIC and relies on the adequate incentives for communities to support conservation measures. 				
Indigenous Peoples			X	<i>Feb 14, 2014</i>
<u>Justification:</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the Executing Agency has not identified that the project will “<i>work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples</i>”, the review of the screening form indicates that it is very likely that the communities that will be affected by the project can be considered “Indigenous Peoples”, according with CI’s Institutional Policy on Indigenous Peoples. According to the policy mentioned above, “CI identifies indigenous peoples in specific geographic areas by the presence, in varying degrees, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close attachment to ancestral and traditional or customary territories and the natural resources in them; Customary social and political institutions; Economic systems oriented to subsistence production; An indigenous language, often different from the predominant language; and Self-identification and identification by others as members of a distinct cultural group. This discrepancy <u>must</u> be resolved before the PPG phase begins, thus appropriate safeguards are in place to comply with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s Policy #4 on Indigenous Peoples 				
Pest Management		X		<i>Feb 13, 2014</i>
<u>Justification:</u>				
Physical & Cultural Resources		X		<i>Feb 13, 2014</i>
<u>Justification:</u>				

Other relevant policies and best practices

Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
Stakeholder Engagement	X			

Justification:

- This project aims to fully engage local communities living in and around key mangrove forests affected by this project. They will be involved through participatory planning and best practice in community engagement. A focus will be placed specifically in providing locally appropriate alternatives to current unsustainable harvesting practices, these will be determined with communities during the conservation agreement engagement and negotiation phases. As two key tenants of Liberia’s development strategy this project will promote income generation and job creation within communities living below the extreme poverty line. The project will work with existing governance structures within the communities, strengthening and adding where needed to ensure full and appropriate representation.

Gender mainstreaming

X

Justification:

- Throughout the project the Executing Agency will ensure full and equitable representation in and benefit sharing from project activities. We will seek to engage with all stakeholders within the community including any potentially marginalized groups. The project will engage through current leadership structures and will seek to add to or strengthen these groups when key stakeholders are underrepresented. We will ensure men, women, youth and other groups are engaged and build monitoring systems that include necessary disaggregation to track this throughout the life of the project.

III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

- The screening process indicates that three CI-GEF Project Agency Environmental and Social Safeguards will be triggered by this project (Involuntary Resettlement, Stakeholder Engagement, and Gender mainstreaming). In addition, it is very likely that the Indigenous Peoples Safeguards will be also triggered, but this will be determined and recommendation made before the PPG begins;
- This review has also determined that the project’s activities will not cause or enable to cause significant negative environmental and social impacts;
- On the contrary, this project is expected to generate benefits (improved livelihoods) for local people; and
- The measures recommended in section 4 (below) should be enough to properly avoid, mitigate or compensate the negative impacts generated by this project.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

- Two potential indirect and/or long term adverse impacts can be anticipated, if the recommendations described below (section 4) are not properly implemented:

- Restriction/prohibition to traditional or customary access and use of natural resources without proper compensation or alternatives beyond the life of the project. This is specially is applicable to those national protected areas that might be created in the future.
- Unequal distribution of project benefits among different groups within affected communities, especially women and disadvantaged groups.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

- No project alternatives are necessary for this project.

4. Describe measures taken by the Executing Entity to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of the Executing Entity capacity to plan and implement the measures described:

1. *For the potential **restriction of access to and use of natural resources**, for example as a result of the creation of new protected areas, the land-use planning processes, and conservation agreements, and to ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Involuntary Resettlement Policy #3" the Executing Agency will prepare during the PPG phase a "Process Framework" that describes the nature of the restrictions, the participatory process by which project components will be prepared, criteria by which displaced persons are eligible, measures to restore livelihoods and the means by which any conflicts would be resolved. A plan may also be developed during implementation providing more detail on the arrangements to assist affected persons to improve or restore their livelihoods. The terms of reference for the "Process Framework" will be provided by the CI-GEF Project Agency, who will approve and oversee the implementation of this Framework throughout the duration of the project;*
2. ***Indigenous Peoples:** to ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Indigenous Peoples Policy #4", the Executing Agency will reassess if indigenous people will be affected by the project, according to CI's policies and guidelines, before the PPG phase begins. The Project Agency will determine then the need to prepare an "Indigenous Peoples Plan" during the PPG phase. If necessary, the terms of reference will be provided by the CI-GEF Project Agency, who will approve and oversee the implementation of this plan throughout the duration of the project;*
3. ***Stakeholders' engagement:** to ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Stakeholders' Engagement Best Practice", the Executing Agency will develop and submit, within 30 days of the beginning of the PPG phase, a "Stakeholders' Engagement Plan" for the Project Agency's approval. The Project Agency will oversee the implementation of this plan throughout the duration of the project;*
4. ***Gender mainstreaming issues:** to ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Gender Mainstreaming Policy #8", the Executing Agency will develop, during of the PPG phase, a "Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan" that will ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues throughout the project. The terms of reference will be provided by the CI-GEF Project Agency, who will approve and oversee the implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan throughout the duration of the project;*

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

- *The consultation mechanisms by each type of major stakeholder will be designed and implemented by the Executing Agency at the beginning of the project preparation phase, and approved and monitor by the Project Agency.*

IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
			X
<i>Justification:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of this screening form and the PIF indicates that this project will not cause or enable to cause any major environmental or social impacts. 			

V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard	CI Disclosure Date	In-Country Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	N/A	N/A
Natural Habitats	N/A	N/A
Involuntary Resettlement - Displacement	Before Project Implementation Begins (date to be confirmed)	Before Project Implementation Begins (date to be confirmed)
Indigenous Peoples	Before Project Implementation Begins (date to be confirmed)	Before Project Implementation Begins (date to be confirmed)
Physical Cultural Resources	N/A	N/A
Pest Management	N/A	N/A

VI. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Vice President GPP:	Name Lilian Spijkerman	Date
<i>Approved by:</i>		
CI-GEF Technical & Safeguards Director:	Name	Date

	Miguel A. Morales	<i>Feb 14, 2014</i>
<i>Comments:</i>		
Account Manager:	Name Orissa Samaroo	Date
<i>Comments:</i>		