

Initial voluntary national contributions to achieving one or more of the Global Forest Goals and targets set out in the UNSPF.

**Global Forest Goal 1.**

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide.

- *To contribute to the increase in forest area by 3%, Liberia is developing reforestation and afforestation policy to ensure that these practices are consistent with other protocol of maintaining forest cover.*
- *Reforestation project has commenced to combat the encroaching Sahel savanna from the neighboring country –Guinea to Liberia. This project is supported under the Liberia Government and the Norwegian fund for sustainable development.*
- *Liberia committed 0.75 million hectares of degraded forestland for forest restoration to the Bonne Challenge, New York Declaration, Paris Agreement and Africa Forest Restoration (AFR100).*

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced.

- *Government of Liberia through the Forestry Development Authority has taken several measures to maintain the forest carbon stocks including:*
  - *Establishment of community forestry to be managed by the communities living at the fringes of the forests;*
  - *Collaborate with Ministry of Agriculture to enhance smart agricultural practices and encourage farmers to get involve in lowland farming to reduce shifting cultivation in the high forest areas;*
  - *Introduce Reduced Impact Logging practices in production forests;*
  - *Established and earmarked several protected areas around the country.*

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally :

- *Same as activities in 1.1 bullet 1 & 2.*
- *Diversified forest management objectives into commercial, conservation and community forest management practices;*
- *Introduced benefit sharing mechanism with the communities and other stakeholders;*
- *Develop Codes of Forest Harvesting to ensure that forest harvesting is done sustainably and environmental integrity is maintained;*
- *Liberia has committed to TFA2020 especially Principle 1 (achieve zero net deforestation by 2025 through the adoption of HCS and HCV designations). It*

*encourages concessionaires to work collaboratively with other stakeholders, including those with legal land ownership, to achieve responsible stewardship of land contained within both concessions and the adjacent landscapes that are designated as conservation areas – High Conservation Value / High Carbon Stock.*

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide.

- *The legal frameworks put in place to ensure that forest cover and forest resources are adequately managed to enhance the livelihood of communities that are dependent of forest for survival;*
- *Implementing the REDD+ Strategies to enhance the sustainable forest management in Liberia;*
- *Formulation of Land Right and Tenure Law to establish security of rights to land in Liberia;*
- *Increase the forest monitoring and reporting on the forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation;*
- *Enhancing inter-sectorial coordination and policy dialogue amongst the natural resource management sectors especially stakeholders dealing with landscape managements.*

## **Global Forest Goal 2**

**Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.**

2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest dependent people is eradicated.

- *The enactment of the Community Forestry Law with respect to forestland;*
- *Ensuring that all large and medium scale production forest operators sign Social Agreements with the affected communities;*
- *Benefit Sharing Mechanism of the Area Land Rental Fee (30% to the affected communities. 30% to the various 15 counties and 30% for Government Budget);*
- *Ensuring the implementation of TFA2020 principle 2 (Concessionaires should support local livelihoods through an FPIC compliant social agreement. Quality livelihoods should include gender sensitive employment opportunities, education and literacy, skill training, professional development, and health care).*

2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

- *Establishing policy and regulatory frameworks to improve small-scale forest producers and enterprises;*

- *Enhance the human and technological capacity of community-based enterprises;*
- *Facilitating the organization of small-scale forest producers into cooperatives within community-level and at national union at products bases; e.g : the chainsaw milling operators, Charcoal producers and marketers and other wood-based biomass producers organizations*
- *We have develop five years Strategic Roadmap for the enhancement of capacity of small-scale forest products enterprises*

2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased.

- *Forest Communities are being trained in the production and use of forest products especially the non-timber products that is widely used to enhance the community livelihoods;*
- *Encouraging the employment of community members by large-scale timber producing companies;*
- *Employment from forest-based enterprises provides incomes to the worker to have access to food for families.*

2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among others, is significantly increased.:

- *Liberia National Forest Reform Law of 2006 provides the environment for forest-based enterprises to ensure that their operations are socially viable, economically expedient and environmentally sustainable;*
- *Social Agreements as mandated by the NFRL of 2006, provides the opportunity for forest fringed communities to employment, infrastructure development (schools, clinics/medical facilities and farm - to-market roads;*
- *The NFRL of 2006 provides rooms for logging companies to contribute to national budgets through the payment of forest sector fees, taxes and charges;*
- *The Environmental Protection Agency Act ensures that all forest-based enterprises comply with environmental management plans before commencing operations. This has created significant improvement.*

2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments.

- *Liberia has established and gazette five (5) Protected Areas that are contributing to biodiversity conservation;*
- *The National Legislature has enacted the Wildlife and Protected Area Management to enhance biological diversity conservation;*
- *Implementation of REDD+ in Liberia and the Liberia Forest Sector Project supported by the Norwegian Fund to Liberia is helping to climate change mitigation and adaptation;*

- *Implementation of forest and farm facility FFF/FAO projects in Liberia by empowering the forest and farm producers' organization and enhancing multi-sectorial policy dialogue among natural resource management sectors.*

### Global Forest Goal 3

**Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.**

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased.

- *Liberia has established and gazetted five (5) Protected Areas that are contributing to biodiversity conservation;*
- *The National Legislature has in 2017 enacted the Wildlife and Protected Area Management Law to enhance biological diversity conservation;*
- *The Community Forestry Management Agreements (CFMA) has two (2) major management objectives. Some of the CFMA have been awarded to be managed as conservation areas while others have been given for commercial harvesting of timber.*

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased.

- *Liberia commercial forestry tenure is twenty-five (25) years rotational cycle and therefore only 4% of the total area is allowed for annual coupe production and diameter cut-limit is strictly observed by all commercial forest enterprises.*
- *CFMAs are awarded for fifteen years management period but commercial forest enterprises have to observe all regulations that restrict Forest Management Contracts are observed including the annual coupe of 4% of the forestland areas.*

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased.

- *The NFRL of 2006 allows the timber harvesting contract areas can be made available for other products harvesting like the NTFPs under the regulatory frameworks of Third Party Access to Forest Resource Areas.*
- *The public Plantation Forests continued to be established while the old growth planted forests have been contracted for harvest by the private forest-based enterprises.*

### Global Forest Goal 4

**Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.**

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

- *We have built capacity of some of the staff in fundraising project proposal writing to be able to mobilize funds for SFM in Liberia.*
- *Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has strengthened the Strategic Planning Unit to enhance the staff capacity to identify funding sources for SFM.*
- *Project has been developed and share with donor communities near the Monrovia Capital for possible support to undertake a comprehensive national Forest inventory in Liberia.*

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing is significantly increased.

- *The UN-REDD+ in a recent time provided technical assistance to Forestry Development Authority (FDA) through the FAO-Liberia to support the REDD+ Program and Strategy;*
- *Government of Liberia (GOL) is the major financing institution for Liberia Forest Sector because FDA is a State Owned-Enterprise (SOE) and it is one of the revenue generating sectors.*
- *FAO Technical Assistance is being requested and provided to undertake National Forest Inventory.*

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased.

- *For the past years, several FDA personnel went for advance studies in various aspect of forest management.*
- *Liberia is a member of the International Network of Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR). Several of our employees have travel to China to take part in Bamboo and Rattan Technology workshops.*
- *Through the support of INBAR, Liberia has formulated a Bamboo and Rattan Roadmap development.*
- *Training workshops are been conducted in Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade under the sponsorship of European Union to increase capacity for the implementation of Legality Assurance System (LAS) in Liberia*

4.4 The number of countries which have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased.

- *This is a great challenge for Liberia Forestry sector. Capacity building is needed in this area.*
- *Liberia has taken advantage of the opportunities available for trainings in funding raising workshops.*

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information are improved through, for example, multi-disciplinary scientific assessments.

- *The FAO technical Assistance Programs strives to rebuilt Liberia forest information system that was damaged during the civil conflict.*
- *Liberia through the FDA is trying to recollect some of the forest related information ;*
- *FDA has requested FAO.EU-FLEGT program through project proposal for the establishment of Forest products marketing information system in Liberia.*
- *Forestry Development Authority has signed a Technical Assistance Funding to undertake National Inventory to help REDD+ to establish a baseline information for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation.*

## **Global Forest Goal 5**

**Promote governance frameworks to implement SFM, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.**

5.1 Number of countries which have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased.

- *Liberia Vision 2030 - Agenda for Transformation integrated the forestry sector programs and management objectives during the mid-term review. This means that Forest sector is being considered as a major role player in achieving sustainable development plan of Liberia.*
- *Liberia has further worked along Ministry of Agriculture to develop the second phase of Liberia Agriculture Development Agenda (LADA-2). This document is to enhance the national agenda to contribute to sustainable food security;*
- *Several governance frameworks has been formulated to enhance social, economic, cultural and environmental viability through sustainable forest management.*

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities and illegal logging and associated trade is significantly reduced worldwide.

- *This target is been enhanced by the Voluntary Partnership Agreements between the Liberia and European Union for trade in legal timber from Liberia. The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance is in compliance with the Liberia forest sector legal frameworks.*
- *To buttress this commitment, Liberia will be issuing FLEGT Licenses for all timber and timber products produced and to be exported from Liberia.*
- *Capacity is being built to ensure that domestic timber production and supplies comply with Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS)*

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programs are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- *In 2009, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) entered into Partnership Agreement with FAO National Forest Programme Facility (NFP Facility) with the objective of installing effective mechanisms and structures that will ensure a fully operational multi-stakeholders platform or forum for regular and improved dialogue/consultations between all stakeholders in connection with the sustainable management of Liberia's forests; equitable sharing of the benefits and responsibilities from the forest; and efficient conflict resolution during forest management and utilization. This resulted into the establishment of National Forest Forum (NFF) and County Forests Forum (CFF) in the 15 counties of Liberia.*
- *There are several forest sector multi-stakeholders platform that are all focused on ensuring sustainable forest management both at national and local levels. This situation is worrisome to the extents that several activities are being done at different sectors.*
- *An assessment and identification of natural resource use and management sectors in Liberia is currently being elaborated to analyze the similarity and differences in their strategic plans for actions and a move to harmonize them.*

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes of land use planning and development.

- *These issues continued to be prominent in policy dialogue and discourses of the multi-sectorial platform meetings at national and sub-national levels;*
- *Three of the sub-national level platforms are been capacitated by support from Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) of FAO.*
- *Liberia is presently developing a roadmap that will advance an integrated natural resource management in Liberia.*

**Global Forest Goal 6**

**Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.**

6.1 Forest-related programs within the UN system are coherent and complementary and integrate the Global Forest Goals and targets where appropriate.

- *Liberia has always participate in the UNFF Forest –related programs that brings about coherent, encourage coordination and cooperation among member states. We have model some of our national policies on the UNFF strategic documents*
- *Liberia is collaboration in several forest-related programs including the Liberia participation in the World Forestry Congresses;*
- *Liberia is implementing the Paris Agreement in compliance to the outcome of the UNFCCC. We are moving toward implementation of forest restoration programme as a means of increasing forest cover.*

6.2 Forest-related programs across CPF member organizations are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- *Liberia is an adherence to the drive of the FAO Food Security and poverty reduction Programmes because of their coherent and complementary nature to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;*
- *The Issue of Biodiversity Conservation spear headed by IUCN is relevant to Liberia move to enact the Wildlife and Protected Area Management Law;*

6.3 Cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation to promote SFM and halt deforestation and forest degradation is significantly enhanced at all levels.

- *Several multi-sectorial policy dialogues are currently taking place in the forestry sector at different levels. Each of these groupings included the international partners and donors including:*
  - *REDD+ Strategies Implementation has its Multi-stakeholders Steering Committee. These groups meet every month.*
  - *VPA-FLEGT has its Multi-stakeholders Grouping to discuss issues on Timber Legality Assurance System. This group meet monthly*
  - *Community-Forestry Working Group that ensure that the Community forestry Agreement are legally and transparently done.*
  - *Forest Donors Working Group that meet every month to discuss progress and happening in sector;*
  - *Liberia is undertaking National Forests and Landscape Forum. This is a multi-sectorial policy dialogue to discuss issues pertaining to natural resource Management at both national and local levels.*



6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of SFM is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified.

- *Several policy, laws and regulations have been developed so that the parameters for sustainable forest management are achieved.*
- *The participatory in the formulation of policies and other legal frameworks are testimony of allowing stakeholders to understand the concept of SFM;*
- *Awareness on these regulatory frameworks is buttressing understanding.*

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the UNSPF and in the work of work of the Forum, including intercessional work, is strengthened.

- *Liberia has already model the National Strategic Plan on Forest using the concept and the format in finalizing the UNSPF;*
- *The County-level Multi-sectorial Policy Platform has also modeled their County-level Strategic Plan in coordinating their members.*
- *Several multi-sectorial policy dialogues are currently taking place in the forestry sector at different levels. Each of these grouping have in their inclusion international partners and donors including:*
  - *REDD+ Strategies Implementation has its Multi-stakeholders Steering Committee. This group meet monthly*
  - *VPA-FLEGT has its Multi-stakeholders Grouping to discuss issues on Timber Legality Assurance System. This group meet monthly*
  - *Community-Forestry Working Group that ensure that the Community forestry Agreement are legally and transparently done;*
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