

Country: Liberia

Date of submission: October 5, 2014

## Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

### Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum<sup>1</sup>, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 \_E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

## Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11\\_reporting\\_template.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc)
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

### Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators processes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFP	National Forest Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

## General information

### UNFF national focal point

Name:	<i>Edward S. Kamara</i>
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### Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

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**PART I:**  
**Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,**  
**including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)**

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

- *Liberia has developed Land Tenure Policy and drafted the Land Tenure Act but it is presently being debated in the House of Legislature.*
- *With support from FAO, first awareness workshop has been conducted on the Voluntary Guideline for Responsible Governance of Tenure.*
- *The country also developed Community Rights Law with respect to forestland.*
- *Developed several regulations and guidelines that will improve forest governance and sustainable forest management*

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *Development of Regulation for the implementation of Community Rights Law with respect to forestland.*
2. *Development of guideline to incorporate logs harvested from the expansion of agricultural plantations and logs from mining concessions.*
3. *Building Capacity of communities to improve livelihoods through funding from FAO/Forest and Farm Facility, World Bank and PROSPER/USAID*

2. **Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- New legislation
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- None
- Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships.  
Please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *Liberia house of Legislature has ratified the Voluntary Partnership Agreement*
2. *Established Legality Verification Department at the Forestry Development Authority to implement Chain of Custody reconciliations and Legality Definition and compliance verification.*
3. *Regulations developed on abanonment , confistication, transit and importation of timber and timber products, and third party access to the contract areas.*  
[www.fda.gov.lr](http://www.fda.gov.lr)

3. **Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?**

- Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- Other, please list below:

1. *Forests/SFM is being recorgnized for contributing to Vision 2030 (Agenda for Transformation in Liberia; ([www.emanson.org](http://www.emanson.org))*
2. *Signing the Voluntary Partnership Agreement to enhance economic, social and environmental benefits of the forest in Liberia. ([www.vpaliberia.org](http://www.vpaliberia.org))*

Have these steps resulted in:

- More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other, please list below:

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. Funding is provided by the National Budget to undertake reforestation of a degraded areas
2. There is an intensive media awareness on the promotion of community forestry
3. Participatory consultation on the implementation of REDD+ Initiative.
4. support from FAO/FFF to National Forests and Landscape Forum to catalyse multi-sectoral policy platform with government and communities (Pillar 2)  
[www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility)

4. **Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

*Through the National Forests and Landscape Forum, all forests and other natural resource management sectors commence intersectoral dialogue and coordination that has led to signing of MOU among Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Other ministries in the intersectoral dialogue include: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Land Commission, Ministry of Planning, National Traditional Council of Liberia, etc. [www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility)*

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. National Forests and Landscape Forum Multi-sectoral Policy Platform dealing with forests and natural resource management.
2. Climate Change secretariat
3. County Forest Forum at community level consultation platform

5. **Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

**6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Afforestation	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	14,973 ha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration	ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- Other, please list below:

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1. Plantion establishment at the north-east of Liberia to stop the approaching desert from Guinea.*
  - 2. The new draft Wildlife Conservation and Management Law for the conservation of biodiversity.*
  - 3. An awareness on the shifting cultivation and other drivers of deforestation.*
  - 4. Development of Regulation for sustainable production of wood-based biomass energy as well as soliciting funding to improve the technologies for the production and utilizations.*

**7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?**

- Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- Other, please list below:

1. *Social Agreements between Communities and the Concession Contract holders*
2. *National Forests and Landscape Forum capacity building and awareness on forest governance at national and Local level.*
3. *Regional/Local community level vetting processes to solicit inputs and comments for regulations and other legal frameworks.*

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *National Multi-Stakeholders Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement*
2. *Coun ty Forest Forum for the community level dialogue conflict resolution that will arise from the utilization of forest resources.*
3. *Coalition of Environmental NGOs of Liberia.*

**8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?**

- Completely  
 Partially  
 None  
 Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *Concessionaires sign Social Agreement to provide benefits to affected communities around the contract areas.*
2. *55% of all revenues received from the exploitation of community forests remains with the communities for development.*
3. *Government remit 30% of Land rental Area fees to the communities through the Benefit Sharing Mechanism Trust Board.*
4. *Contract Holders pay US\$1.00/M3 of production for Timber Sales Contract (TSC) and US\$1.50/M3 of production for Forest Management Contracts (FMC)*  
[www.fda.gov.lr](http://www.fda.gov.lr)

**9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?



- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public funding
- Domestic private funding
- Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

**10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply      USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+)      USD
- Nature conservation      USD    US\$75,000
- Other, please list below:      USD

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *The visit of tourists into the Sapo National Park in Sinoe County*  
 2. *Issuance of Permits for trophy hunting in Liberia*

**11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2013</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding	USD	USD
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD	USD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD
<input type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD	USD

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

**12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?**

- Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- Other; please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1. New Regulations that will encourage Forest Products processing and marketing;*
- 2. Construction and rehabilitation of roads and ports to enable logging companies to transport and export the harvested forest products.*
- 3. An Act of Legislature abolishing the continues payment of Land Rental Bid Premium on contract areas and merging of processing timber export fee into stumpage. This is to also encourage Industrialization of the forestry sector.*

**13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Private sector/philanthropy
- NGOs
- Others

Type of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- Technical
- Financial
- Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation

- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *CITES for conservation of Biodiversity*
  2. *World Bank /GEF to support for the establishment of Extended Protected Area Network (EXPAN) and the Consolidated Protected Area Network (COPAN)*
  3. *UNFAO -TCP to establish Database system for Forestry Development Authority*
  4. *World Bank/ CPF for the support to implement the REDD+ R-PP project.*
  5. *DFID, UKAID and European Union supports for Establishing and Operating a Timber Legality Verification Department (LVD) within Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Building Capacity within the FDA.*
  6. *PROSPER/USAID Integrating Community Forestry and the proposed Land Rights Law for a coherent approach.*

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

1. *Low Capacity (technical, logistics and finance) ;*
  2. *Inadequate government support to the Forestry Development Authority.*
  3. *Obsolete inventory data/information on Liberia Forests and forest resources*
  4. *Inadequate professional foresters employment for the management of Forest and forest resources.*

**14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- Forest inventory systems
- Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- Wood production for energy
- Wood processing technology
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Other, please list below:

Are these programs directed at:

- Forest owners
- Timber companies/forest products industry
- State agencies
- Local communities

- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

- Yes
- No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

**15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?**

- Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- Meetings with the general public
- Art events/Exhibitions
- Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. *Radio talkshow programme where issues relative to forestry are often discussed*
  2. *visibility materials including Posters, fliers, T-Shirts*
  3. *Annual Tree Planting Day where tree planting are demonstrated in the counties on that day.*
  4. *The regular meeting among the members of National Forest and Landscape Forum (NFLF ) and the County Forest Forum (CFF) at community level.*

**16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:**

- National set of C&I
- Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Are these C&I used to:

- Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

FRA, FAO-SOFO, UNFFS ,ITTO

17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?

*The simple English Version that is spoken widely in almost every part of Liberia (The official Language in Liberia is English)*

18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:

1. *The development of capacity to identify the policies and measures that were not adequately addressed in Liberia for Sustainable Forest management;*
2. *The priority given for participatory identification of policies and measures that was needed by Liberia to pay more attention when implementing the Forest Instrument;*
3. *The Monitoring & Evaluation tools that was developed and is now being replicated and used as monitoring tools for sustainable Forest Management in Liberia.*
4. *Capacity building of some community members in Agro-forestry components of the activities as a means of satisfying Policy and Measure #22.*
5. *The manuals developed are used by the forestry training institutions in Liberia*
6. *Establishment of 14,974 hectares of forest plantation to reclaim degraded land in the north-eastern part of Liberia;*
7. *Development of regulation on sustainable wood biomass energy production and utilization*

## **PART II**

### **Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

#### **19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- Most of the infrastructural development are undertaken by logging concessions including farm to market road, clinics schools and water; These are embedded into the Social Agreements between the Communities and Contract Holders
- Provide livelihood opportunities to the forest fringe communities by tapping on the resources especially the Non-timber Forest Products.
- Building the capacity of communities Forest and Farm Producer organizations for sustainable forest resource harvesting, processing and marketing

#### **20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

- Enforcement of forestry law, regulations, codes and manual relative to the harvesting of forest resources.
- Enforcing the adherence environmental policies with respect to forest and forest resources extractions, processing and utilizations.
- Voluntary Partnership Agreement/FLEGT between Liberia and the European Union to reduced the illegal logging activities in Liberia by applying all sustainability tenants.

**21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- Committing 30% of the Liberian forest cover for Protected Area network that will result into reducing deforestation and forest degradation;
- Commitment to implementing REDD+ to mitigate Climate Change and combat desertification.
- Ratification of most of the conventions and treaties that are geared to enhance sustainable forest management
- Liberia adopted the Forest Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa and the Sub Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification in West Africa.

**22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- By formulating regulatory frameworks that will focus on all aspect of sustainability in forestry including economic, social cultural and environmental stability.
- Bilateral agreements that will enhance and safeguide the integrity of Liberia forests including VPA/FLEGT, CITES, REDD+ etc.
- Seeking support from international organization to provide capacity and empower the forest dwelling communities for livelihood improvement and reduce poverty.

**MDG2: Achieving universal primary education**

- AllForest harvesting licenses/permits recorgnized the signing of Social Agreements with the communities that always ensure social benefits including schools for both company workers and community children. [www.fda.gov.lr](http://www.fda.gov.lr)

**MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women**

- There are presently encouraging Female students undertaking Forestry at both Technical and professional levels at the Forestry Training Institutions and the University of Liberia.
- Women are given equal opportunities to represent the Community Forest Development Committees (CFDC) to serve as mediator between the contract holders and the communities at the fringe of the concession areas.
- Women have presented useful inputs in discussions at the local level County Forest Forum (there are at least 5 women representatives in each of the platforms executive leadership) .
- The Code of Forest Harvesting in Liberia provides room for Forest contract holders to provide equal opportunity for employment and women and men shall be paid equal remuneration for the same work or work of equal value.

**MDG4: Reducing child mortality**

- Social Agreements (SA) between communities and the contract holders also emphasized the establishment of Clinics, clean water supply and hygienic environment for the communities that are covered in the SA.

**MDG5: Improving maternal health**

- The terms of the Social Agreements also provided the need for the Contract holders supply the clinics and other medical facilities with trained midical and health practioners whether or not public health services are avaiable in the area;
- Some Development Agencies has also provided maternal health services at forest fringe community levels

**MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

- The SA also mandated the contract holders to ensure the provision of facility



that will combat these disease among the company workers as well as the community members.

- The Forest extraction contract holders take into consideration the camp designs including sewage, water supply, waste water and waste disposal. These are evaluated as part of the environmental impact assessment.