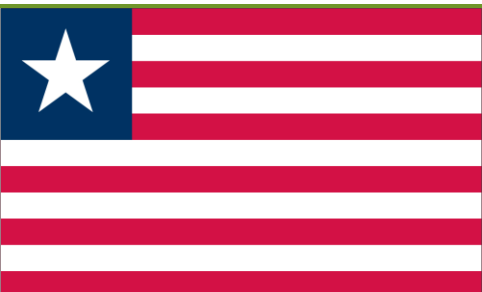




LIBERIA'S NATIONAL REDD+ PROGRAMME



Government of Liberia

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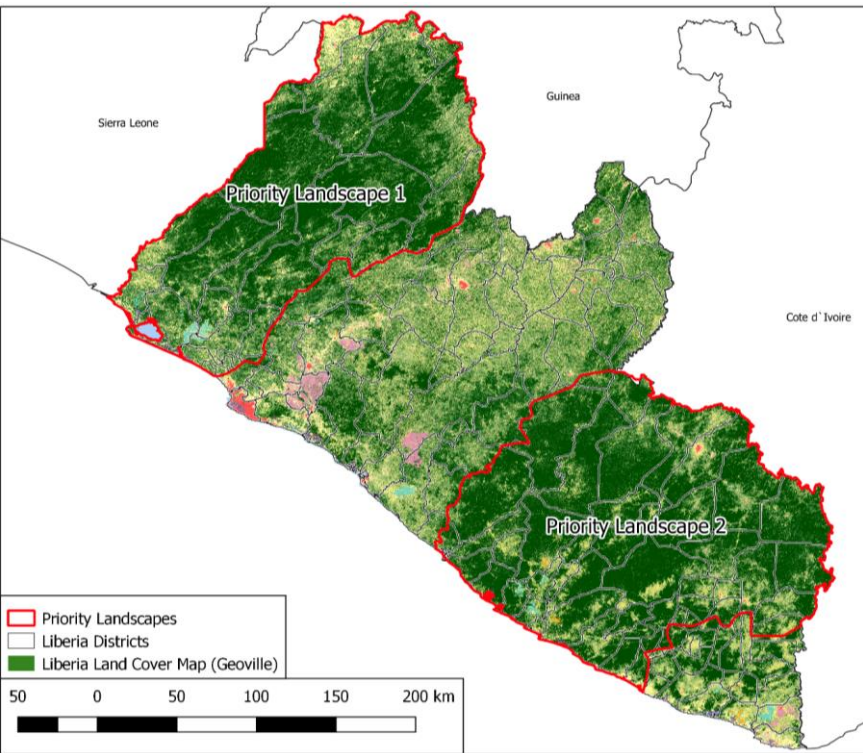
December 2019



OVERVIEW

- Introduction to REDD+ in Liberia
- Safeguard Information System
- Free Prior and Informed Consent
- Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism
- REDD+ Pilot project in Wonegizi, Lofa County (FFI)





LIBERIA'S LANDSCAPES



LIBERIA'S REDD+ PROGRESS



- Nearing completion of 'readiness' phase and going through 'implementation' stage for some key parts
- National Strategy - 2016
- Forest Reference Emissions Level
- National Forest Monitoring System/Monitoring Reporting and Verification -
- Safeguard Information System - 2019

An aerial photograph of a dense tropical forest. A wide, reddish-brown dirt road runs vertically through the center of the image. A small yellow vehicle is visible on the road in the upper half. Two small figures of people are walking on the road in the lower half. The forest is lush with green trees and vegetation. A semi-transparent green banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEM

SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEM

- The SIS is:
 - Built on the Liberian policies, laws, regulations
 - Means to ensure that social and environmental risks and opportunities are addressed
 - Applied from the design, implementation and evaluation of activities

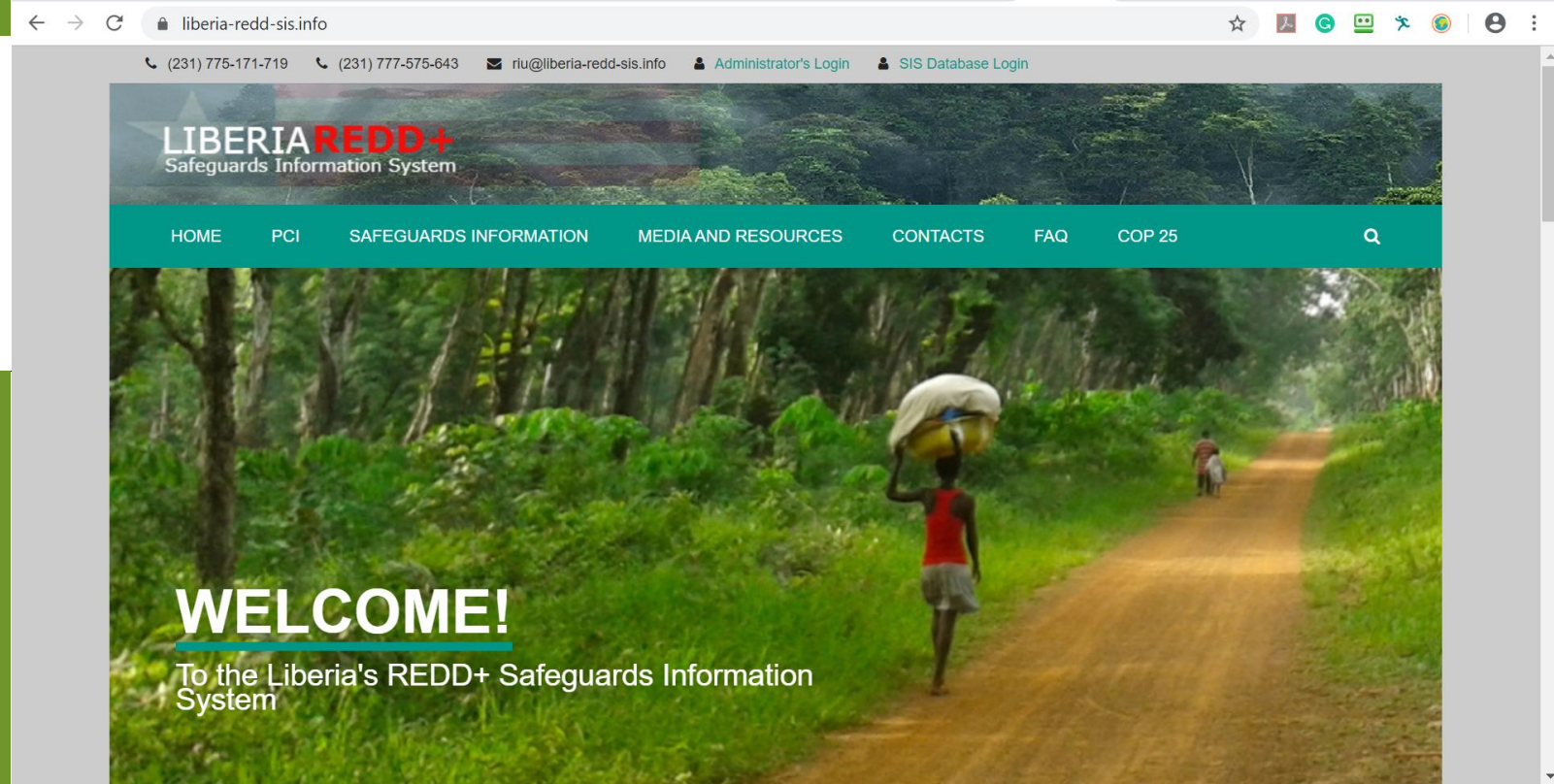


SIS AS MORE THAN AN OBLIGATION

- We have made the SIS to be relevant to Liberia
 - How to hold ourselves accountable to indicators
- SIS actually enables Liberia to better comply with domestic law
 - For instance, Freedom of Information Act (2010), Community Rights Law (2009)
- The SIS grew out of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment to give guidance for any social challenges resulting from REDD+
- The Safeguard Working Group serves a coordinating function for all social issues arising
 - The group is chaired by EPA – a key role of the EPA is to ensure Social & Environmental Impact Assessments are done so this aligns with that mandate

SIS WEBSITE AND DATABASE

- The principles, criteria and indicators for Liberia's SIS aim to reflect the Liberian country context within the organizing framework of the Cancun safeguards.
- Stage we are at:
 - The website is live
 - Currently adding evidence for indicators as activities happen
 - Interested people can generate reports



<https://liberia-redd-sis.info/>



FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT

FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT

Legal basis for FPIC in Liberia



LIBERIAN CONSTITUTION

"The Republic shall... manage the national economy and the natural resources of Liberia in such manner as shall ensure the maximum feasible participation of Liberian citizens under conditions of equality as to advance the general welfare of the Liberian people and the economic development of Liberia."



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION LAW, 2002

"prior informed consent of communities is obtained and is an essential component for any arrangement in bio-prospecting."



NATIONAL FORESTRY REFORM LAW, 2006 (REGULATION 102-07)

for proposed commercial forest land use actions in a customarily held area, the Community Forestry Development Committee must have provided "Free, prior and informed consent", on behalf of Affected Communities.



COMMUNITY RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO FORESTED LAND LAW, 2009

"any decision, agreement or activity affecting the status or use of community forest resources shall not proceed without the prior, free, informed consent of the said community."



WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW, 2016

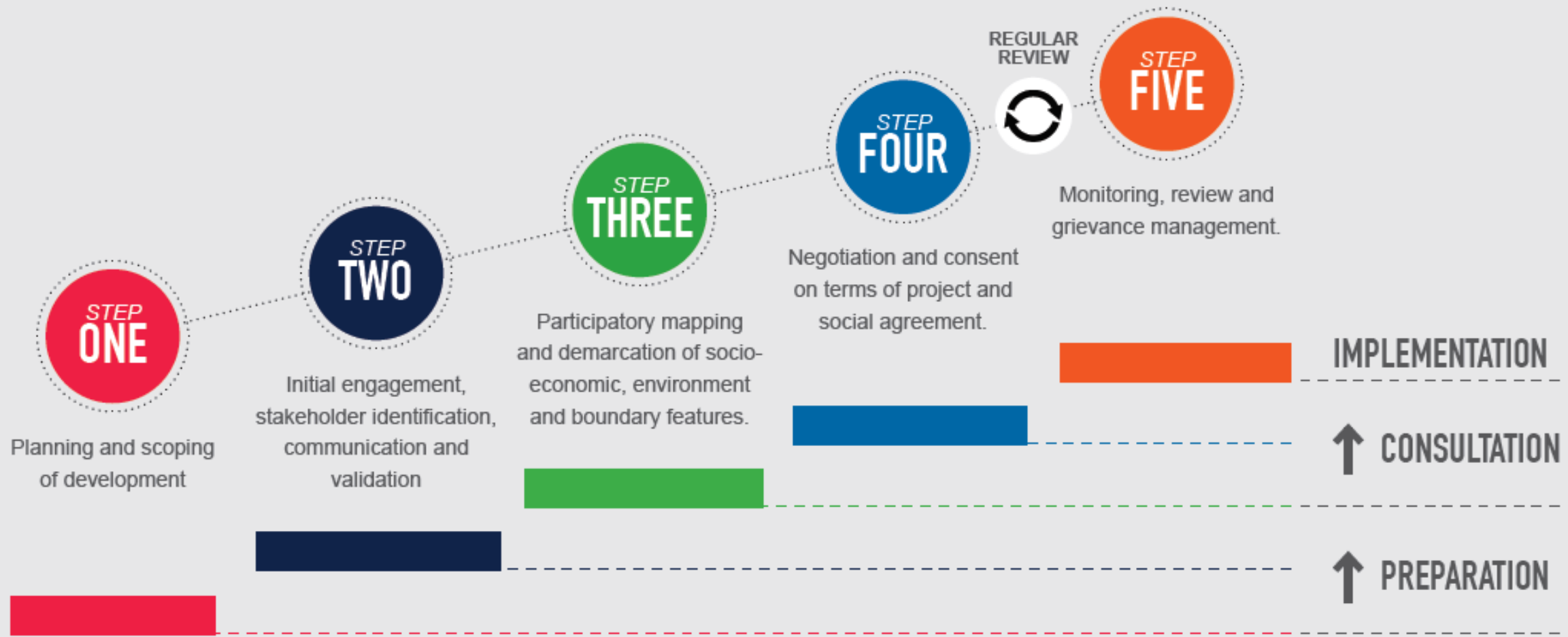
Proposals for Protected Area Establishment must include ... "Indication of free, prior and informed consent of the community where Community Forest Lands are affected".



LAND RIGHTS ACT, 2018

"Save for Concessions, contracts, permits and other rights previously granted in Customary Land by the Government ... and subject to the Government's Constitutional right to extract all Mineral Resources ... any interference with or use of the surface of Customary Land require the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Community."

- Liberia has developed FPIC Guidelines to help groups ensure they are getting consent from the communities they are working with
- Our own laws demand that we share information and get consent
- The FPIC guidelines serve to formalise and make this activity easy to understand so that people can do the right thing clearly and consistently
- We have developed a national Framework on how to do FPIC for REDD+ that takes into account Liberia's own circumstances



STAGES TO REACH FPIC



FEEDBACK GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

FEEDBACK GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM



- Genesis:
 - Until around 2017, grievance redress was given some attention
 - In 2017, violent conflict in the Sapo National Park, Sinoe County, between the community and the rangers demonstrated the urgency for a real and meaningful FGRM
 - Overhaul the way of preventing and dealing with grievances to reduce conflict
- Localisation of FGRM has happened in a very meaningful way
- Like with the SIS, this component is more than a box-ticking exercise.

HOW IT WORKS

- Stepwise approach:



- Reasoning: prevent conflicts and solve disputes outside of court if acceptable:
 - Local people do not have the resources to go to court so leave issues simmering
 - Reduces the barriers for resolving conflict
 - Faster resolution


Government of Liberia

REDD+ in Liberia

Liberia is covered with 7.5 million hectares of tropical forest which sustain communities and contribute to the national economy. However, the country is facing a challenge to lift incomes and create jobs for a rapidly growing population, whilst simultaneously sustainably managing the forest for future generations. Deforestation is an increasing threat. Those who depend most on the forest will suffer most from its loss. To prevent this, the country has worked with national and international partners to reform the forestry sector so that it can deliver community, conservation and commercial benefits. Liberia's domestic reform agenda is supported through international agreements on climate change and voluntary partnership agreements that provide funds for reducing emissions from the loss of forests. Liberia is party to the UNFCCC and is committed to the REDD+ process. The country has made great progress with REDD+ and is currently graduating from readiness to the results-based payment stage (proposed from 2020 onwards).



Document: REDD+ National Strategy (2016) | Produced by: REDD+ Implementation Unit, Forestry Development Authority.

The National Strategy sets out Liberia's ambition for implementation of REDD+ through the Liberia Forest Sector Project. The strategy complements the existing pilot project in Wonegizi, Lofa County, by preparing core elements of the governance framework for REDD+. The Strategy guides REDD+ developments with 5 strategic priorities: (1) Support communities to manage forests sustainably, (2) Sustainably manage commercial forestry, (3) complete protected areas network, (4) Protect high carbon stock and high conservation value forest in agricultural and mining concessions, and (5) generate fair and sustainable benefits from REDD+.

Document: National Forestry Monitoring System & Monitoring, reporting and verification (pending 2019)

Liberia's Forest Monitoring and REDD+ MRV system has included the implementation of a National Forest Inventory System, the development of a Satellite Land Monitoring System and finally the production of a Forest Reference (Emissions) Level. The institutional arrangements for effectively implementing and managing an MRV system for forest carbon accounting and REDD+ are still undergoing development.

To access Liberia's REDD+ documents and updates, follow:
<https://liberiaredd.blogspot.com/2019/11/COP25.html>



THANK YOU

- <http://www.epa.gov.lr/>
- <http://www.fda.gov.lr/>
- <https://liberia-redd-sis.info/>
- <https://liberiaredd.blogspot.com/2019/11/COP25.html>