



Government of the **Republic of Liberia**

United Nations Development Programme

Title of Project

Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management

Brief description

Liberia is listed as an LDC by the United Nations and signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on March 3, 1998. After finally emerging from several years of conflict, the country has now entered a period of transition towards sustainable poverty reduction and development. Land and forest resources quality and quantity are at the heart of Liberia's development requirements. Liberia is among countries that are yet to conclude their National Action Plans (NAP). With the adoption of Land Degradation as a new GEF Focal area, and the subsequent approval of the LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project by the GEF Assembly, Liberia is eligible to access GEF funding under the UNDP-GEF LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management. This project will help achieve the objectives of Operational Programme 15 and Strategic Priority 1 relating to Target Capacity Building for sustainable land management. With the GEF support Liberia will be able to strengthen its institutional and human resource capacity to improve sustainable land management planning and implementation. It will also enable Liberia to strengthen policy, regulatory and economic incentive frameworks to facilitate wider adoption of sustainable land management practices across sectors. The total project amount is US\$ 960,000 from which US\$ 475,000 GEF contribution and US\$ 485,000 cofinancing.



**Expedited Medium Size Project proposal
under the
LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management
REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING**

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: 3387
GEFSEC PROJECT ID:
COUNTRY: Liberia
PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Liberia
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA)
DURATION: Three years
GEF FOCAL AREA: Land Degradation
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 15
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SP 1
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: November 2007

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
Project	475,000
PDF A	25,000
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	500,000
Co-financing	
UNDP	210,000
Government	275,000
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	485,000
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	985,000
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY:	

Country Eligibility: Liberia ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on March 3, 1998 and is eligible for funding under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF Instrument.

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

(Enter Name, Position, Ministry) *Date: (Month, day, year)*
 Fodee Kromah, Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, GEF Operational Focal Point 04 June 2004

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-Sized Project under the LDC-SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management.

John Hough
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 Date: 30 September 2007

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ACRONYMS

ACDB	Agricultural Cooperative Development Bank
CARI	Central Agricultural Research Institute
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CI	Conservation International
CILSS	<i>Comité Interétat de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERADRO	Environmental Relief & Development Research Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GCLME	Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
LDC-SIDS	Least Developed Countries-Small Island Developing States
LFI	Liberia Forest Initiative
LIFE	Liberia Indigenous Forum for the Environment
LPMC	Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MTIP	Medium-Term Investment Plan
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MORD	Ministry of Rural Development
MSP	Medium Size Project
NAP	National Action Programs
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCC	National Coordinating Committee
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
POCAL	Pollution Control Association of Liberia
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SAED	Society Against Environmental Degradation
SAMFU	Save My Future Foundation
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia
SDI	Sustainable Development Institute
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SOLF	Society of Liberian Foresters
ULCAF	University of Liberia, College of Agriculture and Forestry
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

UNCCD
UNDP
UNFCCC
WRI

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
United Nations Development Program
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
World Resources Institute

SECTION I: ELABORATION OF THE NARRATIVE

PART I: SITUATION ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Environmental context

1. Liberia covers a surface of about 111,370 km² of which the upland extent is 96,160 km². The country holds a disproportionately large portion of West Africa's remaining natural rain forest area. However, the expansion of slash-and-burn shifting agriculture and past over-exploitation of timber has converted large areas of forest into fields, fallow and wooded savanna. The climate of Liberia is a monsoon type humid tropical with two distinct seasons: rainy season from May to October and a dry season from November to April. Most harvesting is done in the dry season. The temperature of Liberia ranges from 14° to 33°C. The humidity is high throughout the year and is conducive to the multiplication of pests and diseases of crops and animals. The climate of Liberia also favors the production of a wide range of tropical crops, which enhances the diversification of agricultural production as well as the development of export products.
2. There are four topographical regions, each with its own distinct physical features and height above sea level: a) the Coastal Plain is 350 miles wide and 560km long. It consists of an almost unbroken sand strip, which starts from the lowest elevation and rises up to 30 meters above sea level; b) next to the Coastal Plain is the belt of inundated plateaus followed by; c) a belt of high lands and (d) a belt of rolling hills in the north and northwest. The highest elevations are found in the northern highlands, which includes Mount Wutuvi (1350 meters), the maximum elevation in Liberia.
3. According to the World Bank (2004) Liberia falls into eleven (11) classes of land as follows:
 - Urban areas covering 0.5%;
 - Predominant rural agricultural domain with trees still present in the agricultural landscape, which cover 4.6%;
 - Agricultural area with small inclusions of forest cover 31.7%;
 - The mixed agricultural and forest type (13.7%). In this class, forest covers 20 to 50 per cent of the surface, but is in the process of being converted to agriculture;
 - Degraded forest with less than 50% of the area in agriculture (about 9.9%);
 - Open dense forest (10%), this class covers all the forests presenting evidence of harvesting;
 - Closed dense forest (25.3%), this is forest land not disturbed by recent logging activities;
 - Free water (0.1%);
 - Savanna or bare soil (0.1%), this covers areas with vegetation like *inselberg*, or savannas;
 - Littoral ecosystem complex (1.7%); and
 - Agro-industrial plantations (1.9%).
4. Generally, three types of soil can be distinguished in Liberia, the lateritic soils or latosols, sandy soils and swamp soils. The lateritic soils cover about 75% of the country, are reddish-brown in color, contain iron and are quite hard. The lateritic soils are the most susceptible to land degradation. The sandy soils or regosols consist of more than 60% coarse and fine sand and contain a small amount of clay. The white to grey color of the sand which predominates on the coastal plain and up to about 16km from the sea, contains little humus and mineral nutrients. They are porous and also do not retain moisture. They are not fertile and only suitable for

pastures and plantation crops because of the poor water holding capacity and low humus and nutrient content. The swamp soils are found along the coast and in the interior. They account for about 4% of all soils. The most frequent are the water-logged, grey hydromorphic soils in the floors of the valleys that are flooded in the rainy season. Swamp soils also include a so-called half-bog soil. These occur in swampy areas where drainage is poor and the level of water in the upper layer of the soil is high.

5. The first national forest inventory in Liberia conducted from 1960 to 1967 by the German Forestry Mission, found that primary forest covered about 75% of the country. A forest resources survey funded by FAO and FDA and carried out in 1985 put the forest cover of Liberia at about 49.8% of the land area. The annual deforestation rate was then estimated at about 0.5%. By 1988 annual deforestation was estimated at 1%. Up to about 192,000 hectares of forest land is lost annually. According to the EPA (2004) the greatest threat facing forests in Liberia comes from slash-and-burn agriculture. This practice is said to account for about 95% of deforestation. Slash-and-burn agriculture, with shortened fallows and a growing population, is unsustainable in Liberia and has severe environmental and socio-economic consequences. It is predicted that by 2020 the forest cover will be reduced to 25%.
6. There are up to eleven mountains and 2 mountain ranges in Liberia. They include: the Nimba, Wologisi, Bong Range, Gibi, Putu, Bomi, Wutivi, Mano, Bea, Kpo Range and Wenegissi. Four of these mountains, Bong Range, Nimba, Mano and Bomi have been exploited for iron ore.

Socio-economic context

The Economy

7. The fourteen years of civil war that ended in 2003 seriously disrupted the Liberian economy leading to an overall impoverishment of the country. According to the United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process document for 2006, the number of people living on less than US\$1 per day amounted to 76 percent of the population. This is a significant increase from the 1997/98 estimates of 55 percent. The magnitude of this problem is further highlighted by the large number of people who survive on less than US\$2 per day — together these two groups comprise more than 90 percent of the population. The level of unemployment in the formal sector is also excessive, estimated at about 85 percent. All these factors have resulted in a serious economic hardship. Malnutrition, high incidence of diseases and poor sanitation and hygiene has negatively affected the living conditions and well-being of the population in general, and that of the vulnerable groups in particular. The large majority of the poor are found in the rural areas, where basic services and infrastructure are limited, and the people are forced to rely primarily on subsistence agriculture. This means that a major impact on poverty reduction can only be made if problems affecting the rural areas are addressed as a matter of priority.
8. In the 1960s, the Liberian economy was at the level of many European and Asian countries, but is currently one of the poorest economies in the world. It presently operates at about one third of its pre-war level, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$500m. The performance of key growth sectors is extremely low, reflecting the effect of the protracted war. Agricultural production had collapsed following the abandonment of farms due to the flight of tens of thousands of farm families. Other important economic sectors have also deteriorated markedly or reduced to nothing. For instance, the tertiary sector declined from about 50 percent share of GDP in 1988 to about 17 percent in 2004; and, over the same period, the mining sector shrank from 12 percent to almost nothing, as it recorded less than 0.01 percent of GDP. Owing to the

increased humanitarian assistance, the economy has now witnessed a 20 percent growth since the end of the conflict in 2003, but the major economic sectors have yet to be revitalized in order to be able to contribute to the national economy.

9. It is estimated that the population of Liberia was about 3.5 million in 2005, including refugees. Per capita income is about US \$199.30 and life expectancy at birth is 47.7 years and decreasing. The adult literacy rate is estimated at 37%. Liberia has a human development index of 0.276 and ranks 173 out of a total of 174 countries. About 70% of the population lives in the rural areas (EPA 2004) and depends on the products and services of agriculture, forestry and other extractive industries for their livelihood. The war displaced about 1,000,000 people internally and about 460,000 externally while total deaths were about 150,000. Access to education is limited and an estimated 80 percent of schools, health service structures, water wells, and other facilities have been either destroyed or abandoned.
10. The Liberian economy consists essentially of a strong traditional agrarian sector comprising largely of subsistence farmers, mainly women, with an average farm size of one and a half hectares. Rubber, timber and mining industries together accounted for only 7 percent of GDP but for 70 percent of public sector revenue and 60 percent of total external trade before the war. Presently, rubber is the leading export commodity, since mining activities have ceased, accounting for 67 percent of total exports by volume. The Liberian economy has a rather narrow base as it depends on only a few commodities for growth at present.
11. The medium and large-scale business or commercial sector of the economy is almost exclusively in the hands of foreigners. The poor performance of the banks as well as the acute shortage of hard currency have exacerbated the situation, thus making it difficult for local businessmen who have no access to foreign exchange to invest in the sector. The decline of the economy has also exacerbated the public debt position of the country, now estimated at about US\$3.7 billion. Such state of indebtedness is by far beyond any sustainable management level particularly by a country that is saddled by major economic and social difficulties. Hence, the country is seriously in arrears with many lenders and development partners.

The Agricultural and Rural Sector

12. Four production systems characterize Liberian agriculture: (i) foreign commercial plantations producing perennial export crops, mainly rubber and palm oil; (ii) state-owned plantations run by the Liberian Palm Products Corporation (LPPC) and the Liberian Cocoa and Coffee Corporation (LCCC); (iii) domestically owned, medium-sized commercial farms producing industrial crops for export and livestock for the local market, and; (iv) small household farms using traditional production techniques with extremely limited use of modern inputs. About 3% of cultivated land is under perennial crops, which include cocoa, coffee, oil palm and rubber. These are largely concentrated in the North, Central and Western Regions. There are approximately 35,000 ha of cocoa, 40,000 ha of coffee, 70,000 ha of oil palm and 150,000 ha of rubber. In addition, small holdings of citrus, coconut palm, kola, mangos and plantain are scattered all around the country.
13. Traditional household farming is the predominant production system, based on family labor with average holdings of 1.5 ha. Output is largely consumed by household members and consists of food crops (rice, roots, tubers, and legumes), small livestock (chickens, goats, sheep and pigs) and small plots of export crops, mainly coffee and cocoa. Because of poor rural infrastructure, lack of access to improved technology and markets, Liberia lacks a dynamic smallholder sector in which farm households manage an integrated and diversified cash and food crop production system. Slash-and-burn or shifting cultivation on the uplands is still the

main technique practiced by small farmers. Land is fallowed because of the need to restore soil fertility in what are generally poor, acid, heavily leached soils. Land tenure arrangements are based on tribal traditions which are well adapted to the bush fallow cropping system. Under the customary arrangements, land is allocated to the people by the local authorities under use right, rather than freehold. Such arrangements often discourage major investors who may require long-term tenure security.

14. According to FAO (2003), less than 10 percent of the 4.6 million hectares of arable land is cultivated. The primary environmental impact from domestic agricultural production is deforestation from the spread of shifting agriculture. Upland rain-fed cultivation of annual crops is very difficult to sustain. Perennial tree crop cultivation is much more easily sustained as is swamp cultivation in wetlands that have been converted to agriculture. Liberia has huge areas of wetland swamps. Only a very small portion has been converted to agriculture. About half of what had been converted was abandoned during the recent civil war. The protracted civil war has almost wiped out the livestock industry, and the people are now dependant mainly on bush meat and highly priced imports. Beef production is predominantly carried out by herders along the coastal regions where some pasture land exists; in the northern and central parts of the country, goats and sheep rearing is common.
15. The agricultural sector, including forestry and fisheries, is the backbone of the national economy. In addition to supplying food to the people, agriculture has traditionally earned considerable foreign exchange resources through the exports of timber and commercial crops such as rubber, coffee and cocoa. Agriculture is also most important in terms of employment, rural livelihoods and food security. However, its contribution to national economic growth had been limited over the past years by structural constraints, inadequate policies and armed civil conflicts.
16. Prior to the civil war in 1987, the agriculture sector, contributed around 32.7 percent of GDP and provided employment for about 75 percent of the labor force. However, in the post-war period, the sector's share of GDP has risen, in spite of its overall deterioration. In fact, in 2004, total agricultural output (including fisheries and forestry) accounted for about 65 percent of GDP. The reason for such anomaly is the drastic decline of other economic sectors, notably the mining and the tertiary sectors. Otherwise, agriculture had continued to get worse during the war. For instance, the output of agriculture and forestry amounted to about US\$371m in 1987, but 10 years later in 1997 it dropped to about US\$228m, in current price terms. Although there are no precise figures, the agricultural sector has started to grow in the last two years following the achievement of peace in the country.
17. The tree crops sector faces major constraints, which range from abandonment of farms and weak production practices to lack of farm extension support and depleted marketing infrastructure and means. Furthermore, in the past, the planting of crops on soils without prior appraisal tests, executed by extension officers, left many farmers distressed. Tree crops have been promoted without adequate research and technical analysis. Although certified seed gardens for cocoa and coffee still exist in Lofa County, hybrid parent stocks for oil and coconut palms were destroyed during the civil war. In fact, war caused farmers to flee and abandon their farms, disrupted extension service delivery at the village level and destruction of farm machinery and warehouses by vandals. As a result of this, secondary forest has often replaced former plantations. At present, yields of tree crops are low due to lack of maintenance of the plantations, market access and marketing schemes. In addition, the forestry sector, with its great potential and capacity to generate revenue, has been inactive due to the imposition of sanctions on timber exports by the United Nations; this ban was lifted in early 2007.

18. Before the onset of the civil crisis in Liberia, only about 10,000 ha of a total of 600,000 ha of inland valleys had been developed to some extent, and used for agriculture. At present, less than 50% of the 10,000 ha are being cultivated. A good analysis of the barriers to development of swamps for agriculture is obviously needed. Inland swamps can be found in all areas of the country, making it potentially possible to diversify farming in every part of the country. Inland valley productivity potential is greater than that of the uplands due to higher organic matter content and a more favorable water regime for a longer period during the year. Under traditional farming practices, yields of rice, the country's staple food crop, average about 1 ton/ha. However, under improved water management practices, rice yields in the range of 3–4 tons/ha have been achieved. There is not yet any irrigated food crop production in the country. Market gardening activities are developing and are concentrated in valley bottoms in the dry season.

Policy, institutional and legal context

Institutional framework

19. The ***Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)*** is the central policy-making body of government for the agricultural sector, and is responsible for promoting agricultural development and regulating the sector. It proposes to achieve its development objectives by focusing on applied research and extension services. MOA headquarters is organized into four major departments; Planning and Development, Research and Extension, Technical Services and the Department of Administration. At the field level, it discharges its responsibilities through five Regional Agricultural Offices, each headed by a Coordinator, assisted by County Agricultural Coordinators and County and Districts Agricultural Officers and Extension technicians. The national budget allocation to MOA by the government that was in power during 1997 to 2002 has never exceeded 1 percent.
20. The ***Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)*** is the only research organization in the country that has been carrying out applied and adaptive research covering food and tree crops, livestock, aquaculture and related areas. One of its shortcomings has been its inability to transfer new and improved technologies to farmers. Support from the central government to strengthen its capacity is limited, making it heavily dependent on external sources. During the crisis period, most of its facilities were destroyed, thereby diminishing its ability to function as a research entity. In order to sustain applied and adaptive agricultural research in Liberia, there will be a need for CARI to establish strong linkages with international research institutions such as WARDA, IRRI, IITA, etc. Such an arrangement could facilitate expansion of its research activities.
21. The ***Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)*** is the government agency with responsibilities to provide basic social and physical services such as feeder roads, improved sanitation and pipe born water as means to improve livelihood of rural settings. Before the war, this agency was actively involved in providing services to the rural areas with the support of donors. This Ministry may soon be merged with the Ministry of Public Works.
22. The ***University of Liberia, College of Agriculture and Forestry (ULCAF)*** is responsible for training individuals in agriculture and related disciplines as means to compliment the manpower needs of the Ministry of Agriculture and the agricultural sector at large. After the war, the laboratory and field/farm activities of the College have been reduced to a minimum for lack of funds and equipment.

23. The *Cooperative Development Agency (CDA)* is the government agency responsible for facilitating and strengthening the organizational set-ups of cooperative societies throughout the country. In 1985, the agency had 135 registered cooperatives of which 41 were active. Information on the number of active cooperatives is not readily available, but it is believed to have declined significantly after the war. Initiatives to revive the cooperative system are now under way.
24. The *Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC)* is an agency of government that was created by an act of legislation in 1961, to become responsible for marketing Liberian produce (cocoa, coffee, palm kernel and palm products) and piassava. The Corporation is a parastatal organization, and has a monopoly over the purchase and export of coffee and cocoa. It is estimated that LPMC has not paid farmers some US\$3.5m for the produce it purchased in the past years. The corporation also owes a much larger amount of money to foreign buyers for not delivering the produce for which advance was received. At present LPMC has no capacity to procure locally, thus it has resorted to private traders by transferring its statutory mandate of local procurement of these commodities to the latter. The monopoly status of LPMC and the issue related to its insolvency should be addressed as a matter of urgency as it has a major bearing on the future development of the export crops.
25. The *Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)* has the responsibility for handling the overall coordination of Local Government administration in the country. It also promotes and encourages communal farming, particularly seed production, as means of ensuring food security.
26. The *Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)* has the mandate to formulate, implement and review policies and legislations for small and medium enterprises, including agricultural-based processing enterprises. The ministry also has the function of coordinating investment promotion and product development as well as monitoring the overall performance of small and medium enterprises.
27. The *Agricultural Cooperative Development Bank (ACDB)* was established in 1978 and created by GOL through an act of legislation. Its main functions and responsibilities were to make available loans to farmers and their organizations in order to increase agricultural production. However, farmers were unable to maximize benefits from the bank as it was characterized by costly and complex lending procedures and a rigid loan security requirement in the form of tangible collateral which most small farmers lacked. Presently, it is largely inactive and its system needs to be reviewed.
28. Other relevant institutions include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). Non-governmental organizations involved include SCNL, SAED, CEEP, ERADRO, POCAL, LIFE, SOLF, SAMFU, SDI, Green Advocates, and Enviro-link. International non-government organizations involved include CI and FFI. Academic institutions involved include the University of Liberia and the Cuttington University.
29. Several institutions, including government ministries and agencies, national non-governmental organizations, international non-government organizations, academic institutions are involved with land degradation issues. The following table provides additional information:

Institutions involved with land degradation issues in Liberia

No.	Institutions	Land Degradation Issues
1.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Administering land development programs
2.	Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Land productivity and distribution
3.	Ministry of Agriculture	Land productivity and food security
4.	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy	Land use and tenure
5.	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Land resources governance
6.	Monrovia City Corporation	Land Pollutants
7.	SCNL	Education and conservation
8.	SAED	Research
9.	CEEP	Land partnership with communities
10.	ERADRO	Managing land disasters
11.	POCAL	Land pollutants
12.	LIFE	Indigenous Knowledge in Land Management
13.	SOLF	National land forum
14.	SAMFU	Research
15.	SDI	Research
16.	Green Advocates	Land rights and control
17.	Enviro-link	Planning for appropriate land utilization
18.	CI	Conservation of land resources
19.	FFI	Land suitability
20.	University of Liberia	Research and Training
21.	Cuttington University	Research and Training

Policy and legal frameworks

30. Since the late 1970s, Liberia has established a number of policies and passed several laws aimed at protecting the environment. Many of these ordinances relate directly to land degradation issues, forestry, mining and agriculture as well as land use planning/management. In May 2003, the Government of Liberia passed into law three environmental instruments that form the framework for the coordination, integration and harmonization of programs and activities relating to environmental matters in the country and for legal and policy framework. They are: (i) the National Environmental Policy of Liberia (ii) the Environmental Protection Agency Act, and (iii) the Environment Protection and Management Law.
31. Liberia has not yet initiated the elaboration of its National Action Plan (NAP) as required under the UNCCD. Since the submission of its first national report to the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in April 2002, no major work has been carried out. However, there have been discussions between the focal points of the UNCBD, UNFCCC and the UNCCD for a synergistic approach to environmental management in the country.
32. Liberia has completed its national capacity self assessment (NCSA). The NCSA identified gaps and priority needs for capacity building for the implementation of the UNCBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC. The NCSA resulted in an action plan with requests for future external funding assistance. With funding from the European Union and Conservation International, Liberia

conducted a re-assessment of its forests under the Liberia's Forest Reassessment Project. This project identified Liberia's potential for setting up a network of protected areas. Under the United States Government's Technical Assistance Program, the Liberia Forest Initiative (LFI) is currently supporting reforms in the national forestry sector.

33. The Medium-Term Plan for Reconstruction and Development (2002-2007) is in its final stage. It is intended to accelerate the transition from reconstruction to sustainable development. It was expected to reduce the proportion of Liberians in absolute poverty from 76.2% to 56% by 2007, and to 27% by 2015.
34. The National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) under the UNFCCC has also been completed with a plan of action developed. The NAPA process revealed that the adverse effects of climate change variability and extreme events are now significantly impacting the development efforts of Liberia. The NAPA identified three priority activities for urgent and immediate action including (i) integrated cropping/livestock farming; (ii) improved monitoring of climate change; (iii) coastal zone management program.
35. The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project is on-going and focuses on the marine ecosystem along the Gulf of Guinea. The National Biodiversity, Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) recognized that one of the threats and root causes to biodiversity loss was land degradation. In particular, it implicated shifting cultivation, unregulated timber exploitation, widespread monocultures and the lack of land use planning. NBSAP strategies include advocating appropriate measures to protect critical ecosystems against harmful effects.
36. The Forestry Act of 1976 created the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) that remains the key institution for the forest sector. Since the creation of the FDA many forestry regulations have been issued, and they address a wide range of issues. A ten-year plan for the management of the forest of Liberia was prepared in 1998 and the New National Forestry Law was enacted in 2000. This law in effect repeals the Wildlife Law of 1988, as it incorporates all the provisions of the latter. In September 2006, an Act adopting the National Forestry Reform Law was approved amending the New National Forestry Law of 2000.
37. The Wildlife and National Parks Act was enacted in 1988, calling for the creation of more protected areas and drawing attention to the need to protect many wild animals. The Act provides for effective management and protection of wildlife habitats, as well as for protection and enhancement of wildlife ecosystems.
38. An Act adopting a New Minerals and Mining Law was approved on April 3, 2002. Among other provisions, it calls for reasonable preventative, corrective and restorative measures to limit pollution or contamination of, or damage to streams, dry land surfaces and the atmosphere.
39. The United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1478 adding a ban on the export of Liberia's timber to an already existing ban on diamonds. The timber ban went into effect on 7 July 2003, after the Liberian government failed to demonstrate that revenue from the timber industry was used for legitimate social, humanitarian and development purposes. However, in February 2007 the ban was lifted. The objective is to proceed with sustainable forestry and natural resources development in Liberia based on the aspirations and needs of communities as a means to establishing just, equitable and sustainable forms of land and resource use rights and management. Sustainable management systems, however, have not yet been developed.

Direct and Root Causes of Land Degradation

40. The direct causes of land degradation in Liberia are the following:

- Unsustainable slash-and-burn agriculture on the uplands
- Deforestation (nearly all of it caused by the expansion of unsustainable slash-and-burn upland agriculture)
- Unsustainable use of forest resources
- Land degradation caused by mining operations

41. **Unsustainable slash-and-burn agriculture** is the single greatest direct cause of land degradation in Liberia. Not only is there serious degradation of the agricultural lands themselves, but unsustainable agriculture is the main cause of deforestation in Liberia. Deforestation is driven by a combination of population growth and the lack of sustainability of rain-fed, slash-and-burn farming. In the past, population pressures were low and slash-and-burn, under very long fallow periods, could be sustained. However, with today's population densities and land pressures, the soil fertility and productivity of slash-and-burn agricultural lands is undergoing a continuous decline. Lowland agriculture is much easier to sustain and Liberia has huge areas of lowlands that could be developed for agriculture. However, there are many barriers to lowland agricultural development. Slash-and-burn could easily result in total deforestation of Liberia followed by continuing declines in agricultural yields and increasing food insecurity.

42. Lowland agriculture is generally much easier to sustain than upland agriculture, and Liberia has an enormous potential. Out of the 600,000 ha of lowlands, only 10,000 ha have been developed and half of that area has been abandoned.

43. **Deforestation** 95% of deforestation is caused by clearing for agriculture – nearly all of it for slash-and-burn. This is driven by the unsustainable nature of slash-and-burn under modern day land pressures and short fallow, and by population growth. In effect, unsustainable agriculture and deforestation are, in large part, one and the same problem.

44. **Unsustainable use of forest resources** Large scale, uncontrolled, mechanized harvesting of tropical hardwoods from the humid forests took place during the recent period of civil war. There is currently a logging ban in place and such mechanized harvest has ended. There is localized over-harvesting for wood fuels and other products, but this is not a major cause of land degradation at present. However, with the lifting of the timber export ban in 2007 it is imperative to develop sustainable forest management strategies before uncontrolled harvesting begins anew.

45. **Land degradation caused by mining operations** is a localized problem.

Barriers to SLM

46. At the stakeholders workshop on January 18, 2007 it was decided that this small project could not adequately build capacities in both the agricultural and sustainable forest management sectors. Sustainable management of humid tropical forests is an extremely difficult challenge without any clear success stories in Africa and is not something that this project could adequately address. The stakeholders decided that the MSP should focus primarily on building capacities in the agricultural sector.

47. A full problem analysis of the main direct causes of land degradation, unsustainable agriculture and deforestation, are presented in matrix form in **Annex A**. For each direct cause, the biophysical impacts and their root causes are identified. Then barriers to SLM are identified along with potential solutions for each barrier. The proposed project consists primarily of the removal of barriers to SLM. The reader is referred to the annex for the full problem analysis. Only the barriers to sustainable agriculture and to deforestation are summarized below.

Barriers to sustainable upland agriculture

48. Although the vast majority of farmers in Liberia make their living from rain-fed, slash-and-burn agriculture on the uplands for the production of rice and other annual crops, there have never been any serious attempts to develop permanent, sedentary farming systems for the production of annual crops on the uplands.

49. **Insufficient information on farmers' perspectives and knowledge.** Past approaches to agricultural development have been largely top-down. A basic starting point for the development of sedentary, sustainable cropping systems is a full knowledge of farmers' perspectives – the measures and conditions they consider necessary to make the transition from slash-and-burn to sustainable systems, which could include the development of lowland agriculture or upland tree/perennial cash crops or the development/adoption of new forms of sedentary, permanent upland cropping systems.

50. **No knowledge management system for SLM.** There is no effective knowledge management network of SLM/agricultural development institutions and projects. There is no effective system for capturing lessons learned and best practices for SLM, synthesizing them and then disseminating this knowledge. There is little emphasis on farmers' perspectives and farmer adoption/acceptability as key criteria in the selection of SLM technologies. Most of those working in the agriculture sector are still concerned primarily with emergency relief in the post-war transitional period.

51. **Lack of sustainable upland agricultural models.** No permanent systems for the production of annual crops have been developed for the uplands of Liberia. Some progress was being made in the 1970s and 1980s, but most resources went into lowland agriculture and into perennial cash crops. One of the impediments to the development of sustainable cropping systems for uplands is the radical nature of the transition – from a system reliant on fire for site preparation to one that does not use fire.

- a. **Top-down extension approaches/insufficient development of participatory approaches** that put the farmers at the center of agricultural development
- b. **Dysfunctional government agricultural extension system.** Infrastructure was destroyed by war. There is a greatly diminished professional and technical/extension staff because of war. Many agents have been recruited by NGOs. Remaining agents are badly in need of retraining.
- c. **Agricultural extension by NGOs is uncoordinated and of mixed quality.** There is no effective coordination mechanism. Extension messages are often not based on a review of best practices and lessons learned. NGOs also frequently use top-down extension approaches. There are no minimal standards for extension approaches and packages. Most NGOs in the agricultural sector have been concentrating on post-conflict assistance rather than agricultural development

52. **Little use of adaptive management.** There is little tradition or practice of extension staff periodically sitting down with farmer/stakeholders to systematically review the strengths and the weaknesses of extension programs with the objective of continually improving on extension approaches and technologies.

53. **Insufficient awareness** of nature of the problem. There is little awareness that present trends will lead to the destruction of all forests within a few decades and to increased impoverishment and food insecurity of slash-and-burn farmers. Policy and decision makers are so focused on post war relief and transition measures that little attention is paid to these very negative mega-trends.
54. **Lowland bias.** Agricultural development projects, research and extension resources have classically been focused on lowland agricultural development.
55. **SLM insufficiently integrated into university curricula.** Some soils courses at University of Liberia touch on sustainability issues, but treatment of SLM at the University-level is far from adequate.
56. **No M&E system for SLM.** There are no operational M&E systems for land degradation or SLM.
57. **Insufficient use of economic/financial and risk analyses** of SLM technologies. There is too little attention to farming as a business and to the financial viability of different SLM technologies available to the farmer.
58. **High investment costs** for some sustainable technologies (upland irrigation, tree crops, etc.). For example, tree crops may require 3 to 5 years before they come into production; most smallholders cannot carry investments over such a period of time
59. **No National Action Plan (NAP).** All signatories to the UNCCD are required to develop a national action plan for reversing and mitigating land degradation/ desertification. The NAP would include plans for improving the sustainability of agriculture and for controlling deforestation. Liberia has not yet begun work on its NAP.

Barriers to lowland agricultural development

60. Lowland/swamp agriculture has a much higher level of ecological sustainability than upland agriculture. Up to three crops per year can be grown and swamp agriculture can be a viable alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture. Nearly all past agricultural development projects and agricultural extension initiatives have focused on lowland agriculture. The results, however, have been very mixed and the overall success has been low. Many of the lowland areas previously developed were abandoned during the war. Barriers to sustainable lowland agriculture include:
 61. **Negative associations.** Lowland farmers are exposed to schistosomiasis and other water born diseases and leeches. Some complain of long-term exposure to cold water. Intercropping is not possible with flooded rice.
 62. Lowland agriculture is said to be more **labor intensive.**
 63. **There are high investment costs** to get started in lowland agriculture.
 64. **No agricultural suitability analysis** has been completed for lowland swamps. Some types of swamps and swamp soils are much better suited to agriculture than others. Some swamps should be conserved because of unique biodiversity or other hydrological or ecosystem functions.

Barriers to putting an end to deforestation

66. **Lack of productive, sustainable upland agricultural** systems for annual crops. The unsustainable nature of traditional slash-and-burn farming is one of the causes of deforestation. No sustainable cropping systems exist for annual crops on the uplands.
67. **Lack of effective land use zoning and planning** systems. To be effectively implemented, land use planning must also be accompanied by adequate political will and good governance systems.
68. **Insufficient political will** to enforce laws and to stop the clearing of primary forest.
69. **Insufficient incentives.** The existing forest harvest systems yield little benefit for local populations; thus, there is little incentive to conserve the forest.

PART II: PROJECT STRATEGY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Current situation and baseline course of action

Baseline course of action

70. The Baseline is what would take place anyway during project prep and during the three years of project execution even if there were no GEF project. The Baseline that is presented here is organized into three categories that correspond to the three outcomes of the logical framework presented later in this document.

Baseline initiatives related to institutional capacities for sustainable agriculture:

Knowledge management

71. The Government of Liberia has established an **inter-ministerial agricultural coordination body** that is ongoing and has been in place for the past 4 years. It has an annual budget of US\$70,000.

72. **The Liberian NGOs Coalition** is made up of separate environmental NGOs and has been established to create a permanent forum of knowledge management and information sharing in various fields in the environment including sustainable agriculture. It has ongoing activities with an annual budget of US\$35,000.

73. Agricultural suitability mapping is ongoing, and a number of institutions are involved. The EPA program began in July 2007 with an annual budget US\$40,000. For the past 3 years both the World Bank and the FFI have initiated works related to agricultural suitability mapping. None of the agricultural suitability mapping involves Liberia's extensive wetlands.

Agricultural extension

74. The Ministry of Agriculture runs an extension program, with about 15 extension offices and 37 extension workers nationwide and an annual budgetary allotment of US\$86,000. This program is ongoing has functioned for the last six years.

75. The University of Liberia runs a middle level skills training in Agricultural extension education with 62 persons trained annually. It has an annual budget of US\$68,000.

Baseline related to university curricula for sustainable agriculture

76. The University of Liberia currently uses a very outdated curriculum for agriculture, but has developed with FAO a three year, \$180,000 project proposal for curricula updating and revision over the period 2007 – 2009. The project would include the development of short-term courses in sustainable agriculture. Full commitment to the funding of this proposal is pending and should be decided in the near future.

Baseline related to multi-sectoral planning and preparation of the NAP

77. No Baseline activities have been identified.

Baseline related to the development of a Medium-Term Investment Plan (MTIP) for SLM

78. No Baseline activities have been identified.

Capacity and mainstreaming needs for SLM

79. Prior to and up to 1990, there were training institutions that provided resource information and training that dealt with issues of land degradation in Liberia. These institutions included the Geology, Mining and Civil Engineering Departments at the University of Liberia; the College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Liberia; the Road Maintenance Training Center (RMTC) in Grand Bassa County operated by the Ministry of Public Works; the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Bong County; the National Survey Institute in Tubmanburg operated by the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy; the Central Biological Research Institute (CBRI) in Margibi County; and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) in Monrovia. Many other land-related institutions were established in the country prior to the inception of the civil crisis in 1989, but they were either vandalized or destroyed by the many episodes of the civil war.
80. As a result of the aforementioned, a huge capacity gap remains. At the national policy and decision-making level, there is need for the creation of an SLM oversight and coordination body. This body, and other provincial and national-level policy and decision makers need basic training in the types of land degradation, their impacts and root causes, the barriers to SLM and on options for removing barriers to SLM. Liberia needs to have an overall plan for reversing land degradation and for developing, replicating and extending sustainable land use systems. Institutional responsibilities for SLM need to be reviewed and revised. The plan needs to identify needs for policy and legal reforms. The plan then needs to be mainstreamed through a national investment plan to be implemented through a mix of national and donor resources. Donors need to be involved from the beginning. Implementation of the plan needs to be integrated into the national budget. The development of sustainable financing for SLM needs to be a focus of both the action plan and the investment plan.
81. Capacity building for sustainable agriculture needs to involve enhancing capacities for knowledge management, participatory agriculture extension, improved sustainable agricultural extension packages and improved university-level education. Agricultural extension services need to be diversified to include private sector and civil society institutions. Capacities for adaptive management need to be developed and institutionalized. Ultimately, sustainable agricultural capacities need to be developed at the farm family level and in farmer associations. To achieve this, appropriate capacities need to be built in government and civil society institutions that provide support to farmers and farmer associations. The development of alternatives to unsustainable, short fallow slash-and-burn agriculture for annual crops is one of the greatest challenges in Liberia.
82. Capacity building for sustainable agriculture primarily involves incremental changes to the existing farming systems. Capacity building for sustainable use of natural forests is much more problematic because there are no basic forest management models on which to build. Liberia has a system for commercial harvest but has no system that ensures the regeneration of what is harvested. The development of humid forest management capacities is beyond the means of this project.

83. The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) revealed that key constraints to effective integration and synergies of the cross-cutting issues amongst the three conventions are associated with a host of human, institutional and structural inadequacies. These include inadequate planning skills and resources, budgetary constraints and incomplete structures at local levels.

Project rationale and objective

84. **Project Rationale.** Most of the upland agriculture in Liberia is slash-and-burn. Under current population densities, it is highly unsustainable and characterized by a continuing decline in soil fertility and crop yields. Much of the clearing of new forest land for slash-and-burn agriculture is driven by the need to compensate for these declining yields combined with rapid population growth of about 3%/yr. The continued intensification of slash-and-burn agriculture could destroy all of the remaining forest land in Liberia over the next few decades. The ongoing declines in yields also contribute directly to rural poverty and food insecurity.

85. Strategies for improving agricultural sustainability can be categorized as follows:

- The development of sustainable lowland/swamp agriculture as an alternative to uplands slash-and-burn;
- The development and promotion of perennial (tree) food and cash crops on the uplands as an alternative to slash-and-burn (perennial crops are much easier to sustain than annual crops);
- The development of new, sustainable upland farming systems that integrate the production of annual crops. Such systems do not presently exist;
- Measures to improve the sustainability of slash-and-burn systems.

86. From a careful analysis and prioritization of barriers to increased agricultural sustainability, combined with the identification of solutions for barrier removal, a description of the Baseline and the identification of key gaps that can realistically be achieved with the funding available for this project, it was decided that the project should focus on the following key barriers:

- Insufficient SLM knowledge management in the agricultural sector;
- Weak agricultural extension systems;
- Poor integration of SLM in university curricula;
- Lack of a National Action Plan for SLM;
- Lack of an investment plan for the NAP/SLM.

87. Development of agricultural suitability mapping for lowlands was initially included but was later dropped due to the lack of sufficient co-financing for the activity.

88. **Project Goal** – Contribute to the mitigation of land degradation and promote ecosystem integrity and stability, with enhanced ecological functions and services by building national and local capacity and mainstreaming SLM issues into national development strategies and policies.

89. The **Project Objective** is defined as: Strengthening the enabling environment for SLM through mainstreaming and developing capacities for sustainable agriculture through a broad-based participatory process.

Expected Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

90. The project objective will be achieved through the following three outcomes:
1. Capacities for sustainable agriculture are strengthened
 2. A National Action Plan for mainstreaming SLM is developed and approved and strong multi-sectoral oversight and coordination is developed
 3. An medium-term investment plan for NAP implementation is developed and funded
91. **Outcome 1. *Capacities for sustainable agriculture are strengthened.*** This outcome will be achieved through three outputs:
92. **Output 1.1. *A knowledge management (KM) system in support of sustainable agriculture is established.*** The activities under this output are the following:
- 1.1.1. Establish a Knowledge Management Network (KMN) and conduct a national review of farmer' perspectives, lessons learned and best practices (to cover upland slash-and-burn, upland perennial crops and lowland/swamp agriculture).* The KMN will be comprised primarily of all projects and other field-based practitioners who are working in the field in the agricultural sector. Participation in the KMN will be strictly voluntary. The review will focus on the identification of technologies that have been adopted by farmers, working under the principle that farmer acceptability is the major criteria for success. If farmers do not adopt a technology, the technology is not going to have any impact.
- 1.1.2. Identify key SLM knowledge gaps and develop a KMN plan for filling them.* The knowledge gaps will be identified together and the costs of filling the knowledge gaps will be shared by the members of the KMN.
- 1.1.3. Conduct annual KM partners' adaptive management review meetings for exchange of experiences.* Each KMN partner will revise their agricultural program annually based on the results of these annual reviews.
- 1.1.4. Publication and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices.* Best practices and lessons learned will be published in a variety of formats, each of them targeting a different audience.
- 1.1.5. Improved monitoring and evaluation of land degradation.* At present, government has no capacity for monitoring land degradation. Strategically-targeted LD/SLM monitoring capacity will be developed. It will be based on a careful analysis of capacities for sustaining the system beyond end-of-project (EOP).
93. **Output 1.2. *SLM is integrated into agricultural extension programs.*** The project will not fund agricultural extension directly, but all projects/institutions that are working in agricultural extension will be brought into the sustainable agriculture KMN. The project will revise/update agricultural extension packages to integrate the best practices/lessons learned for sustainable agriculture. The activities under this Output are the following:
- 1.2.1. Develop new farmer-centered, participatory extension approaches.* The agricultural extension tradition in Liberia is a top-down tradition whereby extension techniques are defined by researchers or other "experts". The project will develop new participatory extension approaches that involve farmers in the selection of extension methodologies, the selection of SLM technologies for extension and in the periodic review of and modifications of extension methodologies and technologies.
- 1.2.2. Analyze the economic and financial costs and benefits of alternative agricultural technologies.* The financial return on investment has not been a key criterion in the selection of SLM technologies in the past. The project will conduct economic and financial analyses of the major SLM technologies coming out of the KMN review and identified as candidates

for extension. Analyses will include the financial return on investment, the delay required before benefits are realized and the level of risk involved with different technologies.

1.2.3. Develop new extension packages of SLM technologies based on lessons learned/best practices from KMN review. Appropriate extension packages will be defined for each major agro-ecological zone based on the results of the KMN review and the economic/financial analyses.

1.2.4. Conduct training in participatory extension approaches and in revised extension packages. All agricultural extension agents and government and NGO staff responsible for agricultural extension will receive training in the new agricultural extension approaches and technologies.

94. Output 1.3. *SLM integrated into university curricula for agriculture.*

1.3.1. Conduct detailed analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing curricula. Reform of university curricula is relatively easy at this point because of the flexibility associated with Liberia's post conflict transitional phase it is going through. The specific courses to be revised will be finalized, their strengths and weaknesses in regards to SLM will be analyzed and the needed reforms will be detailed.

1.3.2. Develop revised curricula fully integrating SLM principles, lessons learned and best practices. SLM will be fully integrated into the selected courses. The professors teaching these courses will be trained in the results of the KMN review and the economic/financial analyses and will be directly involved in the revisions.

95. Outcome 2: *A National Action Plan for mainstreaming SLM is developed and approved with strong multi-sectoral oversight and coordination developed.* Completion of the NAP is a required outcome under the Portfolio Project. This Outcome will be achieved through two outputs.

96. Output 2.1. *In-depth land degradation problem analysis completed.* Many NAPs in the past have suffered from an incomplete or weak problem analysis. One of the most common weaknesses is the failure to identify barriers to SLM. Output 2.1 will be accomplished through two activities:

2.1.1. Identify the root causes and impacts of unsustainable harvest of forest products and identify barriers to sustainable forest use and potential solutions. This part of the land degradation problem analysis was not completed as part of the MSP preparation because the strategic decision was made early on to focus on the agriculture sector.

2.1.2. Integrate the KM review of perspectives, lessons learned and best practices to update the problem analysis of unsustainable agriculture/deforestation conducted for the LDC/SIDS MSP. A problem analysis for unsustainable agriculture was already done as part of the preparation of this MSP, but it will need to be updated and differentiated by agro-ecological zone. The agriculture sector LD analysis should be integrated into the KMN review of best practices.

97. Output 2.2. *National Action Plan for UNCCD developed and approved.* This will be accomplished through several activities:

2.1.1. Develop a draft NAP with a focus on overcoming the barriers to SLM identified in the problem analysis. The NAP will focus on the removal of barriers to SLM in the same way that this project does.

2.1.2. Organize regional and national stakeholder meetings for inputs, modifications and validation of the NAP. Development of the NAP will be strongly participatory. The draft NAP will be presented, debated, and modified at a series of regional workshops followed by final validation at a national workshop.

2.1.3. *Pilot the NAP through the approval process to become formal government policy.* It is critical that the NAP be formally adopted as a government policy document.

2.1.4. *Publish and disseminate the NAP to all stakeholders.* The NAP will be published and will be disseminated to all the stakeholders that were identified during the participatory NAP development process.

98. **Output 2.3.** *Multi-sectoral oversight/coordination capacities built for NAP/SLM.* The mainstreaming of SLM requires the development of a multi-sectoral entity for oversight and coordination that has a firm grasp of LD/SLM issues.

2.3.1. *Establish the national committee responsible for the oversight and coordination of SLM and of the implementation of the NAP.* This is the committee that is called for under the UNCCD. It will oversee and coordinate SLM initiatives under the framework of the UNCCD.

2.3.2. *Develop capacities for understanding the key issues related to sustainable agriculture, deforestation, sustainable forest management, wildfires and mining.* Most stakeholders and government ministries have very little grasp of LD and SLM issues and options. For the committee to be effective it will be necessary to undertake a series of training workshops to cover the causes of land degradation, the barriers to SLM and the policy options for developing and supporting SLM.

99. **Outcome 3.** *Investment plan for NAP implementation is developed and funded.* This is also a required outcome of each Portfolio Project MSP. It is a further measure to ensure that the NAP is more than a document that sits on a shelf somewhere. It will be achieved through two outputs:

100. **Output 3.1.** *Medium-Term Investment plan developed.* This output will be achieved through two activities:

3.1.1. *Develop a Medium-Term Investment Plan (MTIP) for implementation of the NAP, including all national and international partners.* Government, civil society and donors will be involved in the preparation of the MTIP. The MTIP will define the investments to be made in SLM over the next ten years. It will distinguish between those actions that can be implemented through government/national resources and those that require donor support. The amount of investments, the institutional responsibilities and the length of each initiative will be defined. The MTIP may also include the identification of new sources of financing. An example might be a new tax levy to finance agricultural extension.

3.1.2. *Pilot Investment Plan through the approval process.* The IP also need to be adopted as government policy document.

101. **Output 3.2.** *Investment plan implemented.* The implementation will consist primarily of ensuring the commitment of financial resources to the MTIP.

3.2.1. *Work with Office of Budget to integrate Medium-Term Investment Plan into the national development plan.* Before the end of the project, government support will be integrated into the national budget. One of the key areas of government support will be for agricultural extension.

3.2.2. *Develop and implement a strategy for mobilizing donor funding in support of MTIP.* A dialogue with potential donors will be developed and maintained from the beginning of this MSP. Donor commitment to the MTIP will for formalized upon approval of the MTIP.

3.2.3. *M&E system for Investment Plan developed and is functional.* An M&E capacity will be developed to enable the NAP oversight committee to monitor the implementation of the Investment Plan and to take corrective actions as needed

Global and local benefits

101. **Global benefits.** The principal global benefit will be the development of more sustainable agricultural systems for Liberia and the enhanced capacities for promoting and extending these systems. Although the adoption of these improved systems will not be widespread during the lifetime of this small project, the project will have played a key role in integrating sustainability into most of the agricultural initiatives in the country. On a more general scale, the project will have developed a multi-sectoral framework to begin mainstreaming SLM into the economic development of the country.
102. Other specific global benefits that will begin to be realized include the following:
- Reduced deforestation and the conservation of forest ecosystem functions;
 - Reduced addition of CO₂ to the atmosphere;
 - Enhanced biodiversity conservation of forest areas.
103. **National benefits.** The economy of Liberia is based on agriculture. The principal national benefit will be the enhanced sustainability and productivity of the main economic sector of the country. Other specific national benefits will include:
- Reduced food insecurity
 - Higher yields from more productive agriculture
 - Improved livelihoods for rural farmers
 - Improved governance through participatory systems
 - Greater self-reliance of Liberian institutions
 - More reliable financing for SLM
 - The development of multi-sectoral approach to problem solving;
 - The development of adaptive management

Linkages to UNDP Activities and Programs

104. The project is in line with the Liberia's United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP country program document (CPD) for 2008-2012. The UNDAF country program output 2.3.4 calls for the establishment of a comprehensive natural resources and environmental management to ensure improved household food security. The UNDP CPD 2008-2012 intends to support in a participatory manner the preparation and implementation of the MDGs based national development strategies by coordinating and strengthening national management and implementation frameworks and capacities for pro-poor policy planning, analysis and monitoring.
105. The UNDP Country Office in Liberia has committed itself to providing co-financing in the amount of **US\$ 210,000**. These funds will be used specifically for the elaboration of the national action program (NAP) and for project management costs.

Stakeholder Involvement Plan

106. **The principal stakeholders.** As this project will focus primarily on the agricultural sector, the most important stakeholders concerned are farmers and rural farming communities. Agricultural communities with degraded landscapes who may benefit particularly strongly include those in Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Nimba and Margibi counties. Other key stakeholders in the agricultural sector are the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has broad responsibilities for ensuring that environmental concerns are integrated into the economic development of the country.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is concerned with both agricultural sustainability and productivity. They have the principal responsibility for agricultural extension, including the extension of SLM technologies.
- Central Agricultural Research Institute, for the testing and development of improved agricultural technologies including SLM technologies.
- Universities dispensing agricultural education, specifically the University of Liberia and the Cuttington University.
- NGOs involved in agriculture.

107. In addition to the above, other stakeholders that will be involved in the NAP and SLM mainstreaming include:

- Ministry of Budget – must provide funding for agricultural extension, agronomic research, university budgets covering agricultural/SLM training, etc.
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Forest Development Authority
- Society of Liberian Foresters

108. **Stakeholder involvement during project development.** EPA has been the executing agency for the PDF A grant, used for the development of this MSP. During project development, national consultants visited stakeholders in the countryside, employing participatory rural appraisal methodologies to capture the views and concerns of rural communities regarding land degradation. Structured questionnaires were also administered coupled with focal group discussions. Three stakeholder consultative meetings were held, and provided another opportunity to incorporate various stakeholders' views in the project. At the stakeholders' workshop in January 2007, it was decided that this small project could not adequately build capacities in both the agricultural and sustainable forest management sectors. Sustainable management of humid tropical forests is an extremely difficult challenge without any clear success stories in Africa and is not something that this project could adequately address. The stakeholders decided that the MSP should focus primarily on building capacities in the agricultural sector.

109. During the visit of the international SLM project development specialist, a draft of the problem analysis matrix, presented in **Annex A**, was completed as well as the objectives, outcomes, outputs and a draft logical framework. These were presented, debated and modified during a well-attended, one-day stakeholders' workshop. The problem analysis and logical framework received strong stakeholder endorsement during that meeting.

110. **Stakeholder involvement during project execution.** Most of the stakeholders involved in the agricultural center will be brought together in the Knowledge Management Network (KMN). KMN will include government and civil society institutions and agricultural sector projects. The KMN stakeholders will conduct a joint, participatory review of lessons learned and best practices for sustainable agriculture. This review will include an identification of knowledge gaps. The KMN stakeholders will collaborate in the development and implementation of an action plan for filling the gaps identified. KMN stakeholders will participate in annual KM reviews and will use these reviews as an adaptive management tool to continually review and improve upon their own agricultural programs. The KMN stakeholders will work together to revise their agricultural extension techniques to make them much more participatory, again using them as adaptive management tools. The same stakeholders will work together to develop new sustainable agricultural extension packages. As the most critical stakeholder, the farmer will be at the center of the KMN review (technologies will be assessed

in terms of farmers' acceptability) and at the center of adaptive management reviews of extension methods and packages. The revision of university curricula will be based on the KMN review, again bringing farmer perspectives on acceptability to the fore in this process. Curricula reform will reach an ever wider range of stakeholders over time. One of the universities will be the lead executing agency for KM and will serve as its institutional home beyond the end of the project.

111. The National Coordinating Committee for the NAP is a key, high-level stakeholder body that will play a strategically critical role for SLM planning and development in Liberia. See implementation modalities for a description of the roles and functions of this committee.
112. Cognizant that the principal guiding principle of the UNCCD is coalition building through stakeholders' participation, and coupled with the fact that land management concerns multiple stakeholders, the implementation of this project will integrate many of the SLM stakeholders. This will include local non-governmental organizations such as the Pollution Control Association of Liberia (POCAL); they have expertise in information dissemination and in working with local populations and are also accredited by the UNCCD. The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) is the oldest environmental NGO in Liberia. They have done a lot of work in agriculture and they could take lead responsibilities in field programs. The Society Against Environmental Degradation (SAED) and Liberia Indigenous Forum for the Environment (LIFE) would assist in knowledge management. Major international partners to be brought on board include Fauna and Flora International (FFI). These organizations have maintained a number of experimental and pilot agricultural plots in rural Liberia and can contribute significantly to technical support and backstopping. Conservation International (CI), in particular, could provide useful support in knowledge management. The University of Liberia and Cuttington University are two training/research institutions that will be involved with knowledge management, with the University of Liberia taking the lead. State institutions earmarked for the NAP NCC are the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy; Agriculture; and the Forestry Development Authority. The stakeholders' consultation process developed by the UNCCD with regards to the NAP elaboration will be employed.
113. Groups in the civil society who may have great interest in the project include Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU), Green Advocates, Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Society of Liberian Foresters (SOLF), National Agricultural Workers' Union and the Forestry, Logging and Allied Workers' Union.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Streamlined Incremental Costs Assessment

Baseline Activities related to national planning for SLM

114. **The Baseline related to capacity building for sustainable agriculture** includes the following:
- The Government of Liberia would provide US\$280,000 for an inter-ministerial agricultural coordination body.
 - The Liberian NGOs Coalition would provide \$140,000 to maintain a permanent forum of knowledge management and information sharing in various fields in the environment including sustainable agriculture.
 - The government of Liberia would provide \$140,000 for an EPA program for agricultural suitability mapping.
 - The Government of Liberia would provide US\$344,000 for the agricultural extension program of the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - The Government of Liberia would provide \$272,000 for middle-level skills training in agricultural extension education run by the University of Liberia.
 - FAO would provide \$120,000 over the period 2007-08 for updating and revising university curricula for agriculture including the development of short term courses in sustainable agriculture.
115. **Baseline related to mainstreaming and preparation of the NAP and for the preparation of a mid-term investment plan.** No baseline has been identified for these initiatives.

PROJECT BUDGET

Component	GEF	Cofinancing		Total
		Gov	UNDP	
1. Capacities for sustainable agriculture are strengthened	374,500	95,000	115,000	584,500
2. National Action Plan for mainstreaming SLM is developed and approved with strong multi-sectoral oversight and coordination developed	-	20,000	25,000	45,000
3. Investment plan for NAP implementation is developed and funded	53,000	40,000	25,000	118,000
4: Establishment of Management and Adaptive Learning	47,500	120,000	45,000	212,500
TOTAL MSP	475,000	275,000	210,000	960,000

Table 2. Detailed description of estimated co-financing sources

Co-financing Sources

Name of Co-financier (source)	Classification*	Type*	Amount (US\$)	Status*
UNDP Country Office	Multilateral	Cash	\$ 210,000	confirmed
Government of Liberia	Government	In Kind	\$275,000	confirmed
Sub-Total Co-financing			\$485,000	

PART III: MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation Arrangements

116. After a lengthy period of consultations between the UNDP Country Office and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it was decided that the MSP process will be led by the Environmental Protection Agency as the national executing agency (NEX). The selection of the EPA was based on its mandate and its institutional capacities. EPA has an institutional mandate for environmental protection and management and it is judged to have the requisite capacities for sustainable land management. The EPA has appreciable experiences in successfully leading and executing GEF projects.

117. The EPA will ensure coordination of the project without duplication of efforts with other on-going land management activities in the country. The management of the project's budget will be Direct Execution and Direct Payment. The UNDP Country Office will perform its roles and responsibilities in keeping with the GEF procedures and other details contained in the project specific Delegation of Authority (DOA) to be issued by UNDP-GEF. A Project Management Team (PMT) will be put in place in a joint effort by the EPA, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and the UNDP Country Office. The PMT will comprise a Project Coordinator, an Administrative-Financial Assistant, and a driver. The Team will be recruited according to UNDP-NEX procedures. It will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the project. The services of local consultants will be hired to undertake specialized studies and tasks as required for the project implementation.

118. EPA will support the Project Management Team to:

- Ensure the MSP clearly addresses the priorities of the country necessary to contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD.
- Ensure the project meets national capacity development priorities for sustainable land management.

119. A project Steering Committee (PSC) will be put in place. The PSC will:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project to ensure project proceed according to the workplan;
- Provide advice on project implementation when need arises;
- Contribute to establishing mechanisms for project sustainability;
- Contribute to project monitoring and evaluation;
- workplan and budget proposed by the project management team;
- Assist in the recruitment of staff of the project.

120. The Project Steering Committee will meet quarterly for the first year, then semi-annually to review and take major decisions. The body may convene meetings more regularly depending on the circumstances.
121. National stakeholders groups will also be incorporated including representatives of NCC, national organizations/institutions, local government offices across the country, women and youth groups, academic and research institutions, opinion leaders, parliamentarians, local entrepreneurs and the mass media.
122. The EPA will undertake a series of sub-contracts with agencies that are able to provide services that the Government of Liberia is currently unable to provide. NGOs accredited by the UNCCD will be hired in a transparent manner to assist in publicity works and information dissemination, including focal group discussions, local assemblies, and meetings. The project plans to build linkages with NEPAD Secretariat and the CILSS.
123. The following capacity constraints are common to nearly all of the potential implementation partners – inadequate trained personnel, lack of basic facilities and infrastructure, lack of coordination and cohesion, and poor financing. The project therefore seeks to strengthen these capacities through training and the provision of logistical support, as well as technical backstopping.
124. **GEF logo.** The GEF logo will appear alongside the UNDP logo on all relevant project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on project publications will accord proper acknowledgment to GEF.

PART IV: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Project Inception Phase

Use of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Kit

125. Monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of the management and learning processes used to improve this project's efficacy and efficiency. M&E activities will be carried out according to existing UNDP and GEF procedures by the Project Management Office, in collaboration with the UNDP Country Office and with the support of UNDP-GEF. All such activities will be guided by the Logframe included in Section II, which provides performance and impact indicators, as well as the corresponding means of verification. The detailed M&E plan is shown in Table 3.
126. The project will use the Monitoring & Evaluation toolkit provided by the Global Support Unit. It will complete an Annual Project Review Form and submit it to the UNDP-CO by 1 July of each year for review and subsequent transmittal to the Global Support Unit by 15 July. The Annual Project Review Form, which must be filled out in its entirety, will provide information regarding project identifiers, impact and performance monitoring, adherence to GEF conditions, project processes monitoring, adaptive management, and lesson learning.
127. The section on Project Identifiers provides basic data on the project and will be completed by the National Project Coordinator.

128. The section on Impact and Performance Monitoring will provide information on progress being made by the project in capacity building and in accomplishing expected results. This section will also address adherence to GEF conditions and principles.
129. The section on Monitoring Project Processes, Adaptive Management and Lesson Learning will provide information on how decisions are made within the project, and how challenges and obstacles to success are overcome.

Project Inception Phase

130. A Project Inception Workshop will be conducted with the full project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners and the UNDP. A fundamental objective of this Inception Workshop will be to assist the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal, objective, outcomes, outputs and activities as well as to finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project's logframe matrix. This will include reviewing the logframe, imparting additional detail as needed, and, on the basis of this exercise, finalize the first annual work plan (AWP). Roles and responsibilities of each participating agency will be clarified.
131. This Inception Workshop will also: (i) introduce project staff with the UNDP-GEF expanded team which will support the project during its implementation, namely the CO and the NaCEF staff; (ii) detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP-CO and RCU staff vis à vis the project team; (iii) provide a detailed overview of UNDP-GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), Tripartite Review Meetings, as well as mid-term and final evaluations. A Project Inception Report will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop and submitted latest 3 month after the **official project starting date**.

Monitoring responsibilities and events

132. A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the Project Coordinator in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives. This will be incorporated into the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: (i) tentative time frames for Tripartite Reviews, Steering Committee Meetings, and (ii) project related monitoring and evaluation activities
133. The Project Coordinator will be the responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress based on the logframe indicators and the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Team will inform the UNDP Country Office (CO) of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion
134. The Project Coordinator and the UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the Inception Workshop with support from UNDP-CO. Specific targets for the first year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this Workshop. These will be used to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the Annual Work Plan. Targets and indicators for subsequent years would be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team.

135. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will occur according to the schedules defined in the Inception Workshop. The measurement, of these will be undertaken through subcontracts or retainers with Liberia Information System (LIS) and the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Njala University (e.g. via analysis of satellite imagery).
136. Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNDP-CO through quarterly meetings with the project management team. This will allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities.
137. The UNDP Country Office will conduct yearly visits to project field sites, to assess first hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also accompany, as decided by the SC. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CO and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all SC members, and UNDP-GEF.
138. The project will be subject to Tripartite Review (TPR) once every year. The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve months of the start of full implementation. The project proponent will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNDP-CO and the UNDP-GEF regional office two weeks prior to the TPR for review and comments.

Terminal Tripartite Review (TTR)

139. The terminal tripartite review will be held in the last month of project operations. NaCEF is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNDP-CO and GEF's Regional Coordinating Unit. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the TTR in order to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the TTR.

Project Monitoring Reporting

140. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the Inception Report (IR). The PC will prepare quarterly progress reports and the Annual Project Report (APR).

Evaluation

141. The project will be subjected to two independent external evaluations. The first is a mid-term evaluation undertaken at the end of the second year of implementation to determine progress made towards the achievement of outcomes. It will identify mid-course corrections as needed. There is also a final evaluation that will take place three months prior to the terminal tripartite review meeting. This will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The Final Evaluation will also provide recommendations for follow-up activities.

Audit Clause

142. The Government will provide the UNDP-CO with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNDP/GEF funds according to the established procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals. The Audit will be conducted by the legally recognized auditor of the Government, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the Government.

Table 2. Detailed M&E Plan and Budget

Type of M&E activity	Lead responsible party in bold	Budget	Time frame
Inception Report	Project Coordinator	None	At the beginning of project implementation
APR/PIR	The Government, UNDP Country Office, Executing Agency, Project Team, UNDP/GEF Task Manager ¹	None	Every year, at latest by June of that year
Tripartite meeting and report (TPR)	The Government, UNDP Country Office, Executing Agency, Project Team, UNDP/GEF Task Manager	None	Every year , upon receipt of APR
Mid-term External Evaluation	Project team, UNDP/GEF headquarters, UNDP/GEF Task Manager, UNDP Country Office, Executing Agency	\$15,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final External Evaluation	Project team, UNDP/GEF headquarters, UNDP/GEF Task Manager, UNDP Country Office, Executing Agency	\$15,000	At the end of project implementation, Ex-post: about two years following project completion
Terminal Report	UNDP Country Office, UNDP/GEF Task Manager, Project Team	None	At least one month before the end of the project
Audit	Executing Agency, UNDP Country Office, Project Team	\$1000 per year;	Yearly
Visits to field sites	UNDP Country Office, Executing Agency	\$1,000 per year;	Yearly
Lessons learnt	UNDP-GEF, GEFSEC, Project Team, Executing Agency	\$2,000 per year;	Yearly
TOTAL COST		\$42,000	

RESPONSE TO GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW

GEFSEC Comment	Response	Location where document was revised

¹ UNDP/GEF Task Managers is a broad term that includes regional advisors, sub-regional coordinators, and GEF project specialists based in the region or in HQ.

TABLE 3. TOTAL PROJECT AND BUDGET

Award ID: 00044196

Award Title: PIMS 3387 – LD – LDC-SIDS – Liberia Capacity building for SLM

Project ID: 00051828

Project Title: Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Liberia

Executing Agency: Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) // NEX

ATLAS ACTIVITIES / GEF OUTCOMES	Responsible Party	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount 2007 US \$	Amount 2008 US \$	Amount 2009 US \$	Amount 2010 US \$	TOTAL US \$	See Budget Note
ACTIVITY 1: Capacities for sustainable agriculture are strengthened	EPA	62000	GEF (10003)	71200	International consultant		20,000	22,000	15,000	57,000	1
				71300	Local Consultants		12,000	14,000	10,000	36,000	2
				73100	Contractual Services Individual	3,000	13,500	13,500	13,500	43,500	3
				71600	Travel	5,000	25,000	27,000	18,000	75,000	4
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies		22,000	22,000	15,000	59,000	5
				72300	Material and Goods		10,000	10,000	6,000	26,000	6
				73400	Rental and Maintenance of other equipments		8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000	7
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod costs		15,000	15,000	10,000	40,000	8
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	5,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	14,000	
			Sub-Total GEF	13,000	128,500	134,500	98,500	374,500			
		0004	UNDP (00012)	71300	Local Consultants		7,000	4,000	5,000	16,000	
				73100	Contractual Services Individual		3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000	
				71600	Travel		10,000	8,000	6,000	24,000	
				72300	Material and Goods		6,000	6,000		12,000	
				73400	Rental and Maintenance of other equipments	2,000	6,000	6,000	4,000	18,000	
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod costs		5,000	8,000	3,000	16,000	
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	
			GOV						95,000		
			Sub-Total Cofinancing						210,000		
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 1									584,500		
ACTIVITY 2. National Action Plan for mainstreaming SLM is developed and approved with strong multi-sectoral oversight and coordination developed	EPA	00004	UNDP (00012)	71600	Travel	4,000	4,000	2,000		10,000	
				71300	Local Consultants		3,000			3,000	
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs		6,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	
			GOV						20,000		

					Sub-Total Cofinancing	4,000	13,000	5,000	3,000	45,000	
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 2										45,000	
ACTIVITY 3. Investment plan for NAP implementation is developed and funded	EPA	62000	GEF (10003)	71200	International consultant		5,000	4,000	2,000	11,000	9
				71300	Local Consultants		3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000	10
				71600	Travel		5,000	5,000	3,000	13,000	11
				73100	Contractual Services Individual		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	12
				73400	Rental and Maintenance of other equipments		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	13
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod costs		3,000	3,000	2,000	8,000	14
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	
					Sub-Total GEF	0	20,000	19,000	14,000	53,000	
	00004	UNDP (00012)	72100	Contractual Services-Companies		5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000		
			74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod costs		2,500	2,500	2,000	7,000		
			74500	Miscellaneous Expenses		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000		
		GOV						40,000			
			Sub-Total Cofinancing					65,000			
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 3									118,000		
ACTIVITY 4: Establishment of Management and Adaptive Learning	EPA	62000	GEF (10003)	71400	Contractual Services-Individual	4,440	10,320	10,320	10,320	35,400	15
				72500	Supplies	600	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,600	
				72800	Information Technology Equipment	7,000				7,000	16
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses		500	500	500	1,500	
			Sub-Total GEF	12,040	11,820	11,820	11,820	47,500			
				71600	Travel	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	7,000	
				74100	Professional Services (audit)		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	
				72200	Equipment and furniture	32,000				32,000	
	GOV						120,000				
			Sub-total Cofinancing					165,000			
SUB-TOTAL ACTIVITY 4									212,500		
TOTAL GEF					25,040	160,320	165,320	124,320	475,000		
TOTAL COFINANCING									485,000		
TOTAL PROJECT									960,000		

Additional financial information

Table 4. Project administration budget

Component	Estimated consultant weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Local consultants/project staff	260	35,400	37,000	72,400
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications		10,600	95,000	105,600
Travel		-	22,000	22,000
Miscellaneous		1,500	11,000	12,500
Total		47,500	165,000	212,500

Table 5. Consultants working for technical assistance components

Component	Estimated consultant weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Local consultants	85	45,000	19,000	64,000
International consultants	27	68,000	-	68,000
Total	113	113,000	19,000	132,000

Budget Notes

(1) (9) GEF contribution to the budget for International consultant is 68,000 US\$ for a total of 27 consultant weeks. It includes inputs to trainings, knowledge management reviews, development of curricula and monitoring and evaluation.

(2) (10) GEF budget for Local Consultants is 45,000 US\$ for a total of 60 consultant weeks at a daily rate of 150 US\$. It covers inputs to following activities: training, stocktaking and curricula development, policy harmonization, community outreach and information dissemination and monitoring and Evaluation.

(3) (12) (15) this item refers to the cost of Technical project staff (179 staff/weeks) for the daily supervision and the coordination of the project technical activities in the fields.

(4) (11) these travel costs includes travels for trainings, workshops and meetings related to mainstreaming and capacity building activities as well as regional and subregional dedicated training and exchange of experiences.

(5) This budget line refers to contracts for service provision which will be signed with service structures/providers such as training Institutes, Universities, NGOs etc...

(6) This refers to purchasing agricultural material and goods to be used during training activities.

(7) (13) Fuel and lubricants for vehicles will be used to cover various project sites (training, monitoring-evaluation activities).

(8) (14) In addition to the common printing and audio visual costs related to workshops, trainings, information dissemination etc... this budget line refers also to costs of purchasing knowledge products form outside the country.

(15) GEF share of the cost of staff for project management (133 staff week): 75% of the cost of the Administrative and Financial Assistant and 10% of the cost of the Project Coordinator

(16) Two (2) Computers and one (1) printer will be purchased for the project coordination team.

SECTION II: STRATGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Logical Framework

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Goal : Contribute to the mitigation of land degradation and promote ecosystem integrity and stability, with enhanced ecological functions and services by building national and local capacity and mainstreaming SLM issues into national development strategies and policies					
	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
Project Objective: Strengthening the enabling environment for SLM through mainstreaming and developing capacities for sustainable agriculture through a broad-based participatory process	An inter-ministerial body (Sustainable Land Management Unit or SLMU) for coordinating the implementation of the NAP and the integration of SLM into development programs The Nation Action Plan	The NAP has not yet been completed and no inter-ministerial body for the NAP/SLM has been created Work on the NAP has been initiated but has not been completed	The SLMU oversees the NAP and the integration of SLM into national development programs The NAP has been completed and approved by the end of Y2 and is under implementation through the life of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official government document - Minutes of the meetings of this body - NAP is published as an official government document 	The Government of Liberia respects their obligations under the UNCCD

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Sources of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Outcome 1: Capacities for sustainable agriculture are strengthened	<p>Review meetings held by the Sustainable Agriculture Knowledge Management Network</p> <p>Revised agricultural extension packages integrating SLM</p>	<p>No KMN exists for sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Agricultural extension at present is focused on post-conflict stabilization and not on sustainability</p>	<p>The Sustainable Agriculture KMN holds annual meetings to identify best practices and lessons learned</p> <p>Agricultural extension packages have been revised to integrate best practices and lessons learned from the KMN by end of year 2</p> <p>All actors conducting agricultural extension have received training in the new packages by mid of year 3</p>	<p>Reports of annual review meetings for the KMN for sustainable agriculture Project reports</p> <p>Published agricultural extension materials Final external evaluation Annual reports</p>	<p>Agriculture sector actors are willing to participate in the KMN</p> <p>All actors conducting agricultural extension are willing to receive training in the revised agricultural extension packages emphasizing sustainability</p>
Outcome 2: National Action Plan for mainstreaming SLM is developed and approved with strong multi-sectoral oversight and coordination developed	<p>The NAP is based on a sound problem analysis</p> <p>A SLMU is established and is actively implementing the NAP</p>	<p>There is no NAP</p> <p>No coordination unit exists</p>	<p>Barriers to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and the control of deforestation are identified and measures for overcoming each barrier are integrated into the NAP by end of Year 2</p> <p>The SLMU is created through official process by mid of year 1 and meets quarterly after its inception</p>	<p>The published NAP</p> <p>Document of creation and acknowledgement by the government SLMU Activity reports</p>	<p>Existence of a sufficiently stable socio-political situation</p> <p>Availability of funds</p> <p>Political will across sectors</p> <p>Availability of qualified personnel to carry out the activities</p>
Outcome 3: Investment plan for NAP implementation developed and funded	<p>Integration of government contributions to the Medium-Term Investment Plan (MTIP) into the national budget</p> <p>The number of donors contributing to the IP</p>	<p>No mid-term investment plan for SLM/NAP has been developed</p> <p>There is no MTIP</p>	<p>The National budget includes budget lines for government's contribution to the implementation of the Mid-Term Investment Plan by mid of year 3.</p> <p>At least four donors contribute to the MTIP in year 3</p>	<p>National Budget Final external evaluation</p> <p>Final Report Final external evaluation</p>	<p>The inter-ministerial body for the NAP succeeds in convincing the Office of the Budget to integrate the MTIP</p> <p>The MTIP is of high quality. Donors are associated with the preparation of the MTIP from the beginning</p>

Project Workplan

Output	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
1.1. Knowledge management (KM) system in support of sustainable agriculture established	1.1.1. Establish Knowledge Management Network (KMN) and conduct national review of farmer's perspectives, lessons learned and best practices (to cover upland slash-and-burn, upland perennial crops and lowland/swamp agriculture)												
	1.1.2. Identify key SLM knowledge gaps and develop a KMN plan for filling them												
	Conduct annual KM partners adaptive management review meetings for exchange of experiences												
	1.1.3. Publication and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices												
	1.1.4. Improved monitoring and evaluation of land degradation												
1.2. SLM is integrated into agricultural extension programs	1.2.1. Develop new farmer-centered, participatory extension approaches												
	1.2.2. Analyze the economic and financial costs and benefits of alternative agricultural technologies												
	1.2.3. Develop new extension packages of SLM technologies based on lessons learned/best practices from KMN review												
	1.2.4. Conduct training in participatory extension approaches and in revised extension packages												
1.3. SLM integrated into university curricula for agriculture	1.3.1. Conduct detailed analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing curricula												
	1.3.2. Develop revised curricula fully integrating SLM principles, lessons learned and best practices												
2.1. In-depth land degradation problem analysis completed	1.4.1. Identify the root causes and impacts of unsustainable harvest of forest products, identify barriers to sustainable forest use and potential solutions												
	1.4.2. Integrate the participatory KM review of perspectives, lessons learned and best practices to update the problem analysis of unsustainable agriculture/deforestation conducted for the LDC/SIDS MSP.												
2.2. National Action Plan for UNCCD developed and approved	2.2.1. Develop a draft NAP with a focus on overcoming the barriers to SLM identified in the problem analysis												
	2.2.2. Organize regional and national stakeholder meetings for inputs, modifications and validation of the NAP												
	2.2.3. Pilot the NAP through the approval process to become formal government policy												
	2.2.4. Publish and disseminate the NAP to all stakeholders												
2.3. Multi-sectoral oversight/coordination capacities built for NAP/SLM	2.3.1. Establish the national committee responsible for the oversight and coordination of SLM and of the implementation of the NAP												
	2.3.2. Develop capacities for understanding the key issues related to sustainable agriculture, deforestation, sustainable forest management, wildfires and mining												
3.1. Medium-term Investment plan developed	3.1.1. Develop investment plan for implementation of the NAP, including all national and international partners												
	3.1.2. Pilot Investment Plan through the approval process												
3.2. Investment plan implemented	3.2.1. Work with Office of Budget to integrate Investment Plan into national development plan												
	3.2.2. Develop and implement a strategy for mobilizing donor funding in support of MTIP												
	3.2.3. M&E system for MTIP developed and is functional												

ANNEXES

ANNEX A. Land Degradation Problem Analysis Matrix

Biophysical Impacts	Root Causes of Land Degradation	Barriers to Sustainable Land Management	Potential Solutions	Baseline
<p>First Direct Cause of Land Degradation: Unsustainable slash-and-burn agriculture is the single greatest direct cause of land degradation in Liberia. Not only is there serious degradation of the agricultural lands themselves, but unsustainable agriculture is the main cause of deforestation in Liberia. Deforestation is driven by a combination of population growth and the lack of sustainability of rain-fed, slash-and-burn farming under today's population densities and land pressures. Lowland agriculture is much easier to sustain and Liberia has huge areas of lowlands that could be developed for agriculture. However, there are many barriers to lowland agricultural development. Slash-and-burn could easily result in total deforestation of Liberia followed by continuing declines in agricultural yields and increasing food insecurity.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soil fertility is only partially restored ▪ Crop yields decline with each cycle of cropping and fallow ▪ Soil erosion and loss of most fertile topsoil with highest levels of organic matter and nutrients ▪ Deforestation – 95% of deforestation in Liberia is caused by expansion of slash-and-burn cropping ▪ Forests covered 75% of Liberia in mid-60s. This may be reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population growth of 3%/yr ▪ 60% of Liberians are rural and 80% of them live off of slash-and-burn ▪ Poverty ▪ Illiteracy ▪ Lack of economic alternatives to S&B ▪ Limited availability of land ▪ Decreasing length of fallows ▪ Burning the slash vaporizes or mineralizes nutrients, much of those 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barriers to sustainable upland agriculture Although the vast majority of farmers in Liberia make their living from rain-fed, slash-and-burn agriculture on the uplands for the production of rice and other annual crops, there have never been any serious attempts to develop permanent, sedentary farming systems for the production of annual crops on the uplands. ▪ Insufficient information on farmers' perspectives and knowledge. Past approaches to agricultural development have been largely top-down. A basic starting point for the development of sedentary, sustainable cropping systems is a full knowledge of farmers' perspectives – of what measures and conditions they consider necessary for them to make the transition from slash-and-burn to sustainable systems – be they lowland agriculture or upland tree/perennial cash crops or the development/adoption of new forms of sedentary, permanent upland cropping systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct surveys of farmers to determine what they see as necessary conditions for them to become sedentary upland farmers or for them to switch from S&B to perennial cash crops or for them to switch to lowland/swamp farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some NGOs make some effort to collect information on farmers' perspectives and knowledge, but there is not mechanism for sharing results.

<p>to 25% by 2020 and eventually totally destroyed if present trends continue</p>	<p>mineralized are lost through runoff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burning slash destroys most of the organic matter that is needed to maintain soil fertility ▪ Ancient, highly weathered, inherently low fertility soils ▪ Organic matter breaks down very rapidly in hot humid climate ▪ Hilly & mountainous erosion-prone land not suitable for mechanization ▪ Tradition – slash-and-burn is the traditional form of farming throughout Liberia. There is very little tradition of swamp agriculture or of flooded rice cultivation ▪ Cultural preference for rice – and rice is the main 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No system for knowledge management for SLM. There is no effective network of SLM/agricultural development institutions and projects. There is no effective system for capturing lessons learned and best practices for SLM, synthesizing them and then disseminating this knowledge. There is little emphasis on farmers' perspectives and farmer adoption/acceptability as a key criterion in the selection of SLM technologies. Most of those working in the agricultural sector are still primarily concerned with emergency relief in the post-war transitional period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a knowledge management network (KMN) of all institutions/ services/ projects working in agricultural development and SLM. ▪ Conduct farmer surveys to determine their SLM knowledge, best practices and lessons learned and their preferred agricultural extension techniques. Include farmers covered by former and present ADPs and extension programs. ▪ Conduct literature review of past research, ADPs and other documentation. ▪ Synthesize results, publish and disseminate ▪ Identify gaps in the knowledge base and develop a KMN plan for filling gaps. ▪ Organize annual KMN review meeting to exchange experiences and lessons learned on SLM approaches and technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is strong interest in developing a KM network, but no formal system exists. ▪ The Agricultural Coordinating Committee attempts to coordinate the government and NGO actors. Some sharing of information and experience is done, but not in any systematic way.
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	<p>S&B crop (Imported rice is preferred over local rice varieties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upland rice has low profitability because rice can be imported more cheaply than it can be produced locally. This gives little profit that can be reinvested in agricultural intensification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of sustainable upland agricultural models. No permanent systems for the production of annual crops have been developed for the uplands of Liberia. Some progress was being made in the 70s & 80s, but most resources went into lowland agriculture and into perennial cash crops. One of the impediments to the development of sustainable cropping systems for uplands is the radical nature of the transition – from a system reliant of fire for site preparation to one that does not use fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with farmer innovators and use the results of the review of best practices and lessons learned to make incremental changes to existing upland systems. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures to extend the length and productivity of the cropping period in S&B - Improved fallow techniques to reduce the time needed to restore fertility and to make fallows more productive - Expansion of perennial/tree crops and integration of annual crops with perennials ▪ An alternative strategy would be to find major funding to undertake a phased series of projects with a large research component to develop new farming systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Baseline efforts to develop models have been identified.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Top-down extension approaches/lack of participatory approaches that put the farmers at the center of agricultural development ▪ Dysfunctional government agricultural extension system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure destroyed by war - Greatly diminished profession and technical/ extension staff (war, recruitment by NGOs) - Lack of training ▪ Ag extension by NGOs is uncoordinated and of mixed quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No effective coordination mechanism - Extension messages often not based on review of best practices and lessons learned - Top-down extension approaches - No minimal standards for extension approaches and packages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of trainers in participatory agricultural extension methods for all institutions/KMN members involved in agricultural extension in Liberia ▪ Secure major investments in new infrastructure ▪ Convince decision makers to invest in adequate training and salaries of government extension agents ▪ Integrate lessons learned/best practices into extension packages and provide training to all agents ▪ Seek to involve all ag sector NGOs in the KMN ▪ Provide technical assistance to integrate lessons learned/ best practices into NGO extension packages ▪ Develop set of minimum standards for agricultural extension for use by Agriculture Coordinating Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government – number of extension agents? Amount of annual funding? ▪ Local and international NGOs. Who is doing what? Amount and source of funding? Period of time covered by funding? Brief description of nature of the work.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little use of adaptive management There is little tradition or practices of periodically sitting down with farmer/stakeholders to systematically review the strengths and the weaknesses of extension programs in view of continually improving on approaches and technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide hands-on training for annual, participatory adaptive management reviews to all institutions involved in agricultural extension for the purpose of revising and improving on approaches and technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If any of the above do participatory evaluations, cite this here.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient awareness of nature of the problem. There is little awareness that present trends will lead to the destruction of all forests within a few decades and to increased impoverishment and food insecurity of S&B farmers. Policy an decision makers are so focused on post war relief and transition measures that little attention is paid to these very negative mega-trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design and implement an awareness raising campaign. Develop separate messages and materials for policy and decision makers and for the general public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe EPAs awareness raising program as it related to unsustainable agriculture and deforestation. Government budget for this?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lowland bias. All ADPs, research and extension resources have classically been focused on lowland agricultural development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate the importance of developing sustainable cropping systems for uplands into the awareness raising campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bias against mono-cropping of commercial tree crops. There seems to be a general impression amongst policy and decision makers and technicians that mono-cropping of tree crops is inherently bad and that they are not sustainable. In ecological terms, most perennial tree crops are much easier to sustain than annual cropping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include an analysis of the sustainability of tree crops in the KMN SLM review and in participatory adaptive management reviews. Include sustainability messages in training programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SLM insufficiently integrated into university curricula. Some soils courses at University of Liberia have touch on sustainability issues, but treatment is not adequate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct analysis of strengths and weaknesses of current curricula in agricultural sciences as regards SLM ▪ Revise curricula to integrate SLM principles, lessons learned and best practices from the KMN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A proposal to revise forestry and wood science curricula at UL was prepared in 2004, but was not funded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No M&E system for SLM There are no operational M&E system for SLM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate M&E into the KM component. Develop basic indicators that can be measured by KM Network members ▪ Beyond the project's M&E needs, only build M&E capacities that can be sustained beyond the life of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA has developed a whole department on environmental M&E that covers LD/SLM.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient use of economic/ financial and risk analyses of SLM technologies. There is too little attention to farming as a business and to the financial viability of different SLM technologies available to the farmer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct economic and financial analysis of the costs and benefits and risks of SLM technologies with emphasis on the farmer's perspective ▪ Integrate results into KMN and extension packages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High investment costs for some sustainable technologies (hillside irrigation, tree crops...). Tree crops may require 3 to 5 years before they come into production. Most smallholders cannot carry investments over such a period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include a review of farmers' strategies for coping with investment costs in the KMN review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No National Action Plan (NAP) All signatories to the UNCCD are required to develop a national action plan for reversing and mitigating land degradation/ desertification. The NAP would include plans for improving the sustainability of agriculture and for controlling deforestation. Liberia has not yet begun work on its NAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilize funding for NAP preparation. ▪ Conduct a full participatory problem analysis of deforestation, unsustainable use of forests and update this analysis of the degradation of agricultural lands ▪ Develop the NAP with an emphasis on overcoming barriers to SLM ▪ Develop an investment plan for implementing the NAP ▪ Mobilize resources and implement the NAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<p>Barriers to lowland agricultural development Lowland/swamp agriculture has a much higher level of ecological sustainability than upland agriculture. Up to three crops per year can be grown and swamp agriculture can be a viable alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture. Nearly all past agricultural development projects and agricultural extension initiatives have focused on lowland agriculture. The results, however, have been very mixed and the overall impact has been low. Many of the lowland areas previously developed were abandoned during the war.</p>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negative associations Lowland farmers are exposed to schistosomiasis and other water born diseases and leeches. Some complain of long term exposure to cold water. Intercropping not possible with flooded rice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the review of farmers' perspectives to document the validity and relative importance of each of these factors and to determine how farmers have successfully confronted/overcome these problems ▪ Integrate results in lowland agriculture development programs and extension packages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lowland agriculture is said to be more labor intensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include an analysis of costs and benefits of lowland agriculture in the economic analyses 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High investment costs to get started in lowland agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include a review of farmer strategies for coping with investment costs in the KMN review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are NGOs doing to cover these costs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No agricultural suitability analysis completed for lowland swamps. Some types of swamps and swamp soils are much better suited to agriculture than others. Some swamps should be conserved because of unique biodiversity or other hydrological or ecosystem functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund a study to analysis ag suitability of lowlands, to review the biodiversity conservation priorities of lowlands, to identify other unique/important ecological function ▪ Develop a national policy on lowland agricultural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

Second Direct Cause of Land Degradation: Deforestation 95 % of deforestation is caused by clearing for agriculture – nearly all of it for slash-and-burn. This is driven by the unsustainable nature of slash-and-burn under modern day land pressures and short fallow, and by population growth. In effect, unsustainable agriculture and deforestation are one and the same problem and the above problem analysis also applies to deforestation. The analysis below is therefore in addition to the analysis above.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conversion of primary forest into a mosaic of S&B fields and fallows of varying age ▪ Loss of biodiversity ▪ Invasion of fallows by AES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demographic growth ▪ Unsustainable nature of S&B ▪ Widespread disruptions and displacement of people during 14 years of war ▪ Large scale, on-going movement of displaced people returning to their traditional lands to take-up S&B once again. ▪ The other root causes listed for unsustainable agriculture also apply here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of productive, sustainable upland agricultural systems for annual crops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in the development and extension of sustainable productive agricultural systems for uplands and lowlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of effective land use zoning and planning systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop participatory land use planning systems ▪ Undertake awareness raising to build political commitment to enforce the land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient political will to enforce laws and to stop the clearing of primary forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct natural resource economic and risk analyses of the relative benefits of forest management versus slash and burn agriculture ▪ Undertake awareness raising to build political commitment to enforce the land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New 2006 Forestry Law geared towards conserving the forest ▪ EPA has mainstreamed EIA into all forestry programs ▪ EPA doing awareness raising
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentives: Forest management and harvest systems yield little benefit for local populations and little incentive, therefore to conserve the forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new participatory forest management systems that deliver major financial benefits to communities who harvest and market forest products under joint forest management plans 	

ANNEX B. SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Liberia

UNDAF Outcome(s): _____
(Link to UNDAF outcome., If no UNDAF, leave blank)

Expected Outcome(s)/: _____
(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)

Expected Output(s)/: _____
(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)

Implementing partner: **Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA)**
(designated institution/Executing agency)

Other Partners: **UNDP**
(formerly implementing agencies)

Programme Period: 2007-2010
 Programme Component: _____
 Project Title: Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Liberia
 Project ID: PIMS 3387 – Atlas project id.: 00051828 - Atlas award id.: 00044196
 Project Duration: 3 years
 Management Arrangement: National Execution

Total Budget	US\$ 960,000
Allocated resources:	US\$ 960,000
• GEF	US\$ 475,000
• UNDP regular pgm	US\$ 210,000
• In kind contributions Government	US\$ 275,000

Agreed by (Government): _____

Agreed by (Implementing partner/Executing agency): _____

Agreed by (UNDP): _____

Annex C. GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF LIBERIA
P.O. BOX 4024 4TH STREET SINKOR
1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA



June 4, 2004

Mrs. Maryam Niamir-Fuller
Senior Technical Advisor,
Land Degradation
UNDP – GEF
304 E. 45th Street
New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Mrs. Niamir-Fuller

Re: Request for US\$20,000.00 (twenty thousand United States dollars) for the preparation of Liberia's National Action Programme Project Document.

I have the honor to present my compliments and request US\$20,000.00 for the preparation of the National Action Programme (NAP) Project Proposal under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD.

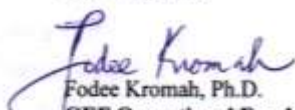
As a country driven project, the preparation of the Liberia's National Action Program would entitled organizing stakeholder consultations and stocktaking to identify land degradation activities been implemented or on going in order to prepare the project proposal as well as the work plan.

Hereafter Liberia's National Action Programme Project will be submitted to UNDP as the implementing Agency for perusal and subsequent submission to GEF for funding.

Please accept the assurances of my high esteem and consideration.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


Fodee Kromah, Ph.D.
GEF Operational Focal Point

Annex D. Co-financing Letters



Office of Executive Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box 4024
4th Street, Tubman Blvd., Sinkor
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia



ED/EPA/0205/07/RL

September 25, 2007

Dear Julie:

I have the honor to present my compliments and make reference to the project "Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land management". I hereby confirm that the Government of the Republic of Liberia, through the Environmental Protection Agency will provide co-financing in the amount of Two Hundred, Seventy-five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$275,000.00). The amount will cover the period of the project duration (three years) in support of the following activities.

1. Office Space for project staff
2. EPA staff (accountant and other officers) time;
4. Project management and operational costs

Kindly accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Sincerely yours,

Ben Turtur Donnie
Executive Director

Mrs. Julie Fischer
Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) on Land Degradation
UNDP-GEF
Dakar, Senegal
West Africa

Mobile: 231 6511387

Fax 231 77523432

E-mail: benturturdonnie@yahoo.com



September 27, 2007

Dear Mrs. Fischer,

I have the honor to confirm support by the UNDP Liberia CO to the project “**Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land management**” for a total amount of **two hundred and ten thousand United States Dollars (US\$210,000.00)** should GEF allocate 475,000 towards the above referenced project. The amount will cover the period of the project duration three years – with a yearly contribution of US\$70,000.00 from our 888 Annual Interest Fund and subsequent allocation to the Energy and Environment Unit in support of the following activities.

1. Capacity building for sustainable agriculture;
2. Development of investment plan for the NAP implementation;
3. Development of a national action plan for SLM mainstreaming; and
4. Project management and operational costs

It is our understanding from our Programme Manager for Environment and Energy Mr. Moses Massah, that the Government of Liberia has committed the remaining US\$275,000 to the project which will be channeled via the Environment Protection Agency.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Maria-Fhrese Keating
Maria-Fhrese Keating
Deputy Resident Representative (P)
UNDP Liberia

27 September 07

Cc: Mr. Dominic Sam (CD)
Mr. Baboucarr Sarr, DRR (O)
Mr. Emmett Watson, ARR(P)

Mrs. Julie Fischer
Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) on Land Degradation
UNDP-GEF
Dakar, Senegal
West Africa

UNDP Liberia, Grand Central Station, PO Box 1608, New York, NY 10163, Tel: 231-266195/226211, Vsat Tel: 31-205407121, Vsat Fax: 31-205407127/28