

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
 2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
 3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
 4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories
- To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)
5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
 6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
 7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
 8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
 9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

Liberia

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : Joseph G. Duolupeh
Title: : Manager for strategic Planning & Policy
Address: : Whein Town, Paynesville, Mount Barclay, P.O. Box 3010
Organization: : Forestry Development Authority
Telephone: : +231-886-664-890
Email: : jduolupeh@gmail.com

**3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:
(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)**

Name: : N/A
Title: : N/A
Address: : N/A
Organization: : N/A
Telephone: : N/A
Email: : N/A

**4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:
(up to five)**

Institution Name:

Forestry Development Authority

Email address:

N/A

Address:

Whein Town, Mount Barclay, P. O. Box 3010, Paynesville 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

Institution Name:

Email address:

Address:

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

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

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

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

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Tree Crops Extension Project (TCEPII) and Building Climate Resilience Project (BCRP)

Brief description of the action:

Traditionally, tree crops including cocoa, rubber and timber have been one of the country's largest sources of employment, as well as an integral part of its social fabric. However, during the country's civil wars, the tree crop sector was devastated and many farmers displaced. Abandoned farms and plantations degenerated into forests, and necessary infrastructure for tree crop farming was damaged or destroyed. Market linkages vanished, while export dropped to almost zero. This IFAD funded project was to reverse the situation by investing in the revitalization or replanting of abandoned plantations.

Main results achieved for the action:

Revitalized smallholders' cocoa plantations across the Country and integrated agroforestry, thereby enhancing tree cover through rehabilitated plantations. There was a financed climate-resilient practices benefiting 25,000 farmers, with strong inclusion of women and youth

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
Other, please specify: 13.1

Weblink:

www.moa.gov.lr

Action (short title):

STAR-P (Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project)

Brief description of the action:

A World Bank-funded and Government of Liberia implemented program (2019–2025) that targets smallholder farmers, linking them to markets and value chains while improving production, processing, and access to inputs and finance in rice, oil palm, and vegetable sectors. The Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project for Liberia is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization of smallholder farmers for selected value chains in selected counties of Liberia. The project comprises of three components

Main results achieved for the action:

6,000+ farmers trained and linked to agribusiness services

Increased productivity in rice and vegetables by >40%

Supported farmer-based organizations and women-led enterprises

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
2.1
3.3

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P160945>

Action (short title):

Community-based forest and Protected area management project (CBFM)

Brief description of the action:

Boosting Biodiversity Conservation and Improving Livelihoods of Forest-Fringe/Forest-Dependent Communities and Groups in Liberia (CFPM) project is funded by Sweden and seeks to strengthen the management of community forests and protected areas in Liberia through improved governance of community forest management bodies, capacity building of forest regulatory institutions, empowerment of national CSOs/NGOs and Forest and Farm Producer Organizations, integrated natural resources management and the promotion of sustainable livelihood incentives for forest fringe communities.

Main results achieved for the action:

30 forest-based enterprises trained to receive grants up to US\$10,000 each to stimulate their businesses.
Increased capacity of institutions and communities to report corruption through a digital tool – the Talkay.
Increased community participation in biodiversity conservation.
80 Eco-guards are equipped and now supporting the FDA rangers in biomonitoring to reduce biodiversity threats.
Improved livelihoods and food security for more than 150 farmers (110 women) through the System for Rice Intensification.
FDA operations capacity boosted with 25 motorbikes and other equipment to increase mobility and biodiversity monitoring and management.
Increased economic benefit of 30 members (24 female) of the crafts group.
Improved conservation approach through the Cocoa/Plantain/Pigeon pea Agroforestry system in Lofa County.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
3.3
4.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia/projects/community-based-forestry-and-protected-area-management-0>

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

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

The gazettement and management planning of KPO & Foya proposed protected area

Brief description of the action:

With support from partners, Liberia advanced the legal designation of two major forest landscapes (KPO & FOYA) as protected areas. These are biodiversity hotspots and a transboundary initiative with Sierra Leone and Guinea

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 200,000 hectares are in advanced stages of protection status and the draft management plan has been developed

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.1
3.2
3.3
4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
Other, please specify: 15.4

Weblink:

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/procurement-detail/OP00222450>

Action (short title):

Forest-Income and Livelihoods Support through Community Forest Enterprises (WABiLED/USAID)

Brief description of the action:

Through the West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABiLED) program (2021–2025), USAID supports forest-dependent communities in Liberia to build viable enterprises using sustainable forest and biodiversity-based value chains (e.g., honey, moringa, cocoa, and NTFPs).

Main results achieved for the action:

Targeted 15 community forests across five counties
Supported the creation of community-based enterprises
Facilitated access to markets, training, and finance
Contributed to increased household income and reduced deforestation pressure

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.3
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

www.wabiled.org/lander

Action (short title):

Forest Landscape Restoration in Gola Forest and Buffer Zones (Socfin, CI, FDA)

Brief description of the action:

Implemented by Conservation International (CI), the Forestry Development Authority, and local partners with private sector engagement (e.g., Socfin), this initiative promotes reforestation and agroforestry to restore degraded forests and improve forest-based livelihoods.

Main results achieved for the action:

Planted and restored over 1,500 ha of degraded land with native tree species and cocoa

Supported 300+ farmers with agroforestry training and income-generating activities

Promoted ecological corridors linking fragmented forest blocks
Enhances livelihoods through sustainable forest and agroforestry use

Promotes long-term forest benefits such as NTFPs and climate resilience

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.conservation.org>

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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community forestry reform and reforestation support WABiLed & Forestry Development Authority

Brief description of the action:

The Forestry Development Authority, with support from the USAID's West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emission Development program, advanced the legal recognition, mapping, and sustainable management of community forests in several counties in Liberia.

Main results achieved for the action:

more than 45 community Forests legalized and supported with Sustainable Forest Management Plans (SFMPs). Over 900,000 hectares of community-managed Forests are under improved governance. Reforestation with native species was initiated by SCNL and Conservation International in the landscape

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

www.wibled.org

Action (short title):

Development of Ecotourism in East Nimba Nature Reserve and Lake Piso

Brief description of the action:

Implemented by the FDA, BirdLife International, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and local groups, the project developed community-based ecotourism as an alternative income source to enhance forest conservation and reduce pressure on forest resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

Local youth and women trained in hospitality, tour guiding, and artisanal crafts.

Eco-lodges and nature trails were constructed in key pilot sites.

Ecotourism is now a source of household income for 100+ community members.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.birdlife.org/africa/partners/liberia-fda>

Action (short title):

Formalization and Capacity Strengthening of Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) across Liberia

Brief description of the action:

Implemented by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), USAID, UNDP, WABiLED, and local NGOs (e.g., Skills and Agricultural Development Services - SADS). It aims to scale efforts to formalize and build the capacity of Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) to enable them to manage community forests legally and sustainably. This involves participatory governance training, establishment of by-laws, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and anti-corruption safeguards in forest revenue use.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 130 Community Forests granted Authorized Forest Community (AFC) status with functioning CFMBs.

Capacity-building programs delivered to 2,000+ community members on sustainable forest management, financial accountability, and equitable decision-making.

Benefit-sharing frameworks established in at least 40 communities, increasing transparency and ensuring forest revenues support education, health, and livelihood projects.

Gender quotas introduced in CFMBs to enhance women's participation in forest governance

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.wabeled.org/>

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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Establishment of National REDD + Strategy & Climate Risk Integration(REDD+ + Implementation and integration of forest-based climate Adaptation strategy).

Brief description of the action:

Liberia's national REDD+ + strategy, finalized and implemented with support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), includes actions aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing the resilience of forest ecosystems. It improved forest governance, livelihood diversification that reduces pressure on forests vulnerable to climate change.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia completed its Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and submitted it to the UNFCCC in 2021. The Strategy helped to improve the capacity of national institutions to address climate risk in forest ecosystems

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
Other, please specify: 13.3

Weblink:

<https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html.?country=RL>

Action (short title):

Forest Ecosystem Restoration in the Gola Forest and Surrounding Buffer Zones

Brief description of the action:

This initiative restores degraded forest ecosystems in and around the Gola Forest National Park using native species and cocoa agroforestry systems to enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and local incomes.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 1,500 hectares of degraded forest restored through mixed native species and cocoa planting

300+ smallholder farmers trained in agroforestry practices

Improved ecological connectivity through the creation of forest corridors
Built climate resilience through ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation

Enhanced the role of forests in carbon sequestration

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.conservation.org/>

Action (short title):

REDD+ Implementation under Liberia's Emission Reduction Program (ERP), which was implemented Forestry Development Authority, World Bank FCPF, NORAD

Brief description of the action:

As part of Liberia's National REDD+ strategy, the country implemented forest conservation, sustainable land use, and carbon accounting to reduce emissions in 12 counties under the Emission Reduction Program (ERP) supported by the World Bank's Carbon Fund

Main results achieved for the action:

ERP Monitoring and Safeguard Plans finalized and adopted by stakeholders

National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) upgraded for MRV (measurement, reporting, verification)

Advanced preparations for carbon payment contracts with communities

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:**This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**

15.2

Weblink:

<https://reddplusliberia.org/>

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Liberia, one of the most forested countries in West Africa, continues to face significant challenges in achieving GFG 1. High rates of deforestation and forest degradation persist, driven largely by shifting agriculture, illegal logging, artisanal chainsaw milling, and charcoal production. Although frameworks for sustainable forest management (SFM) and restoration exist, implementation is hindered by limited financing, insufficient technical capacity, and weak enforcement. Financial constraints remain a major barrier, with heavy reliance on donor funding, partners' support, and limited domestic resources for large-scale afforestation and reforestation. Capacity gaps within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and community forest governance structures further restrict effective forest monitoring and management. Additionally, overlapping land tenure claims, inadequate land use planning, and encroachment into protected areas such as the Sapo National Park (SNP) and other Protected Areas (PAs) undermine forest protection efforts.

Climate change adds to these challenges, increasing the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to flooding and erosion, with limited adaptive measures in place. Meanwhile, low public awareness of sustainable forest practices and minimal private sector engagement reduce opportunities for investment in reforestation and green value chains.

Despite these constraints, Liberia remains committed to advancing GFG 1 through community forestry, agroforestry, and climate-smart land use, but requires sustained international support, capacity building, and inclusive governance reforms to scale impact and sustain progress.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

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

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

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

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

Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry & Protected Area management project with Support (UNDP, FAO, Swedish Embassy)

Brief description of the action:

Within the CBFM project, over 450 villages across four counties received training in climate-smart agroforestry, VSLA formation, and linking income to sustainable forest use.

Main results achieved for the action:

Communities generated more than LD\$2.2 million (US\$10,000+) in less than a year.

Widespread adoption of regenerative farming reduced slash-and-burn clearing, and farmers engaged in lowland farming

Strengthened extension services and Authorized community forest governance structures.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Other, please specify:

Weblink:

<http://www.lr.undp.org/>

Action (short title):

Scaling SME Participation in Secondary Wood Processing (AfDB backed, Phase I & II)

Brief description of the action:

Funded by the African Development Bank, this project (Phase II from Sept 2023 to Aug 2025) supports SMEs in legal, sustainable wood processing, providing equipment, training, and business support to carpenters and furniture producers with gender sensitivity in forest-adjacent districts.

Main results achieved for the action:

It has mobilized and trained chainsaw millers and carpenters in wood identification and finishing of wood products, and to promote the use of lesser-used species. The project also helped to form associations of carpenters across Monrovia and legalized the businesses, and improved governance. Constructed a demonstration site for the female carpenters and equipped it with the necessary tools to enhance their work.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2

2.3

2.4

2.5

6.1

6.2

6.3

6.4

6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: 12 & 16

Weblink:

<https://www.mfdp.gov.lr/index.php/docs/the-national-budget?start=0>

Action (short title):

FLEGT/VPA Capacity Building for Small & Medium Timber Enterprises (UK FCDO, 2021–2022)

Brief description of the action:

Implemented by Nature & Development Foundation and timber associations, this project enhanced the capacity of small-scale timber operators in Liberia to meet FLEGT standards, trade legally, and improve transparency via virtual marketplaces and chains-of-custody systems

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased SME compliance with legal timber trade standards.
Promoted the use of lesser-used timber species to diversify production.
Improved market transparency and governance

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: 8

Weblink:

<https://flegtvpafacility.org/countries/liberia/official-documents/>

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

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

GEF-Funded FOLUR Landscape Restoration Initiative

Brief description of the action:

Launched in 2022 by EPA and Conservation International under GEF and World Bank funding, this program supports sustainable land-use zoning and restoration of degraded areas across northwest Liberia through agroforestry and forest protection. The Liberia FOLUR project will work with local and national governments, communities, smallholder farmers, and commercial agroforestry plantation operators to advance land use planning, sustainable commodity production, restoration of degraded lands, and forest conservation. The work with smallholder farmers will facilitate the adoption of sustainable agroforestry methods for cocoa and palm oil production, as well as the formation of cooperatives or associations to strengthen their participation in supply chains. Private sector engagement is a key element of the project, as the work with commercial plantation operator Mano Palm Oil Industries and the Mano Palm Oil Plantation (MPOI/MPOP) will focus on applying sustainability standards and pursuing socially equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with smallholder producers

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 15,000 ha of degraded land targeted; restoration underway across 350,000 ha landscapes.

Formal proposal submitted for the 99,538 ha Wologizi Proposed Protected Area, enhancing afforestation and conservation zoning

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.conservation.org>

Action (short title):

Rural Reforestation and Poverty Mitigation by Green Liberia

Brief description of the action:

Green Liberia Climate Change & Poverty Mitigators (GLCCPM) partners with communities to restore degraded lands by planting diverse native and fruit tree species, and trains local women and youth in silviculture.

Main results achieved for the action:

Thousands of trees have been planted in previously degraded areas.

Enhanced rural livelihoods through silvicultural training and Agro-product development

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://greenliberia.org/>

Action (short title):

UNDP–GEF Ecosystem Restoration & Early Climate System

Brief description of the action:

From 2021 till date, UNDP (with GEF support) has implemented community-based grants to restore ecosystems, including coastal and forest landscapes, and established early warning systems for climate and farming resilience in inland zones.

Main results achieved for the action:

Rapid roll-out of agro-ecology projects (eg. bee-keeping, reforestation, sustainable rice intensification).

Greater community engagement in tree-planting and climate strategies in forest fringe villages

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia>

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

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry & Protected Area management project with Support (UNDP, FAO, Swedish Embassy)

Brief description of the action:

Launched in July 2022 by the FDA, UNDP, and FAO, and supported by Sweden, this project empowers over 450 villages with training in climate-smart agroforestry, Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs), and value-added NTFP (non-timber forest product) enterprises

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 150 farmers, including 110 women, improved food security via improved rice systems. Widespread adoption of regenerative land use reduced slash-and-burn practices. Liberia's initiatives since 2020 have significantly enhanced the role of forests in supporting rural livelihoods, fostering food security, and promoting equitable forest governance.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.4
2.5
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

www.fao.org/liberia/en

Action (short title):

FAO FFF Sustainable Charcoal and NTFP Program

Brief description of the action:

Since 2022, FAO's Forest and Farm Facility has supported sustainable charcoal production and promoted NTFP enterprise development in Lofa and Nimba counties, establishing woodlots and building producer capacity for value addition and market linkage.

Main results achieved for the action:

2,000+ seedlings planted in a 2.5 ha woodlot, with community-led management.
Over 20 NTFP association members trained in sustainable harvesting and market access (e.g., Gain of Paradise)

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.4
2.5
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

www.fao.org/liberia/en

Action (short title):

FAO–EU Forest Benefit-Sharing & FLEGT Capacity Building

Brief description of the action:

Since 2020, under FLEGT/VPA support, FAO and EU have strengthened community awareness and negotiation of benefit-sharing in timber concessions. They trained forest committees on social agreements, revenue monitoring, and increased women's representation.

Main results achieved for the action:

Renegotiated 10 social agreements, monitored 11 more.
Enabled community control over 30% of rental fees from logging, improving local infrastructure.
Trained 100+ women leaders to actively participate in forestry governance. Liberia has made tangible progress in linking forest resources to poverty reduction, food security, and inclusive governance.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.fao.org/liberia/news/detail/fao-empowers-forest-and-farm-producers-in-liberia-to-promote-climate-resilient-landscape-and-improved-livelihoods/en>

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

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Inclusion of Sustainable Charcoal in Community Forest Management

Brief description of the action:

Through the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), funded by the World Bank, the FDA and national partners introduced sustainable charcoal production models aggregated from logging residues and dedicated woodlots. This study aimed to create forest-based livelihoods while incentivizing resource sustainability.

Main results achieved for the action:

Study phase completed in 2020, identifying opportunities for sustainable charcoal from residues and energy plantations. Initiated pilot operations in Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Study report accessible via LFSP documentation
climatepromise.undp.org+2wfp.tind.io+2un.org+2napglobalnetwork.org+3documents1.worldbank.org+3link.springer.com+3

Action (short title):

Promotion of Sustainable Agroforestry and Slash and Burn Alternatives

Brief description of the action:

Under LFSP, FDA expedited the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices within community forests. This included agroforestry, food crop cultivation with tree cover, and reducing forest-clearing techniques in counties like Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Bomi.

Main results achieved for the action:

Sustainable crop–tree systems are adopted across multiple communities.
Measurable reduction in slash-and-burn clearing reported

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

LFSP appraisal report redd.unfccc.int+6documents1.worldbank.org+6link.springer.com+6documents1.worldbank.org

Action (short title):

Annual Reforestation Target: National REDD+ Strategy

Brief description of the action:

Liberia's REDD+ framework, supported by Norway and FCPF, established a national goal to reforest 2,000 hectares annually, part of a broader strategy combining afforestation, forest conservation, and community forestry.

Main results achieved for the action:

The annual target has been integrated into national planning since at least 2020. Pilot reforestation activities are underway in concession and community-managed forests. These initiatives demonstrate Liberia's integrated approach to sustainable biomass production, agroforestry, and afforestation. By converting wood residues into livelihood assets, embedding sustainable agriculture into forest governance, and committing to substantial reforestation targets, Liberia is advancing Target 2.4, while also contributing to broader goals on climate resilience, biodiversity, and rural development.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

Link: High-level talking points confirm national pledges

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

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Approval of Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs) under the CBFM Project
Partners: FDA, FAO, UNDP, NGOs, Sweden

Brief description of the action:

In May 2025, Liberia approved CFMPs for three community forests—Sarbo, Putupo, and Gbeapo, covering 70,000 ha in River Gee and adjacent counties, empowering locals with legal forest governance structures.

Main results achieved for the action:

Forest zoning, regulated timber, conservation, and livelihood extraction are legalized.
Enhanced community stewardship and accountability

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

CBFM Project Equipment & Capacity Support for FDA and Communities

Brief description of the action:

Since 2022, the FDA and community bodies have received training, motorbikes, tablets, and tools to improve forest monitoring, governance, and enforcement

Main results achieved for the action:

Eighty eco-guards deployed to strengthen patrols.
Digital M&E tools institutionalized (e.g., "Talkay").
Improved inclusion through gender-sensitive knowledge and awareness systems.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

undp.org+fao.org+undp.org+3

Action (short title):

FAO–EU Benefit-Sharing Capacity Building under FLEGT/VPA
Partners: FAO, EU, NUCFDC, UKAid, Sida

Brief description of the action:

From 2020, this program trained communities, including 100 women leaders, to monitor social agreements and renegotiate the share of land-rental fees under VPA regulations

Main results achieved for the action:

Ten agreements renegotiated; 11 further monitored.
Communities gained transparent funds (30% of rental fees).
Women actively participate in forest governance

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Liberia faces several challenges in fully achieving Global Forest Goal 2, which seeks to enhance forest-based economic, social, and environmental benefits. A key constraint is the limited capacity for value addition and market access. Most forest products are sold in raw form, with minimal processing infrastructure and weak support for small and medium forest enterprises. This limits income generation from forest-based resources. Benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as social agreements and land rental fee allocations, are in place but not consistently implemented. Many community forest governance structures lack adequate skills, financial oversight, and tools to manage forest revenues transparently and equitably. Access to financing for sustainable livelihoods and agroforestry remains limited, with most initiatives depending on short-term donor support and lacking long-term sustainability frameworks. Women and marginalized groups also continue to face unequal access to forest benefits and decision-making platforms. Additionally, forest-based livelihoods are not well integrated into Liberia's broader development, food security, and energy strategies, reducing the national impact of forestry on poverty alleviation and rural resilience. Addressing these challenges requires investment in value chain development, stronger governance and accountability mechanisms, gender inclusion, and greater integration of forest benefits into national development plans.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

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

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

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

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Liberia Forest Sector Carbon Readiness Gap Assessment and Roadmap

Brief description of the action:

With support from UNDP and USAID, Liberia conducted a national carbon readiness gap assessment and developed a roadmap to prepare for carbon market participation. The initiative addressed policy, institutional, legal, and safeguard issues within the forestry sector, paving the way for REDD+ and other climate finance mechanisms.

Main results achieved for the action:

A validated roadmap to guide Liberia's forest carbon market strategy.
Stakeholder consensus on legal and institutional reforms for safeguards and benefit-sharing.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.2
3.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
Other, please specify: 13.2

Weblink:

Link: UNDP Liberia Press Release

Action (short title):

Green Climate Fund (GCF)–Supported National Adaptation Plan for Forestry

Brief description of the action:

This long-term GCF initiative enhances the capacity of Liberia's institutions (EPA, FDA, Ministry of Agriculture) to mainstream climate change into forestry planning. It supports forest vulnerability assessments, climate data systems, and adaptation integration into policy and budgets.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 25 automated rain gauges installed to support data-driven decision-making.
Forestry sector-specific adaptation priorities identified and costed.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.2
3.3
4.2
4.3
4.4
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

UNEP-GSP Liberia NAP Profile

Action (short title):

Forest Landscape Restoration and Protected Area Management

Brief description of the action:

Under the World Bank–funded LFSP, Liberia expanded protected areas and undertook forest landscape restoration in key biodiversity hotspots such as the Sapo National Park and the Gola Forest. Activities included boundary demarcation, community-based co-management, and natural regeneration.

Main results achieved for the action:

Improved protection and management of over 100,000 ha of forest.
Restoration pilots were initiated on degraded lands adjacent to protected areas. Liberia's actions since 2020 have reinforced forest resilience through climate adaptation planning, readiness for carbon market participation, and enhanced protection of critical ecosystems.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
3.2
3.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

World Bank Project Documents

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

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

FSC Interim Standard & Multi-Stakeholder Workshops

Brief description of the action:

FSC facilitated workshops to develop a Liberia Interim Forest Stewardship Standard, with a focus on smallholder timber and rubber producers. The aim is to comply with EU deforestation regulations, access sustainable markets, and pilot group certification schemes.

Main results achieved for the action:

An interim national standard is under development with multi-stakeholder input. Engagement of smallholder associations (e.g., rubber producers) in certification pilots. Liberia has significantly improved its forest monitoring and reporting capacity through geospatial training, stakeholder-readiness programs, and chain-of-custody systems

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

afrafrica.fsc.org+1frontpageafricaonline.com+1frontpageafricaonline.com

Action (short title):

Transformative Pilot Project on Forest & Mangrove Monitoring (EPA–Novasphere, 2024–2025)

Brief description of the action:

EPA, with support from Canada and Novasphere, conducted a series of trainings for forest monitors, county-level technicians (EPA, FDA, LISGIS) in GIS, Google Earth Engine, SEPAL, Collect Earth Online, and drone use. Participants produced a national baseline forest map (2014) using machine learning.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 50 technicians trained in geospatial and remote-sensing
Distribution of computers, GPS units, drones, and internet drives across 15 counties in Novasphere.
Development of an updated forest extent baseline and a national MRV system roadmap

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.1
3.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

[frontpageafricaonline.com+10epa.gov.lr+10novasphere.ca+10.](#)

Action (short title):

FLEGT/VPA Implementation – LiberTrace for Timber Transparency

Brief description of the action:

Under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU, Liberia transferred operation of the LiberTrace timber legality tracking system to the FDA in achieving ISO 9001 certification. Between 2020–2023, SME and timber association staff were trained in scalable logging inspections, chain-of-custody verification, and legality matrix application.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia's timber tracking now covers legal traceability from stump to port
A legality framework operates with 132 verifiers; 46+ are currently activated with ongoing audits

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.1
3.3
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

[africa.fsc.org+3epa.gov.lr+3africa.press.net+3reddit.com+2flegtimm.eu+2oraclenewsdaily.com+2.](#)

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

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Forest Inventory (NFI) to Support Sustainable Harvest Monitoring. Liberia's first-ever NFI provides baseline data for monitoring forest conditions and enabling sustainable, controlled harvesting of timber and NTFPs

Brief description of the action:

Under the National Forest Inventory (NFI) to Support Sustainable Harvest Monitoring project in Liberia, a comprehensive forest inventory was completed, providing the country with an updated and accurate baseline of its forest resources. Through this initiative, technical training was delivered to national and local forestry personnel, significantly strengthening Liberia's capacity to independently monitor forest stocks and track changes over time. Using the data collected from the NFI, Liberia is now better positioned to make informed, data-driven decisions regarding the regulation of timber harvests. These insights have been instrumental in setting sustainable harvest limits aligned with ecological thresholds and legal frameworks. Moreover, the project laid the groundwork for supporting forest certification efforts, helping ensure that timber and non-timber products meet international sustainability standards.

Main results achieved for the action:

Completed inventory and technical training enable Liberia to self-monitor forest stocks.
Data-driven recommendations to regulate timber harvests, support certification, and link to carbon payments

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

[https://www.fao.org/liberia/news/detail/the-government-of-liberia-in-collaboration-with-fao-and-other-partners-launch-national-forest-inventory-report/en?](https://www.fao.org/liberia/news/detail/the-government-of-liberia-in-collaboration-with-fao-and-other-partners-launch-national-forest-inventory-report/en?lang=en)

Action (short title):

CBFM supports community forests in seven counties, strengthening CFMBs, supporting forest-friendly enterprises (NTFPs, agroforestry, eco-crafts), and building governance and monitoring capacity.

Brief description of the action:

Under the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) project in Liberia, formal management plans have been developed and approved for approximately 70,000 hectares of community forest. These plans were designed in close consultation with local communities and in accordance with Liberia's legal and regulatory frameworks. They serve as blueprints for sustainable resource use, biodiversity conservation, and income generation.

With the approval of these plans, Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) have been formally empowered to govern forest resources within their designated areas. This includes issuing permits, overseeing the harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and ensuring compliance with management rules. The CFMBs now play a central role in monitoring forest use, reducing illegal activities, and promoting accountability at the local level.

Main results achieved for the action:

Communities in 450 villages across four counties generated LD\$2.2M (~US \$10K) in under 12 months, 30+ forest-based enterprises trained and grant-supported, 80 eco-guards equipped; improved anti-corruption reporting via "Talkay" app, Promotion of sustainably produced forest products: cocoa, honey, crafts, agroforestry yields.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia/projects/community-based-forestry-and-protected-area-management-0?>

Action (short title):

Approval and Implementation of Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs)

Brief description of the action:

It successfully helped Communities to develop and obtain official approval for their Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs). A critical step in ensuring sustainable forest governance.

These CFMPs provide clear zoning for multiple land uses, including areas designated for biodiversity conservation, sustainable timber harvesting, agricultural activities, and the collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The zoning approach balances ecological protection with local livelihood needs, supporting long-term forest health and economic resilience.

By formally approving these plans, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has empowered Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) in these regions to manage, monitor, and permit forest use in line with national regulations. The project not only strengthens local capacity but also contributes to reducing deforestation, promoting legal forest-based enterprises, and enhancing community ownership of natural resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

Formal management plans were approved covering several thousand hectares.

Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) are now empowered to permit and monitor timber and non-timber product use.

Laying the groundwork for certified, community-origin forest products.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://liberia.un.org/en/294671-big-boost-forest-governance-liberia-community-forest-residents-applaud-fao-and-partners?>

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

A major constraint is weak institutional capacity, particularly within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), where limited financial, technical, and human resources hinder effective governance, monitoring, and enforcement. Inadequate forest management planning is another key issue, as many community forests still lack approved and operational Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs), and implementation is often stalled by low capacity and funding gaps. Land tenure conflicts stemming from overlapping rights and unclear boundaries complicate sustainable forest management, especially in rural areas where customary and statutory systems clash. Additionally, limited market access and weak incentives for sustainable products discourage communities and businesses from pursuing certification and sustainable practices.

The persistence of illegal logging, driven by poor law enforcement, corruption, and livelihood pressures, continues to degrade forest resources. At the same time, agricultural expansion, particularly for subsistence farming, cocoa, and palm oil, threatens forests near community areas and buffer zones.

Finally, low community engagement and benefit-sharing reduce local ownership of forest management processes. Without adequate training, equitable revenue-sharing mechanisms, and strong participation, long-term forest sustainability remains at risk. Addressing these challenges is critical to realizing Liberia's forest governance goals and aligning with the ARREST Agenda and international forest commitments.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

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

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

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

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

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Direct Forest Incentive Payments, implemented by FDA/IDH(ILD) through Give Directly (Pilot 2023–2026). Direct Forest Incentive Payments

Brief description of the action:

Under the IDH(IDL)-implemented "cash-for-conservation" project, forest-dependent communities in southeastern Liberia, specifically Grand Gedeh and River Gee, are directly incentivized to conserve their forests through a performance-based payment model. The initiative targets communities living near high-value forest areas and offers direct cash payments to households that commit to avoiding deforestation activities, such as farming, hunting, or logging within designated forest zones. What makes this project innovative is its reliance on remote sensing technology to verify forest integrity. Satellite data is used to monitor changes in forest cover, and payments are disbursed only when the forest remains intact, providing a transparent and results-driven approach. This model not only promotes forest conservation but also supports livelihood diversification by encouraging sustainable land-use alternatives outside of core forest areas.

Main results achieved for the action:

By aligning local incentives with global climate goals, the project strengthens the role of communities as custodians of Liberia's forests, contributing directly to emissions reductions, biodiversity protection, and long-term ecosystem sustainability. It also complements national efforts under REDD+ and the Emissions Reduction Program (ERP), providing a scalable example of how direct community benefit-sharing can drive effective conservation outcomes. As of now, over 3,000 households out of a target of 6,000 have been enrolled in the IDL-implemented "cash-for-conservation" initiative in southeastern Liberia, specifically in Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties. These households have committed to protecting nearby forest areas by refraining from deforestation-related activities such as farming, hunting, and logging within designated conservation zones.

Communities receive quarterly digital cash payments, directly transferred to enrolled households based on remote sensing verification of forest integrity. Payments are conditional on the continued protection of forest cover, creating a transparent and performance-based incentive system that strengthens community stewardship of natural resources. Early results are promising: satellite monitoring shows reduced deforestation rates in project areas compared to baseline trends. This suggests that direct financial incentives, when properly monitored and targeted, can effectively change land-use behavior and contribute to broader climate goals.

In addition to cash payments, participating communities receive technical support for sustainable livelihoods, including beekeeping and cocoa agroforestry. These alternatives not only reduce dependence on destructive forest use but also enhance household resilience and long-term income security. Overall, the project demonstrates a scalable and impactful model for community-led conservation, aligning local development needs with national and global climate and biodiversity goals.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.1
- 3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/countries/liberia/>

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry & Protected Area Management (CBFM) funded by the Swedish embassy

Brief description of the action:

It supports the development and implementation of Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs), enabling inclusive and transparent decision-making on forest use, including conservation, sustainable timber harvesting, agriculture, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

To enhance livelihoods and reduce forest pressure, the project invests in community enterprises such as cocoa agroforestry, beekeeping, sustainable crafts, and NTFP value chains, providing training, grants, and market access. Additionally, the project promotes biodiversity conservation through community-led monitoring, conservation education, and enforcement.

Main results achieved for the action:

Under the Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management (CBFM) project, over 130 community forest governance bodies, including Community Assemblies, Executive Committees, and Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), have been strengthened through targeted training, legal recognition, and institutional support. These structures now play a central role in managing community forests transparently and sustainably, empowering local people to take ownership of forest governance.

The project has also supported the development of new nature-based value chains that generate income while preserving forest cover. Notable among these are honey production, eco-crafts, and sustainable charcoal activities that align with community traditions while offering alternative, environmentally friendly livelihoods. These value chains are supported through technical training, grants, and market linkage initiatives to ensure profitability and long-term sustainability.

As a result, communities are beginning to earn income from their forests without engaging in deforestation or illegal activities. This shift is driven by the realization that standing forests, when managed wisely, can provide sustainable economic benefits while preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services.

These achievements demonstrate the effectiveness of combining community empowerment with livelihood development to achieve forest conservation. The CBFM project is not only enhancing rural incomes but also contributing to Liberia's broader environmental and development goals under the ARREST Agenda, REDD+, and the Global Forest Goals.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.1
- 5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia>

Action (short title):

Results-Based Payment through Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), implemented by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), World Bank, REDD+ Secretariat, and funded by Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), Government of Norway

Brief description of the action:

Liberia signed an Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with the FCPF Carbon Fund in 2020, which made it eligible to receive up to USD 50 million in results-based payments for reducing emissions through avoided deforestation and forest degradation across 12 forested counties. Under the LFSP, Liberia was expected to deliver emissions reductions (ERs) through REDD+ interventions, including improved forest governance, agroforestry, conservation efforts, and community forest management. However, as of mid-2025, Liberia has submitted its first Monitoring Report and underwent independent verification, but the first payment for verified ERs has not yet been disbursed, or at least not publicly confirmed. The verification process is rigorous and includes a third-party assessment to ensure that claimed emissions reductions are real, measurable, and permanent.

Main results achieved for the action:

As part of efforts to enhance forest financing mechanisms and promote sustainable forest management, Liberia submitted its first Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC in October 2019. The FREL was officially assessed and published by the UNFCCC in December 2020. This marked a significant milestone in Liberia's readiness to access results-based payments under REDD+ by establishing a credible baseline for emissions from deforestation. The FREL submission laid the technical foundation for integrating the forest sector into national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and monitoring frameworks. It supports the implementation of Liberia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which commits to a 40% reduction in emissions from deforestation by 2030. Additionally, it strengthens Liberia's capacity for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), enabling transparent tracking of emission reductions and forest carbon performance.

This action has positioned Liberia to benefit from results-based finance mechanisms, including potential support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and bilateral climate financing arrangements. Moreover, it supports Liberia's transition toward Biennial Transparency Reporting (BTR) under the Paris Agreement, enhancing its credibility in the global climate regime and attracting investments for forest conservation and restoration.

Overall, the FREL submission represents a concrete step in mobilizing climate finance for forest governance, reinforcing Liberia's commitment to climate action, and fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate change and SDG 15 on life on land, as well as Global Forest Goal 4.1 on resource mobilization for sustainable forest management

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P161893>

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

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

**22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public international funding, including official development assistance

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

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

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with the FCPF Carbon Fund (2020–Present)

Brief description of the action:

In 2020, Liberia signed a landmark Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund, making the country eligible to receive up to USD 50 million in results-based payments for reducing emissions through avoided deforestation and degradation (REDD+). This financing supports activities under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), including community forestry, forest governance, and agroforestry in 12 forested counties.

Main results achieved for the action:

First Monitoring Report submitted and verified independently (2024–2025).
Verification completed, but disbursement of first payment pending as of mid-2025.

Strengthened Liberia's MRV system and REDD+ readiness.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Other, please specify: 13.2

Weblink:

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P161893>

Action (short title):

Mobilization of Philanthropic and Private Sector Funds via IDH and GiveDirectly Initiative (2022–Present)

Brief description of the action:

In Southeast Liberia, IDH (IDL) The Sustainable Trade Initiative and GiveDirectly partnered to pilot direct cash transfers to communities that protect forests, linking climate finance with poverty alleviation. The model uses satellite monitoring to verify forest cover, and compliant communities receive direct monetary incentives from philanthropic sources and private investors interested in verified climate impact.

Main results achieved for the action:

Pilots launched in Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties.
Communities are incentivized to maintain forest cover.
Pioneered a replicable Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/news/idh-and-givedirectly-direct-payments-to-communities-for-forest-protection/>

Action (short title):

Proposal Development and Resource Mobilization for GCF REDD+ Result-Based Payments (2021–Present)

Brief description of the action:

Liberia has developed and submitted proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to access REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBPs), building on its FREL, NDC, and MRV frameworks. This effort includes coordination through the EPA, FDA, and the REDD+ Secretariat, aiming to attract climate financing for forest protection and emissions

Main results achieved for the action:

Readiness and concept notes prepared with UNDP and GCF support.
Liberia is positioned to access GCF result-based streams by 2026.
Institutional frameworks have been strengthened to receive multilateral funds.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/countries/liberia>

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

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Broader Market Recognition Coalition (BMRC) Ghana Forum Participation (October 2024) with Liberia's Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Ghana, Indonesia, and others.

Brief description of the action:

The BMRC Forum in Accra brought together representatives from countries engaged in Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) under the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The goal was to explore ways to improve access to international markets for legally and sustainably produced timber from VPA countries through broader recognition beyond the EU.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia's delegation, led by the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), joined multi-stakeholder discussions on how VPA processes can help countries build national sustainable forestry systems that are credible, inclusive, and transparent.

Participants shared national experiences in establishing timber legality assurance systems (TLAS). Ensuring civil society participation in forest governance and promoting forest product traceability and transparency. Leveraging the VPA process for national reform.

The Liberian delegation highlighted the country's strides in:

Strengthening community forestry structures (CFMBs, CFDCs)

Advancing legal reforms in forest governance

Implementing the VPA legality grid and stakeholder engagement platforms

during the exchange program. Liberia also endorsed the BMRC roadmap, which calls for broader global recognition of VPA-based timber legality systems, South-South collaboration on forest governance, and enhancement of market access as well as incentives for legal, sustainable timber.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Other, please specify: 17.6

Weblink:

<https://analystliberiaonline.com/sdi-highlights-liberias-progress-in-forest-sector-briefs-international-forestry-forum-on-liberias-strides/>

Action (short title):

South–South Learning Exchange on Community Forestry with Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon (via REDD+ Africa Group & UN-REDD, 2022–2023)

Brief description of the action:

As part of efforts to strengthen community-based forest management, Liberia participated in a South–South learning exchange with Ghana and Cameroon, organized under the REDD+ Africa Group and supported by the UN-REDD Program. The exchange included cross-border field visits, technical workshops, and policy dialogues focused on community forestry governance models, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems.

During the exchange, Liberia's delegation engaged with Ghana's Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) model and Cameroon's local governance structures, gaining insights into participatory forest governance, transparency, and enforcement strategies.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia integrated essential elements of Ghana's CREMA model into its existing Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) framework, promoting more inclusive and accountable forest governance at the local level. This adaptation emphasized community-led decision-making, clarity in roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms to ensure that benefits from forest resources are shared based on performance and conservation outcomes. As a result, the CFMB structure has been strengthened to support decentralized forest governance, empowering communities to manage and protect their forests more effectively.

The initiative also fostered stronger collaboration between Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and its Ghanaian counterparts, enabling cross-border learning and harmonization of community forestry strategies. This exchange contributed to improved policy coherence and coordination across national programs in West Africa, particularly in the areas of forest conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and local empowerment

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org>

Action (short title):

Triangular Academic Cooperation under Higher Education for Conservation Activity (HECA) – 2023

Brief description of the action:

Liberia engaged in a triangular academic and technical partnership through the USAID-funded Higher Education for Conservation Activity (HECA), involving local universities (University of Liberia, Cuttington) and international academic institutions from the U.S. and Europe. The project supports capacity building in forest research, conservation technology, and natural resource governance.

Main results achieved for the action:

Through the USAID-funded Higher Education for Conservation Activity (HECA), Liberia's leading academic institutions, including the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, and Nimba University, received technical and financial support to revise and expand their natural resource management and environmental science curricula. The project introduced updated coursework on biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and forest monitoring, integrating global best practices with local ecological realities. Students now benefit from enhanced field-based learning opportunities, such as forest inventories, GIS mapping, carbon stock assessments, and biodiversity monitoring exercises conducted in real forest landscapes. These reforms have positioned Liberian institutions as more capable providers of conservation-related higher education and workforce development.

Empowered women and youth through scholarships and inclusive training programs:

HECA actively promoted gender and social inclusion by targeting underrepresented groups, particularly women and youth from rural and forest-dependent communities, for scholarships and leadership training programs. The project created pathways for young people to pursue degrees and certifications in forestry, environmental science, and related fields, with priority given to applicants from communities adjacent to protected areas. Women scholars were supported not only through tuition assistance but also through mentoring, internship placements, and career development programs, helping to bridge Liberia's gender gap in the environmental and forestry sectors. Promoted North-South and triangular knowledge exchange in conservation science:

The HECA initiative fostered a triangular cooperation model by bringing together Liberian universities, U.S.-based institutions (such as the University of Georgia and other academic partners), and international conservation organizations. Faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and co-developed training modules enabled the transfer of conservation science, forest monitoring tools, and pedagogical innovations across continents. This North-South academic partnership was further strengthened by South-South peer learning opportunities, as Liberian faculty and students engaged with regional institutions and participated in joint regional conservation dialogues, reinforcing Liberia's role in the global forest knowledge ecosystem.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.usaid.gov/liberia/news/launch-higher-education-conservation-activity>

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

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

**27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)**

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Non-governmental organizations

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

North-South
South-South
Triangular

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science
Technology
Innovation

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

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)

Public domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

Yes

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

Since 2020, Liberia has significantly improved the collection, availability, and accessibility of forest-related information through national reforms, international partnerships, and the adoption of digital tools. The submission of Liberia's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC in 2021 marked a key milestone, supported by multidisciplinary assessments using satellite imagery, forest inventories, and carbon stock data. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), developed under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), enhanced data transparency through GIS, remote sensing, and platforms such as Collect Earth, which is currently being used under the Novasphere Project to train technicians for data collection.

Academic and field-based research has expanded through the USAID-funded Higher Education for Conservation Activity (HECA), introducing ecological, geospatial, and social science methodologies to forest assessments. Universities and communities now conduct biodiversity inventories and socio-economic surveys to inform sustainable forest management decisions.

Moreover, Liberia's Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS), hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has become a central hub for sharing environmental and forest-related information across sectors. It complements data published by the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), the FDA, and the National Union of Community Forest Development Committees (NUCFDC), including concession maps, benefit-sharing plans, and land-use data. Participatory Forest Monitoring (PFM) has also empowered communities to contribute to forest data collection, improving inclusivity and accuracy. These efforts have strengthened Liberia's national reporting to REDD+, the CBD, and SDG 15.2, while supporting better forest governance and informed policymaking.

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2019

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

**37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

Liberia faces several critical challenges in achieving Global Forest Goal 4, which calls for increased financial resources and stronger scientific and technical partnerships to support sustainable forest management (SFM). One of the foremost barriers is the low and inconsistent domestic budget allocation for the forest sector, making Liberia heavily dependent on short-term, project-based donor funding. This limits long-term planning and weakens sustainability once external support ends.

Private sector engagement remains limited due to regulatory uncertainty, lack of incentives, and high investment risks. Despite interest in carbon markets and forest-based enterprises, enabling conditions for blended and private finance are still underdeveloped. In addition, there is insufficient institutional capacity within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and related agencies to design bankable projects, mobilize climate finance, or manage public-private partnerships effectively.

Scientific and technical cooperation is fragmented, with limited coordination between research institutions, government agencies, and local communities. Although systems like the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS) and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) have improved data collection, challenges remain in ensuring timely, harmonized, and accessible forest-related information for planning and investment.

Furthermore, Liberia lacks a national forest investment strategy that can align public, donor, and private funding under a shared vision. Overcoming these challenges will require institutional reform, capacity building, stronger partnerships, and the creation of enabling conditions for long-term finance and knowledge-driven forest governance.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

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

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

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

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

38. In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes

**39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)**

National sustainable development plans
Poverty reduction strategies

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

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Action (short title):

EU-Liberia FLEGT VPA Stakeholder Engagement & Oversight

Brief description of the action:

Under the EU-Liberia Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), Liberia held inclusive stakeholder consultations bringing together community representatives, CSOs, industry, and government to strengthen transparency, moratoria on new permits, and accountability systems.

Main results achieved for the action:

Partnership Agreement (VPA) framework, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) organized two comprehensive stakeholder workshops focused on benefit-sharing and compliance. These workshops brought together government agencies, community representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector actors to foster transparency and accountability in forest management.

A key outcome of these engagements was the empowerment of communities and CSOs to monitor forest activities actively. This increased oversight has effectively halted the issuance of new logging permits in sensitive areas, preventing further deforestation and illegal exploitation. The enhanced role of civil society has also strengthened mechanisms for reporting violations and advocating for sustainable forest practices.

By fostering inclusive participation and reinforcing compliance frameworks, Liberia is advancing toward sustainable forest management, reducing illegal logging, and promoting equitable benefit-sharing with local communities.

This approach serves as a model for participatory forest governance and demonstrates Liberia's commitment to upholding international forest management standards while supporting rural livelihoods and conservation outcomes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

https://www.niras.com/news/eu-liberia-flegt-agreement/?utm_source

Action (short title):

Timber Chain-of-Custody System Strengthening (2021–2023)

Brief description of the action:

Liberia worked with SGS and FDA to improve traceability via the LiberFor/LiberTrace system, auditing the felling-to-export chain-of-custody processes

Main results achieved for the action:

As part of its commitment to improving forest governance, Liberia has strengthened its timber chain-of-custody system through enhanced auditing procedures. Under the LiberTrace system, mandatory audits are now conducted at key stages of timber production and trade: 5% of logs are audited at the felling stage, and 100% of timber is verified at the point of export. These systematic checks ensure traceability from harvest to market, reducing opportunities for fraud and illegal activities.

This strengthened monitoring has led to a substantial reduction in illegal timber exports, as only verified and legally sourced wood can pass through the export process. In addition, the enforcement of these auditing measures has reinforced compliance with stumpage fees and timber-related taxes, helping to recover previously lost government revenue and promoting a level playing field for legal operators.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:**This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**

15.2

Weblink:

https://www.profor.info/notes/lessons-establishment-chain-custody-system-liberia?utm_source

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

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

Improved enforcement of existing legislation
Other, please specify: Established taskforce on illegal trafficking

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

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community Forest Management Plans Approved

Brief description of the action:

FDA, FAO, UNDP & local NGOs rolled out Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs) for five forests (~70,000 ha) in six counties – Sarbo, Putupo, Gbeapo, etc.

Main results achieved for the action:

In Liberia's forestry sector, empowering communities to actively manage defined forest zones marks a transformative approach toward sustainable forest governance. Through Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs), local residents gain formal recognition and legal authority to oversee designated forest areas for conservation, sustainable livelihood activities, and regulated logging. This approach aligns with Liberia's national forestry laws and policies, particularly the Community Rights Law (2009) and the National Forestry Reform Law, which emphasize community participation and benefit-sharing.

By managing these zones, communities help protect biodiversity and maintain forest ecosystem services, while also generating income through sustainable resource use. Controlled livelihood activities such as agroforestry, beekeeping, and non-timber forest product harvesting are encouraged within agreed boundaries, reducing pressure on high conservation value forests. Meanwhile, regulated logging within community forests adheres to approved management plans and monitoring protocols, ensuring that timber extraction is environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial.

This locally driven governance framework fosters accountability and transparency by involving community members in decision-making and enforcement. It strengthens customary land rights and reduces conflicts between communities, government agencies, and commercial actors. The active stewardship also supports Liberia's commitments under international frameworks like REDD+ and the Sustainable Development Goals by advancing forest conservation, poverty reduction, and climate resilience.

Overall, community management of forest zones in Liberia represents a critical step in decentralizing forest governance, promoting equitable resource sharing, and safeguarding forest landscapes for current and future generations.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2
- Other, please specify: 16.7

Weblink:

https://liberia.un.org/en/294671-big-boost-forest-governance-liberia-community-forest-residents-applaud-fao-and-partners?utm_source

Action (short title):

Customary Land Formalization & Inclusive Governance

Brief description of the action:

SDI, FFI, Proforest, IDH, and the Liberia Land Authority implemented land rights formalization in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Sinoe. Communities formed CLDMCs, harmonized boundaries, and integrated customary rights with forest governance.

Main results achieved for the action:

women in governance committees mark a significant advance toward gender-inclusive and sustainable forest management. Recognizing women as active decision-makers ensures that diverse perspectives and needs are reflected in forest governance, which leads to more equitable and effective resource management outcomes.

Communities engaging in self-identification processes assert their rights and define their membership according to customary and locally accepted norms. This participatory approach empowers communities to take ownership of their forest resources and strengthens social cohesion. The development and adoption of community bylaws further formalize rules and responsibilities related to forest use, conservation, and dispute resolution. These bylaws are designed collaboratively, reflecting community values and priorities, and provide a clear framework for sustainable forest management.

By integrating women's voices and promoting local rule-making, Liberia's forest policy framework aligns more closely with both national laws and international commitments, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality. This inclusive governance fosters transparency, accountability, and resilience, reducing conflicts and improving compliance with forest regulations. Moreover, empowering women and strengthening local institutions contribute to improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 2.1
- 3.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

https://sdiliberia.org/node/358?utm_source

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry & Protected Area Management Project (2022–2026)

Brief description of the action:

UNDP/FAO-led project worked with FDA, CSOs, NGOs, and forest producer associations to build governance frameworks, institutional capabilities, and integrated land-use plans.

Main results achieved for the action:

Significant strides have been made in community forest governance in Liberia, enhancing transparency, accountability, and protection of forest resources. Five community forests have successfully established governance structures and adopted formal bylaws, enabling them to operate legally under the Community Rights Law. These structures empower local communities to manage their forests sustainably, ensure benefit-sharing, and enforce internal rules and regulations that reflect local priorities while aligning with national forestry policies.

In collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), 80 eco-guards have been trained and deployed across key forest areas. These eco-guards, drawn mainly from local communities, serve as frontline protectors against illegal logging, poaching, and encroachment. Their presence has strengthened monitoring and enforcement capacity, fostered community ownership of forest resources, and built trust between communities and the FDA.

To further combat illegal activities and promote transparency, a digital corruption reporting platform known as "Talkay" has been introduced. This tool allows citizens to report incidents of corruption, illegal logging, or misuse of forest resources anonymously and in real time. The platform supports accountability and complements ongoing forest governance reforms by empowering citizens to be active participants in safeguarding Liberia's forests.

Together, these initiatives represent a holistic approach to community-based forest management, combining legal empowerment, active protection, and transparent reporting to promote sustainability and inclusive forest governance in Liberia

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.2
- 5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

https://www.undp.org/liberia/projects/community-based-forestry-and-protected-area-management-0?utm_source

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

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

In Liberia, several formal and participatory mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders, particularly local communities, civil society, and indigenous peoples, in forest-related policy formulation, planning, and implementation, in line with Global Forest Goal target 5.3.

At the national level, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) coordinates inter-agency policy dialogue through multi-sectoral platforms such as the Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC), the REDD+ Technical Working Group, and the National Multi-Stakeholder Monitoring Committee (NMSMC). These bodies include representatives from government ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector actors, community-based organizations, and traditional leaders, ensuring that forest policies are coherent and complementary across institutions.

At the community level, the Community Rights Law of 2009 and related regulations enable local communities to negotiate Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) with the FDA. This legal framework mandates the establishment of Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) and inclusive governance structures like the Community Assembly and Executive Committee, which involve women, youth, and elders in planning and decision-making processes.

Liberia's Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union further institutionalizes transparency and stakeholder engagement in forest governance, including access to information, public consultations, and independent forest monitoring by CSOs. These mechanisms collectively promote inclusive, lawful, and well-coordinated forest governance.

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

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Liberia faces several interrelated challenges in achieving Global Forest Goal 5, which seeks to promote effective governance frameworks for sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. A major constraint is weak institutional capacity within key forest governance bodies, particularly the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), which suffers from limited staffing, funding, and logistical support. This hampers effective law enforcement, monitoring, and coordination across national and subnational levels.

Poor inter-agency coordination remains a critical issue, with overlapping mandates and conflicting land use priorities among sectors such as agriculture, mining, and environment, leading to policy incoherence and implementation gaps.

At the community level, while legal frameworks like the Community Rights Law exist, many local forest governance bodies lack the technical knowledge, legal support, and financial resources needed to manage forests sustainably. Furthermore, the enforcement of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the recognition of indigenous rights are inconsistent.

Illegal logging, corruption, and inadequate accountability systems undermine forest governance. Although initiatives like the digital "Talkay" platform are soon to be introduced, their reach and impact remain limited. In addition, forest monitoring systems (e.g., MRV and land use planning tools) are underdeveloped, limiting data-driven decision-making and effective tracking of forest cover changes and emissions.

Finally, reliance on donor funding and insufficient domestic resource mobilization weakens long-term sustainability and national ownership of forest programs. Addressing these challenges is essential for Liberia to establish inclusive, transparent, and effective governance systems that support sustainable forest management.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) – World Bank (2016–2023)

Brief description of the action:

A national initiative to strengthen community forest governance, forest monitoring (MRV), and institutional coordination among the FDA, EPA, LISGIS, and other relevant agencies.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia has made notable progress in advancing sustainable forest management through the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), supported by the World Bank and other partners. One of the key achievements is the engagement of over 10,200 community members in forest governance, agroforestry, and income-generating activities. These efforts have strengthened local ownership and stewardship of forest resources while creating alternative livelihoods that reduce pressure on natural forests. Communities were supported to establish governance bodies, develop forest management plans, and engage in sustainable enterprises such as beekeeping, charcoal production, and non-timber forest product value chains.

In addition, the project significantly enhanced Liberia's Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems for forest and carbon monitoring. This included the development of a functional national forest information system, training of technical staff, and introduction of digital tools to monitor deforestation and degradation trends. These improvements enable the government to track emissions reductions and strengthen its readiness for results-based climate finance under REDD+ and future carbon markets.

Furthermore, the project improved inter-agency cooperation on forest and land use planning, promoting collaboration among the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other relevant ministries. This cross-sectoral coordination helped harmonize land use decisions, reduce policy conflicts, and foster more integrated planning approaches aligned with national development and climate goals.

Collectively, these results contribute to inclusive, data-driven, and well-coordinated forest governance systems key pillars for achieving Liberia's forest, climate, and development commitments.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2025/04/01/putting-people-first-how-we-support-the-forest-sector-in-liberia>

Action (short title):

EU-FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) Implementation 1&2

Brief description of the action:

To strengthen legal frameworks and coordination among the FDA, the Ministry of Labour, the Liberia Revenue Authority, the EPA, and civil society through the Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC)

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia has made significant progress under the EU-FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) to strengthen forest governance and combat illegal logging. A key milestone is the establishment of a functioning Legality Assurance System (LAS), with 48% of the legal indicators now fully operational. The LAS ensures that timber harvesting, transportation, and export comply with national laws and regulations, covering areas such as land tenure, environmental protection, labor rights, and fiscal obligations. This progress enhances transparency, accountability, and trust in Liberia's timber supply chain.

A cornerstone of the LAS is the Liberia Traceability System (LiberTrace), which is fully operational and tracks logs from the point of harvest through processing to the point of export. The system uses barcoding and digital records to provide real-time data on timber movement, ensuring legality and reducing opportunities for fraud and illegal trade. LiberTrace is essential for verifying legal compliance and supporting the issuance of FLEGT licenses in the future.

To maintain and scale these reforms, regular multi-agency training sessions have been conducted with staff from the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the Ministry of Labour, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and civil society organizations. These trainings cover the application of the legality matrix, use of traceability tools, and audit preparation. This cross-sectoral capacity building strengthens coordination and ensures that all relevant actors understand and apply the legal and operational requirements consistently.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

<https://www.euflegt.efi.int/liberia>

Action (short title):

REDD+ and Carbon Market Readiness

Brief description of the action:

REDD+ Communications Consortium engaged the FDA, the EPA, the Ministry of Mines & Energy, and CSOs to raise awareness and align forest policies. As well as conducting the Carbon Readiness Gap Assessment led by UNDP, in engaging multiple ministries to prepare Liberia for results-based carbon finance.

Main results achieved for the action:

Important steps to strengthen Liberia readiness for carbon finance and sustainable forest management through enhanced Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems and institutional coordination. A key result is the strengthening of the national MRV system and safeguards, which has improved the country's ability to monitor forest cover change, track carbon emissions and removals, and implement social and environmental safeguards. These improvements are critical for meeting REDD+ requirements and ensuring transparency and accountability in emissions reduction efforts.

In parallel, Liberia has established an institutional coordination platform for REDD+ and carbon trading, bringing together key ministries, agencies, and civil society actors. This platform ensures cross-sectoral alignment of climate, forest, and land use policies and strengthens governance for carbon-related initiatives. It also provides a foundation for implementing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), equitable benefit-sharing, and community participation in climate finance. These actions significantly advance Liberia's readiness to participate in global carbon markets while promoting sustainable forest management and inclusive climate action.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia>

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change
Biodiversity
Energy
Rural development
Land use
Other, please specify: Justice

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

SUSTAIN: EU Funded Sustainable Forest Conservation in Southeastern Liberia (launched in march 2025)

Brief description of the action:

€3.65 million initiative between the FDA & the EU, and partners to protect Sapo, Grebo Krahn, and Kwa national parks through SFM strategies

Main results achieved for the action:

As part of the SUSTAIN Project, launched in March 2025 with €3.65 million in support from the European Union, significant progress has been made in strengthening sustainable forest management in Liberia's southeastern landscape. Stakeholder mobilization activities have been conducted across the three targeted national parks Sapo, Grebo-Krahn, and Krahn-Bassa to foster collaboration among community members, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), conservation NGOs, and local government structures. These engagements have increased awareness and built consensus around forest protection goals, land-use planning, and community roles in conservation.

To further enhance project implementation, technical support is being provided to the FDA to strengthen conservation planning in high-value forest areas. This includes assistance in the development of management plans, spatial mapping of biodiversity hotspots, and the establishment of monitoring systems to track forest health and human activities.

In addition, the project has procured vehicles and motorbikes to support mobility and surveillance operations within and around the protected areas. This logistical support is critical, given the remote and difficult terrain of these forest landscapes. The new fleet will enable FDA staff, eco-guards, and community forest monitors to conduct regular patrols, respond more quickly to illegal logging or encroachment, and ensure sustained presence in priority conservation zones. Together, these interventions are enhancing Liberia's institutional capacity to manage its forests effectively and are contributing to the achievement of Global Forest Goals.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

15.2

Weblink:

<https://sustain-it-project.eu/>

Action (short title):

Approved Community Forest Management Plans

Brief description of the action:

Under the same CBFM program, FDA officially handed over Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs) to forest communities in River Gee (Sarbo, Putupo, Gbeapo), totaling 70,000 ha. CFMPs define zones for conservation, farming, sustainable use, and forest protection.

Main results achieved for the action:

Since 2020, Liberia has made significant strides in empowering communities to manage their forests sustainably through the enforcement of Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs). These plans, developed and approved in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), provide structured guidelines for forest use, outlining zones for conservation, sustainable harvesting, and livelihood activities. With CFMPs now in force, communities have gained legal authority to regulate access and usage, ensuring that forest resources are used in line with sustainable practices and community priorities.

The implementation of these plans has sparked strong community buy-in, demonstrated through public celebrations, symbolic handovers, and widespread participation in monitoring and enforcement. This growing sense of ownership has fostered a culture of stewardship, where community members view the forest not just as a resource, but as a shared legacy to be protected for future generations. Local governance structures, including Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), have become more functional and accountable, improving transparency and benefit-sharing.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia/>

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management Project (UNDP–FAO, funded by Sweden; launched July 2022)

Brief description of the action:

The project aims at building community forest management capacity, governance frameworks, and technical systems (including remote sensing) across forest-dependent communities; trained eco guards and equipped the FDA to monitor biodiversity and corruption via the Talkay tool; supported sustainable agroforestry livelihoods.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia has strengthened its forest management and community livelihood systems through several strategic interventions since 2020. As part of efforts to improve forest monitoring and law enforcement, 80 eco-guards have been deployed to support the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) in biomonitoring activities across key forest landscapes. These eco-guards, drawn largely from local communities, are trained to conduct patrols, monitor wildlife, and report illegal activities such as poaching and logging, thereby enhancing both biodiversity protection and community engagement.

To boost economic resilience and reduce forest dependency, over 30 small enterprises were supported with grants of up to US\$10,000 each. These enterprises span value chains such as sustainable charcoal production, beekeeping, eco-tourism, and forest-friendly agro-processing. The grants have enabled local entrepreneurs to scale operations, create jobs, and generate income in harmony with conservation goals.

Furthermore, over 150 farmers, including 110 women, have adopted climate-smart agriculture practices, particularly rice intensification methods. This approach has led to increased yields on existing farmland, reducing the need for slash-and-burn practices that often contribute to deforestation. Women's participation has been central to these interventions, fostering inclusivity and strengthening food security in forest-dependent communities. To improve mobility and enforcement capacity, 25 motorbikes were supplied to the FDA, allowing staff and eco-guards to patrol remote areas more efficiently

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.undp.org/liberia/>

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

**52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

National or subnational

Other, please specify: National Legal Foundations (NFRL-2006)

**53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Forest and Climate Governance(Liberia Implementation Committee)

Brief description of the action:

The establishment of the Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC) under the REDD+ process was to enable government agencies, CSOs, donors (e.g., World Bank, Norway), and local stakeholders to co-develop and oversee forest-related strategies and reforms.

Main results achieved for the action:

Since 2020, the Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC) has played a central role in strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement in Liberia's forest governance. The LIC comprising government institutions, civil society organizations, donors, and private sector representatives was instrumental in reviewing the Liberia Forest Sector Review Report led by Forest Trends in 2023. The review identified key challenges affecting the sector, including weak law enforcement, low community benefits, overlapping mandates, and limited coordination across stakeholders.

In response, the LIC facilitated a series of inclusive consultations, bringing together diverse stakeholders such as community representatives, traditional leaders, women's groups, and logging companies. These engagements allowed all actors to contribute to the co-creation of the Forest Reform Action Plan, which outlines strategic interventions to address governance, enforcement, community rights, and transparency.

The LIC's work also supported the update of Liberia's FLEGT-VPA roadmap, ensuring that commitments to legal timber trade, community benefit-sharing, and accountability were aligned with current realities. These updates included priority actions to improve permit issuance systems, strengthen the legality assurance framework, and promote civil society monitoring. Through this inclusive process, Liberia has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable forest management and participatory governance.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
3.2
4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: 16.5

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Strategic Planning Reform of the FDA per the new roadmap

Brief description of the action:

Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has led a participatory review of its Strategic Plan to align forest sector priorities with emerging opportunities in carbon markets, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. The process engaged a wide range of stakeholders including CSOs, private sector actors, youth, women's groups, and traditional leaders to ensure inclusive decision-making and accountability. As part of this effort, the new FDA management presented a strategic roadmap to the European Union, outlining reforms such as institutional restructuring, carbon market readiness, expanded reforestation, increased value addition in timber processing, and strengthened community forest governance.

Main results achieved for the action:

As part of its reform agenda, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has drafted a revised Strategic Plan (2025–2029) and accompanying roadmap that emphasize inclusive governance, climate finance readiness (including carbon markets), and community benefit frameworks. Through a participatory process involving civil society, traditional leaders, women's groups, private sector actors, and development partners, stakeholders played a critical role in shaping the direction of the plan. One major outcome was the restructuring of the FDA's organogram, which now includes two newly established Deputy Managing Director positions: one for Carbon, Community, and Conservation, and another for Commercial and Technical Services. These changes are intended to strengthen institutional focus on climate-smart forestry, enhance community engagement, and improve technical service delivery, positioning the FDA to more effectively deliver on national and international forest management commitments.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.fda.gov.lr/>

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forestry Management (CBFM)

Brief description of the action:

The CBFM project in Liberia, through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), is to expand the implementation of the Community Rights Law of 2009 by formalizing Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs), local communities, women's groups, and youth associations to actively engage in decision-making, forest governance, and benefit-sharing processes.

Main results achieved for the action:

Liberia has significantly advanced community participation in forest governance by empowering over 130 Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) through targeted capacity-building initiatives. These CFMBs, established under the Community Rights Law of 2009, have received intensive training in governance, financial management, legal compliance, and sustainable forest practices. The training programs, supported by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and development partners, have improved the capacity of local governance structures to manage community forests responsibly, ensure transparent decision-making, and enforce the terms of Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs).

A key achievement has been the enhanced participation of women, with over 40% representation in CFMB leadership roles. This inclusion has helped mainstream gender in forest governance and ensured that decisions reflect the diverse needs of forest-dependent households. Women are now playing active roles in monitoring forest activities, managing finances, and advocating for sustainable livelihoods, such as non-timber forest product development and climate-smart agriculture.

These efforts have led to stronger ownership and accountability at the local level, as communities increasingly recognize the long-term value of sustainable forest management. Empowered CFMBs now serve as key actors in regulating access, resolving conflicts, overseeing benefit-sharing, and collaborating with external stakeholders.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
2.4
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.fda.gov.lr/>

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

Major groups, including CSOs, national NGOs, community networks, private sector actors, and development partners, have been actively involved in implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030) in Liberia. A key initiative is the Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management (CBFM) program, jointly implemented by FAO, UNDP, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), and local NGOs such as SDI, TNC, and FCI. These groups collaborated in nine-step community forest designation processes, governance strengthening, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood support in 10 communities across northwestern and southeastern Liberia.

Another milestone was the validation of Liberia's Forest Sector Carbon Readiness Gap Assessment in May 2024, where stakeholders from government, civil society, donors (EU, USAID), and technical partners reviewed feasibility studies and helped shape the national Carbon Roadmap. This inclusive process laid the groundwork for integrating climate finance and carbon markets into forest governance and ensured that benefit-sharing, safeguards, and capacity needs were addressed.

Through these engagements, major groups have influenced strategic planning, operational frameworks, and implementation mechanisms that align with UN SPF priorities, particularly in inclusive decision-making, sustainable finance, biodiversity, and community livelihoods.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Liberia faces several challenges in implementing Global Forest Goal 6, which focuses on enhancing cooperation, coordination, and stakeholder participation in forest management. A key issue is limited institutional capacity and weak inter-agency coordination, particularly among government bodies such as the FDA, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the EPA, which hampers integrated forest planning and enforcement. Stakeholder engagement remains inconsistent, with gaps in the meaningful inclusion of women, youth, traditional leaders, and local communities in national policy-making beyond project-level consultations.

Inadequate financing is another major constraint, as the forest sector relies heavily on donor support with limited domestic budget allocations. This affects the sustainability of participatory processes and the rollout of essential tools like forest monitoring systems and grievance mechanisms. Additionally, information sharing and feedback platforms are weak, making it difficult for communities and civil society to access data or track progress on forest governance and benefit-sharing initiatives.

Finally, policy incoherence and fluctuating political will undermine long-term forest sector reforms. Conflicting mandates between forestry, land, and mining authorities create institutional overlap and tension, slowing implementation. These challenges collectively hinder the achievement of Target 6.5 and broader efforts to foster inclusive, coordinated, and transparent forest governance in Liberia. Addressing them will be critical to realizing the goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and advancing sustainable development.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area			X			
1.2 Carbon stock		X				
1.3 Implementation of SFM			X			
1.4 Resilience and adaptation			X			
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people						
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises		X				
2.3 Food security			X			
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development		X				
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		X				
3.1 Protected areas		X				
3.2 Long-term forest management plans		X				
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests		X				
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM			X			
4.2 Increased forest related financing			X			
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships			X			
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information			X			
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies			X			
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance		X				
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes			X			
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning		X				
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation		X				
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets		X				
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders		X				

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

Yes

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

While Liberia hasn't formally communicated a forest-specific VNC to UNFF processes, its NDC, CfRN engagement, and carbon readiness roadmap reflect voluntary national contributions toward GFGs, especially in strengthening forest governance, climate finance readiness, community participation, and sustainable land use.

Progress to date:

Forest sector reform and reforestation has been embedded into Liberia's national Development Goal (Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development). Liberia Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) prioritize forest based mitigation as well as other concrete steps such as institutional reform that lay the foundation for future Voluntary National Contributions under the UN forest forum

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
4.1
5.1
6.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Brief description:

Submission of the Forest reference emission level (FREL) to the UNFCCC in 2021

Progress to date:

The MRV system has been partially operationalized with support from partners. Liberia has made important progress in operationalizing its Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems to support sustainable forest management, emissions monitoring, and carbon market readiness. With technical and financial support from development partners such as FAO, UNDP, Norway, and the World Bank, key institutional and community capacities have been strengthened.

At the national level, FDA staff have received specialized training in satellite imagery interpretation, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and forest inventory techniques. This training has enabled the FDA to begin monitoring changes in forest cover, estimate carbon stocks, and report on emissions reductions in line with the requirements of the UNFCCC REDD+ framework.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1
5.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Brief description:

Progress under the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) Engagement for technical support has begun for carbon credit readiness, including capacity development for carbon accounting, safeguards, and legal frameworks

Progress to date:

Liberia signed a Letter of Engagement with CfRN in 2024 for a national carbon registry is under discussion, and draft legal instruments are being developed to regulate forest carbon rights and benefit-sharing is led by the FDA and the EPA

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector: (Select all that apply)

Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

Liberia has taken deliberate steps to promote gender inclusion in the forestry sector, recognizing women's vital role in forest governance and sustainable development. Notably, two women now serve in the top management team at the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), and a dedicated Gender Desk has been established at FDA headquarters to coordinate gender mainstreaming across programs. With support from partners such as UNDP, FAO, and civil society organizations, the FDA has implemented initiatives at both the policy and community levels. A major achievement is the over 40% representation of women in Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), with targeted training provided in governance, financial management, and sustainable livelihoods. Gender-sensitive provisions have been incorporated into forest management plans to ensure women's inclusion in benefit-sharing schemes. Women's groups also actively participated in the review of the FDA Strategic Plan (2025–2029). Additionally, forest-based livelihood initiatives—including sustainable charcoal, beekeeping, and rice intensification have prioritized support to female-headed households and women's cooperatives, helping to reduce dependency on unsustainable forest use. Gender considerations are also being integrated into Liberia's climate finance and REDD+ frameworks, with safeguards designed to ensure equitable access and protection of women's rights.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests? (Select all that apply)

Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If

possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

Each year, the FDA coordinates national events and campaigns under the global theme of the UN-designated day. These activities have included street parades, public awareness campaigns, radio and TV talk shows, school-based outreach programs, and community dialogues to promote the importance of forests for climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable livelihoods. Educational institutions such as the University of Liberia and Booker Washington Institute have hosted forest-themed essay competitions, debates, and tree planting events, aimed at fostering youth interest in forestry and conservation.

To commemorate the day, the FDA has also supported the production and distribution of awareness materials, including brochures, banners, posters, and T-shirts bearing messages about forest protection, climate change, and community rights. In recent years, awards and certificates of recognition have been presented to outstanding forest rangers, community leaders, students, and NGOs for their contributions to forest management and environmental stewardship. Monuments and symbolic tree plaques have also been installed at key forest sites and institutional compounds to mark the celebration and serve as permanent reminders of Liberia's commitment to forest conservation.

Weblink:

<https://www.google.com/>

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

Empowering Forest Communities through Livelihood and Governance Support

Brief description:

Community-Based Forestry and Protected Area Management (CBFM) a joint project by FAO and UNDP, funded by Sweden, in partnership with the Forestry Development Authority. Starts in 2022 across priority landscapes like Grebo-Krahn and Sapo National Park .

Main results achieved:

In the heart of southeastern Liberia, a quiet but powerful transformation is unfolding across more than 450 forest-dependent villages. Once burdened by poverty and limited opportunities, these communities are now stewards of the forest, protecting it not out of obligation, but out of pride and ownership. Through the joint efforts of the FDA, FAO, UNDP, and local partners, villagers have been trained in climate-smart agriculture, organized into Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs), and supported to launch small enterprises that have collectively generated over 2.2 million Liberian Dollars.

The turning point came when five Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs) covering nearly 70,000 hectares were formally approved and handed over to the communities. The ceremonies were not just administrative formalities; they were celebrations of identity and empowerment, marked by traditional songs, drumming, and dancing. Women took the microphone to speak about how their leadership in forest governance has given them a voice and income for their families. Youth groups spoke of their renewed hope, not as job-seekers in the city, but as protectors and innovators in their land. This story is more than a development milestone; it is a testament to prove that when communities are empowered and respected as partners, forests flourish and so do the people who depend on them

GFG targets addressed:

1.1
2.4
5.2
6.4

Weblink:

<https://liberia.un.org/en/294671-big-boost-forest-governance-liberia-community-forest-residents-applaud-fao-and-partners>

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In case of any issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) at the UNFF secretariat.