



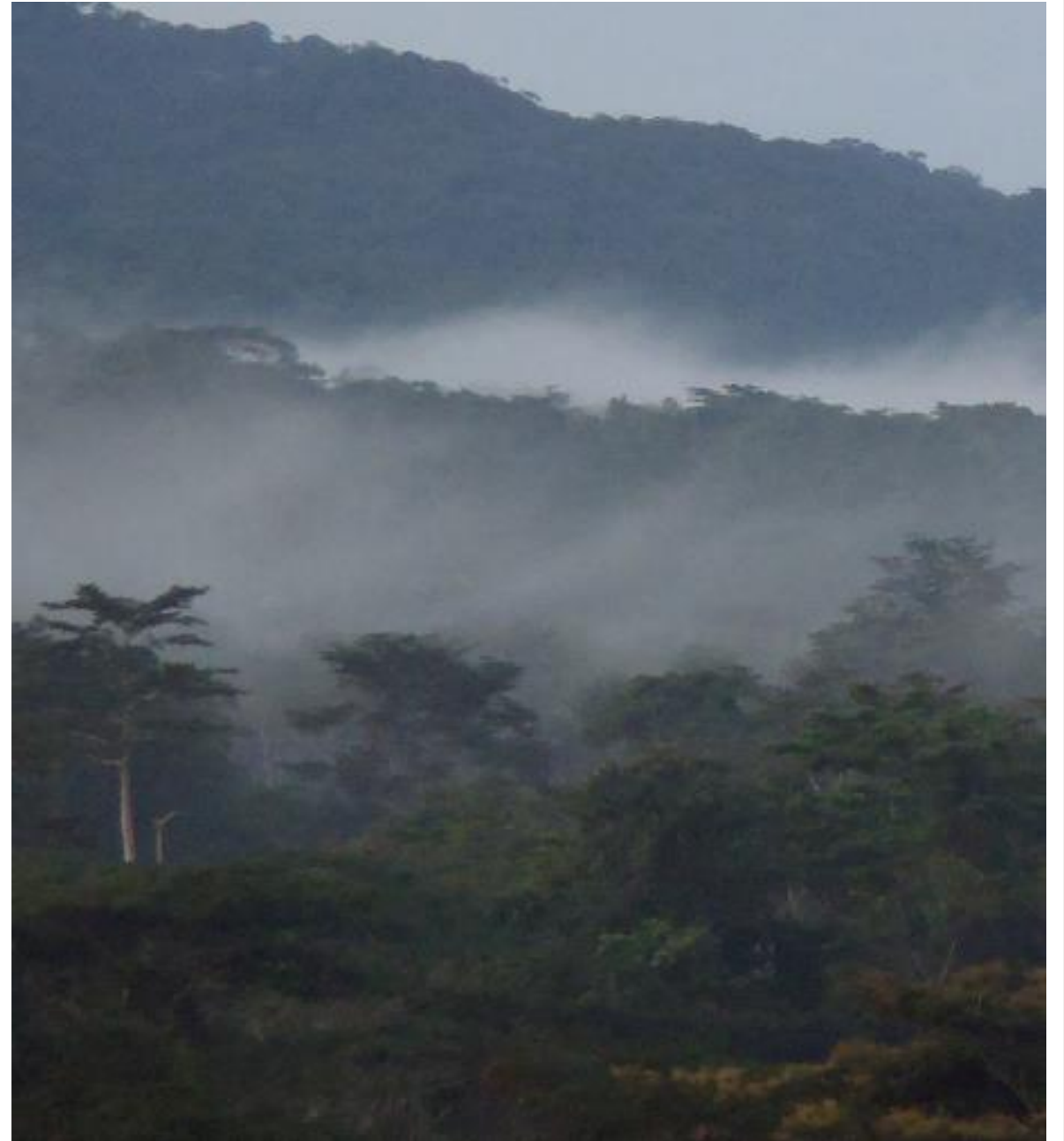
Piloting REDD+ in the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area: Community Benefits

REDD+ DIALOGUE

14 NOV 2020 / DR MARY MOLOKWU-ODOZI /
GBARNGA

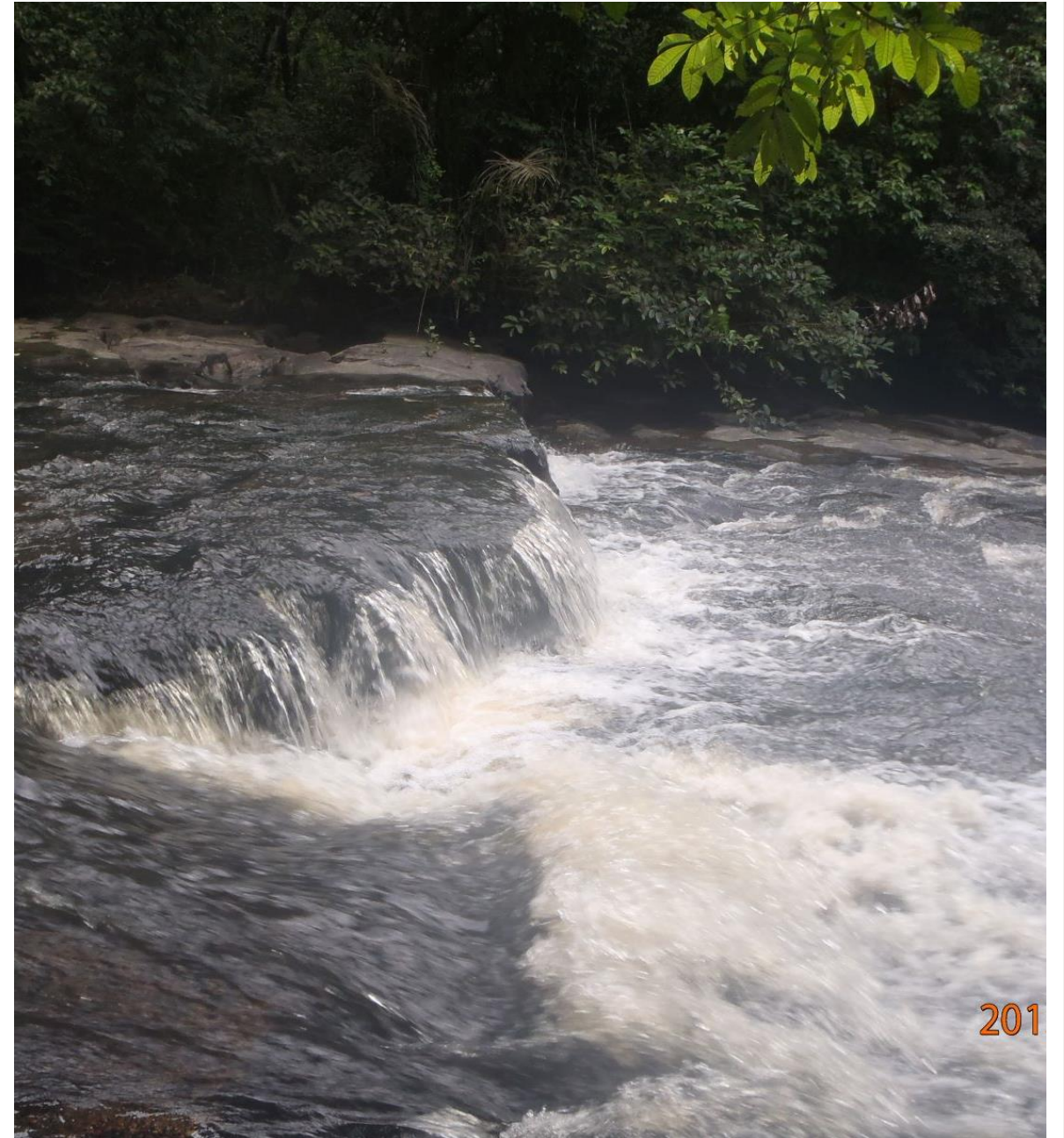
GLOBAL & LOCAL IMPORTANCE

- Located within the Upper Guinean Rainforest - one of the 200 most important ecoregions in the world (Global 200)
- HCVF and HCS Forest - significant carbon sink (195 tons /ha-2013 report)
- Important Bird Area (IBA) & Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)
- Contiguous with the Massif du Ziamma Biosphere Reserve (GN016) in Guinea – a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve



RESOURCES

- Critical, renewable resource for local communities which depend upon it
- Serves as watershed for major rivers (Lofa, St. Paul etc.)
- Valuable forest products such as medicinal plants, NTFPs, fuel wood for cooking
- Critical for the cultural identity of communities
- Several sacred forests preserved for various cultural reasons
- 17 communities; approximate population of 10,000+ depend on the forest



RESOURCES

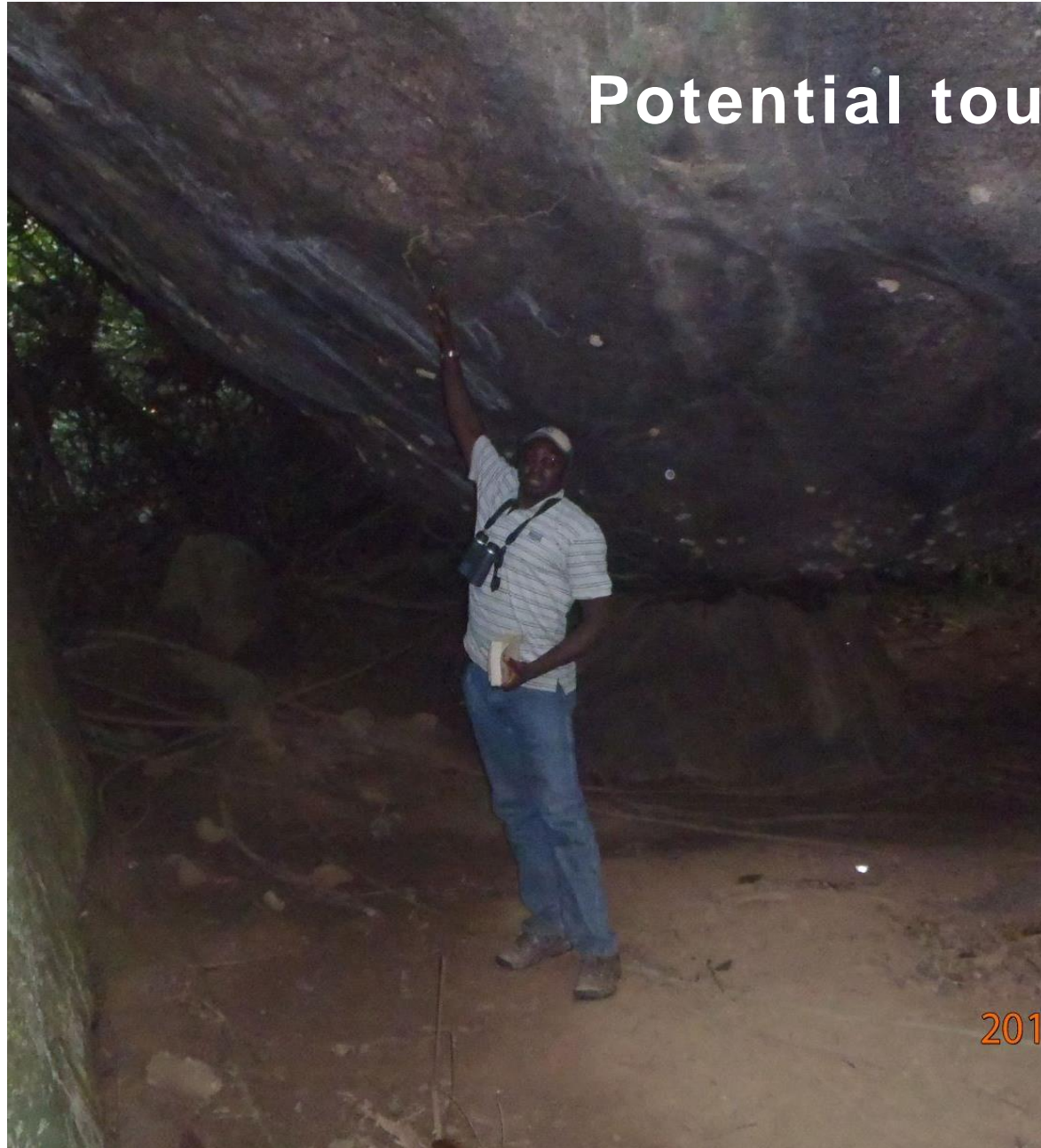
- Many animals and plants found in the area are rare, under threat and some endemic
- Important corridor for wildlife between Guinea and Liberia (extending to Wologizi and Foya)
- Hosts threatened fauna and flora species - Chimpanzee, Pygmy hippo, Forest elephant, Picathartes, Entandrophragma species, etc.)







Potential tourist destination



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THREATS

- The current method of farming – shifting cultivation is fast depleting the forest
- **Unstainable** NTFP collection and hunting poses serious threat to biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood
- Limited capacity of forest community dwellers poses serious challenge to effective forest management
- To date, Wonegizi PPA remains legally unprotected from threats
- Prone to fire during the dry season, especially in grasslands and degraded areas



THE WONEGIZI REDD+ PILOT



- **FFI in Wonegizi since 2013**
- **5-year project (2016-2020)**
- **Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)**

Objectives:

1. Wonegizi set to provide financial and environmental benefits (carbon credits, ecotourism, support to climate change mitigation, etc.)
2. Farmers income and food security improved through support to

sustainable farming practices
(training, tools and improved seeds)

3. Critical ecosystem with species of conservation value protected.

4. National Government supported to meet its conservation objective (30% of forest area under protection)



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Some key achievements:

1. 38 Farmer Field Schools established across 13 communities between 2017 & 2020

2. Community consent obtained for gazettelement of the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area (PPA)

3. Biomonitoring Programme established and communities supporting data collection

4. Other livelihood support – Village Savings and Loan Associations, Communal (multiplication) farms established

5. Boundary line flagged and law enforcement in place

6. Regional and National level consultations completed for gazettelement of Wonegizi PPA

Some benefits of the
REDD+ project to
local communities



BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES – AGRICULTURE / LIVELIHOOD

- 38 Farmer Field schools (FFS) - 642 farmers trained (M-270; F-372)
- Improved agricultural practices - Conservation Agriculture to improve the livelihood of people & prevent forest loss
- Provided inputs and machinery (cassava processing machine, peanut butter machine, rice thresher, water pump and motorised filing machine etc.)
- Support in establishment of communal farms-500+ beneficiaries







BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES – AGRICULTURE / LIVELIHOOD

- Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA)
- 352 beneficiaries - Male 105 (30%), female 247 (70%)
- 13 VSLAs established in 13 of the project communities
- Provided savings metal boxes, ledgers, notarized constitution & start-up fund of USD 300.00 per VSLA etc.





BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES – PA MANAGEMENT

- Governance
 - Forest Monitoring Committee (FMC) supported
 - Wonegizi proposed as co-managed PA
- Biodiversity
 - 15 Community Auxiliaries trained in biomonitoring
- Law enforcement
 - 24 community auxiliaries trained in law enforcement



BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES – CAPACITY BUILDING

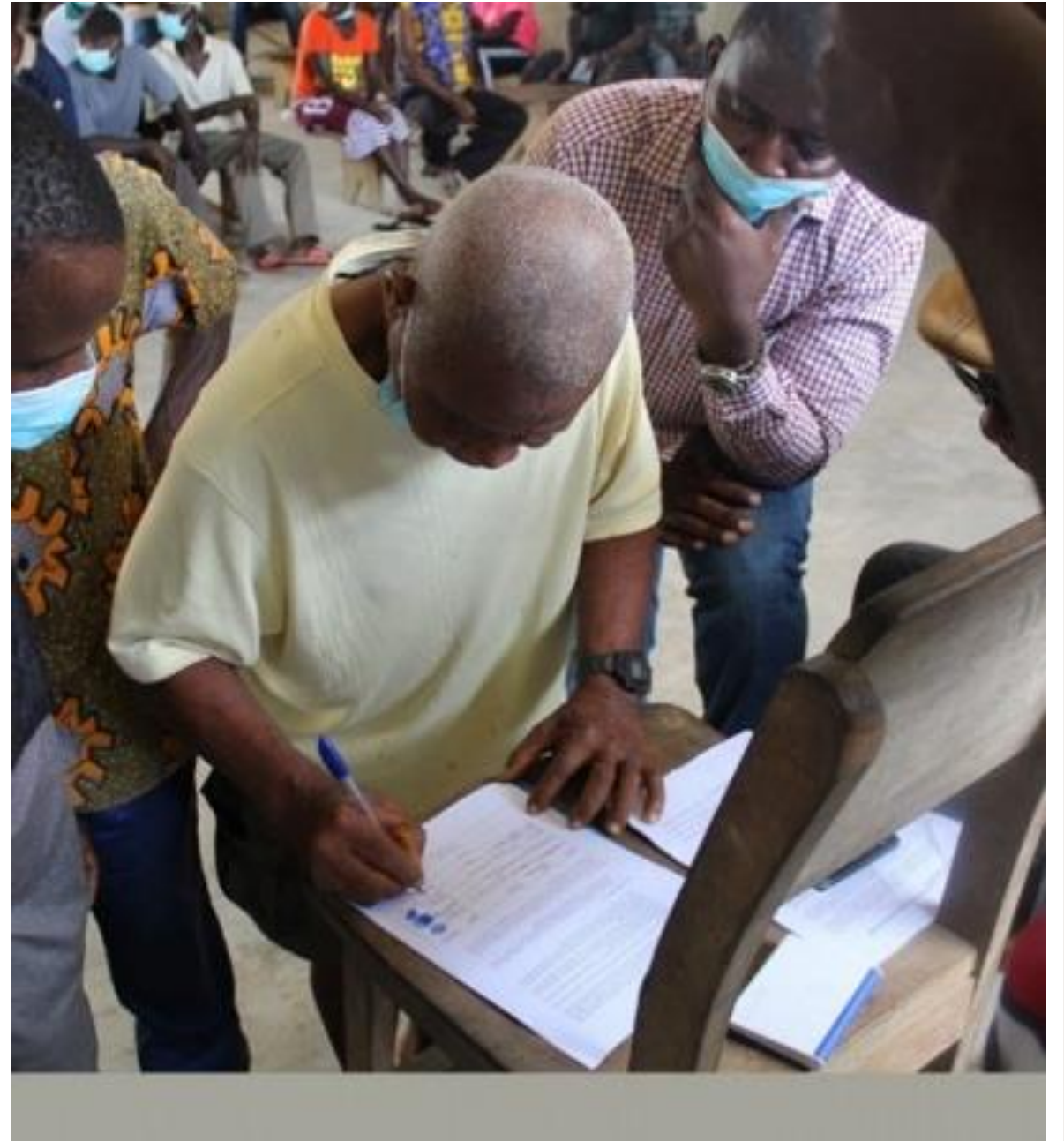
- 1000+ persons trained
 - 642 trained via FFS
 - 352 received training in VSLA methodology and business development services
 - 39 trained in Biomonitoring & forest patrols
- Study tours / exchange visits
 - Exchange visits between Liberian and Guinean farmers
- TOT & skills transfer by lead farmers





BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES – CONSULTATIONS

- REDD+ Projects have to comply with certain standards (e.g. CCBS)
- Series of consultations – gazettelement, socio-economic / Social Impact Assessments
- Enabled community needs and priorities to be identified and where possible addressed
- Free Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Communities were able to exercise their rights



FUTURE PLANS

- Support to extension services - training of agricultural extension officers
- Other livelihood activities – cash crops (e.g. cocoa), animal husbandry, non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- Expansion of VSLAs
- Strengthening / establishment of community governance institutions (FMCs / CMCs)
- Operationalising the REDD+ Project
- Capacity building for REDD+
- Support development of a benefit-sharing mechanism



Thanks!

