**GEF FOLUR Liberia Project Implementation Progress Updates**

The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) is a $345 million, seven-year initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the World Bank ([folur.org](https://www.folur.org/)).

The program seeks to transform food and land use systems, consisting of a global knowledge platform and 27 country projects. Country-level work will focus on accelerating action in landscapes and along value chains for eight major commodities: livestock, cocoa, coffee, maize, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat ([folur.org](https://www.folur.org/)).

**The GEF FOLUR Liberia Project:**

**TITLE:**

Reducing deforestation from palm oil and cocoa value chains

**OBJECTIVE:**

To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable food systems for enhanced livelihood opportunities in NW Liberia Landscape through land use planning, restoration of degraded lands, and strengthening governance, policies, and market incentives for nationally replicable models of deforestation-free cocoa and palm oil value chains.

**Project cost:** US$ 74,338,515 (US$ 7,139,449 from GEF and US$ 66,999,065 million) from co-financing)

**Duration:** 60 months (5 years)

**Approved:** 27 September 2021

**Start date:** 1st May 2022

**End date:** 30th April 2027

**Funder:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**Co-financiers:** EPA, FDA, LISGIS, LLA, MoA, MANO, RSPB, SCNL, FFI, IDH, and CI Liberia

**GEF Implementing Agency:** CI-GEF Agency

**Executing Agencies:** CI Liberia, EPA, SCNL, RSPB and FFI

**COMPONENT AND OUTCOMES:**

**Component 1: Development, adoption, and implementation of National and NW Liberia Landscape land-use plans.**

**Outcome 1.1:** Information base available to develop a coarse national land-use plan and comprehensive

NW Liberia landscape land-use plan to improve land allocation and use by men and women

**Target 1.1:** One comprehensive information and data set available to stakeholders and decision-makers

**Outcome 1.2**: Improved land allocation by communities (men and women), government, private sector,

and civil society in NW Liberia landscape

**Target 1.2a**: Nine clan land use plans developed and adopted

**Target 1.2b**: 15,000 ha of HCS/HCV forest loss avoided

**Target 1.2c:** Gazettement package developed for one Proposed Protected Area

**Outcome 1.3:** Governance of NW Liberia Landscape by men and women strengthened

**Target 1.3a:** One governance mechanism in place

**Target 1.3b:** Two new regulations supporting sustainable land-use planning and management considered

by cabinet.

**Component 2: Promotion of sustainable production practices for food crops, palm oil and cocoa, supported by responsible value chains**

**Outcome 2.1:** Improved sustainable production of food and commodity crops to enhance ecological

resilience of NW Liberia Landscape

**Target 2.1a:** 200,000 hectares under sustainable land management

**Target 2.1b:** 100,000 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity

**Outcome 2.3****:** Resources for sustainable production by men and women secured

**Target 2.3:** US$ 10 million directed to sustainable production

**Component 3: Biodiversity loss reduction and restoration of natural habitats**

**Outcome 3.1:** Degraded areas that are crucial for ensuring ecosystem connectivity and integrity restored in NW Liberia

**Target 3.1:** 15,000 ha restored directly by project

**Outcome 3.2:** Improved gender-sensitive policies and incentives for innovation and scale up of

restoration of natural habitats in NW Liberia landscape and across Liberia

**Target 3.2:** One draft policy document supporting restoration by men and women considered by cabinet

**Outcome 3.3**: Innovative finance promotes innovation, replication and scale up of restoration activities

by men and women

**Target 3.3:** US$ 5 million directed to support restoration

**Component 4: Coordination, collaboration and Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Outcome 4.1:** High quality project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation

**Target 4.1:** 15 satisfactory quarterly Project progress reports produced

**Outcome 4.2:** Enhanced strategic knowledge management of the project by men and women

**Target 4.2a:** Five community resource centers equipped and one online knowledge management system

Established.

**Target 4.2b:** 15 knowledge sharing events attended by men and women

**Key Milestones since project inception in May 2022**

**Component 1:**

* The School of Environmental Studies and Climate Change of the University of Liberia has been hired to develop a coarse national land use planning and a detailed NW Liberia Landscape land use planning.
* A multi-stakeholder governance structure (Northwest Liberia Landscape Multi-Stakeholder Platform) has been established. The principal functions of this governance structure will be to monitor adherence to and implementation of the land-use plan, periodically revisit and update land-use plans considering changing circumstances, opportunities, or needs, and address land-use conflicts that may emerge.

**Component 2:**

* ToR for consultancy to develop gender-sensitive regulations supporting sustainable agriculture has been developed pending advertisement.
* To ensure resources for sustainable production by men and women, US$ 6.95 million by the Ministry of Agriculture through the STAR-P project to support sustainable production in the NW Liberia landscape has been identified.
* Six local aggregators and cooperatives for strengthening the NW Liberia landscape were identified.
* Completed the evaluation for the hiring of the consultants to conduct a gender-sensitive assessment of value chains and market dynamics of local, domestic, and export markets, including a review of potential incentives for responsible palm oil and cocoa supply chains and Facilitating access to markets.

**Component 3:**

* A ToR for consultancy developed to develop a gender-sensitive Business and Investment Plan for the restoration of NW Liberia Landscape and promote gender-sensitive market incentives for restoration. The ToR pending advertisement.
* US$ 475,000 was secured from the USAID WaBiLED project by SCNL and RSPB for forest monitoring.

**Component 4:**

* Identified Five Community Resource Centers to be equipped in the NW Liberia Landscape.
* Developed M&E system and MEAL plan for tracking project activities.
* A Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been established. The PSC is composed of representatives from a range of different ministries and government agencies. CI-Liberia acts as the secretariat of the committee. The EPA is the Chair, and the FDA acts as Co-Chair. LLA will be the alternative should one of the chairs be unavailable. The principal function of the PSC is to guide the project delivery based on government positions relevant to project alignment with national policies and laws, best practices, and new initiatives, among others.
* Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MANO to support community adoption of sustainable palm oil production in areas identified through land-use planning at community and landscape levels signed.

**Stakeholders Engagement:**

* 36 engagement meetings have been held with a total of 1,072 persons (762 men and 310 women) stakeholders.