

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Conservation International
Project Title:	Ensuring Long Term Sustainable Financing for Key Protected Areas in the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem
Date of Report:	January 25, 2013
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CEPF Region: Guinean Forests of West Africa

Strategic Direction: Consolidation

Grant Amount: US\$711,242.00

Project Dates: 1 June, 2009 to 30 June, 2012

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Throughout the life of this grant CI has engaged numerous partners whose roles in the project varied. Initially, while to project's overall geographic scope included all of Upper Guinea:

- **CI worked with a number of NGO's throughout the region to collect information to expand the KBA analysis to a more broad Green Economy analysis.** This included looking into extractive industries in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea as well as identifying key Green Economies Case studies. Grants were provided to SOS Foret (Cote d'Ivoire), Guinee Ecologie, The Nature Conservation Resource Center (NCRC) and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) to build upon their initial CEPF funded work. The subgrant to NCRC also contributed to their work producing Forest Carbon maps for Ghana and Liberia, which will be useful for the Cape Mount Green Economies analysis.
- **CI also partnered with FDA-LISGIS** to provide training and help build local GIS/Remote sensing capacity. The refined maps provided the baseline data required to understand historical deforestation rates, model quantity and location of future deforestation, and the foundational land use/land cover maps used in green economies analysis.
- **CI also supported the regional organization the Mano River Union** includes contributions towards MRU strategy development, MRU Trans-boundary Conservation Project (funded by the African Development Bank), and MRU policy review. CI is also in collaboration with FFI and the Darwin Initiative on the Trans-Boundary Cross-Sectorial Environmental Governance Platform (TCSEGP) for Guinea, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire across the Nimba Mountains. These platforms have served as areas of opportunity to articulate Green Economies concept in Liberia.
- **Coordination with the EU-funded Gola Forest Initiative:** Coordination included having CI added to the Across the River Trans-boundary Conservation Program Steering Committee. We now participate in regular Steering committee meetings and have an opportunity to ensure proper coordination with our Green Economies Strategy.

Once the geographic focus of the project was scaled back to focus on a Nimba Demonstration our partner engagement shifted, becoming more focused on building multi- stakeholder collaborations for project delivery at the county level. This included:

- **Developing a 4 year collaboration agreement with ArcelorMittal-Liberia, a major global mining company with a large iron ore concession in Nimba County:** this agreement is based on the mutual interest in developing and supporting a Biodiversity Conservation Program in Northern Nimba to not only offset but; demonstrate how a private sector company in Liberia can play a leading role as a catalysts for development that benefits people and the ecosystems they depend upon for their cultural, social and economic wellbeing.
- **Supporting the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) in management of East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and protected areas nationally-** CI collaborated with the ENNR staff and the conservation department of FDA to develop a protected area business plan for ENNR and in the options assessment for PA financing. We also involved FDA staff in all project activities providing on the job training in community engagement, education and awareness. We also have worked to support the development of a Co-management Committee for ENNR involving both communities and FDA staff.
- **Collaborating with the USAID PROSPER and LRCFP projects-** as part of the landscape initiative CI has coordinated with the USAID funded land rights and community forestry initiatives in Nimba to ensure project alignment and consistent messaging with communities. CI staff also supported the development of community forestry management plans for the Bleih, Bah and Zor community forests while PROSPER staff have supported our efforts in ENNR (particularly the co-management committee) and broadly across the landscape.
- **Providing capacity building to local NGOs:** CI provided training to several conservation NGOs in conservation agreements and local community engagements. After an initial training we selected the Skills and Agriculture Development Services (SADS) and Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE) to implement the feasibility analysis for 9 communities in Northern Nimba. These two NGOs have worked alongside our staff receiving constant support in implementation, project management, and report writing throughout the life of this project. This capacity building will continue with the ongoing support from AML. To support more technical analysis in land use planning CI engaged a new Liberian NGO Friends of Ecosystems and Environment to carry out the desktop gap analysis. We currently continue to provide them ongoing technical capacity support.
- **Partnering with Local Government Authorities-** In order to ensure the project's success both at the local level and with national scale up, CI has developed a very strong collaboration with the Nimba County Authorities, especially the County Superintendent and the County Development Superintendent. Both have played key roles in project implementation including hosting the project wrap up workshop and also advising throughout the project's implementation. These authorities also ensure coordination with various Ministries and Agencies at the County level- something very important to our broad scale initiative, as well as coordinating the activities of NGOs within the county.
- **Engaging the communities of Nimba in our work-**Central to our strategy is broad community based participation in all aspects of our work. We have involved entire communities through community meetings and discussions and have worked side by side with selected community representatives in our activities especially the stakeholder engagements and the CA feasibility analyses.
- **Working with**
 - **The Global Conservation Fund:** CI partnered with the Global Conservation Fund to carry out the options assessment for sustainable financing and also to help identify an qualified consulting group to carry out the business plan for ENNR

- **The Conservation Stewards Program:** The Conservation Stewards Program has supported CI Liberia in training and field implementation of the conservation agreement model
- **The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business:** CELB supported CI Liberia in developing the relationship with AML and also provided training in business best practice
- **The Environment and Development Group (EDG):** CI identified EDG to develop a business plan for ENNR-one of the key steps to putting in place a sustainable financing mechanism- as it aimed to identify costs and funding streams for the protected area.
- **Coordinating with other National efforts;** Throughout the life of the project CI continue to coordinate with various efforts in order to ensure the project's goals were achieved. These included coordination with the WB/GEF Project Consolidating the Protected Areas Network (COPAN) and Expanding the Protected Areas Network (EXPAN), the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Development; the REDD+ Technical Working Group (TWG), The Ministry of Agriculture's Climate Adaptation Project, Liberia's National Initiative for Sustainable Oil Palm (LINSOP), and the Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Liberia's development policy and practice integrates the value of nature. Appropriate policy incentives and market mechanisms support ecosystem service protection and provision while also driving economic development and human wellbeing. The poverty reduction and economic growth strategies account for the value of nature and proposes development that will allow for its sustained contribution to human wellbeing. The economy is growing while the remaining forests and wetlands are protected with innovative financing mechanisms sustaining nature's contribution to a green economy. Liberia is serving as an example of green economic development across the Guinean Forest Hotspot.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

While the long term impacts of this project are not fully realized to date, CI with the support of CEPF, has put in place the appropriate mechanisms to consolidate its work on Green Economy development in Liberia and ensure that this demonstration is reflected in Liberia's development policy and practice. Key to this success has been developing a long term relationship with ArcelorMittal-Liberia, whose long term interest in iron ore extraction ensures the companies physical presence and investment for the next 15 years. In addition to this, the company has expressed interest in ensuring an enduring legacy for both economic growth and natural resource management in perpetuity.

CI has supported the Government of Liberia in developing its new Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and ensuring that the value of nature is fully recognized. The new PRS reflects a sustainable development pathway based on this principle. Beyond policy development, CI is also working to ensure that the country's practitioners in various Ministries and Agencies understand how to put such a policy into practice. The amended project deliverables were designed to demonstrate green economic development in Nimba County, CI has not only begun demonstration in Nimba but has laid the groundwork for the abovementioned long-term impacts nationally through the development of innovative approaches to promote sustainable financing,

community alternative livelihood development, environmental awareness and education, and integrated development planning.

Specifically CI has begun a pilot initiative that is serving as an example of green development planning nationally. The collaborations between government Agencies and Ministries at the local level is one that can be scaled at the national level through current land use planning initiatives. Ideas and successes generated around community conservation, particularly through Conservation Agreements and sustainable financing such as a trust fund or endowment are today being used in planning the national protected areas network. The benefit sharing mechanisms piloted in our work be used more broadly across all sectors and for future performance based payments such as REDD and PES.

Our work building capacity within local civil society organizations and in community groups, providing them a means to engage the private sector, has begun to establish the appropriate implementation structures for this approach more broadly. Efforts will need to continue to ensure that this is done in the appropriate way respecting rights and following community engagement best practice. We have secured funding from AML and an individual donor as well as in kind support from USAID to continue these efforts.

Finally, in working with ArcelorMittal-Liberia on this pilot, CI and AML are demonstrating how the private sector can be a leader in driving a development policy that values and conserves nature. This is a new initiative in Liberia but one that we intend can serve as a model nationally. We have initiated discussions with the Government of Liberia and its partners (such as Norway) on a national heritage program which would be modeled after this initiative. Funding from CEPF has supported the development of this concept and has allowed CI to put in place the appropriate frameworks to succeed.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

A green development agenda is driving investment in Nimba County so that innovative financing mechanisms and best practice in spatial planning and resource use are supporting ecosystem service protection and restoration. This county level demonstration is tied to national policy, private sector investment and bilateral support, providing a pilot for the national green economy.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Through support from CEPF CI has laid the foundation for a green development agenda in Nimba. This has included the introduction of several new and innovative tools including PA business planning, conservation agreements, private sector engagement best practices, and community based land use planning and sustainable financing mechanisms. Most importantly this has included securing local leadership to take a green economic planning framework forward. To date we have succeeded in aligning major partners including AML and USAID around this concept, specifically we have introduced the principles of land use planning that maximize biodiversity conservation, community livelihoods, and national economic development. We also have secured the buy in from local communities who now feel fully engaged in the planning processes and understand how conservation agreements can promote behavior change while providing alternative livelihoods. We expect to see livelihood and conservation improvements in the coming years and will be developing a robust monitoring program to measure these results.

We have also identified several areas where this county level demonstration can support national policy development. These include: providing a guide for protected area business planning, providing options for a national sustainable financing mechanism, introducing an innovative tool for corporate social responsibility activities that promotes both economic growth and natural resource management, and setting the stage for future performance based payments through conservation agreements.

Through partnership with AML and USAID we have secured support from both the private sector and bilateral agencies to demonstrate green economic development in Liberia. Our work with communities and local civil society organizations is helping to build their capacity to engage and participate in these efforts as equal partners and not just project beneficiaries.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 13,500ha (East Nimba Nature Reserve)

Species Conserved: Western Chimpanzee, Pygmy Hippos, Nimba Otter Shrew, Nimba Toad, and many other endemic, and threatened species who rely on the Nimba Mountains and surrounding areas.

Corridors Created: 50,000ha (Targeted Northern Nimba Conservation Area)

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

A capacity deficit was a key challenge to achieving partner understanding of the amendment project deliverables. This was addressed by a series of capacity building initiatives.

Consensus-building between all partners involved was another obstacle, as organizational objectives sometimes conflicted and it took time to ensure all stakeholders agreed to mutual outcomes. This often led to delays in the expected timeline for project delivery. This is particularly the case with the Land use plan which is still under development due to the need to very carefully resolve conflicts before moving forward.

A third challenge was managing community expectations, particularly of tangible benefits resulting from our projects.

Equipping communities for decision-making in forest governance was another obstacle, in terms of getting communities to understand and want to participate in the decision-making. A further challenge to implementation was limited infrastructure (roads, technology) in the target areas.

These challenges were addressed and overcome thorough engagement and coordination meetings to create mutual understanding over the course of the project.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project yielded two unexpected positive impacts. In response to this project, the Nimba Superintendent's office established an NGO coordination group that will support and engage in the coordination of development activities in the county. Additionally, CI has built a strong and important relationship with the Nimba county government, whose members are interested in articulating and implementing HSE- thus providing strong local ownership for the project's long term impacts.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

Ensure long term sustainable financing for priority protected areas in the heart of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Through conversations with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Grant Directors, CI Liberia decided to focus its efforts to developing mechanisms for long term sustainable financing in Liberia. In doing so we focused on two major components, one was supporting the National REDD framework in Liberia to provide sustainable income streams for conservation. The other focused on establishing a pilot offset program with a major mining company in Northern Nimba.

With support from CEPF Jessica Donovan-Allen and GIS/ Remote Sensing Specialist Sean Griffin provided significant input into Liberia's REDD + Strategy. This included developing the document for the World Bank's forest carbon partnership facility, leveraging \$3.6 million in funding for a national REDD+ framework.

CI Liberia also worked with Sean Griffin to conduct a first cut of the feasibility analysis for REDD in Nimba which looks feasible but will require additional work on the ground to refine the numbers. In addition to REDD work, which may take some time to come online in Liberia, CI Liberia also decided to focus more broadly on opportunities to address climate adaptation in line with the government's plan to pursue a GEF Climate adaptation project. To do so, CI contracted the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). CI, in collaboration with IISD, delivered a CRiSTAL Tool workshop in Nimba for 25 mid-level project managers and technicians. The CRiSTAL Tool, providing locally appropriate climate adaptation planning tools within local communities, was tested in four communities within the fringes of the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and consultative meetings were held with the Nimba county local authorities to provide a review of the importance of the application of CRiSTAL Tool in community-based project design and implementation. This will provide key adaptation measures to climatic variation in the area. (Please see IISD CRiSTAL Tool Report, Appendix 1.)

CI with support from the Global Conservation Fund conducted an options assessment for sustainable financing in Nimba with potential to expand this mechanism to the national level through a PA trust mechanism. To this end, the team held meetings with appropriate partners – including USAID, Associates for Rural Development (ARD), World Bank, AML, FDA, UNDP National Benefit Sharing Trust (NBST), several legal experts and Nimba biodiversity stakeholders and other relevant agencies engaged during the Sanctions +6 conference. The results of this assessment focused on recommended governing mechanisms for the trust and present several options which could be pursued by AML and Liberian Protected Area stakeholders more broadly. (Please see LTF White Paper Appendix 2.) The team also identified synergies with the WB/ GEP project expanding the protected areas network (EXPAN) and will continue coordinating with them to ensure sustainable results.

In collaboration with GCF, CI engaged the Environment and Development Group to create a protected area business plan for the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) focusing on conservation as well as community livelihood activities. CI and the consultant held meetings with appropriate stakeholders – including AML, EPA, FDA, ENNR administration, Nimba county authorities, USAID, FFI -- to gain input and consensus on the plan. We documented PA trust options in an assessment report, which was submitted to the FDA and other relevant agencies. The initial business plan included and focused on the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and at least 5 communities (Zortapa, Camp 4, Geipa, Zogowee, Liagbala) located near the Protected Area. In the long term, the business plan will become the foundation for and guide the development and subsequent implementation of sustainable trust fund mechanisms for protected areas across the NNCA. The report also outlines a sound methodology which can be used throughout the country to determine the cost of protected area management, providing a guide that can be used nationally. (Please see ENNR Business Plan, Appendix 3)

CI Liberia also worked with ArcelorMittal and the USAID LRCFP and PROSPER to collect baseline data in northern Nimba. This has included community led data collection as well as more rigorous scientific studies. All partners are currently working together to develop cost effective collection and monitoring methodologies which will be used for numerous activities such

as PA management, community forest management, and monitoring of Conservation Agreements. Most of our information will be made publically available upon publication of AML's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

CI Liberia also strengthened our own grant-making capacities in order to ensure we were structured to provide capacity building to others. Once complete CI's program and operations teams partnered with the CSP to enhance grant-making abilities and effective management of future Conservation Agreements: CI led a one-day Conservation Agreement methodologies training for partners in Nimba and a subsequent follow-up workshop. These workshops laid the groundwork for further discussion of the feasibility of implementing the Conservation Agreement model in Liberia – and, specifically, in the NNCA. Based on discussions, it was agreed that Borwen Sayon would assume the role of Conservation Agreement Manager and build appropriate capacity for local partners with support from CSP and CI's Sr. Operations Manager. As a result of this structure, our grant-making capacity has increased in the timely implementation of project deliverables.

All of the above activities helped in moving towards a mechanism for sustainable financing for PAs in Liberia. While the Northern Nimba Conservation Area has only been proposed and is not fully established to date, we believe that we have put many of the mechanisms in place which can be replicated throughout Liberia. Key to the overall success of these initiatives will be the ongoing long term financial support of an institution such as AML and the ongoing leadership of the county authorities. We believe that our work in Nimba will be a key site level demonstration and a model for other PAs in Liberia and more broadly. We will continue to promote sharing and learning beyond the life of this CEPF investment.

Component 2 Planned:

Demonstrate the benefit of innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation and human well being in known priority areas within the hotspot

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

CI Liberia believes that Conservation Agreements are an appropriate tool for ensuring both biodiversity conservation and human well being outcomes. In order to implement this tool it was initially decided that CI would conduct 5 feasibility assessments in Nimba, with the support of implementing partners SADS and RICCE. Based on recommendations from key partners (such as AML, FDA and USAID), CI conducted 9 feasibility assessments. CI also secured four-year financing from AML to pilot 6 Conservation Agreements in designated communities located within the fringes of the ENNR. (Please see SADS Feasibility Assessment, Appendix 4. Please see RICCE Feasibility Assessment, Appendix 5) Based on this success, CI was also able to leverage an additional commitment from Chevron to pursue the conservation agreement model in another key area in Grand Bassa. The key to the success of these agreements in the long term will be to secure the private sector's ongoing support to these projects. AML has committed to doing so in Northern Nimba, we hope Chevron will do the same in Grand Bassa.

As a means of reducing the capacity deficit of key actors in Nimba and building on current successes in engaging Liberia's developing private sector in conservation, CI worked with the CELB team to develop training on best practices for negotiating with the private sector. The workshop covered Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). This planning tool provided key information for partners on the following: High Conservation Value assessments; the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil principles; biodiversity offsets, safeguards and emerging tools on mining, oil and gas; and community forest governance. The aim of the workshop was to empower Nimba stakeholders and key decision makers and enable planning related to agriculture and extractive industries in Liberia (HCV/RSPO/BBOP). Opportunities for follow up with key stakeholders were identified. (Please see IBAT Training Report, Appendix 6.)

We believe that the success of programs aimed at delivering both conservation and human well being outcomes depends on two key elements; negotiated performance based payments (conservation agreements) and the long term commitment of private sector partners to include this in their business practice. Our work to date is beginning to show how this innovative approach can succeed.

Component 3 Planned:

Catalyze a partnership between conservation and development sectors in the region to protect biodiversity and improve human well being

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

To deliver on this component CI Liberia worked on several actions to ensure that natural resource management and climate change mitigation actions were included in the national development plans in Liberia. Also we believe that our efforts will be best adopted and amplified through site based demonstrations that provide a leaning platform for other integrated development efforts. Therefore in addition to national efforts, we also focused on an integrated landscape plan for Nimba setting up the appropriate zoning and management structures for long term success.

CI worked with the Government of Liberia and Harvard Business School to develop a Low Carbon Economy cost benefit analysis for the country. This evaluation looked at 14 different policy options and made recommendations to the Liberian government for implementation. This strategy was accepted at the highest level and endorsed by the President of Liberia who launched the national Climate Change Steering Committee to oversee its adoption and implementation. Since its adoption CI Liberia has continued to follow up to ensure this is reflected in government policies including the Poverty Reduction Strategy among others. Our work is also being published in a upcoming book on Cost Benefit Analyses by Oxford University Press. CI's Country Director and other staff participate in the national technical working group and the Steering Committee for Liberia's first Climate Adaptation project.

Within our pilot site area, CI Liberia has focused on several actions towards developing an integrated landscape plan for Northern Nimba. CI provided technical assistance to AML to host a stakeholder workshop in Nimba. The goals of the workshop were to build consensus, develop a joint landscape plan in Nimba that harmonizes conservation, community livelihood, and development priorities, and to establish an appropriate governance structure for long term management of the Nimba landscape. Following the workshop, CI's program team worked with the Nimba stakeholders and HQ staff to develop action plans, maps, budgets, timelines and additional supporting documents. (See AML-CEPF Workshop Report, Appendix 7.) This workshop, along with an additional workshop sponsored by CI have aimed to further develop the Nimba Biodiversity conservation program an effort of AML and its partners to implement a comprehensive conservation program in Northern Nimba with the mutually reinforcing goals of biodiversity conservation and economic development. While a full plan has not yet been finalized, as we are following stakeholder (particularly community) engagement best practices which will require ongoing consultation to secure full buy in and participation.

We have to date conducted 1) desktop review and assessment of current data required to appropriately inform the land use planning process. This assessment has informed a gap analysis which was conducted to identify existing data sets and any additional data required to determine appropriate land use zoning in the NNCA (See Gap Analyses Appendix 8) 2) A thorough stakeholder analysis to ensure that all relevant groups are identified and their roles and responsibilities in the land use planning process are clearly understood. The analysis has facilitated the establishment of effective communication channels and the collection of information from each of the priority stakeholder groups via appropriate means. In order to ensure the sustainability of this work we have secured funding from AML to support the landscape scale conservation area in the coming year.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

While much of the groundwork has been completed the land use plan for the Northern Nimba Conservation Area has not yet been fully developed. This is due to the various land use claims and expectations and the fact that in order to avoid conflict a much more thorough process has been proposed. CI has secured from AML commitment to continue to support the process beyond the life of the CEPF project thus ensuring it will be delivered despite the delay.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Please find attached in the appendices the following:

- CRISTAL training report
- LTF White Paper/ Options Assessment
- East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) Protected areas Business Planning Framework
- SADS Feasibility assessment for Conservation Agreements
- Feasibility assessment for Conservation Agreements (by RICCE)
- IBAT training Report
- AML-CEPF Workshop Report
- Gap Analysis Report

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Key to the success in this project was CEPF's involvement in encouraging a project amendment. Despite our early best intentions this initial project design was too ambitious. The CEPF team recognized this early on and helped focus the project design in order to be more effective. Focusing on a key demonstration in one landscape has helped us to ensure implementation of deliverables, buy in of all stakeholders and future financing to ensure long term sustainability of the project.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Overall the success of this project has depended on engagement with and alignment of all key partners working in the Nimba region. While at times building consensus has delayed our expected delivery of specific tasks CI learned early on that this was key to the overall adoption and buy in leading to the project's success. For this reason, CI has applied an adaptive management approach throughout implementation ensuring that all key stakeholders had involvement in major decisions which will affect all in the long run.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

CI Liberia has had a challenging year and operated with a limited staffing structure. We have realized that in order to be fully effective in implementing this grant (as well as our programmatic strategy), we must develop capacity within our Liberia organization through recruitment. We have considered the feedback of our partners, consultants and stakeholders and made subsequent adjustments to our overall project plans; this

includes committing only to having drafted recommendations towards a land use plan by the end of the project -- completing this plan will require additional time to consult and gain buy-in before the plan can be adopted. Over the course of implementing its consolidation project, CI learned the following:

1. There is a continual need to foster, build, and reinforce relationships with Nimba county local government if conservation outcomes and green economies must be achieved in the NNCA.
2. CI recognized the importance of promoting participation and capacity-enhancement activities at the community level to get the community's trust, acceptance and ownership of project activities.
3. CI needed to build strong collaborative partnership with all key actors involved in community forestry, biodiversity conservation, and alternative livelihoods activities in NNCA, especially with community forestry management bodies, local and international NGOs and developmental partners in the area. These partners can now articulate CI project objectives and have keen understanding CI's concept of green economies for Nimba county.
4. Strengthening the community decision-making process is essential for smooth project implementation.
5. Actions that address poverty, unsustainable natural resource management and forest governance in NNCA must be included in livelihood projects.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Conservation International	<i>Project co-financing</i>	\$100,000	CI core support to the Northern Nimba Conservation program
USAID	<i>Regional/Portfolio leveraging</i>	\$14 million	Participation in coordination meetings
AML	<i>Grantee and Partner leveraging</i>	\$613,000	Conservation Agreements; environmental awareness and education; priority area zoning- In grant to CI
AML	<i>Regional/Portfolio leveraging</i>	\$500,000/yr	Investment in the Nimba Biodiversity Conservation Program

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

We believe we have addresses key sustainability issues by ensuring local ownership of the overall program. Local government and community members have been involved in every step of the program. Furthermore, we have signed a four-year collaboration agreement with AML to continue financing the activities that were begun under the CEPF project. Finally, CI and USAID have agreed to monitor and align activities at the community level ensuring overall sustainability for at least a 5 year initiative.

One key concern for replicability of this initiative is the amount of funding that has been invested in this work to date by all partners. If this project is to achieve national scale targets all partners will need to streamline their programs.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

During the life of this project, and based on its success, Chevron Liberia has asked CI to begin similar work in Grand Bassa county. We believe that these projects could establish a national framework for Corporate Social Responsibility in Liberia.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

To reduce the risk of conflict with communities, CI utilized stakeholder mapping, engagement, consultations and analysis to promote participation and consensus-building on the CEPF project. Regarding feasibility assessments, CI abided by the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) practices to obtain key information during visits to communities.

There are a number of NGOs working in the area: as such, it is possible that development and conservation efforts in the area may be duplicated. To reduce this risk, CI has supported the establishment of an NGO coordination group in the Nimba superintendent's office. To date, and based on CI's effort, the local county government has ensured that all environmental and forestry partners working in the area submit regular updates and participate in NGO coordination meetings.

Additional Comments/Recommendations
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Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	yes	13,500	13,500	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. East Nimba Nature Reserve
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	n/a			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	13,500	13,500	East Nimba Nature Reserve
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	10,000	10,000	Community forests around ENNR including , Bleih, Bah and Zor by collaborating with USAID funded LRCFP and PROSPER
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				While this project laid the foundation for socioeconomic benefits through conservation agreements these have yet to be realized

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

