
CALL FOR TENDER

MAKING COMMUNITY FORESTRY WORK IN LIBERIA & BEYOND, A SCOPING STUDY

1. Title of Project:

Scoping paper on making community forestry work in Liberia & beyond

2. Background and rationale

The long-term aim of this work is to create awareness among EU donors on the economic, social and ecological benefits of community forestry, thereby creating a policy and investment environment that is supportive of community forest enterprises (CFEs).

This support could come through the form of increased funding (private or public), strengthened supply chains, capacity-building programmes, schemes, or other supportive policy measures like preferential tax regimes, public procurement policies, etc. One of the key aims of this project is indeed to define what supportive measures could look like from the EU's side.

Such EU measures could inter alia include: allocation of funding to CFEs in the next round of EU country strategy papers, and ensuring national Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes address the domestic market, inter alia by supporting organisation and self-regulation between groups of chainsaw loggers.

Fern has done considerable work around community forestry, and community forestry is an important part of our work in Liberia, Republic of Congo (RoC), Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon. We have therefore a good understanding of the conditions that allow for community forestry to work as well as the problems being faced.

We know that for economic, social, environmental and climate reasons CFE in many countries hold the key to equitable and sustainable development and, as pointed out by IIED, *“that developers of REDD+, FLEGT [Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade], NDCs [Nationally Determined Contributions], FIP [Forest Investment Programme] etc. need to consider seriously whether their aims can be met without putting support to CFEs at the heart of these programmes”*.

This scoping study will look at these broader questions, but begin with a focus on documenting the conditions required to making it work in Liberia. Why Liberia? We know that local partners in Liberia are keen to work with us on this and that over 120 community forest management areas (CFMAs) have been allocated.

With the new CFMAs, Liberia presents both a big opportunity and a big risk – as there is already evidence that many CFMAs have been developed covertly between logging companies and local elites, without the consent of most of the community. It is therefore important to develop some examples of good practice on the ground – to show both that it is possible for a community to govern themselves, and that they can develop community enterprises that are sustainable. Time is of the essence here.

To move this work forward in Liberia, however, we need to develop a concrete proposal and find the funding to implement it. This is the aim of this scoping exercise.

3. Aim of the scoping report & outputs

Aims of this project

- (1) Developing an internal scoping paper to give Fern and its Liberian partners a better understanding of the possibilities of and conditions for developing CFE in Liberia and options for funding this work in future.
- (2) Developing an analysis of the focus or lack thereof on CFEs in existing NDC positions and the European Commission's existing Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) in Cameroon, CAR, Ghana, Liberia and RoC.
- (3) Identifying which policy options exist for EU Member States' governments to support CFEs.

Concrete outputs

1. Mission report of trip to Liberia that can be easily turned into a joint funding proposal and analysis of possible interested donors.
2. A report on treatment of CFEs in key CSPs and NDCs in Cameroon, CAR, Ghana, Liberia and RoC.
3. An assessment of possible EU and Member State levers to promote and support CFEs.

4. Methodology

The methodology for the research will include:

- Background reading of relevant literature on community forestry in Liberia (key resources to be provided by Fern) and preparatory interviews.
- A trip to Liberia to work with partners to develop a proposal for a community forestry pilot project.
- Desk review of CSPs and NDCs in five of Fern's focus countries (Cameroon, CAR, Ghana, Liberia & RoC) to examine to what extent CFEs are promoted; recommendations for how these could be strengthened in the next round of CSPs and NDCs.
- Make recommendations of possible EU Member States' policy levers to promote and support CFEs.
- Scope out possible interested donors for the Liberia pilot project and provide a list to Fern.

5. Timeline

The call for tender will close on 6 September. Draft reports should ideally be completed by 30 October 2017. It will then receive comments from Fern staff. The final reports should ideally be completed by 30 November 2017.