

# LIBERIA'S NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY

Saah A. David, Jr

National Program Coordinator  
REDD+ Implementation Unit

Forestry Development Authority

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# Outline:

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# NFI Overview In Liberia



A *Berlinia* tree in the Gio National Forest,

ZM 115 855

# Scope Of National Forest Inventory Of Liberia 2018/2019

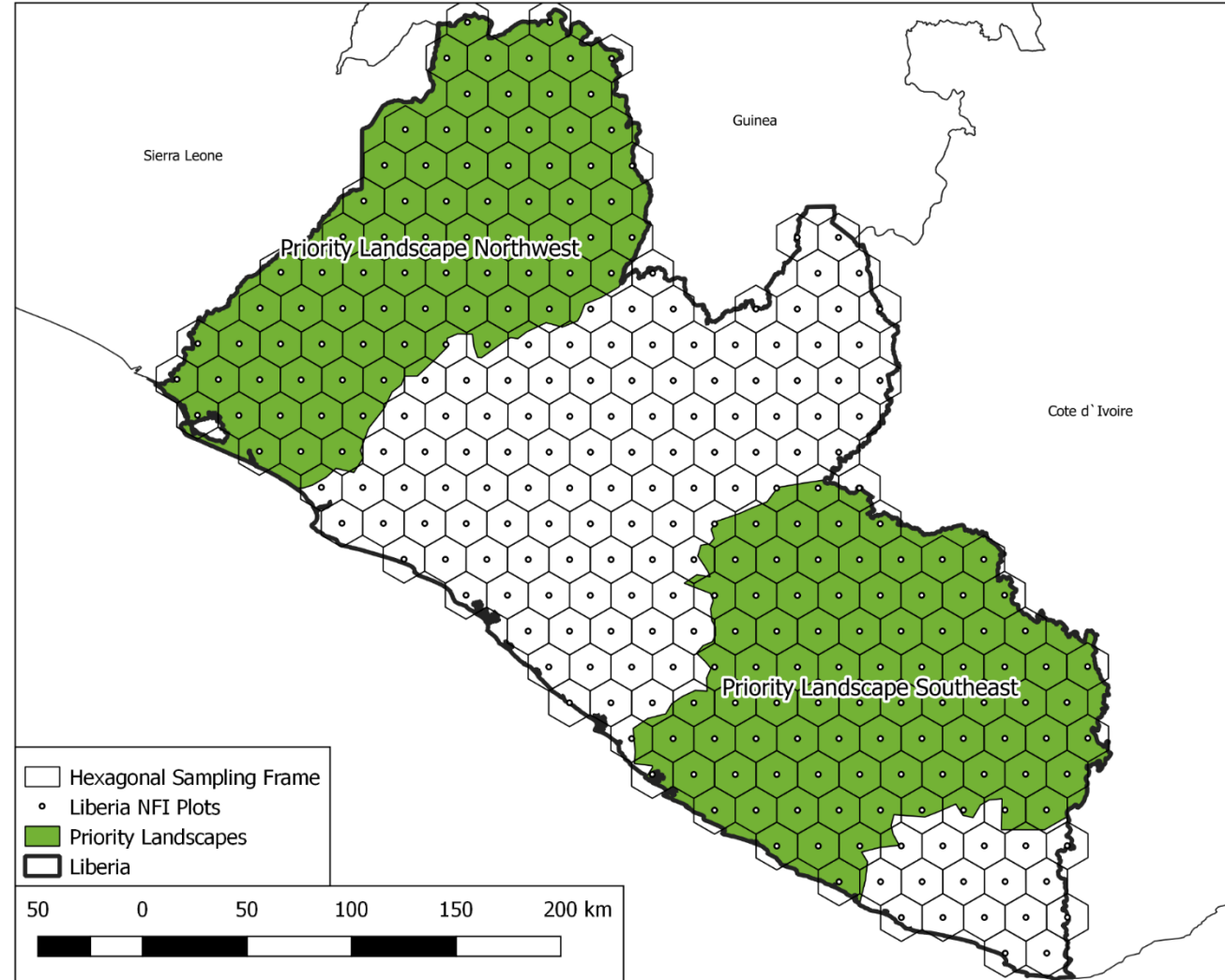
- Forests in Liberia have regional and international importance
- Liberia's forests under threat
  - Charcoal production, illegal logging and agricultural expansion
- Deforestation rates have been increasing since the end of the civil conflict
- Lack of in-country expertise to effectively manage forests
- Lack of suitable data to report on the status of Liberia's forests
- REDD+ Program
  - Potential for international investment through Results Based Payments
  - Non-carbon benefits

# Objectives Of The National Forest Inventory

- **Enable regular MRV activities**
  - Status and trends of forest ecosystems
  - Distribution of plant species & Biomass (Emissions Factors)
  - Changes in forest structure
  - Enable forest growth predictions (Include removals in FREL)
- **Development of national capacities to continue monitoring for management and policy making purposes**
  - Over 70 FDA staff and students capacitated to undertake regular forest monitoring
  - FDA staff trained in data cleaning, analysis and interpretation
  - Research activities remain constrained?

# Sampling Design & Carbon Pool

- Optimization process used to select the sampling frame size
  - Per ha biomass, walking speeds & enumeration time
- 285 clusters with 5 plots per cluster, 18m radius
- 10% margin of error with a 90% confidence level
- **Carbon pools** enumerated included – AGB, BGB(root-to-shoot ration)and deadwood (FWD&CWD)



# In-country Capacity And Constraints

The REDD+ program funding under the LFSP and FCPF provided the enabling environment for in-country capacity building including both Financial and Technical capacities:



**Financial capacity:** Liberia challenged with regards to Government support to the REDD+ program. All activities supported by donors, maintenance of the capacities already built, dependent on reliable source of funds.



**Technical capacity:** Liberia received technical support from FAO during the implementation of the NFI. Ongoing support within the sector will serve to retain key staff and skills. Research remains a challenge and accessing academic staff for support key to skills retention

# In-country Capacity And Constraints



**Core Capacity:** Management capacity within the country remains weak. Technical capacity within forest sector is improving but translating data into informed decision making remains an ongoing challenge.



**ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT**

**Enabling environment:** Legacy of the civil conflict present through all environmental sectors. Lack of trust and coordination between stakeholders and ultimately conflicts of interest. Poor infrastructure exacerbates challenges around the enabling environment.





# Institutionalization Of NFI Data For Decision-making

**Forest data** in Liberia should be used for informed decision-making in the *forest sector* and others including the usage of *NFI for REDD+ reporting*, the preparation of *National GHG inventories, Biennial update report and even under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (PA article 13)*.

- **Mainstreaming legal and institutional arrangements for REDD+ (MRV)**
  - Liberia has no legal framework supporting NFMS and IA for REDD+
  - Present Institutional Arrangements make use of MOUs between relevant ministries and institutions (unsustainable)
  - Academia not included in the Institutional Arrangements
- **International reporting**
  - Reporting to UNFCCC requires suitable NFI data as well as data management and reporting systems
  - Fragmented policy environment results in inconsistent reporting (e.g. FREL vs National Communications)

# Conclusion & Recommendations

- Technical support from FAO has enhanced in-country capacity
  - Ongoing support required to mitigate impacts of staff turnover
  - Technical skills need ongoing support (e.g. processing NFI data)
  - Informed decisions outside REDD+ program
- Research activities within the country remain linked to development support & NGO activities
  - Closer links with academia within and outside Liberia
  - Increase academic involvement in MRV activities
- Enabling environment should facilitate consistent reporting
  - Leadership required to align stakeholders and processes (IA & Reporting)



Thanks