



# LIBERIA – EU BUSINESS FORUM

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

**A New Environment: New  
Opportunities**

# Agenda

1. Objectives
2. Introduction -Context
3. Historical Timeline
4. Liberia's Vision for the Forest Sector
5. Investment Opportunities Across the 4 C's
6. Current Investment Scenario and Process
7. Achievements and Investment Opportunities
8. Conclusion



# Objectives

This presentation seeks to:

- Present Liberia's forest sector in terms of its investment potential
- Share investment processes and requirements
- Highlight the country's achievements towards sustainable forest management



# Introduction-Context



Liberia has a land mass of approximately 111,369 square kilometers (43,000 square miles) and is located on the west coast of Africa, bordering Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The country has significant forest cover constituting notably more than **42%** of the Upper Guinean forest, one of West Africa's most biologically diverse ecological zones, and plays a significant role in supporting rich biodiversity, regulating watersheds, sustaining rural livelihoods, contributing to climate regulation, and economic well-being.

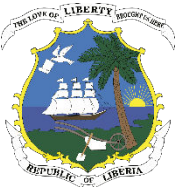


# Introduction-Context



Liberia has a diverse specification of indigenous plant and animal species including:

- ❖ 590 bird species;
- ❖ 125 mammal species;
- ❖ 74 reptile and amphibian species;
- ❖ 1,000 insect species;
- ❖ 2,000 flowering plants, 59 endemic to Liberia;
- ❖ 240 known timber species with less than 60 species being harvested



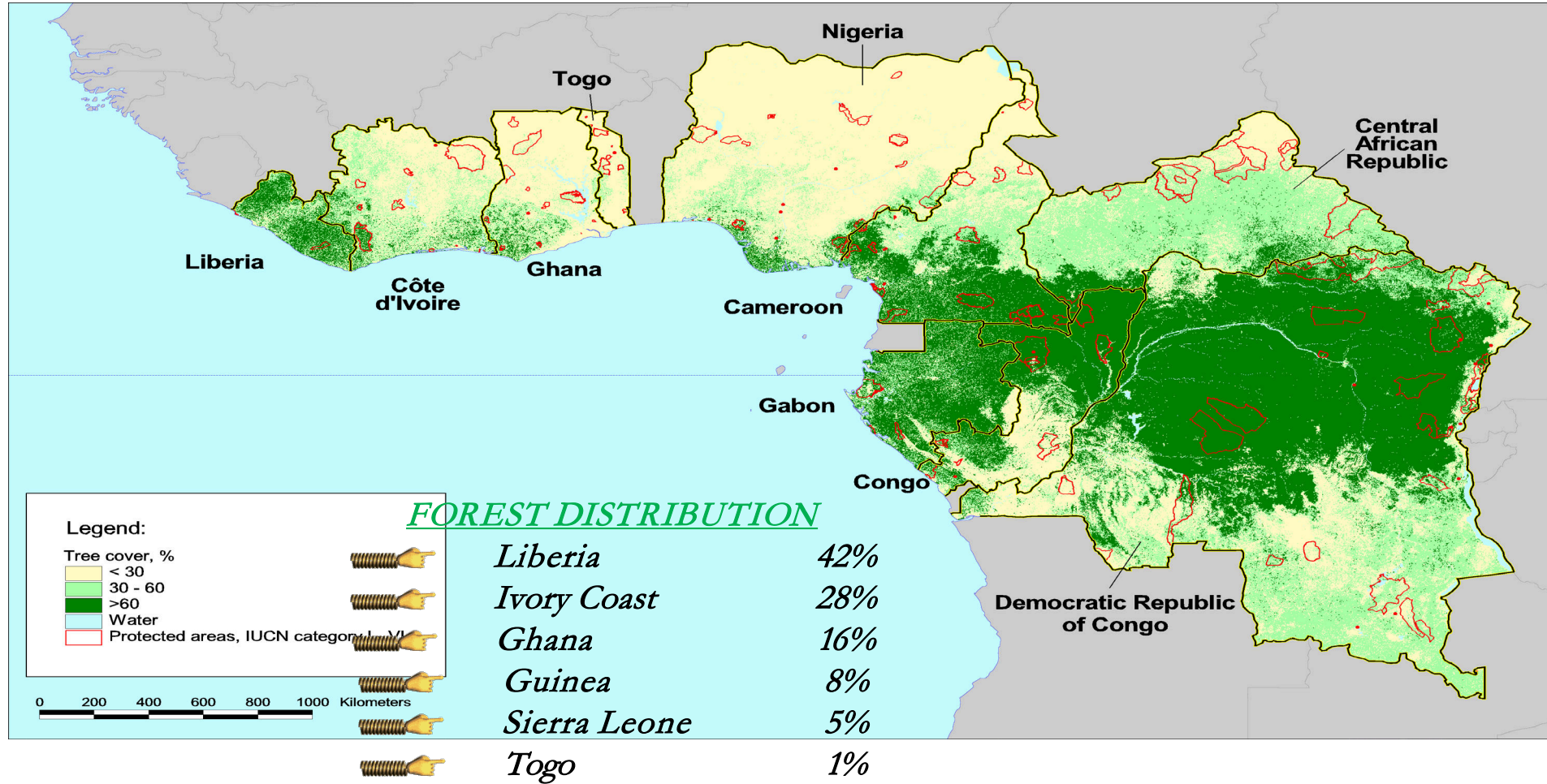
# Location of Liberia

- Liberia lies entirely within the humid Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem, which is shared by six (6) West African countries.
- Liberia occupies 42% of this vast landscape
- The country is located on the west coast of Africa and falls within latitudes  $4^{\circ}10'$ - $9^{\circ}45'$  north of the equator and longitudes  $7^{\circ}20'$ - $11^{\circ}30'$  west of the Greenwich Meridian.
- 45% of Liberia is covered by rain forest
- It's land area 9.58 million hectares





# Location of Liberia: Upper Guinea Rainforest Distribution





# Historical Timeline

Establishment of  
Bureau of Forests  
and Wildlife  
Conservation

1953

1963-  
1965

First Forest  
Inventory  
conducted

Status changed to  
the Forestry  
Development  
Authority

1976

Liberia identified as  
one of the world's  
biodiversity  
hotspots

1999

UN ban on  
Liberia timber  
exports

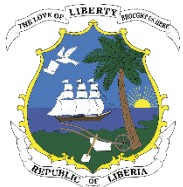
2003-  
2006

Passage of  
the  
National  
Forestry  
Reform  
Law and  
UN ban  
lifted

2006

National Forest  
Inventory  
conducted

2017-2018



# Liberia's Vision for the Forestry Sector



“Sustainable forestry for sustainable socio-economic development.”



The FDA also aims to stop waste and destruction of forests, promote profitable harvesting of forest products, processing (value addition), and integrate forestry with other land uses.



Manage forest and wildlife resources to meet the needs of the present and future generations.



# Investment Opportunities Across the “4Cs” under the ARREST Agenda



## **Commercial Forestry**

- ✓ Sustainable timber concessions
- ✓ Value-added wood processing (sawmilling, plywood, furniture)
- ✓ Export-oriented legal timber operations

## **Community Forestry**

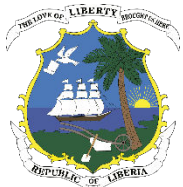
- ✓ Community forest management enterprises
- ✓ Outgrower and aggregation models
- ✓ SME partnerships with local forest owners

## **Conservation & Ecotourism**

- ✓ Biodiversity offsets
- ✓ Conservation concessions
- ✓ Nature-based tourism investments in collaboration with the Liberia National Tourism Authority (LNTA)

## **Carbon & Climate Finance**

- ✓ REDD+ projects including restoration in potential carbon sites
- ✓ Voluntary carbon market initiatives
- ✓ Compliance carbon market initiatives



# Commercial Forestry

**Forest Management Contract (FMC):** This license is between 50,000 to 400,000 hectares, typically granted for a period of 25 years.

**Timber Sale Contract (TSC):** This license is not for more than 5,000 hectares for a period of three years.

**The Forest Use Permit (FUP):** Permits issued for academia and research purposes

**The Private Use Permit (PUP):** Licenses issued for commercial purposes on private property.



# Community Forestry



## **Community Forest Management Agreement**

**(CFMA)**: Investor-Community forest concession for not more than 15 yrs covering not more than (up to 49,000 hectares)

**Forest Landscape Restoration**: Rehabilitating existing forest plantations and establishing new plantations (including fruit trees) in degraded forestland

## **Agroforestry systems with high-value crops**:

Develop mixed tree-and-crop systems (e.g., cocoa, rubber, coffee with shade trees) that produce both timber and agricultural products for local and export markets

## **Sustainable NTFP commercialization**:

Harvest and process non-timber forest products (honey, nuts, bamboo and rattan) as diversified income from working forests



# Forest Conservation



**Ecotourism** – Due to decades of sustainable forest management practices, Liberia has huge potential for ecotourism. These areas include Gola Forest National Park, Sapo National Park, East Nimba Nature Reserve, Marshall Wetlands, and Lake Piso Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve. The FDA is working in collaboration with the LNTA to raise the profiles of these areas and attract investors.

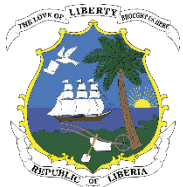
**Biodiversity Conservation:** Liberia is home to the pygmy hippo, western chimpanzee, and forest elephant among other rare species



# Forest Conservation

**Conservation Agreement:** Developed by the FDA to have a standard approach for negotiating and contracting between communities and third parties. Our aim is to balance biodiversity protection with economic opportunities.

**Partnerships:** There are opportunities for expanding on existing partnerships and creating new ones



# Carbon Harvesting and Trading

- Liberia is positioned as a primary player with a huge potential for carbon sequestration; as such, the government is actively pursuing carbon market opportunities to fund forest conservation and support sustainable development
- Liberia submitted its second Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in January 2026; a key criteria for carbon trading
- A National Climate and Carbon Framework is under development



# Current Investment Picture in the sector

- FDA has issued Fifty-Seven (57) Commercial Forestry Operations Permits
- There are Ten (10) Active operators including FMCs & CFMAs
- Ecotourism is emerging as a business prospect in Liberia with current major investments including: LIBASSA Ecolodge, Warkolor Jungle Ecolodge and Nimba Ecolodge. The FDA is working with the LNTA to create an enabling environment for profitable ecotourism ventures across Liberia.



# Investment Process & Requirements



- **Investment opportunities:** must conform to the legal framework governing the forestry sector of Liberia
- **Pre-qualification:** Companies must meet specific criteria and demonstrate the capacity to carry out proposed operations sustainably.
- **Performance Bonds:** Successful bidders are required to post a performance bond, the amount of which varies depending on the contract type (TSCs, small FMCs, large FMCs).
- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment**
- **Tax Clearance**
- **Harvesting Certificate**



# Achievements and Investment Opportunities



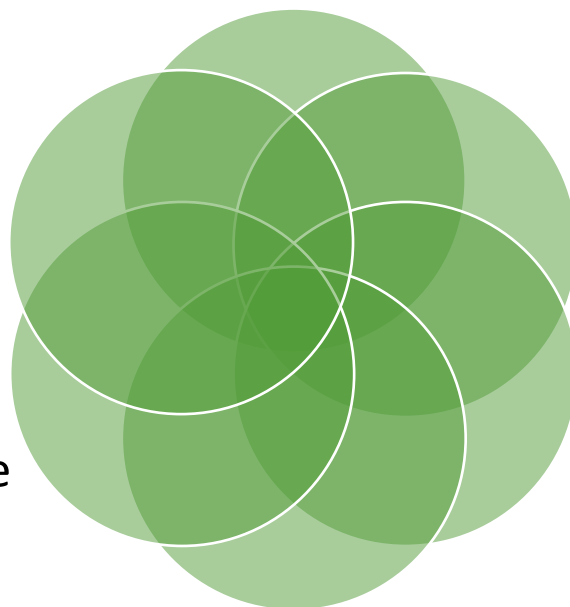
Lifting of Sanctions and resumption of timber trade

Expansion of the Protected Area Network and wider conservation of forest and fauna

Establishment of the Carbon Markets Authority

Readiness for climate change and REDD+

Building a Timber Legality Assurance System contemplated under VPA



Development of Community Forestry: The Community Rights Law and the growing network of community forests



# Conclusion



- To realize the full potential of these opportunities, a robust framework is essential, hence, Liberia is pursuing the following:
- **Innovative Financing:** A blend of innovative financing mechanisms, including green bonds, climate funding, and public-private partnerships (PPPs), which is needed to meet the required scale of investment.
- **Community Engagement:** Successful investments that ensure equitable benefit-sharing and genuine community involvement in forest management, empowering local populations as custodians of the resource
- **Improve Infrastructure Development** to enhance investment opportunities.



# Thank You

[rmerab14@gmail.com](mailto:rmerab14@gmail.com)