

# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon (LGAT-C+): Application to Liberia

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# OUTLINE

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- Introduce the LGAT-C+ tool
- Present illustrative results from “pilot” application to two landscapes
- Value proposition of the LGAT-C+ platform

# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon LGAT-C+

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## CONTEXT

- Global efforts to scale carbon markets and climate finance demand inclusive engagement.

## OBJECTIVE

- To deploy a transparent and inclusive process to ensure inclusive approach to carbon finance and equitable benefit sharing arrangements

# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon LGAT-C+

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Landscape governance is the process of multi-sector, multi-actor, and multi-level interactions and spatial decision-making at the landscape level: considers all the factors that affect how people use resources in that area.



## INTRODUCING THE LGAT TOOL

- Developed to assess the strengths and weaknesses of forested landscape governance to identify practical pathways for reform.
  - Focused on 10 landscape governance challenges, and solicited answers to 30 questions (indicators).
  - Resulting scores provide insights into what aspects of landscape governance are working and the areas that need improvement.
- Foundation for the LGAT-C+



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## LGAT-C+ TOOL (adapted from LGAT)

- Support an inclusive and transparent process to identify the governance challenges that undermine the efforts to accord or strengthen ownership to national and local stakeholders in the context of carbon markets
- Includes a dedicated focus on carbon finance and benefit sharing for carbon credit emission reductions
- Expanded to 12 landscape governance challenges, and 40 associated indicator questions

# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon

## **TWELVE CHALLENGES OF THE LGAT-C+**



# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon

## SCORING THE TOOL

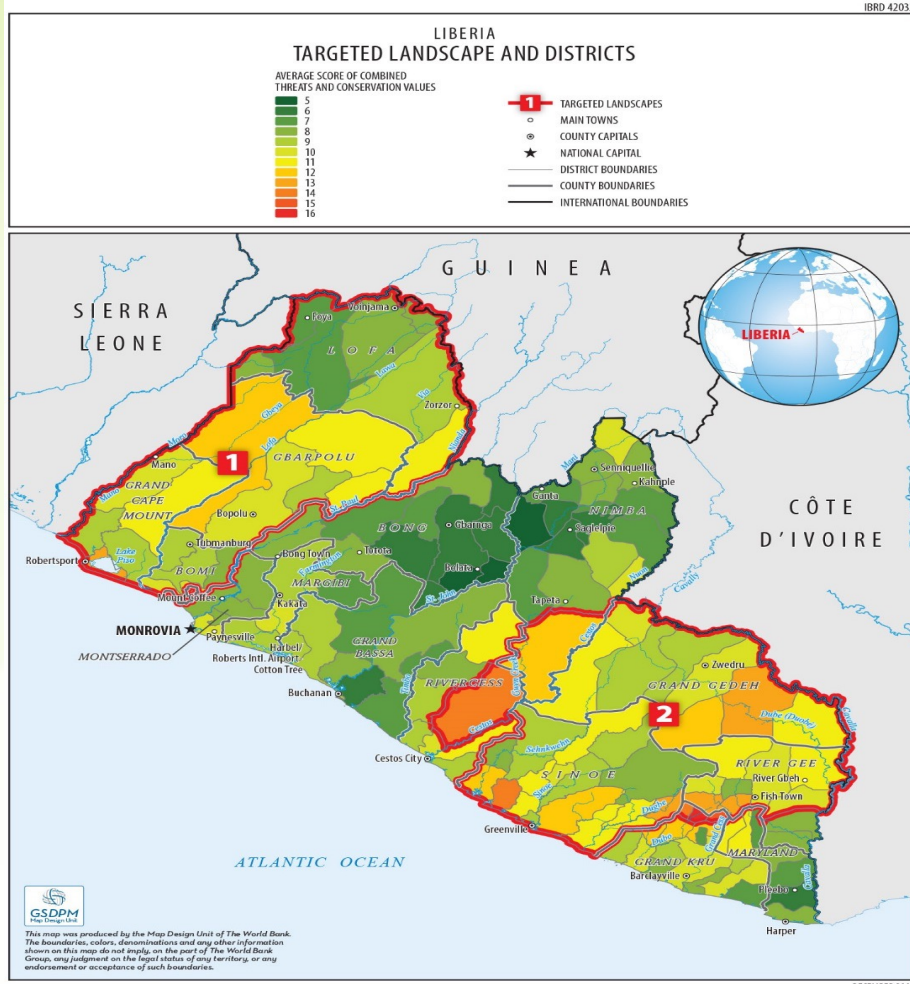
- Each **indicator** scored for **status** (current condition) on a 1 to 5 scale, from worst to best
- Each **indicator** scored for a **trend** (positive, negative, or neutral) reflecting direction of change
- Level of **confidence** (high, moderate or neutral) assigned to status and trend **scores**.
- Scorers invited to add **qualitative comments** relevant to their scoring

## PILOTING THE TOOL

- Tool applied to **two** high **priority forest landscapes** in Liberia.
- Inputs sought from 25 experts, of which **16 experts** responded; with engagement in multiple sessions.
- Experts brought **In-country and international expertise** covering a broad range of **skills** (policy, legal, and on the ground experiences) on forests, landscapes, and carbon/climate finance.



# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon TOOL TESTED FOR TWO FOREST LANDSCAPES IN LIBERIA



## Key characteristics of the two landscapes

- Extent of forest cover  
NW: 55%, SE: 65%
- Area under logging concessions  
NW: 30%, SE: 27%
- Area under agriculture concessions  
NW: 8%, SE: 11%
- Protected areas (existing and proposed)  
NW: 21%, SE: 25%
- Poverty levels  
NW: 63.5%, SE: 69.1%
- Vulnerability of forests from community subsistence activities  
NW: 32%, SE: 22%

- These forests were identified as priority based on their conservation/carbon value and potential for degradation.



## 7. Carbon Finance & Benefit Sharing

### 7.1: Institutions in place

NW	SE
1	1
4	4
4	4
4	4
5	4

#### 7.1 Scoring

1. None or very few institutions & requirements in place.
2. Less than half of the institutions & requirements in place.
3. About half of the institutions and requirements in place.
4. **More than half of the institutions and requirements in place.**
5. All or almost all of the institutions and requirements in place.

### 7.2 Carbon laws clear

NW	SE
1	1
1	1
1	2
3	2
4	2

#### 7.2 Scores

1. There are many **major gaps or weaknesses in the legal framework.**
2. There are some **major gaps or weaknesses in the legal framework.**
3. There are many minor gaps in the legal framework.
4. There are some minor gaps in the legal framework.
5. There are no gaps or weaknesses in the legal framework.

### 7.3 Non-C benefit sharing

NW	SE
1	2
2	2
3	2
3	3
5	4
	4









#### 7.3 Scores

1. Mechanisms channel benefits to very few.
2. **Mechanisms channel benefits to some, but there are glaring inequities.**
3. **Mechanisms channel benefits to many but not to most eligible communities or households (HH)**
4. Mechanisms channel benefits equitably to most of the eligible communities or HHs
5. Mechanisms channel benefits equitably to all eligible communities or HHs

Scoring (1-5) & Confidence level. Green=High Yellow=Moderate Gray=Neutral






## 7. Carbon Finance & Benefit Sharing – some takeaways

### 7.1: Institutions in place

NW	SE
1	1 
4 	4
4 	4 
4 	4 
5 	4 









More than half the institutions are in place, and moving in the right direction (*High Confidence*)

### 7.2 Carbon laws clear

NW	SE
1	1
1	1 
1 	2
3	2 
4 	2 

Major gaps on carbon market regulations persist, with some positive movement (*Overall High C*)

### 7.3 Non-C benefit sharing

NW	SE
1	2
2 	2 
3 	2 
3	3 
5 	4 
	4 

Existing benefit sharing in forest sector: mixed view on these for carbon market

## 7.4 Flow-of-funds (carbon revenues)

NW	SE
1	1
1	1
1	1
1	1
1	3

1. Absolutely no clarity on the plan for such a system.  
 2. There are some ideas but unclear that they are workable.  
 3. There is a fairly complete plan but its workability is doubtful.  
 4. There is a clear plan but its workability is not guaranteed.  
 5. There is a clear and conclusive plan for a workable system.

## 7.5 Community governance (and benefit sharing)

NW	SE
1	1
1	1
1	2
2	2
3	2
	3

1. No community, or very few communities in the landscape are likely to share benefits equitably.  
 2. Some ..... likely to share benefits equitably.  
 3. Many,,,,,likely to share benefits equitably.  
 4. Most .....likely to share benefits equitably.  
 5. All communities in the landscape are likely to share benefits equitably.

## 7.6 Informed participants (C finance programs)

NW	SE
1	1
1	2
1	2
2	3
3	3

1.No or very few participants have heard about these projects  
 2.Some have heard but only a few understand the benefits and costs  
 3.Many have heard &some understand the benefits and costs  
 4.Most have heard &many understand the benefits and costs  
 5.All have heard & almost all understand the benefits and costs

Scoring (1-5) & Confidence level. Green=High Yellow=Moderate Gray=Neutral



# Some takeaways

## 7.4 Flow-of-funds (carbon revenues)

NW	SE
1	1
1	1
1	1
1	1
1	3

No clear plan for flow of carbon revenues and lack of clarity on pathway ahead (*High C*)

## 7.5 Community governance (and benefit sharing)

NW	SE
1	1
1	1
1	2
2	2
3	2
	3

Range of views on this issue – less convergence

## 7.6 Informed participants (C finance programs)

NW	SE
1	1
1	2
1	2
2	3
3	3

Mixed views on how informed participants are on this issue – less convergence

# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon LGAT-C+

## Possible actions – AI generated\* (and verified)

Challenge Area 7: Carbon Finance	Challenge Area 8: Benefit Sharing
<p><b>7.1 REDD+ Readiness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify which governance elements scored below average in the readiness index and why.</li><li>- Create a roadmap for addressing the three lowest-scoring REDD+ readiness areas.</li></ul> <p><b>7.2 Legal Framework for Carbon Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Analyze where legal uncertainty about carbon ownership has caused project hesitation or blockage.</li><li>- Track how different institutions interpret carbon-related provisions of the LRA.</li></ul> <p><b>7.3 Equitable Benefit Sharing (Non-Carbon Revenues)</b></p> <p>Compare promised vs. actual benefits received by communities from FMCs and other arrangements.</p> <p>Gather testimonies on benefit-sharing challenges from different counties for pattern recognition.</p>	<p><b>8.1 Carbon Benefit Flow Mechanisms</b></p> <p>Identify gaps in institutional design that prevent timely and equitable benefit distribution.</p> <p>Document how current or past benefit delivery mechanisms led to tensions or conflict.</p> <p><b>8.2 Equitable Distribution by Communities</b></p> <p>Record internal governance structures used by communities to distribute benefits.</p> <p>Analyze how power dynamics (e.g. chiefs, elites) influence distribution outcomes.</p> <p><b>8.3 Awareness of Carbon Finance</b></p> <p>Conduct baseline assessments of knowledge on carbon markets and REDD+ in target communities.</p> <p>Compare awareness levels across counties and forest zones.</p>

*\* AI allowed extensive inputs to be analyzed and distilled – enhancing objectivity of reform actions*

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## VALUE CONTRIBUTION:

- Helps identify needs and gaps with a focus on carbon finance and critically related governance aspects
- Systematically collects information from a wide range of stakeholder
- Serves as neutral platform to consolidate diversity of opinions and perceptions (easily enhanced with AI)
- Brings transparency to priority reforms and actions—for further deliberation and implementation
- Can help set a baseline for monitoring progress





# Landscape Governance Assessment Tool for Carbon LGAT-C+

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## DISCUSSION



- Overall feedback on the scope and approach of LGAT+C?
- Scope for application to other localities?
- Any other suggestions?

- *The Liberia NDC 2.0 stock-take recognizes the role of carbon markets to leverage climate finance and the need to pursue inclusive, transparent approaches to climate action.*
  - *The LGAT-C+ provides a platform to support positive and productive outcomes in this context*
  - *Tool also to be extended to other countries in the Upper Guinea Biome in support of the SCALE program.*



# Thank you

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