



the sustainable  
trade initiative



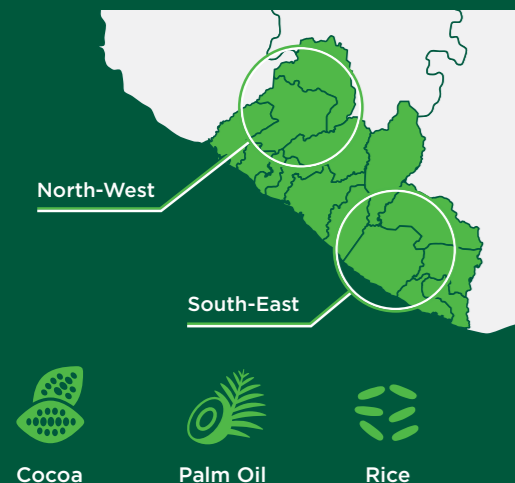
# IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative

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LIBERIA

Strengthening land  
governance, improving  
livelihoods and  
protecting forests

IDH brings together governments, companies, CSOs, local communities and financiers in action driven coalitions to tackle global issues such as deforestation linked to agriculture production, poverty and climate change.



IDH's landscape approach in Liberia is based on strengthening land governance and securing community land rights, improving food security and diversification of income in rural areas. Alongside this it also develops supply chains and investment opportunities that offer communities options to increase agricultural productivity while protecting forests. IDH is working in two landscapes: The South East and North West, with target communities in Lofa and Sinoe Counties. Key commodities we work on are palm oil, cocoa and rice.



## LAND GOVERNANCE

Achievements in 2019

- Facilitated the preparation of a Participatory Land Use Plan (PLUP) for Foya Statutory District in Lofa County covering 61,521 hectares of land.** The PLUP package contains a technical report and maps including Agricultural Capability and Spatial Development Plan. The plan was adopted on June 27th, 2019 in Foya City.
- Supported six communities in Foya to complete the Community Self Identification (CSI) process, the first step that communities must complete when formalizing their land claims.** The communities presented requests for recognition as Customary Land-Owning Communities to the Liberia Land Authority on December 16th, 2019 – being the first in the nation to do so. Once certificated, the communities' ownership of 56,715 hectares of their customary land will be formally recognized.
- Facilitated stakeholders in Foya to develop a Production Protection Inclusion Compact (PPI).** The Compact highlights their vision and commitment to improving agricultural practices, conserving and protecting environmental resources, and addressing the rights of women and other marginalized groups.
- Enabled the preparation of a Participatory Land Use Plan (PLUP) for Kpanyan Statutory District in Sinoe County covering 100,338 hectares of land.** The PLUP package contains a technical report and maps including Agricultural Capability and Spatial Development Plan for each of the three Administrative Districts in Kpanyan.



## IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Achievements in 2019

- Supported the Farmers Union Network and Ministry of Agriculture to establish 94 labour-sharing farming groups, known as Kuus.** The 98 kuus comprise of over 460 farmers in 25 communities and 4 districts in Sinoe County. The farmers were trained to adopt sustainability practices such as: crop rotation, inter-cropping, 'no slash and burns', compost making and improved pest and disease control.
- Farmers participating in the Kuus increased their production of staple food and vegetables for consumption and the local markets.** Cumulative sales of the Kuus amounted to LD \$9,586,496 or 47,932 USD.
- A total of 9,586 fruit tree seedlings were produced by the project communities.** This is 47% of the 24,400 fruit tree seedlings targeted for production and out-planting within the communities covered, therewith seeking to improve the health and nutrition situation in a region where over 63% of the respondents to our baseline study reported experiencing food insecurity and regular 'hunger months'.
- Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have been initially established in 10 of the 25 communities in Sinoe County with membership totalling 202 community dwellers.** The VSLAs accumulated savings of over LD \$1.9 million or \$2,000 USD, issuing \$1 million LD or \$1,000 USD equivalent in loans.
- In Foya, Lofa County working with local cooperatives such as Intofawor, Maliando and Rural Women and other partners- the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture established a pilot involving the outplanting of 40 ha of cocoa to promote restoration of degraded grasslands.** IDH also established 8 Farmer Field Schools promoting good agricultural practices among smallholders covering areas such as vegetable production, peas, and roots and tuber crops (cassava & potatoes). Interventions in Foya also led to the production of over 22,000 seedlings of timber trees, supported out-planting of the seedlings, and implemented inter-cropping with pigeon peas on 40 hectares of pilot plots. The pilot was implemented in partnership with Theobroma and aimed to restore vegetation on degraded areas. For this, cocoa based agroforestry was introduced to stop invasive grassland in the district from spreading further and to reduce wildfire-related disasters risk.



## SUPPLY CHAIN INCENTIVES AND INVESTMENT

Achievements in 2019

- Cocoa sector platform engaged stakeholders and structured a cocoa sector platform.** Convened cocoa sector stakeholders and activated the platform around road map development and engagement on Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA) cocoa and coffee regulation.
- Promoting Community Palm Oil;** worked with National Bureau of Concession (NBC) and key sector stakeholder to promote the community palm oil outgrower scheme in Liberia's agricultural concessions.





## NEXT STEPS FOR 2020

Scaling up IDH's Land Governance Work in the NW and SE landscapes

- 1 Facilitating PLUPs in Kolahun and Vahun Districts in Lofa County**, covering 262,462 hectares and supporting communities in both districts to formalize their customary land claims. Communities in both districts will be supported to secure an estimated 260,000 hectares of their customary land.
- 2 Facilitating PLUPs in Wedcarba and Jaedeppo Statutory Districts in Sinoe County**, covering 307,808 hectares and supporting communities in the two districts to formalize their customary land claims. Communities in the two districts will be supported to secure an estimated 300,000 hectares of their customary land.
- 3 Providing technical assistance to communities to implement the PLUPs**, develop district-level PPI Compacts and establishing community-owned and managed forests and forest resources in districts surrounding the Sapo National Park and corridors linking critical forest blocks in the NW and SE, this will significantly increase the amount of forest under protection and sustainable management.
- 4 Supporting Production, Protection and Inclusion (PPI) interventions** driven local development authorities in the areas of forest protection, food security and income diversification and investment promotion in Lofa and Sinoe Counties.

**For more information visit:**  
[www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes](http://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes)

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