# **Making the Forest Sector Transparent Liberia VPA Transparency Gap Assessment 2012**





Prepared by the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) and Global Witness, October 2012

### Introduction

The Government of Liberia and the European Union (EU) initialled a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in May 2011, which was ratified by the EU in May 2012 and awaits ratification by the Government of Liberia. Article 21 commits the parties to transparency and public access to information, and Annex IX sets out information that will be routinely published and information to be provided on request under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. It also specifies various means of publication depending on the information and target audience, including websites, multi-stakeholder platforms, public meetings, media and newsletters.

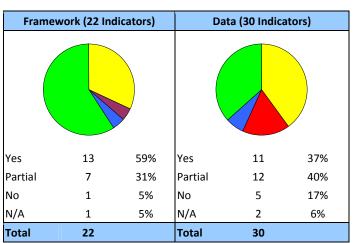
This assessment was carried out by SDI to measure what information is currently available for the items listed in Annex IX. It focuses on the information for routine publication; future assessments should also test whether information is provided on request. Although the VPA has not yet been ratified, civil society organisations participated in its negotiation and it is opportune to produce a baseline assessment against which progress can be tracked. Actions are recommended for the parties to meet their commitments.

The VPA reinforces provisions on public information in the National Forestry Reform Law (NFRL) and the Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (LEITI) Act. Together with the obligations placed on all public bodies by the FOI Act, Liberia has a strong legal framework for forest sector transparency. In practice, information management and dissemination by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and other public bodies have not met these legal requirements. Implementation of the FOI Act has been slow; an Independent Information Commissioner was only appointed in May 2012 and procedures to support public requests for information have not been established.

# **Summary Findings**

A total of 52 types of documents and data were identified under six categories of information that should be routinely published. Each one was then assessed using yes/partial/no 'traffic light' for whether the information currently exists (i.e. it is collected by the relevant authorities) and whether this information is publicly available. Some indicators were not applicable because the relevant process had not yet been implemented.

The pie charts below show the results for Framework indicators, which relate to legal documents, procedures or institutional set-ups that should be published once they are agreed; and Data indicators, which relate to reports, plans, maps and other information on forest activities that need to be regularly published over time.



Many of the laws and regulations listed in Annex IX are available, although some need to be finalised and/or published online. There are major gaps in information, notably on production, law enforcement and some types of allocation. The following table presents the 52 indicators together with notes and details of where relevant information can be accessed. It is followed by further analysis and recommendations.

The Making the Forest Sector Transparent programme is coordinated by Global Witness and works with a coalition of leading local NGOs in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia and Peru to engage policymakers and advocate for capable, responsive and accountable forest sector governance. Each partner has administered a mini-grants fund to support grassroots advocacy in their country.















# Liberia 2012 VPA Transparency Gap Assessment Indicators

**Key:** Yes — - information exists and is published

Partial — the information is incomplete, drafted and/or only available on request

No • - the information does not exist or is not published

Not Applicable • the information in question is not applicable because the process or system has not yet been implemented

**F/D:** Framework (F) – legislation, procedure, structure or other norm applied to the forest sector that needs to be published once Data (D) – report, map, statistics or other information on forest sector that needs to be published regularly over time

### Forest Resources Licences Issued by the Government under the National Forestry Reform Law Sections 5.3 to 5.6

- FMC Forest Management Contract: A long-term licence that allows the holder to manage a tract of forest land and harvest or use forest products
- TSC Timber Sales Contract: A short-term licence that allows the holder to harvest timber from a specified tract of forest land
- FUP Forest Use Permit: A licence to allow commercial use of forest land for harvest or use of non-timber forest products, harvest of small amounts of timber for community use, production of charcoal, tourism, research and education and wildlife-related activities
- PUP Private Use Permit: A licence to allow commercial use of forest resources on private land

Information Specified in Annex IX of the VPA	F/D	Exists?	Public?	Notes on Information Available in the Public Domain	Sources of Public Information			
1. Information relating specifically to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement								
(a) The VPA and all its Annexes	F	•	•	The agreement text was made available to stakeholders directly involved in the negotiations and can be accessed on the VPA website.	http://vpaliberia.com/agreement.p df			
(b) Reports produced by the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)	D	•		The first report is due at the end of 2012.				
(c) Reports produced by the independent auditor	D	•	•	The auditor has not yet been appointed.				
(d) Procedures guiding the functioning of the JIC	F	•	•	Procedures are under development – according to the pre-JIC aide memoire from March 2012, they will be set up by the third quarter 2012.				
(e) Aide-memoires and other reports by the JIC including monitoring and impact studies as indicated in Annex X	D			Aide-memoires on the negotiations and the pre-JIC meeting are publicly available on the VPA website.	http://vpaliberia.com/memorie.htm			
(f) Procedures and terms of reference guiding the functioning of the national stakeholder committee for monitoring the VPA	F		•	Draft terms of reference have been developed and shared with stakeholders for input. A meeting to incorporate their comments is scheduled for the third quarter of 2012.				
(g) Guidelines for Legality Assurance System (LAS) compliance	F	•	•	Guidelines are under development in 2012.				
(h) Guidelines for social agreements	F	•	•	The FDA Ten Core Regulations set out the duty of holders of FMCs and TSCs to negotiate social agreements, but most communities requested in 2010 that they be re-negotiated and guidelines have not yet been issued.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FDATEN COREREGULATIONS.pdf			
2. Information on management of	the fore	stry secto	r					
(a) Information about and documents from government agencies that exercise oversight over the forestry sector								
Enabling legislation of the government agency or authority	F	•	•	The NFRL and Ten Core Regulations are available on the FDA website and in its info shop.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/finalfore strylawPASSEDBYLEGISLATURE.pdf; http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FDATEN COREREGULATIONS.pdf			
Its existing policy, procedures and rules	F			The National Forest Policy and National Forest Management Strategy set out this information.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/LiberiaF orestryPolicy.pdf www.fda.gov.lr/doc/NFMgmtStrate gy.pdf			
Its budgets	D			The FDA is included in the national budget.	https://sites.google.com/a/mopea.g ov.lr/mtef-budget/home			
The financial accounts of the agency or authority	D	•	•	The financial accounts are public but they have not been regularly published online since the statement in 2007.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FDA Fu nd Statement June 2007.pdf			
Its organisation chart, including lines of reporting	D			A chart is included in the FDA Personnel Policy.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/annual% 20Report%202007%20organization %20chart.pdf			

Information Specified in Annex IX of the VPA	F/D	Exists?	Public?	Notes on Information	Sources of Information
Material contracts	D			Details of contracts to procure materials	
Procedure for appealing against	F			are placed in newpapers on occasion.  NFRL section 20.10 sets out the right of	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/finalfore
decisions by the authority or its	'			citizens to have recourse to the courts,	strylawPASSEDBYLEGISLATURE.pdf
officers				and the FDA Ten Core Regulations set out	
Resolutions of the board of	D			the right to appeal against decisions.  A few resolutions are available on the	http://www.fda.gov.lr/content.php
directors				FDA website, but others are not (e.g.	?sub=Publications%20and%20Docu
				approval of Free on Board (FoB) prices).	ments&related=Media%20Center
Audit reports	D			The reports of the General Auditing Commission are publicly available.	http://gacliberia.com/
Public comments, reports,	D		•	This information is available on request,	
strategies and manuals relating				but may take time to be provided.	
to the forest sector, pursuant to Section 18.15 of the NFRL					
				ave been enacted by the Government of Liberia	a. This includes all aspects of the
regulatory framework that are refe		in the Libe	rian legali		
Environmental Protection and Management Law (2002)	F		-	Online	http://epaliberia.org/Environment_ Protection and Management Law.
Widnagement Law (2002)					pdf
Environmental Protection	F			Online	http://epaliberia.org/Environment_
Agency Act (2002)  FDA Code of Forest Harvesting	F			Not on the FDA website.	Protection Agency Act.pdf
Practices (2007)	F			Not on the FDA website.	
FDA Regulation 111-10	F		0	Not on the FDA website.	
FDA Ten Core Regulations (2007)	F			Widely distributed and online.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FDATEN
(Regulations 101-07 to 110-07)					COREREGULATIONS.pdf
Freedom of Information Act	F		•	Not on the Ministry of Information,	http://freedominfo.org/documents/
(2010)				Cultural Affairs and Tourism website but available from Freedom Info network.	liberian%20law%202010%20text.do
General Business Law	F		•	The law is not available online.	2
LEITI Act (2009)	F	•	•	Online	http://www.leiti.org.lr/doc/act.pdf
Liberia Chain of Custody Standard Operating Procedures	F		•	On FDA website.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FDATEN COREREGULATIONS.pdf
Liberia Labour Law	F	•	•	The law is not available online.	CONENEGUEATIONS.pur
National Forestry Reform Law	F			Widely distributed and online.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/finalfore
(2006)	-	)			strylawPASSEDBYLEGISLATURE.pdf
National Social Security Law	F		•	Online	http://nasscorp.org.lr/copdocument.php
Public Procurement and	F			Online	http://ppcc.gov.lr/doc/PPCA%20 Se
Concessions Commission Act					pt%2013%202010%20_FINAL.pdf
(2005 and Amendment 2010)  Revenue Code of Liberia, as	F			Online	http://www.nic.gov.lr/index_docs/C
Amended (2009)	F			Omine	onsolidated Tax Amendment Act
					CTA %206-30-11 11-18-11.pdf
3. Information on forest resource a	1	n		Available suite 6 11 1500	hard the second
(a) i. Forest licenses issued - timber sales contracts (TSC)	D			Available online from the LEITI website (but not on the FDA website).	http://www.leiti.org.lr/2content.ph p?main=65&related=65&pg=mp
(a) ii. Forest management	D			Available online from the LEITI website	http://www.leiti.org.lr/2content.ph
contracts (FMC)		_		(but not on the FDA website).	p?main=65&related=65&pg=mp
(a) iii. Forest use permits (FUP)	D		•	The FDA has indicated that it has issued	
				some FUPs before but they are not published on its website. They can be	
				made available on request.	
(a) iv. Private use permits (PUP)	D			They are not on the FDA website. Copies	Land Rights, Private Use Permits
				of only 25 PUPs were provided earlier in	and Forest Communities, Report by
				the year when requested by civil society and other government agencies. The	the Land Commission of Liberia, April 2012
				Land Commission identified 62 in a more	
				recent report, and even more may have	
				been granted.	

Information Specified in Annex IX of the VPA	F/D	Exists?	Public?	Notes on Information	Sources of Information
(b) Agricultural concession contract agreements pertaining	D	•	•	Some agreements are available on LEITI website.	http://www.leiti.org.lr/2content.ph p?main=65&related=65&pg=mp
to products listed in Annex I (c) Documents relating to competitive bidding: Prequalification evaluation panel report	D	•		Documents on bidding and prequalification evaluation reports are available on the FDA website.	http://www.fda.gov.lr/doc/FinalRep ortofPrequalificationEvaluationPane Uanuary72008.pdf
(d) Concession contracts awarded	D			All logging contracts ratified by the legislature become publicly available laws. However, some PUP contracts need to be ratified and published.	
(e) Social agreements between forest communities and all contract or permit holders	D			Copies of social agreements are available on request but not on the FDA website.	
(f) Maps of communal forests and their areas	D	•	•	There are no current maps showing communal forest areas.	
(g) i. List and maps of all TSCs	D	•	•	Contracts are listed on the LEITI website and maps can be accessed in these documents.	http://www.leiti.org.lr/2content.ph p?main=65&related=65&pg=mp
(g) ii. List and maps of all FMCs	D		•	Contracts are listed on the LEITI website and maps can be accessed in these documents.	http://www.leiti.org.lr/2content.ph p?main=65&related=65&pg=mp
(g) iii. List and maps of all FUPs	D			There is no record of an established system in line with NFRL section 5.5.	
(g) iv. List and maps of all PUPs	D			Maps are included in permits but few copies have been provided on request.	
4. Information on forest resource p	roducti	on	l .	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
(a) i. Volumes and monetary values (as determined by approved FOB price lists) of harvested forest resources, processed forest products and exported forest products, reported as total annual production	D			Information is included in monthly updates circulated by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) as part of its role in supporting the chain of custody system. This data is available on request, but the authorities do not appear to subsequently collate and report it as total annual production.	Data produced by the SGS
(a) ii. Volumes and monetary values (as determined by approved FOB price lists) of harvested forest resources, processed forest products and exported forest products, reported by species produced under each forest resources licence  (b) Annual volume of timber and	D			Information is included in monthly updates circulated by SGS as part of its role in supporting the chain of custody system. This data is available on request, but the authorities do not appear to subsequently collate and report it under each forest resources licence.  FDA has produced no annual reports on	Data produced by the SGS
derived products imported into Liberia or transited through Liberia				imported or transited forestry products.	
5. Information on forest fees and re	1			Lively deal in COC	Available for CCC
(a) Schedule of all forestry- related fees and taxes	D	•		Included in SGS monthly chain of custody updates, which are available free of charge electronically and in hard copies.	Available from SGS
(b) Free on Board (FOB) prices.	D	•	•	The FDA Board approved the FOB price list in December 2009 but regular updates have not been made available.	For 2009 prices. see http://www.fda.gov.lr/content.php ?sub=Publications%20and%20Docu ments&related=Media%20Center
6. Information on law enforcement	in cond	ession are	eas		
(a) Penalties imposed and the list of those who actually paid and those who did not pay or complied	D	•	•	NFRL section 20.11 requires the FDA to make publicly available an annual report listing details of penalties imposed and collected for violations, but it does not appear to produce or publish this report.	
(b) Annual volume of timber products sold at public auction and the monetary value of the sales	D	•	•	There is no evidence that this information is systematically collected or reported by the authorities.	

# **Methodology**

The assessment drew on the methodology and prior report cards completed on the forest sector in Liberia for the Making the Forest Sector Transparent. Available information on each of the indicators was collated by searching official websites and consulting stakeholders with knowledge of the sector. The targeted authorities included the LEITI, Environmental Protection Ministries Agency, Agriculture, Finance and Information, National Investment Commission and Executive Mansion. Data was collected and checked in June and July 2012.

# Analysis of Current Information

The gap analysis found that much of the information is currently not published. Regarding the 'Framework' indicators, the majority of laws and regulations cited in the VPA are available on official websites, and in 2007 the FDA also distributed a limited number of hard copies of the NFRL, forest policy, and core regulations to selected stakeholders. Additional copies are available at its office (with a fee to cover printing costs). However, some other laws are not published on official websites including the FOI Act itself, which is meant to establish the framework for ensuring that such essential information is made available.

Given that the VPA has not yet been ratified, it is too early for procedures to have been developed and finalised on the structure and functioning of the JIC, LAS, national stakeholder committee, and independent auditor; nonetheless the pre-JIC has established a timetable for their production that should be monitored. A notable gap in the framework is that guidelines for social agreements have not been finalised, even though since 2010 communities have called for these agreements with logging companies to be re-negotiated because due processes with adequate local representation were not followed before.

Regarding the 'Data' indicators on documents and data that need to be routinely published over time on forest activities, the specific list in Annex IX of the VPA reinforces the broader and more inclusive statement on access to information in clause 18.15 of the NFRL approved in 2006 (see box). To date, the FDA has met this commitment in the NFRL in only some instances and shown unwillingness to do so in other cases.

Looking at the items in Annex IX on the management of the forest sector, some documents are available from official channels such as the national budgets and audit "The Authority shall grant and facilitate free public access to read and to copy all documents and other information in its possession, including all audits, all Forest Resources License fee invoices and fee payment information, business and forest management plans, strategies, resolutions from the Board of Directors, public comments, reports, inventories, regulations, manuals, databases, contract maps, and contracts"

National Forest Reform Law 2006

reports. Only few resolutions by the FDA Board of Directors announcing new regulations are placed on its website, whereas others that summarise decisions of public interest are not proactively made available.

On the allocation of forest resource rights, the contracts for FMCs and TSCs, including maps, are available on the LEITI website. Documents on the bidding process and the pre-qualification evaluation reports dating from 2007 and 2008 are also available on the FDA website (further contracts have not been allocated since then). Several failings in this process were documented in reports by the UN Panel of Experts, but at least information on the resulting allocations is publicly available. The social agreements made between contract holders and local communities are only available on request; they need to be more proactively disseminated to support their re-negotiation and ensure that the companies are held to account.

An important gap in information has been revealed on the allocation of PUPs. Permit documents and maps have not been posted on the FDA website, and it was only after repeated requests for information from SDI and other NGOs that it has gradually come to light that extensive areas of land have been granted at the government's discretion without going through transparent processes. At the time of this assessment, it was still unclear how many PUPs had been allocated full details on only 25 had been provided and the even other government agencies including the Land Commission, whose mandate is to clarify community land ownership and rights, had faced difficulties in gathering information.

The VPA requires some data to be routinely published on forest resource production, fees and revenues. Details on production by species and payments under each license are available from monthly updates circulated to a mailing list by SGS, which is the agency contracted to implement the chain of custody system

for harvested logs. This information enables organisations and individuals to monitor activities, and NGOs have then disseminated it at the local level, in particular to Community Forest Development Committees. Nonetheless, this data should be more systematically organised and routinely published by the authorities.

In relation to the final category of information on law enforcement in concession areas, it appears that the authorities do not collate or publish reports on either penalties imposed and paid or confiscated timber sold at public auction. Section 20.11 of the NFRL also requires the FDA to make available to the public annual enforcement reports with details of all violations. The lack of such reports means that the public has no way of knowing whether there are effective sanctions against illegal logging.

### **Barriers to Information Publication**

Two major types of barriers to publication of information on the forest sector in Liberia can be identified. Firstly, there is limited capacity in the FDA and other authorities in terms of technical and human resources to support proactive publication and dissemination of documents and data. Over the course of the annual report cards produced since the launch of the Making the Forest Sector Transparent programme in 2009, SDI has observed that the FDA has struggled to publish information online even though it may be willing to do so. Poor internet connectivity, overloaded network service providers, and limited numbers of people working in the information department with the requisite skills have all restricted capacity to publish documents, especially voluminous ones. instances, they have also been placed under misleading headings and proven difficult to retrieve.

In October 2011, the FDA opened its Info Shop to the public in Monrovia. This has provided a more accessible location for people to seek information, since the main FDA offices are outside the city. The Info Shop and four regional offices were developed with World Bank project funding; but their functionality is still seriously limited. At the time of this assessment, the Info Shop did not have an internet connection and lacked hard copies of most current forest sector information. The four regional offices also had no store of documents. Requests for information are registered by the staff and passed on to senior management, which responds at its own discretion. Despite the World Bank funding, an information management system with equipment and

systems for ensuring that electronic copies of information are made publicly available has not been secured. At a local level, where there is little access to the internet, dissemination of key information through appropriate channels and methods such as forums, newsletters and media has also been limited by lack of capacity. NGOs, civil society organisations and community groups have filled this gap to an extent, but further work is needed to establish their role and relationship with the FDA.

The second major barrier is that authorities may prefer to withhold certain information from the public or not release it at a given time because it could reveal bureaucratic failures. Reluctance to comply with the spirit and intent of the law may reflect a desire to retain discretion in how forest resources are allocated. An area of critical importance is when a logging contract is awarded. Decisions should be transparently reached in the best interests of the nation - including that ownership of the resource is undisputed and that the contract is awarded to the most qualified bidder. Furthermore, allocation of resource rights is dependent on a series of sequential steps leading to final ratification of the contract by the legislature. Timely information is needed to ensure that the due process is being followed. In practice, the FDA does not always follow due processes and only published information after the decision has been made, thereby preventing the public from monitoring it and holding it to account. For example, the FDA has not been forthcoming in releasing information on PUPs, and there is increasing evidence that due process has not been followed in issuing PUP contracts.

When it was passed in 2010 the FOI Act represented a major step forward towards guaranteeing the right of access to public information, but implementation has been slow to date. Every public body is required to respond to public requests for information, which the law clearly states can be made without having to give a reason why the information is sought. In practice, the FDA and other authorities have not set up consistent processes and sometimes required a reason to justify request. The Independent Information Commissioner is meant to oversee implementation and fulfilment of the law, but at the time of this assessment supporting norms and systems had not yet been established. The list of items specified in Annex IX to be made available on request include important documents such as forest management plans; as it

stands there is little evidence to suggest that can be readily accessed.

#### Conclusion

The forest law in Liberia include a firm commitment to public information, which is backed by the FOI Act, but access to key documents and data has been restricted by a number of factors. Whether due to lack of capacity or lack of will, the rights to information of all stakeholders are not being fully met and as a consequence their ability to hold the FDA and other forest-related authorities to account is limited. Under these circumstances, poor decisions on the management of forests are likely to be made.

The VPA therefore comes at a crucial time; poor implementation of prior reforms is undermining efforts to ensure that the forest is managed in a sustainable manner and for the benefit of the people. Liberia adopted a multi-stakeholder approach during the negotiation of the VPA. Maintaining and strengthening that approach will be critical to its implementation. Public access to information will strengthen the participation of civil society and communities and support their role in monitoring forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

This transparency gap analysis has been prepared as a baseline for measuring progress in fulfilling the specific requirements in the VPA, and by extension the commitments made in the NFRL and FOI Act. The first pre-JIC meeting set out an implementation timetable including target dates for actions related to Annex IX. Further assessments will be essential for ensuring that impetus is sustained towards these actions. These assessments should also test whether information specified in Annex IX can be accessed by the public when requested under the FOI Act (see Appendix).

#### Recommendations

The following recommendations are broadly directed to the Government of Liberia and the European Union, and more specifically to the FDA.

- 1. Establish a list of stakeholders to be sent information via email and other electronic media as soon as it is produced, so that they can then facilitate further dissemination to local people.
- 2. Ensure that all public information is made available at the FDA Info Shop at all times and that copies are held in the regional offices.
- 3. Establish a multi-stakeholder working group to monitor the actions required to implement Annex IX of the VPA and report on them to the national monitoring committee and the Joint Implementation Committee.
- 4. Dedicate resources towards improving information management so that the documents and data listed in Annex IX are routinely published online as soon as they are produced.
- 5. Produce guidance on how to request information under the FOI Act in clear language that enables the public to be fully aware of their rights and the procedures.
- 6. Work with civil society organisations and NGOs on a strategy for consistently disseminating information through different channels and methods so that it reaches local people.

#### **Contacts**

Sustainable Development Institute: <a href="www.sdiliberia.org">www.sdiliberia.org</a>
P. O. Box 5678, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia

Coordinator: Jonathan W. Yiah



The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) is a Liberian NGO, founded in 2002, that is working to transform and improve natural resource-related decision-making processes in the country. The SDI focuses on resource governance, corruption, community benefits and public participation; in 2006, its founding director received the Goldman Environmental Prize for outstanding environmental achievements in Africa. The SDI actively participates in national and international discussions on forests and climate change. It has also part of the 'Mine Watch Initiative', which enhances public understanding of social, environmental and development issues associated with mining.

**Global Witness**: www.globalwitness.org/gtf; www.foresttransparency.info Team Leader: David Young



© Global Witness and SDI 2012

global witnes

This material has been funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the department's official policies. The programme is funded for four and a half years until March 2013 as part of its Governance and Transparency Fund.



# Appendix: Information to be made available to the public on request

Annex IX of the VPA specifies the following information to be made available to the public when requested under the Freedom of Information Act. It stipulates that the procedures for granting access will follow those outlined in Chapter 3, Sections 3.1-3.14 of the Act.

#### Information on forest resource allocation

- (a) Documents relating to pre-qualification which will be made available upon request after completion of the prequalification process
  - List of pre-qualified companies.
- (b) Documents relating to competitive bidding which will be available upon request after the winning bid have been selected and all who submitted a bid have been notified:
  - Bid documents;
  - Bid evaluation panel report.
- (c) List of prohibited persons (i.e. persons prohibited from holding interests in commercial logging companies due to currently holding public office);
- (d) List of debarred persons (i.e. persons debarred from the Liberian logging industry due to involvement in use, management or harvesting of forest resources while aiding or abetting civil disturbances involving use of weapons);
- (e) List of suspended persons (i.e. persons suspended due to default on financial obligations related to forest use);
- (f) All documents, records and information relating to approved business and forest management plans;
- (g) Location and ownership of land subject to Forest Resources License;
- (h) Names of forest resource holders and brief description of the areas covered by the holder's forest resource licence (size of the area and type of forest resources).

### Information on forest resource production

- (a) Volume and location of wood available for harvest under the annual coupe per concession;
- (b) Information held on the Liberian LAS database;
- (c) Annual volume of timber products consumed on the domestic market by type of product and species.

### Information on processing

- (a) List of registered processing companies and their contact details;
- (b) Production capacity per processing unit by company;
- (c) Annual volume of logs processed by species and type of product per processor.

#### Information on forest fees and revenues

- (a) Amount of fees and taxes assessed on business entities in the forestry sector assessed by the Ministry of Finance and the amounts paid per forest resource contract—holder;
- (b) Amount of money received and disbursed by the Government to the Community Forestry Development Funds;
- (c) Amount of money received and disbursed by the National Community Benefit Sharing Trust;
- (d) Amount of money received and disbursed by the Trust to Community Forestry Development Committees, with a breakdown by project, date and affected community;
- (e) Outcomes of complaints from the public in connection with the County Forestry Development Fund and the National Benefit Sharing Trust or any Community Forestry Development Committee.

#### Information on law enforcement in concession areas

- (a) Charges of violations, arrests, settlements and convictions associated with the operations under the forest resources licence as recorded by the FDA;
- (b) Forest resources license fee invoices and payment information.