

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

June 14, 2017

**[APPROVAL BY MAIL]: LIBERIA: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT (AFDB)(SREP)-
XSREL032A**

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

[AfDB]: Meaningful consultation and participation in the context of environmental and social safeguards is vital. In line with MDB's best practices, the ISS (see answer 30) sets out clear requirements for greater public consultation among and participation by communities and local stakeholders that are likely to be affected by this operation.

Consultations shall meet the requirements of being "free, prior and informed" as stated in the cover page and of achieve broad community support, especially in high-risk projects or projects affecting vulnerable groups.

It is important noting that the consultations will be led by the Government of Liberia in cooperation with a consulting firm with expertise in the field and the final ESIA shall have a section discussing the Outcomes of the Stakeholder Engagement. The ESIA before being published for consultations must also be approved by AfDB's E&S safeguards specialists, which are independent from the technical experts. As part of their review, the safeguards specialists engage in consultations with projected affected people without the presence of representatives from the Government of Liberia to ensure they were properly consulted and that any planned compensation is fair.