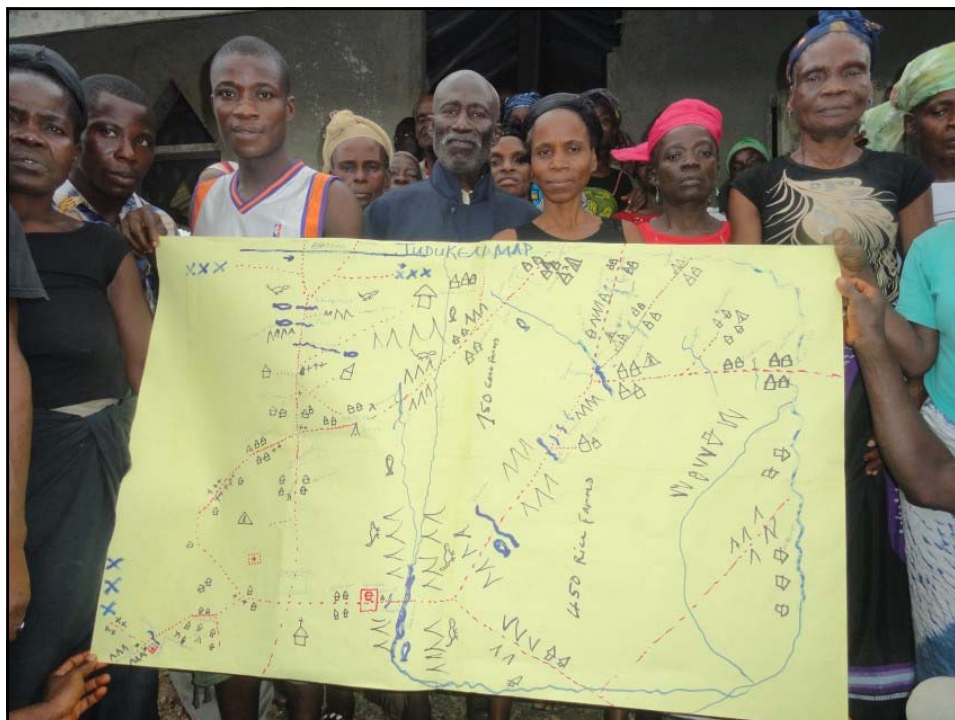


Making FPIC Work in West Africa

GVL
Nov 2014
RSPO RT 12, Kuala Lumpur

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Discussion Points



1. Introduction
2. Challenges
3. Approach
4. Challenges Remaining
5. Inputs Received and Our Thoughts
6. Where now with FPIC

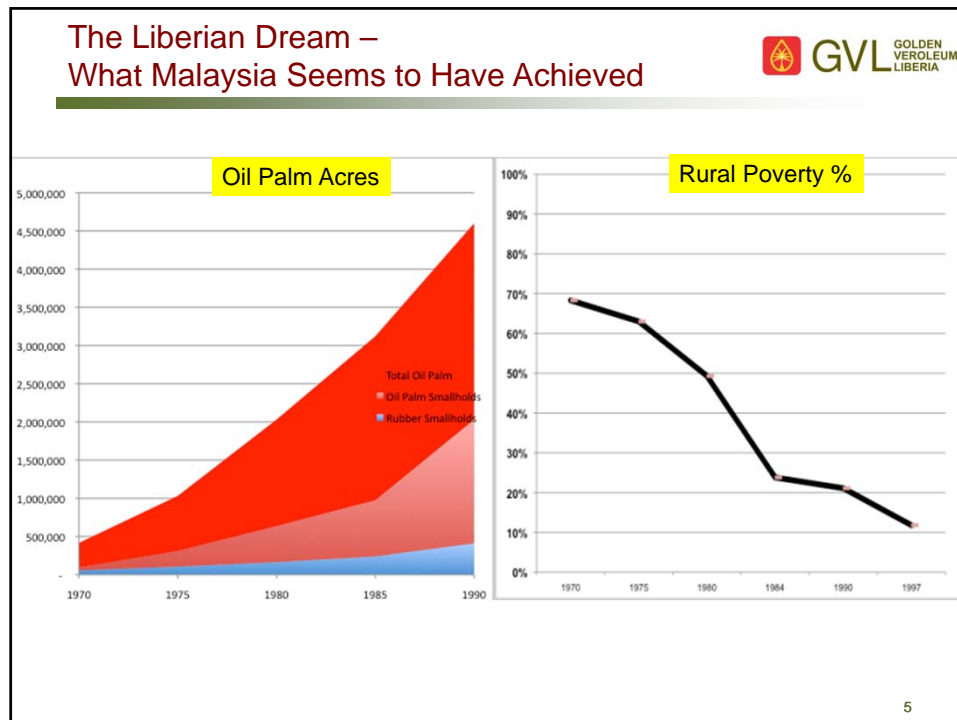
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Liberia: A new frontier for palm oil




- West coast of Africa
- Republic formed in 1847
- “Democratic” within small elite franchise
- 20th century success (mining, logging, rubber) benefited the elite
- Coup 1980 and Civil wars 1989 - 2003
- # 175 out of 187 countries - UN Human Development Index 2013
- 4th lowest GDP per capita
- Main economic activities
 - Basic livelihoods agriculture
 - UN and NGO sector flows
 - Mining
 - Rubber
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - Palm oil important
 - Admirable Government objectives and leadership, but lack of down line capacity





Introduction


GVL GOLDEN VEROLEUM LIBERIA

History

- Pre-RSPO membership, consent and agreements reached with communities on basis of simpler FPIC understanding at that point
- Mis-steps, complaint to RSPO after membership, including some true merit

New approach

- Restructured approach with help of TFT
- Fundamental philosophy and beliefs did not change: belief in the communities' right to their lands, in their freely and self made decisions

Key question: HOW

- What needed to develop was HOW to make this happen right
 - HOW to properly understand and account for people's rights and
 - HOW to adhere to and to promote them,
 - HOW to well and relevantly inform and be transparent, and
 - HOW to navigate fairly and businesslike in the local community, social, political and behavioral environment.

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Challenges



FPIC Practice and Skills

- Lack of useful FPIC guidance – 2008 guide dated, general, theoretical, weak and unstructured
- No ready FPIC skills available in Liberia or Africa, or importable
- FPIC training generally not available to, nor structured for, companies' needs
- Skill level and knowledge of NGO's/Civil Society

Societal Situation

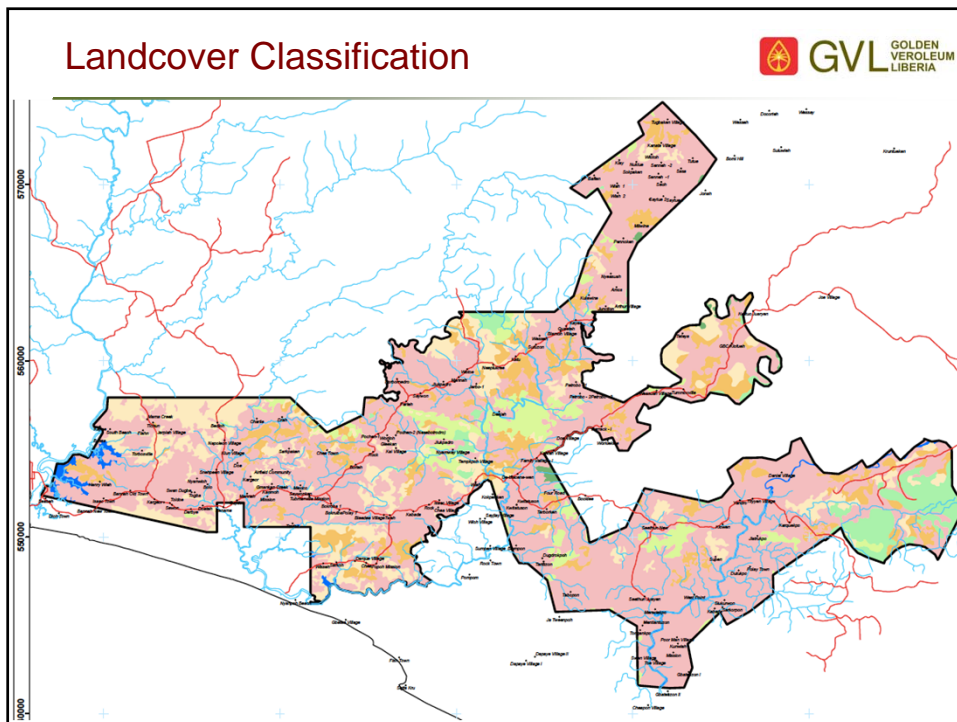
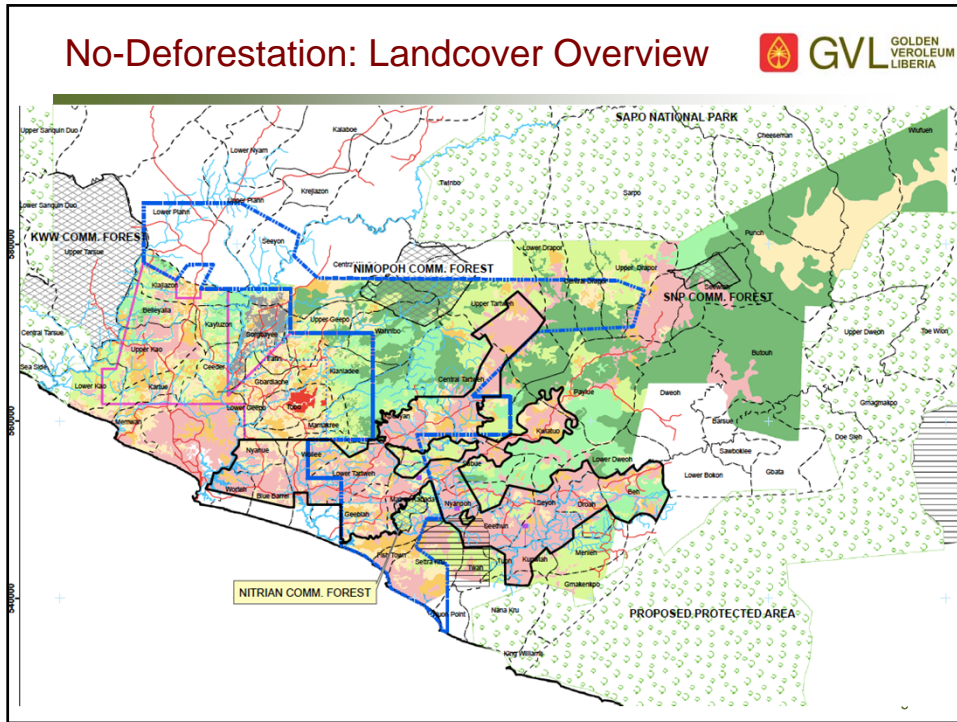
- No knowledge or examples of successful plantations – oil palm initiatives funded by WB had failed in 1970's and 1980's through corruption
- High illiteracy rates, mixed English, local tribal languages only verbal
- Remote elites vs locals, different priorities
- Local peoples feel urgent needs for jobs and development – almost no alternative options to subsistence farming, logging, hunting, artisanal gold
- Volatile social jealousies
- Simmering or dormant land issues brought to the fore, as there now is some value from land and community borders start to matter
- Highly personalized rivalries and politics, culture of political patronage ⁷

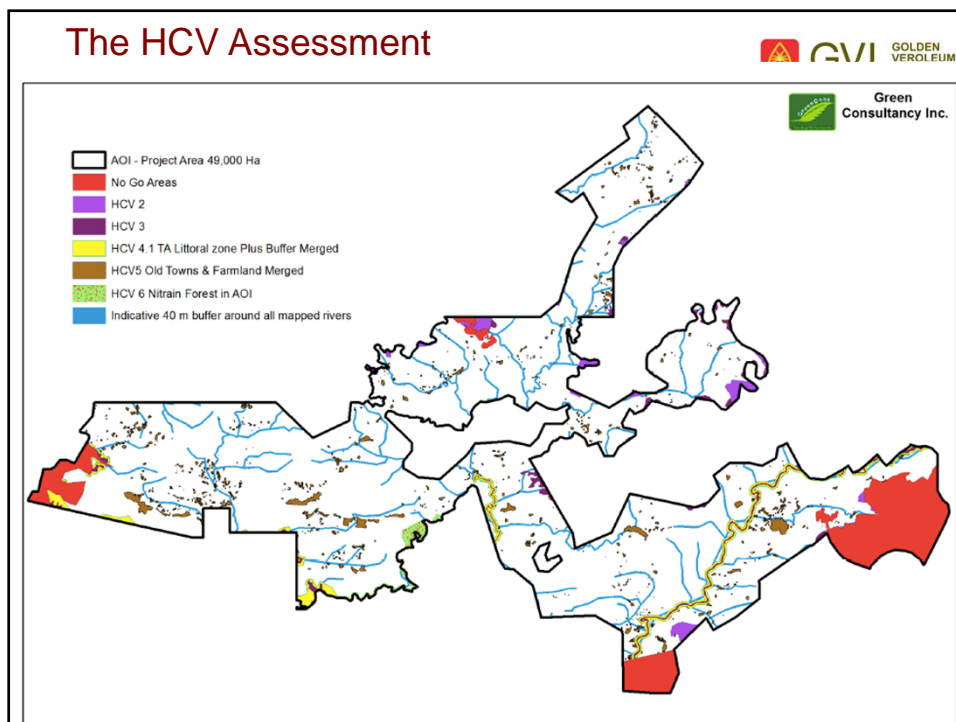
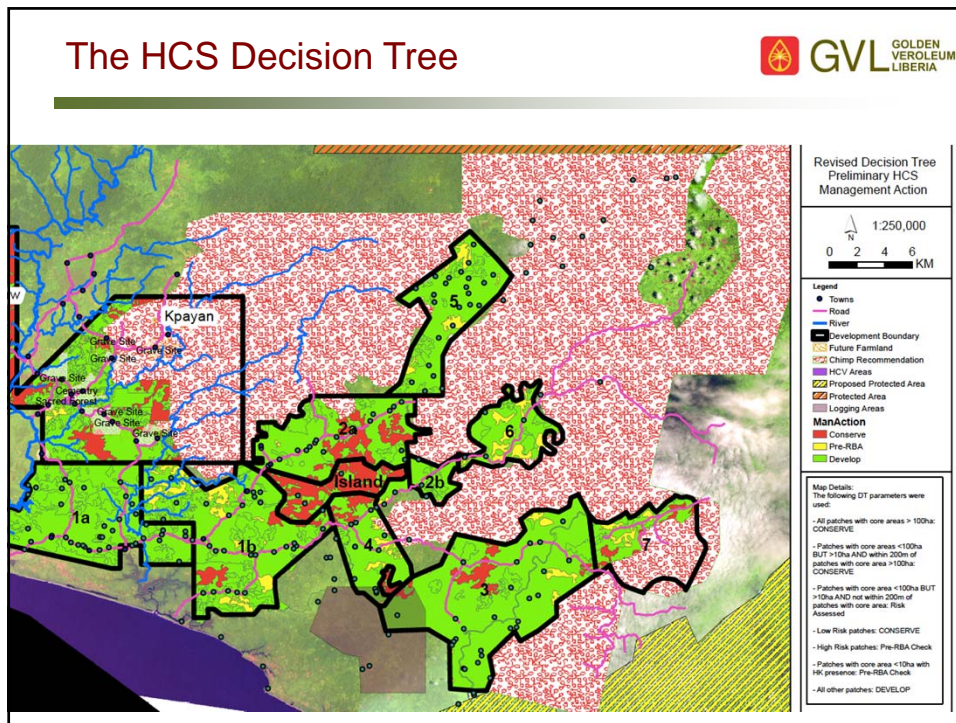
Approach to FPIC – with No Deforestation (Lots of detail..)

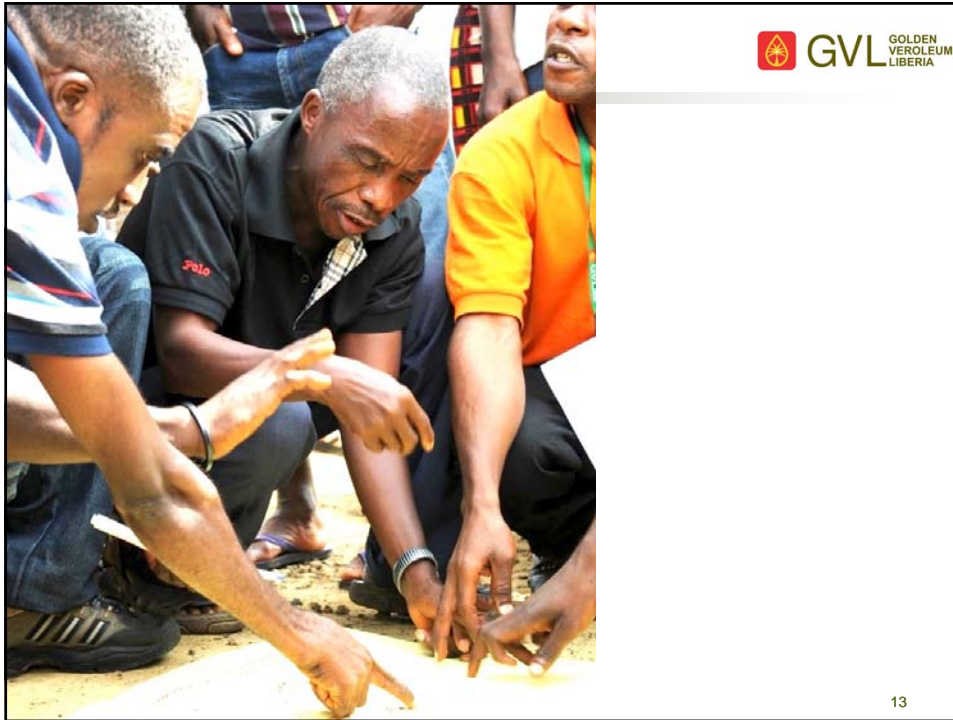


- Forest Conservation Policy – FCP – working with Greenpeace and TFT
- Developed/structured FPIC “SOP” with TFT help
- Extensive information dissemination – written and tribal languages verbal
- FPIC process agreement
- FPIC typically 18-24 month process – MOU agreement text considered and negotiated 6-12 months
- Communities self selected representatives
- Multiple rounds of Participatory Mapping
- RSPO “HCV” added with RBA and High Carbon Stock HCS (Developed with Greenpeace and TFT) decisions tree – for all new areas
- CFFL-Communities Future Farm Lands planning
- Local communities have been decisive and clear about agreements, challenge is how to involve remote stakeholders
- Employee civic activities policy in central role
- Provisional agreements, to be finalized after actual mutual experience
- Communities choice of advisors based on their trust

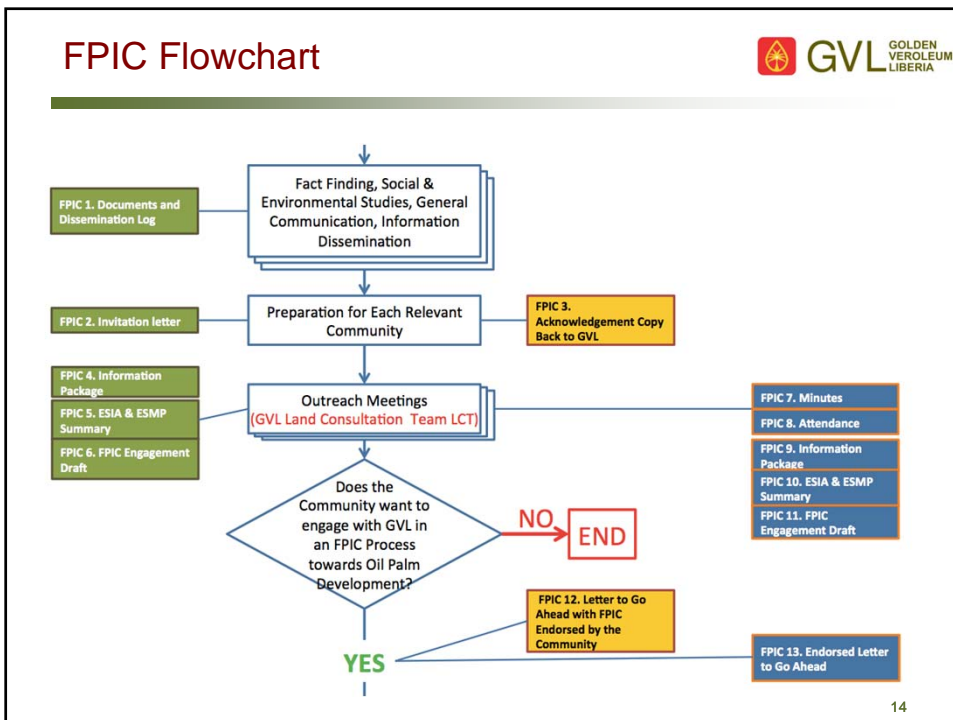
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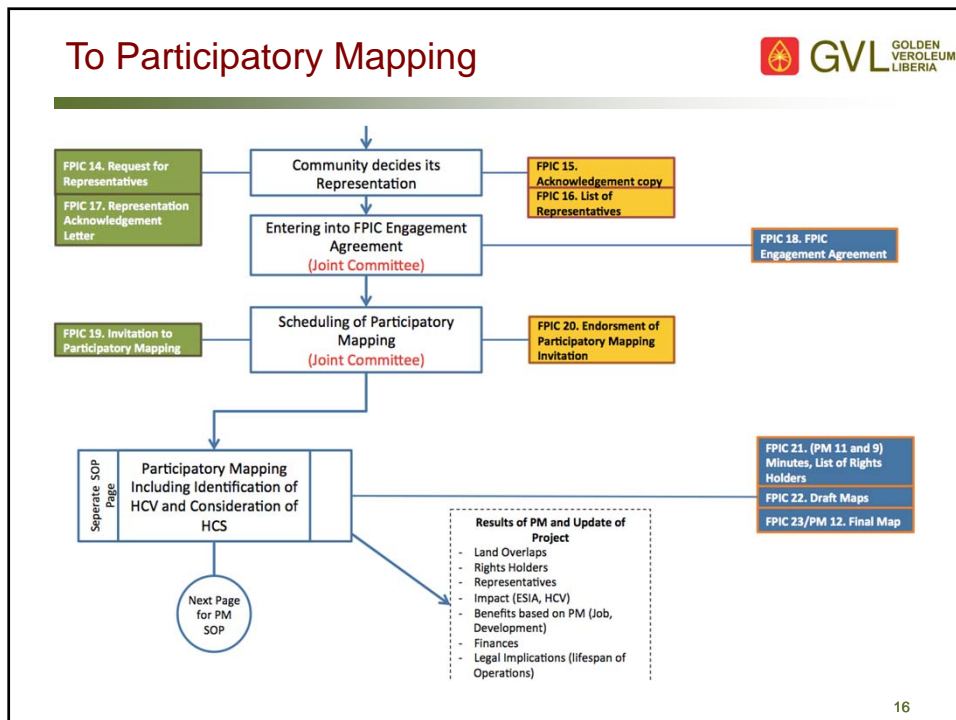
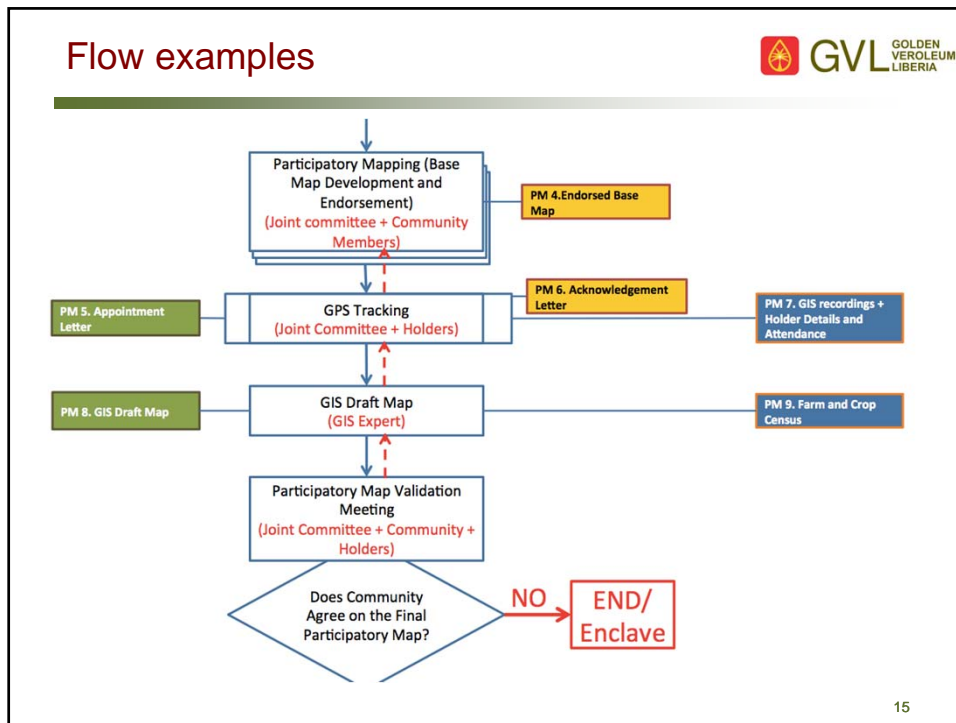




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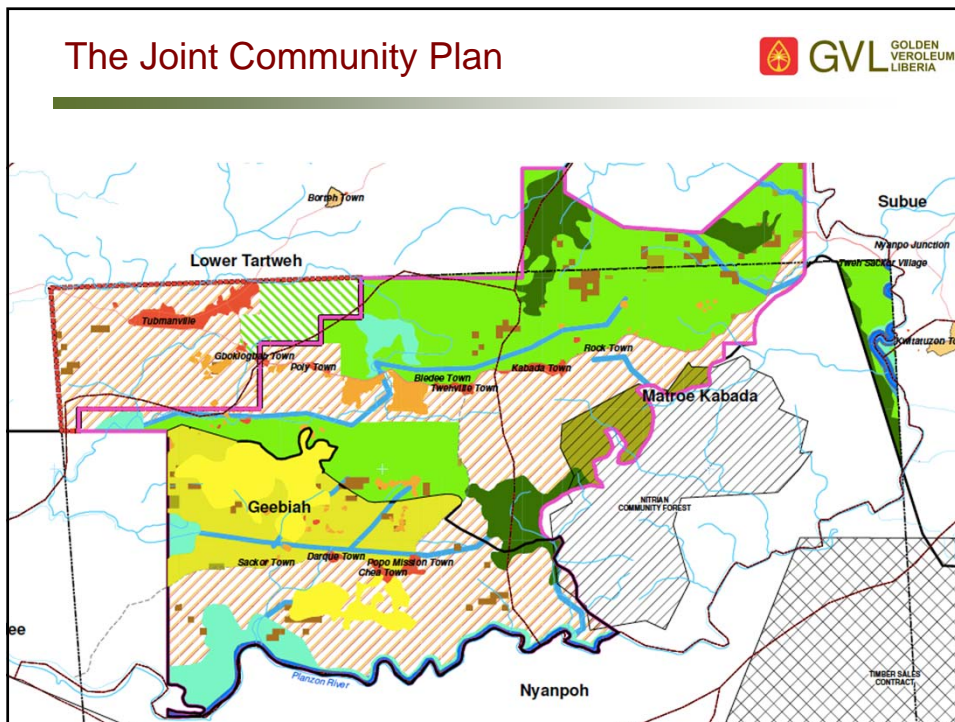
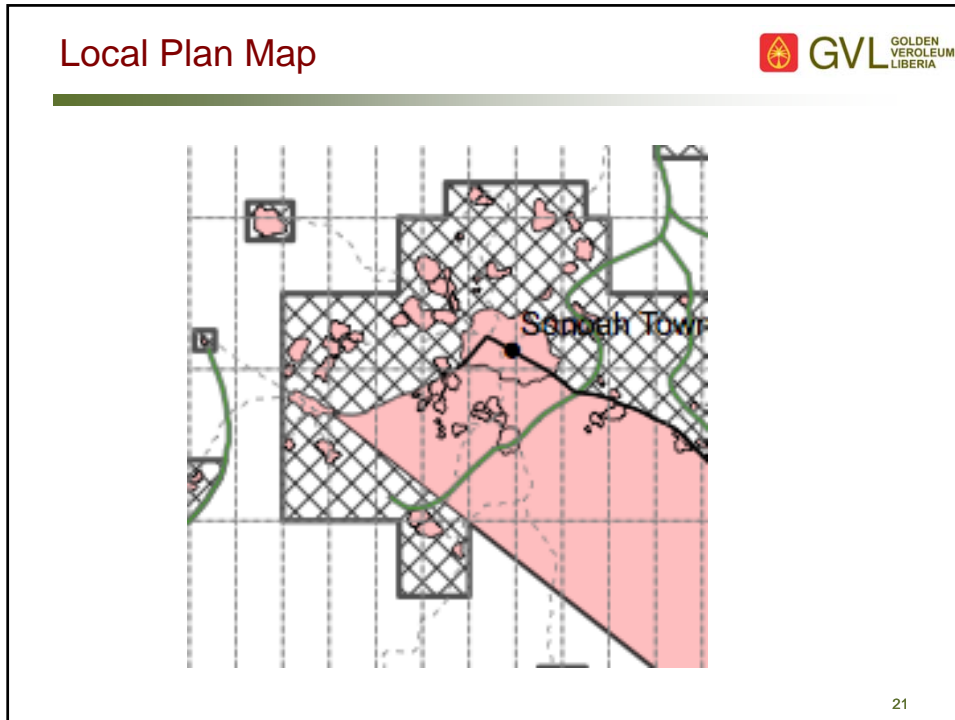


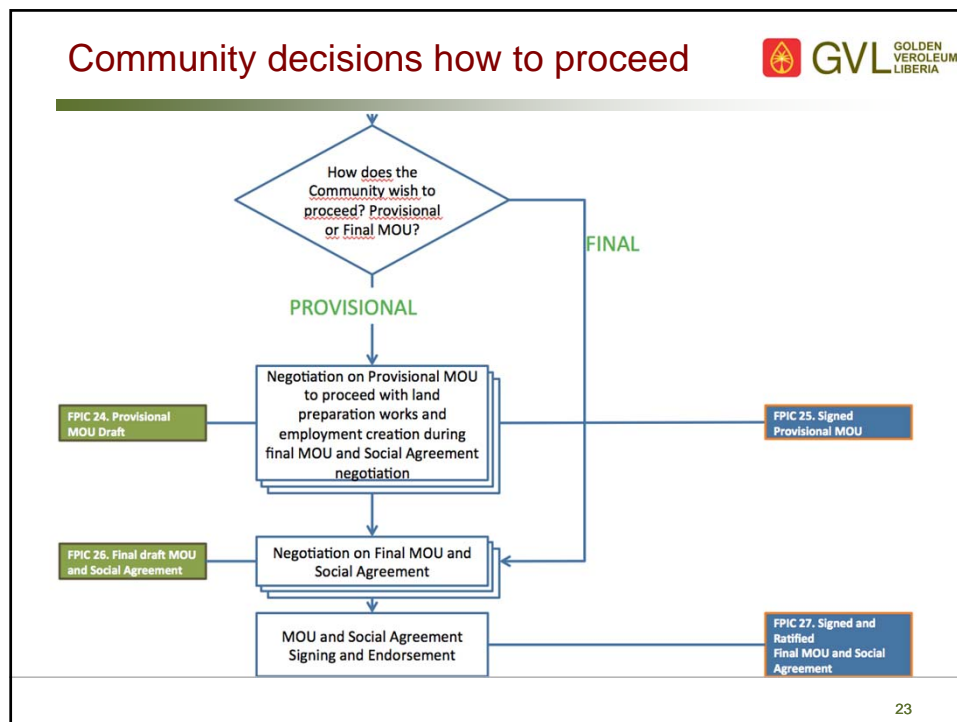
Participatory Community Mapping



The Community Self Map








Challenges Remain



- Community impatience, eagerness, demands to go ahead quick
- New hopes rekindle old conflicts and opportunity seeking
- Understanding what modern oil palm really means – scale, jobs, disciplines, training – making the “i” in FPiC more real
- Distant elites and politicians vs local citizens’ agendas – personalized political agendas
- Communities aspirations balance /coexistence with conservation goals, no deforestation, High Carbon Stock preservation, biodiversity protection
- Community advisory – eg legal, environmental, maps skills, NGO/CS skills and relationships with communities
- Intra & inter communities historical relationships and trust
- Smallholder/Outgrower models adaptation from Malaysian and Indonesian success stories to local culture, communities

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Some Inputs Received and Our Thoughts 		
Topic	Inputs	Thoughts and Issues
The “i” in FPIC - Information	Much more “information” to communities about impacts, what will happen	Agreed To develop further ways Seeing is knowing
Land Agreement steps	Should not make provisional agreements, only make final agreements	Protect parties Many uncertainties Possible with fuller experience
Jobs	Jobs should be taken out of agreements	Communities demand agreements on jobs
Legal assistance	Mandatory communities have lawyers and advisors	Community choice Some do, some not, Quality, integrity, who pays?
Valuation of land rental	Land is more valuable	Payment for land rental is one element amongst several
Smallholder program	Exact details are needed	Agreed. Need to be adapted for Liberia and communities
Individual farmer compensation	Crop compensation is too low/high for individual farmers	For now, not touching any land that has crop plants

Concluding Points

- Many lessons learned
- Many people sharing thoughts with us
- Need acceptance of reality that FPIC practices can only evolve by actually doing and adapting, and changing what does not work – FPIC guides to be much more practical, solution oriented, updated
- Only possible by third party stakeholders genuinely working with community and company together, accepting this reality
- Requires working on the ground with actual communities

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