



CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

(ccGAP:LIBERIA)

August 2012



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER ACTION PLAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

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“Liberia has just emerged from 14 years of civil crisis, devastating its infrastructure, the economy, and the corresponding political institutions.

The virtual collapse of the economy, and what amounts to the near withering away of the state, seemed to initially make reconstruction impossible. Successive transitional Governments which tried to re-establish the rule of law, and by extension, the promotion and protection of human rights were either too weak, perhaps not totally committed, or seemingly lacked the capacity to carry through.

However, under the current administration, efforts are not only being taken to get the necessary reforms and policies right, as well as the initiation of physical reconstruction of basic and productive infrastructure, but also the restoration of the rule of law, and particularly the protection of the inalienable rights of all citizens.

The Government, under the leadership of Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has, therefore, taken on a more intense and analytical look at the population for the purpose of identifying the most deprived of the citizens, and has come to the conclusion that women as an aggregate are the most discriminated against and deprived people in the Liberian society.

To this end, several policies and programs for the purpose of addressing women’s rights including the provision of equal opportunities for women regardless of their status have been initiated. It must not, however, be construed to mean that women’s rights are not being trampled upon and that they have gained parity with men. (...)

As a consequence, this imposes upon the Government an obligation and duty to hasten the removal of those social and economic hurdles that impede the progress of women.”

Ministry of Gender and Development
Liberia’s Report on Beijing+15
March 2009

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The Global Gender Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN

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A national workshop with representatives from several ministries/government departments, civil society, academia, research institutions, foundations and international organizations, was convened from the 2 to the 4 of May 2012 in the capital Monrovia.

In addition a national validation workshop with representatives and Local County Authorities from the 15 counties, government, international organizations and NGOs was conducted on the 13 of August of 2012.

In particular, we would like to also express our gratitude to the following institutions that actively participated in the development of the ccGAP: Gender Focal Points from the line Ministries and Agencies, Rural Women Structure from the 15 counties, Local County Authorities, Ministry of Gender and Development (MODG), OXFAM, CARE, Action-Aid, Forest Development Agency (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Land, Mines

and Energy (MLME), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Liberian Girls Guide Association (LGGA), Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS), Center for Sustainable Energy and Technology (CEST), Society for Environment Conservation (SEC), Farmer Association To Conserve the Environment (FACE), Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia (SCNL), Women Entrepreneurs Environment Links (WEEL), Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MFA), Liberian Media Initiative (LMI), Office of the Gender Adviser/UNMIL (OGA), Forest Cry/Liberia (FCL), Liberian Women Radio for Democracy, House of Representatives, Senate, Women NGO Secretariat for Liberia (WONGOSOL), Liberian Women Empowerment Networks (LIMEN), Green Advocates, Jedi Green Energy, United Nations Development Program and the UNWomen.

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Ac: ACRONYMS

ASRP	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project	CHF	Child Fund
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity	CI	Conservation International
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations	COP	Conference of Parties
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency	COPAN	Consolidation of Liberia Protected Area Network
CFSNS	Comprehensive Food Security and National Survey	COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CSO	Civil Society Organizations	DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services	EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
BSWG	The Benefit Sharing Working Group	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ccGAP	Climate Change Gender Action Plan	FAPS	Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy
CDAs	County Development Agendas	FACE	Farmer Association to Conserve the Environment
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	FCI	Foundation for Community Initiative
CEDAW	Convention for Elimination of Discrimination of Women	FCL	Forest Cry/Liberia
CEST	Center for Sustainable Energy and Technology	FcPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
CFDC	Community Forest Development Committee	FDA	Forest Development Authority
CFF	Country Forest Forum	FFI	Fauna and Flora international

FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
GBV	Gender Base Violence	IRC	International Water and Sanitation Centre
GC	Governance Commission	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
gCHVs	General Community Health Volunteers	KP	Kyoto Protocol
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	LDCs	Least Developed Countries
GFP	Gender Focal Point	LASV	Lassa virus
GGCA	Global Gender and Climate Alliance	LF	Lassa fever
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	LFI	Liberia Forestry Initiative
GII	Gender Inequality Index	LGGA	Liberian Girls Guide Association
HCFC	Hydro Chlorox Fluor Carbons	LIMEN	Liberian Women Empowerment Networks
HDI	Human Development Index	LISGIS	Liberian Institute for Statistics and Geo Information System
HDR	Human Development Report	LMI	Liberian Media Initiative
HMIS	Health Management Information System	LMNS	Liberia Micro-nutrient Survey
IAP	Indoor Air Pollution	LPG	Liquid petroleum gas
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture and Development	LWSC	Liberian Water and Sewage Corporation
ILO	International Labor Organization	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate	MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
INC	Initial National Communication	MLME	Ministry of Land, Mines and Energy
INGO	International Non Government Organization		

MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	NTGL	National Transition Government of Liberia
MMRV	Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
MPW	Ministry of Public Works	OGA	Office of the Gender Adviser/UNMIL
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy
MOD	Ministry of Defense	REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
MOGD	Ministry of Gender and Development	REDD-RPP	REDD Readiness Preparedness Proposal
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare	RET	Renewable Energy Technologies
MOPEA	Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs	RICCE	Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment
MOT	Ministry of Transport	RREA	Rural Renewable Energy Agency
MW	Megawatts	RTWG	REDD Technical Working Group
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action	RPP	Readiness Preparedness Proposal
NCCSC	National Climate Change Steering Committee and Secretariat	SADS	Skills and Agricultural Development Services
NET	National Energy Plan	SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
NGP	National Gender Policies	SEC	Society for Environment Conservation
NNP	National Nutrition Policy	SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
NRWP	National Rural Women's Program		
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products		

TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UN	United Nations	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UNDP	United Nations Development Program	WB	The World Bank
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	WEEL	Women Entrepreneurs Environment Links
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	WHO	World Health Organization
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program	WONGOSOL	Women NGO Secretariat for Liberia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

ES: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Liberia is located on the Atlantic Coast of West Africa. The country is Africa's oldest Republic after some Americans opposed to slavery bought land in West Africa in the 1820's to create a new country for freed slaves, whose ancestors had been taken from Africa. Despite the origins of the country, today, most of Liberia's citizens are not the descendants of former slaves¹.

Civil war and government mismanagement destroyed much of Liberia's economy and, in particular, the infrastructure in and around the capital, Monrovia, before peace was restored in the country in 2003 through a comprehensive peace agreement. In October 2005, the National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL) that was put in place during the transition made way for peaceful legislative and presidential elections through which the Hon. Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became Africa's first democratically elected female Head of State.

Today, following 14 years of civil war, Liberia faces monumental challenges in completely rebuilding state institutions, shattered national infrastructure, restarting service delivery, and above all helping individual citizens contribute to economic growth and the rebuilding of the state.

Although the country is richly endowed with vast water- and forest/timber reserves, mineral resources (including substantial deposits of iron ore, gold and diamonds), a climate favorable to agriculture and in days gone past had been a producer and exporter of basic products, primarily raw timber and rubber, it remains a low-income country heavily reliant on foreign assistance for revenue despite the fact that the country has made enormous strides in recent years.

At multilateral level, Liberia is Party to several multilateral agreements on the environment through the signing and ratification of Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, Biodiversity, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands. The Environmental Modification- and Marine Life Protection Agreements have been signed, but not ratified. The country is also signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Under its obligations to the UNFCCC, Liberia submitted both its National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2008 and a REDD Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Forest Carbon

¹ The Global Library of Free Learning and Reading. 2012. Africa's Oldest Republic. Retrieved from the World Wide Web

Partnership Facility of the World Bank in Oslo, Norway, more recently. The country envisages submitting its Initial National Communication in 2012.

On the 1st of December 2011, the IUCN Global Gender Office received an official request from the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of Liberia, Ms. Anyaa Vohiri, to be engaged in the preparation of a National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change (ccGAP:Liberia).

The Government of Liberia furthermore requested the development of the said Action Plan within the broader framework of (i) Liberia's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA); (ii) the country's Draft Initial National Communication (under development at the time of writing this document); (iii) Liberia's National Gender Policy (2009); and (iv) the National Development Agenda (Vision 2030).

With the generous financial support received from the Government of Finland, the process for developing the ccGAP:Liberia included a series of inputs, including research, interviews with policy makers, stakeholder consultations and peer review, amongst others, as well as a capacity building and consultative process with women representatives from the 15 counties (held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 27-28 April 2012) and a multi-stakeholder workshop with representatives from civil society, environmental and development NGOs as well as government representatives from various sectors (held in the same city from 2-4 of May). In both instances, the events

were co-convened by the MODG, the EPA and the FDA.

The main objectives of the two workshops were to:

- Identify and understand the importance of gender and climate change; and
- Identify possible areas of action/intervention that could be taken up in an Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change in Liberia.

Six priority sectors were identified in collaboration with the Government of Liberia and participants to the workshops, i.e.:

- I. Agriculture and Food Security;
- II. Coasts;
- III. Forestry and REDD;
- IV. Health;
- V. Water and Sanitation; and
- VI. Energy.

Each priority sector includes a plan of action with clear objectives, actions, indicators and responsible institutions as proposed and agreed to by participants during the workshop.

On August 2013, the final draft was taken to a national validation workshop, 69 representatives from all the sectors of the Liberian society (government, civil society, local authorities) amended and approved the cc:GGAP.

Lorena Aguilar
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1. OVERVIEW

Geography

1. The Republic of Liberia is located on the Atlantic Coast of West Africa. It is bordered by Sierra Leone (to the North West), Guinea (North East) and Côte d'Ivoire (East/South East). The North Atlantic Ocean flanks the country on the West and with a coastline stretching 579-kilometres² from North to South.
2. The country is Africa's oldest Republic after some Americans opposed to slavery bought land in West Africa in the 1820's to create a new country for freed slaves, whose ancestors had been taken from Africa. Despite the origins of the country, today, most of Liberia's citizens are not the descendants of former slaves³.
3. Liberia covers an area of 111,370 km² of which land comprises 96,320 km² and water 15,050 km² respectively⁴. The country is divided into 15 counties of

which Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe are the largest.

4. The capital, Monrovia, is home to some 1,010,970 inhabitants, roughly 33% of the total national population⁵. Other major towns include Buchanan, Ganta, Gbarnga, Kakata and Harbel.
5. There are 16 ethnic groups that make up Liberia's indigenous population. The Kpelle in central and western Liberia is the largest ethnic group. Americo-Liberians who are descendants of freed slaves that arrived in Liberia early in 1821 make up an estimated 5% of the population⁶.
6. English is the official language, although 16 indigenous languages occur throughout the country.

Government

7. Liberia adopted its Constitution on January 6th, 1986 and, today, the country has 30 registered political parties.

² Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services. 2012. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.tlcafrica.com/lisgis/lisgis_geography.htm

³ The Global Library of Free Learning and Reading. 2012. Africa's Oldest Republic. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.englisharticles.info/2010/11/20/africa's-oldest-republic/>

⁴ Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services. 2012. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.tlcafrica.com/lisgis/lisgis_geography.htm

⁵ USAID. 2012. Liberia country profile. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://liberia.usaid.gov/node/72>

⁶ The Consulate General of the Republic of Liberia (in New York). 2012. About Liberia – People. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.liberiaconsulate.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=73

8. Politics of Liberia takes place within a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic modeled on the government of the United States, whereby the President is the head of state and head of government; unlike the United States, however, Liberia is a unitary state as opposed to a federation and has a pluriform multi-party system rather than the two-party system that characterizes US politics. The government exercises executive power.
9. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the Legislature⁷ that consists of 66 representatives and 30 senators respectively. Historically, the Executive branch influences the legislature and judicial system heavily, the latter being largely dysfunctional at present⁸.
10. There is a Supreme Court, criminal courts, an appeals court and magistrate courts in the counties. Traditional courts and lay courts are also to be found in the counties.
11. Locally, political power emanates from traditional chiefs (town, clan, or paramount chiefs), mayors, and the district commissioners.
12. Mayors are elected in principle cities and the President of the counties appoints Superintendents.

Environment

13. Liberia enjoys a tropical climate, with an average annual rainfall of 170 inches, making it one of the wettest countries in the world and with a rainy season running from May to October⁹.
14. Parallel to the ocean, three distinct topographical belts may be found. The low coastal belt is about 40 km (25 mi) wide, and constitutes tidal creeks, shallow lagoons, and mangrove marshes. From this belt the land rises to rolling hills that reach elevations of 60–150 m (200–500 ft.). The third belt, comprising the bulk of Liberia, is marked by abrupt changes of elevation in a series of low mountains and plateaus, less densely forested than the hilly region.
15. The biggest mountain in Liberia is the Nimba Mountains extending in a southwest–northeast direction along the Guinea/Côte d’Ivoire/Liberia border.
16. The Wologizi mountains are an isolated area of upland located in north-west of the country. The area includes Liberia’s highest mountain, Mount Wuteve (Wutuwi) at 1,447 m, as well as several other peaks, including Mount Balagizi (1,100 m).
17. Above 1,000 m the dominant tree species are stunted and short, and

⁷ Wikipedia. 2012. Politics of Liberia. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Liberia

⁸ The Consulate General of the Republic of Liberia (in New York). 2012. About Liberia – People. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.liberiaconsulate.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=73

⁹ United Nations Liberia. 2012. Liberia – an overview. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.unliberia.org/content.asp?pg_detail=29&main_menu_id=1&pg=sub

areas of dense bush and grass are more common. Large areas of savanna woodland surround the foothills and lower valleys¹⁰. Smaller ranges in Liberia are the Putu and Bong Ranges.

18. Liberia is situated in the heart of the Upper Guinea Rainforest Region¹¹. This region is one of the earth's most biologically diverse and was originally covered by a continuous block of dense tropical rainforest, ranging from Guinea south through Sierra Leone, and Liberia to Ivory Coast and Ghana.
19. The International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN has declared the region one of the world's 25 “hotspots for biodiversity” globally. These “hotspots” only cover 1,4% of the earth's surface, but they contain more than 60% of all animal and plant species to be found on this planet and the reason why they have the highest priority for long-term international conservation efforts¹².
20. Much of this forest cover has already been lost and what little remains is under serious threat from commercial activities such as logging, mineral mining and the subsistence activities

of an ever growing population. Civil conflicts are also taking their toll.

21. Of the six principal rivers, all of which are at right angles to the coast and flow into the Atlantic Ocean, only the Farmington is of much commercial importance. Sandbars obstruct the mouths of all rivers, making entrance hazardous, and upstream there are rocky rapids¹³.

Population¹⁴ and Employment

22. In late March 2008, census takers visited dwellings throughout Liberia to take the first census in the country since 1984. Billboards were erected to remind villagers to stay home for three days to be properly counted. To get the word out, the government commissioned a pop star to compose a catchy tune about the census. Translated into 16 languages and played daily on the radio, it urged Liberians to “stand up and be counted.”¹⁵
23. The census assessed the total population to be just short of 3.5 million (3,476,608) people - 1,739,945 of which were males and 1,736,663 females respectively¹⁶.

¹⁰ Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia. 2001. Birdlife International: Sites – Important Bird Areas. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6455>

¹¹ Garnett, T. and Utas, C. 2000. The Upper Guinea Heritage: Nature Conservation in Liberia and Sierra Leone. International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN, Netherlands Committee Amsterdam and the Environmental Foundation for Africa.

¹² West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA). 2012. Rainforests and Biodiversity. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.wapca.org/05.htm>

¹³ Encyclopedia of the Nations. 2012. Liberia – Topography. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Liberia-TOPOGRAPHY.html#b>

¹⁴ Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). 2011. National Population and Housing Census. Government of Nepal. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://census.gov.np/>

¹⁵ Colombant, N. 2008. Liberia Tries to Count Citizens. Voice of America. March 27. Accessed online at www.voanews.com; and Callimachi, R. Liberia Census Highlights Distrust of Government. Associated Press. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: www2.nysun.com

¹⁶ Liberia Institute of Statistics. 2008. Republic of Liberia 2008 National Population and Housing Census Final Results. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/Population_by_County.pdf

24. Of Liberia's population, 1.8 million are children. Indigenous tribes account for over 90% of the population.
25. Christianity, indigenous religions and Islam are the main religions in the country. Besides the official language English, approximately 20 ethnic dialects are used, although few are written¹⁷.
26. Fourteen years of civil conflict (1989-2003) have, however, destroyed Liberia's social and economic infrastructure and brought the economy nearly to a halt. Workers who came of age during the conflict are largely unskilled, and the supply of workers exceeds demand by a substantial margin.
27. Liberia's official unemployment rate in its small formal sector is about 5.7 percent and in line with unemployment rates in neighboring countries - although, this measure underestimates the extent of unemployment and underemployment. However, there is also a high degree of underemployment in the large low-productivity, low-wage informal sector.
28. Overall, about 20 percent of the labor force cannot find enough work to get out of poverty. The poor tend to be underemployed, unemployed, or have low-quality jobs. While unemployment and underemployment clearly lead to poverty, the prevalence of low-productivity jobs is an even larger determinant of low standards of living.
29. Employment in the formal sector is estimated at 15%. Seventy percent (70%) of the population is employed in agriculture and 40% is sustained by subsistence agriculture, 15% in industry and 2% in the services sector¹⁸.
30. There are differences in labor force participation rates by age, gender, and level of household welfare (as measured by the quintile of household per capita consumption to which an individual household head belongs).
31. Labor force participation is lower among women, although it is relatively high for Africa - females constitute about 40 percent of the labor force, and their participation rate is 69.3 percent compared to 77.0 percent for males (2007).
32. The negative effects of unemployment, underemployment, and low productivity on economic growth have made employment the most urgent demand of the population and the top priority for Government action¹⁹.
33. A 2010 report by the World Bank²⁰ identified the transformation of the agriculture sector as being essential

17 United Nations Liberia. 2012. Liberia – an overview. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.unliberia.org/content.asp?pg_detail=29&main_menu_id=1&pg=sub

18 USAID. 2012. Liberia Country Profile and Map. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://liberia.usaid.gov/node/72>

19 World Bank. 2010. Liberia Employment and Pro-Poor Growth. Poverty Reduction and Economic Management 4. Africa Region Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics. Human Development Network Country Department W1. Africa Region. Report No. 59124-LR.

20 Ibid.

for pro-poor growth. Higher productivity in domestic agriculture could increase employment and incomes of the rural labor force, improve food security, reduce the food import bill, and – importantly – ease the burden on women.

Socio-Political Context

34. Liberia is a low-income country, heavily reliant on foreign assistance for revenue, despite the fact that the country has made enormous strides since achieving peace in 2003.
35. Following 14 years of civil war, the country faces monumental challenges in completely rebuilding state institutions, shattered national infrastructure, restarting service delivery, and above all helping individual citizens contribute to economic growth and the rebuilding of the state.
36. Civil war and government mismanagement destroyed much of Liberia's economy, especially the infrastructure in and around the capital, Monrovia. Many businesses fled the country, taking capital and expertise with them.
37. General and presidential elections were held in 2005, following a comprehensive peace agreement in 2003 that ended the civil war. The National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL) was succeeded by peaceful legislative and presidential elections in October 2005 with Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf becoming Liberia's and Africa's first democratically elected female head of state and her Government was inaugurated in January 2006 for a six-year term²¹.
38. The conclusion of fighting and the installation of a democratically elected government in 2006, have lead to several businesses returning.
39. The government's strong economic and political reform efforts have also been recognized by the local and international community, but the population's expectations for concrete peace dividends remain high. Another (second) presidential and general election took place in October 2011 with a Presidential run-off election in November of the same year.
40. Under the leadership of President Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia has worked together with international partners to ensure that stable progress is made towards consolidating a peaceful society and reviving its economy, but the long-term path of reconstruction remains daunting²².
41. Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with extremely low development indicators. Health and education services were primarily provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during the war years. The government faces significant

21 United Nations Liberia. 2012. Liberia – an overview. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.unliberia.org/content.asp?pg_detail=29&main_menu_id=1&pg=sub

22 World Bank. 2010. Liberia: Country Brief. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://Web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/LIBERIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:356204~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:356194,00.html>

institutional, monetary, and capacity challenges in getting service delivery up and running. Liberia has the potential for strong economic growth, given its reconstruction boom, but economic recovery has been heavily impacted by the global economic crisis. Growth has slowed considerably to 4.6 percent in 2009, but is expected to rebound to 8.5 percent by 2011²³.

42. There has been significant progress since the elections, in advocating for partnerships for the restoration of infrastructure, services, the economy and consolidation of state authority with decentralized administration at county level.
43. Separately, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was inaugurated in February 2006 to support national reconciliation. The national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS, 2008-2011) was published in April 2008, and is based upon participatory consultation in the counties with priorities articulated through County Development Agendas (CDAs).
44. However, the residual effect of the conflict continues to have a bearing on all aspects of life in Liberia. High levels of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and gender base violence (GBV) are a major concern. Many of the conflict factors that led to Liberia's civil crisis are yet to be comprehensively addressed

and tensions over ethnicity, land and other issues appear to be resurfacing.

45. Current internal security concerns include an increase in violence and criminal activities, particularly armed robbery and theft in the capital. External security threats in the region remain, and must be considered in terms of interrelated economic, social and security elements. High levels of unemployment and pervasive poverty compound the situation, with few opportunities for legal, gainful employment for the relatively youthful population.
 46. The humanitarian situation in Liberia has improved and the Government is increasingly taking on responsibility to provide for its population and promote the overall coordination of humanitarian and development assistance. However, many Liberians remain vulnerable and confront acute humanitarian needs on a daily basis, especially lack of access to basic services such as health and safe drinking water.
- Climate Change in Liberia²⁴**
47. After years of darkness as a failed state, Liberia is rebuilding its state institutions, determined to rejoin the international community. Unfortunately, no amount of reforming zeal of a single small country can overturn the threat of climate breakdown or rising tides.

²³ World Bank. 2010. Liberia: Country Brief. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://Web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/LIBERIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:356204~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:356194,00.html>

²⁴ One World Group. 2010. Climate Change in Liberia Briefing. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/liberia/climate-change>

48. Although Liberia and all Developing Countries together are responsible for only about 4% of greenhouse gas emissions (the gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides responsible for climate change/global warming), the country continues to be impacted by climate change.
49. Liberia's ability to adapt to climate change is limited and the country's vulnerability is severe due to low economic and technical advancement.
50. Liberia is highly vulnerable to environmental instability due to its extreme poverty. The rural economy absorbs over 70% of the population, largely dependent on rain fed subsistence farming, forest produce and fishing. The climate in Liberia is not inherently hostile to these livelihoods, but poverty provokes unsustainable land use and low capacity to adapt.
51. Liberia has become susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change, contributing factors being ill-adapted agricultural activities, unsustainable logging practices, unregulated coasting sand mining, overdependence on biomass, inadequate infrastructure, low level of socio- economic development, low institutional capacity and inadequate meteorological and hydrological data and data gathering capability.
52. Liberia vulnerability to climate change stems from her extreme dependence on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy and mining.
53. Average temperature across the country has been rising and will continue to do so, creating uncertainty over the fundamentals of agrarian yields - rainfall volume and intensity, optimum timing for planting, and the incidence of pests. A country of low health standards will also be wary of the correlation between temperature and waterborne disease, and the spread of malaria.
54. Current major climate hazards in Liberia include reduced rainfall in some places and relative heavier rainfall along the coast, extreme coastal flooding events, sea level rise and soil erosion.
55. The Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has observed that coastal erosion potentially affects the livelihoods of half of the population. Although unregulated mining of beach areas is a contributory factor, rising sea levels threaten dramatic impacts in the low-lying cities of Monrovia and Buchanan.

Deforestation

56. Endowed with magnificent coverage of tropical forest, including over 40% of the Upper Guinea Forest, Liberia is no stranger to international scrutiny of its forestry management. Global sanctions on timber products were imposed in 2003, in protest against the use of revenues to finance civil wars. Concerns now focus on the contribution of deforestation to carbon dioxide emissions.

57. When sanctions were lifted in 2006, the government of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf undertook to revoke all timber concessions then in force and to embark on wholesale reform of forest regulations²⁵. This commitment has led to the inclusion of timber in the 2009 Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Act, which demands disclosure of commercial revenues together with suitable allocation towards social programs.
58. Whilst doubts remain as to the capacity of Liberia's FDA to enforce regulations in dealing with commercial interests²⁶, the process of reform will deepen as Liberia seeks to benefit from international proposals for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). The "Readiness Plan" seeks to demonstrate that - in return for generous REDD funding - Liberia can accurately monitor its forest coverage. It must also establish mechanisms that engage and reward local communities for sustainable forest management.
59. Very considerable pressures stand in the way of the REDD vision. There is no magic wand which can lift the daily threat to Liberia's forests from industrial mining, logging, rubber and oil palm interests, from small scale farm clearance and from domestic fuel needs. Disputes over incoherent legal rights of tenure are a major impediment.
60. Even the economics of REDD are uncertain²⁷. Strategies developed in 2006 envisaged a three-way division of the forest between protected areas and zones set aside for commercial concessions and for community exploitation.
61. Logging revenues were projected to contribute significantly to exports and national income. Whether it is possible to conduct logging within strictly sustainable parameters, with REDD revenues making up the difference, remains to be seen.
62. Furthermore, the economics cannot be viewed purely at national level. Most of the rural population in Liberia depends to some degree on forest produce for subsistence or livelihood. Putting these interests on a sustainable basis without imposing further poverty mirrors the logging dilemma. REDD has to achieve a seamless relationship with both poverty reduction plans and national economic development.
63. Electricity access provides a core illustration of this quandary. It is very difficult to regulate against the use of forest timber for charcoal and wood fuel in the absence of any alternative for poor households. There is no electricity coverage in Liberia apart from an inadequate supply in Monrovia. Hydroelectric dams were largely destroyed in the fighting.

25 IRIN. 2006. Liberia: Government lays foundation for legal logging. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: www.irinnews.org/Report/62755/LIBERIA-Government-lays-foundation-for-legal-logging

26 Global Witness. 2009. Credibility of Liberia's Forestry reform Programme at the Point of Collapse Warns Global Witness. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: www.globalwitness.org/library/credibility-liberia's-forestry-reform-programme-point-collapse-warns-global-witness

27 Ecologist. 2010. Atlantic Rising: Liberia Faces Choice between Deforestation and REDD. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/bloggers/atlantic_rising/395849/atlantic_rising_liberia_faces_choice_between_deforestation_and_redd.html

64. Liberia is currently preparing to join global efforts to mitigate climate change with the awareness that if the country develops along a carbon intensive path, it will be contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and inadvertently undermine development – green economic growth is the only way to sustainable development.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: MANDATES AND POLICY RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER

ENVIRONMENTAL MANDATES AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

International Environmental Agreements²⁸

65. Liberia is Party to several multilateral agreements on the environment through the signing and ratification of Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, Biodiversity, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands.
66. The Environmental Modification- and Marine Life Protection Agreements have been signed, but not ratified.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

67. Liberia signed the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol (KP) in 2002. The country has since been active in both the Convention and the KP processes²⁹, alongside the other two Rio Conventions.
68. The EPA deals with matters relating to climate change on behalf of the Government of Liberia.
69. To date, the country has not yet produced a National Communication under its obligations to the UNFCCC. At the time of developing this ccGAP, however, the process of compiling such a document was already underway. It is envisaged that Liberia will finalize the Initial National Communication (INC) in the near future.
70. The FDA, on behalf of the Liberia Government, also submitted a REDD Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank in Oslo, Norway.

National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA)³⁰

71. Liberia's network of meteorological monitoring and forecasting centers

²⁸ Central Intelligence Agency. 2012. Environment – International Agreements. The World Factbook. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2033.html>

²⁹ Assaf, K. n.d. Fact on Climate Change in Liberia. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.lr.undp.org/Documents/PDF/fact_climate.pdf

³⁰ One World Group. 2010. Climate Change in Liberia Briefing. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/liberia/climate-change>

was completely destroyed during the years of civil war. Adaptation of farming and forestry to climate change will be constrained until this core service is restored.

- 72.** The NAPA for Liberia published in 2008 is a funded project to be carried out by LDCs to address their immediate priority adaptation needs. The NAPA process in Liberia was designed to be consistent with ongoing national strategies, plans and environmental frameworks and it is consistent with the National Environmental Policy, which calls for the sustainable management of Liberia's environment and natural resources.
- 73.** Liberia's NAPA contains unusual features. Instead of a lengthy list of small-scale adaptation projects, it identifies broad national adaptation strategies across a range of rural economic and health sectors.
- 74.** Priority areas identified under the Liberia NAPA project were³¹:

 - i. Agriculture adaptation: enhancing resilience to increasing rainfall variability through the diversification of crop cultivation and small ruminants rearing;
 - ii. A National Meteorological Monitoring System: enhance adaptive capacity through the rebuilding of the national hydro-meteorological monitoring system and improved networking for the measurement of climate parameters;
 - iii. Coastal Defense: reducing the vulnerability of coastal urban areas (Monrovia, Buchanan, Robert sports) to erosion, floods, siltation, and degraded landscapes;
- 75.** Due to the severe threat posed by sea level rise in the 3 cities mentioned above, priority project 3 was brought forward to be priority project 1, and the project is well on the way with the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy as the implementing agency.
- 76.** In identifying agriculture as the priority sector, it suggests exploring how land use could be diversified through a cycle of crop rotation and livestock production. This is a lower cost approach than the more typical drive for higher crop yields through seed varieties and irrigation.
- 77.** For the coastline, the NAPA proposes a full-scale program of sea defenses for the urban regions of Monrovia and Buchanan. This is priced at \$60 million, very ambitious in scale for a project within the NAPA template. The only evidence to date of international donor support for Liberia's coastal defense is a \$2.9 million program from UN funds available for Least Developed Countries.
- 78.** The Liberia NAPA is also unusual in observing that farming communities already have extensive experience in adapting to climate variability. It draws the conclusion that ideas for climate adaptation should be merged into

31 Assaf, K. n.d. Fact on Climate Change in Liberia. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.lr.undp.org/Documents/PDF/fact_climate.pdf

poverty reduction programs already targeting the rural economy.

- 79.** This vision appears to have bypassed development agencies working in Liberia. Neither the Millennium Development Goals progress report published in 2008 nor the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2008-2012 makes a single reference to climate change.
- 80.** REDD, including the role of conservation, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancements of carbon stocks (REDD-plus) is a forest mitigation instrument under the UNFCCC seeks to provide incentives for the effective reduction of emissions from the forestry sector, through performance-based payments.
- 81.** Liberia is among the few African countries that have signed on to the REDD-plus instrument under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. A draft REDD-plus R-PP, which outlines key issues and steps for REDD readiness preparations over a four-year period (2012 – 2015), has recently been submitted to the FCPF for approval.
- 82.** The key drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (D&FD) in Liberia have been assessed in the draft R-PP. It is noted that direct drivers arise from driving forces within the forest, agricultural, mining and energy sectors, although direct evidence on their relative importance is currently not available. Some of the direct drivers include: commercial logging, chainsaw logging, shifting cultivation, plantations and permanent agriculture, charcoal and fuel wood production, oil³², and mineral extraction/mining. These direct drivers have been linked to underlying demographic, policy and institutional, economic and market factors, including socio-economic and cultural factors related to landlessness and allocation of rights. Studies will be carried out to provide reliable evidence on these D&FDs, as part of the REDD implementation process.
- 83.** Significant actions have already been taken by the government, with support from NGOs and INGOs and CSOs, towards putting in place the appropriate architecture for REDD-plus and ensuring inclusive participation at all stages of the REDD process, including the development of the R-PP. This includes the roll-out of a number of participatory workshops and awareness raising programs, in order to increase understanding of REDD-plus and allow for active engagement of stakeholders as at all levels. Consultations and dialogues have also been carried out on the development of the R-PP.
- 84.** Initial consultations in the early stages of the R-PP process highlighted the need to avoid land litigation and ensure that sufficient (equitable) benefits reach local communities. Concerns were also raised about how REDD-plus

³² Even though current activities are focused off-shore, the R-PP identified the need to consider potential future plans to develop on-shore wells and pipelines

would ensure inclusive participation of women, youth and vulnerable forest dependent communities.

85. Although proposed activities in the R-PP highlight women's groups and institutions as important stakeholders who need to be actively engaged, no specific activities or interventions have been outlined to exclusively address mainstreaming of gender considerations into the REDD process.
86. The R-PP is structured into 6 broad components which cover the key issues that have been identified as critical for a successful REDD-plus regime for Liberia.
87. *Component one* covers aspects related to management arrangements, information sharing, dialogues, and consultation and participation. This seeks to ensure capacity building of institutions and awareness of the R-PP and the entire REDD-plus process amongst all stakeholders – including opportunities, challenges, rights, participation and shared benefits.
88. *Component two* involves the actual preparation of the National REDD-plus Strategy. This will consider the assessment of land use, forest law, policy and governance, identification of REDD-plus strategy options, REDD-plus implementation framework and social and environmental safeguards. Efforts will be targeted at addressing gaps in the legislative and policy frameworks as well as the necessary knowledge, skills, research and mechanism needed to fully explore and develop REDD-plus at the project, sub-national and national level.
89. *Component three* covers the development of a reference level or scenario for forest carbon emissions. Although preliminary studies have already been conducted on forest coverage (2004 and 2010) and estimated deforestation rates, degradation and future emissions have yet to be assessed. Activities will focus on enhancing technical capacity for the development and management of effective database and information systems, forest inventory, etc.
90. *Component four* focuses on enhancing the capacity of the FMU to design a monitoring system. The development of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems will build on activities undertaken as part of component three.
91. *Component five* outlines the schedule and budget for the implementation of the R-PP. A total of US\$6610,000 is anticipated towards the implementation of the R-PP. Potential funding sources include the Government internal funds, the FCPF, and development partners, including the World Bank, Fauna and Flora international (FFI), Conservation International (CI), IUCN, UN REDD and the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD).
92. *Component six* focuses on the design of a comprehensive monitoring and

evaluation (M&E) framework to be implemented over the 4-year duration of the REDD+ readiness process.

93. Substantial operational structures seem to already exist within the country to support REDD-plus management. However, further strengthening and capacity building may be needed in addition to new structures for addressing identified gaps in the forestry sector³³. It is therefore important that REDD-plus fosters the integration of existing structures for forest allocation, protection, and management planning, monitoring and livelihood improvements with new frameworks or institutions that may be required as well as cross-sectoral coordination with other relevant sectors such as agriculture and energy.

94. Whilst the overall responsibility for the implementation of REDD-plus enabling activities and governance rests with the FDA, the draft R-PP outlines that REDD-plus governance in Liberia will be at three different levels:

- Policy Formulation and Coordination at the National Climate Change Policy Advisory level will be provided by the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC);
- The REDD Technical Working Group (RTWG), which is chaired by the FDA and co-chaired by the EPA, will be the platform for bringing together all stakeholders and providing technical

support to the FDA for all REDD+ activities; and

- Overall oversight for implementation of REDD-plus activities by the FDA.

95. These institutions would need to collaborate with several other existing management structures working on forest management and forest governance will contribute to the successful management and implementation of REDD-plus, such as the EPA, The Benefit Sharing Working Group (BSWG), Liberia Forestry Initiative (LFI), and the Community Forestry Development Committee (CFDC).

National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC)

96. In October 2010, the Vice President of Liberia, H.E. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, launched the National Climate Change Steering Committee within the Office of the President³⁴. The NCCSC will be responsible for developing a comprehensive national framework to combat climate change in Liberia and has been established as the high-level, multi-sector, and multi-stakeholder body responsible for review and coordination of climate change strategies³⁵.

97. At the time of its establishment, it was envisaged that the NCCSC would become the country's national organization dedicated to addressing all

³³ R-PP Country Submission for Liberia – approved Resolution PC/9/2011/2–final version, March 2012

³⁴ See http://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/20101018VP_Speech_Climate_Change_Final_Version.pdf

³⁵ World Resources Institute. 2011. To what extent does the R-PP promote good governance within REDD+ systems and processes? Annex to Governance of REDD+. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://pdf.wri.org/rpp_country_table_liberia.pdf

issues and policies relative to climate change, as was the case in many other countries around the world.

98. The Steering Committee comprises a multidisciplinary team drawn from relevant line ministries, agencies, civil society, development partners and academia. The Committee's recommendations therefore reflect a range of perspectives, utilizing a consultative and participatory approach.

GENDER EQUALITY MANDATES AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Liberian Constitution

99. The Liberian Constitution is the supreme law of the country. All laws, including international treaty obligations that have been ratified at the national level, should be consistent with the provisions contained therein. Article 2 of the Constitution, states that "Any laws, statutes, decrees, customs and regulations found to be inconsistent with it shall to the extent of the inconsistency, be void and of no legal effect."
100. The Liberian Constitution guarantees equality of men and women and outlaws discrimination on the basis of sex.
101. The Constitution of Liberia prohibits discrimination; however, there are no specific laws against gender-based discrimination or discrimination based on ethnicity and both are still evident.

Statutory versus Customary Law

102. Patriarchy has deep roots in Liberian society. The election of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the first female African Head of State has, over a period of more than six years, had a significant impact on changing the perceptions and attitude of the Liberian people with regards to the status and role of women, particularly in urban areas.
103. The position of Liberian women is furthermore also strengthened through progressive Statutory Law that systematically seeks to entrench these growing values into the national policy framework.
104. In rural areas, however, tradition results in Statutory and Customary Law being practiced in tandem and, in certain instances – albeit isolated - in conflict with one another.
105. The constitution states that customary law is applicable only in areas where it does not directly contravene statutory law, but the rural Liberian traditional courts often serve as first instance and the knowledge of the statutory system is low.
106. The lack of capacity and credibility of the formal court system at local levels, further endorses customary courts being the relevant justice institutions for the majority of the population.

- 107.** This puts women in a very disadvantaged position. With almost no female personnel in customary courts, discriminatory attitudes are common. For example remedies for domestic violence under customary law are non-existent, because realities of domestic violence are not recognized³⁶.
- 108.** Whilst the renewed recognition of women have also lead in an increase in women traditional leaders throughout the counties of the country from 0 to 5% in recent years, further work is still necessary to firmly secure the governance and position of Liberian women at large.
- 109.** A national process currently underway at the time of writing this document and lead by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, seeks to reinstate the authority of traditional leaders in order to strengthen governance at the national, regional and local levels.
- 110.** In advancing gender issues – especially at the local level - in Liberia, it is therefore of the utmost importance to both recognize and involve these authorities and the influence of traditional leaders: sensitizing them to the gender differentiated aspects of climate change and broadening their understanding of the role of women in reducing the vulnerability of communities, especially at the local level, and as agents of change.

Family Code

- 111.** Liberia's Family Code grants very few rights to women. The new law on family relationships sets the minimum legal age for marriage at 18 years for women and 21 years for men. In reality, the custom of early marriage is very widespread, especially in rural areas, where girls marry from the age of just 12 or 13 years.
- 112.** A 2004 United Nations report estimated that 36% of girls between 15 and 19 years of age were married, divorced or widowed. There has been a slight increase in the average age of first marriage in Liberia.
- 113.** Liberia's civil law prohibits polygamy, but customary law allows men to have several wives. More than one-third of married women between 15 and 49 years of age live in polygamous marriages.
- 114.** According to customary law, married women have no right to parental authority. In fact, if a woman's husband dies, she has no right to custody of their children. The government passed a new civil law recognizing shared child custody, but in the matter of parental responsibility it appears that discrimination against women persists.
- 115.** Under Liberia's civil law on inheritance, married women can inherit land and

³⁶ Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. 2012. For women's full participation in conflict resolution and peace-building. How has the conflict affect women? Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/five-conflicts/liberia/>

property. By contrast, women married under customary law cannot inherit from their spouses. There is no information available on the inheritance rights of daughters.

Physical Integrity

- 116.** Women's physical integrity is not sufficiently protected in Liberia. Violence against women is common and no serious consideration is given to victims by the authorities, the justice system or the media. Liberian law prohibits domestic violence, but to date no offender has received any sentence beyond six months in prison.
- 117.** In 2006, the government promulgated a new law that broadens the definition of rape and recognizes spousal rape as a crime. Rape is now punishable by law, but as yet the authorities are not in a position to apply the legislation. Women have paid a high price in the civil conflicts in Liberia, during which rape was used extensively as a weapon of war.
- 118.** There is no law prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM) in Liberia. The practice is, in fact, quite common particularly among ethnic groups in the north, west and center of the country, and more generally in rural areas. The civil war destabilized life in the villages and led to a decrease in FGM at the end of the 1990s, but the practice resurfaced recently in many communities. About half of Liberia's female population has been subjected to FGM.

- 119.** Liberia does not appear to be a country of concern in relation to missing women.

Ownership Rights

- 120.** Liberian legislation grants equal ownership rights to men and women, but discrimination based on tradition persists. The law provides men and women with the same rights regarding access to land, access to property other than land and access to bank loans. In practice, there is significant discrimination against women, particularly when they have married under customary law.

Civil Liberties

- 121.** Liberian women's civil liberties are guaranteed by law, but have been severely restricted as a result of the civil war, which led to widespread population movement. Women and children comprise the majority of displaced people living in refugee camps.
- 122.** Aside from this situation of vulnerability, there are no reported restrictions on women's freedom of movement or freedom of dress.

Institutionalization of Gender in Liberia

- 123.** In 1995, a Women and Children Unit was established by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs with the view of highlighting the issues of women and children and promote the advancement of women and children in Liberia.

- 124.** This Unit existed until 2001 when the Ministry of Gender and Development was created by an Act of the Legislature (Gender and Development Act), amending the existing executive law by giving the Ministry of Gender and Development the mandate to ensure the advancement and welfare of women and the growth and development of children and establishing it as the lead agency to “coordinate the Government wide gender mainstreaming efforts, focusing on gender equality, women’s empowerment and the development of children.”
- 125.** The role of the Ministry of Gender and Development as the lead agency therefore includes the policy coordination, information sharing, building consensus, providing guidance in harmonizing sector programs with National Gender Policy objectives, advocacy and lobbying, and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the National Gender Policy.
- 126.** In the implementation of its Mandate, the Ministry works with many Government Ministries and Agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations, and the various women organizations/ groups, community and faith-based organizations and communities throughout the Country.
- 127.** Despite the multiplicity of players in gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, there are serious gaps in terms of the available human resource capacity to effectively mainstream gender in sectoral policies, plans, and programs. Translating Government’s commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment in Liberia requires capacity strengthening in gender analysis, planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation at all levels.
- Gender Staffing in the Ministry of Gender and Development (MOGD)**
- 128.** A Cabinet Minister appointed by the President heads the MOGD. Two Deputy Ministers, two Assistant Ministers and other professional personnel assist the Minister.
- 129.** Currently, there are fifteen Gender County Coordinators assigned to the fifteen political sub-divisions. Two additional staff members support each County Coordinator. Logistics for effective implementation of the Ministry’s Mandate by the County Coordinators remain a great challenge for the Ministry.
- 130.** The Ministry has also succeeded in establishing Gender Focal Points (GFP) in the line Ministries/Agencies of Government. The Gender Focal Points are to coordinate efforts as well as ensure appropriate strategic direction for the promotion of gender mainstreaming in the planning and budgeting processes at the sectoral level. The GFP also serve as members of the National Gender Forum. Unfortunately, they have not been able to deliver effectively for multiple reasons: absence of clear terms of reference, lack of authority, and the absence of institutionalized

linkage between their gender mandate and the core work at Ministries, as well as no specific resources for gender-related work.

- 131.** In addition, they function as in-house gender advisers and serve as the link between the national gender machinery and sector agencies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in national policies, plans, and programs.

Cooperative National Mechanism on Gender

- 132.** The National Gender Forum was established in 1998 and comprises all stakeholders involved in gender related programs. The Forum serves as the Policy Advisory Body to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all sectors and forms a part of the national agenda, and formulates policy guidelines.
- 133.** In September 1998, the Women's and Children's Unit of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs supported the establishment of a Women NGOs Secretariat which serves as the body to complement the efforts of the Ministry to promote gender equality and the advancement of women.
- 134.** The National Legislature has a Women's Legislative Caucus that plays a key role in advancing women's concerns and issues for national legislation. It also has the Committee on Gender, Women, Children and Health.
- 135.** Development Partners support the Ministry of Gender and Development

in a catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in all Government Ministries and Agencies. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has been crucial in providing technical assistance and support to MOGD to effectively execute its Mandate of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Liberia.

- 136.** The UN Gender Theme Group, a coalition of all UN Agencies in Liberia, is a key player in advancing gender equality and women's advancement, especially through UN support programs in the country.
- 137.** Civil Society Organizations (including local and international NGOs, CBOs, FBOs,) play crucial role both in advocacy and direct service delivery for women's legal, economic, and socio-cultural empowerment organizations in Liberia. MOGD records/reports indicate that there are over 100 women's Organizations/Groups in Liberia.
- 138.** The Government of Liberia has a wide range of policy instruments reflecting its commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The Government has already undertaken many initiatives to address issues affecting women and girls.

National Gender Policy Framework

- 139.** The MOGD, supported by UNECA, initiated the process of drafting a National Gender Policy. This objective was partly achieved and a comprehensive gender policy framework

was formulated which will provide the main guideline for the development of a National Gender Policy. Under the PRS, the Ministry is expected to fully develop the National Gender Policy within the next few months.

International Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Legal Instruments

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- 140.** Liberia ratified CEDAW on 17 July 1884.
- 141.** The Convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life - including the right to vote and to stand for election - as well as education, health and employment. State Parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 142.** CEDAW is the only human rights treaty that affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations. It affirms women's rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality and the nationality of their children. States parties also agree to take appropriate measures

against all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women.

- 143.** Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are also committed to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations³⁷.
- 144.** Liberia submitted one report to CEDAW under its obligations to the Convention in 2009. In the report, a number of key issues were highlighted that impacted on the situation of women in Liberia at the time.

Resolution 1325

- 145.** The Ministry with technical and financial support from key partners has developed a framework for developing a national action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
- 146.** Tangible efforts have been made in Liberia with regards to the incremental implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 passed on 31 October 2000, in general. For instance, the Ministry of Gender and Development is charged with the responsibility of developing policies for the protection and advancement of women. The Ministry has taken a proactive role in mainstreaming gender and the placement of women in key decision making positions and bodies.

³⁷ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2012. CEDAW: Overview of the Convention. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

147. Additionally Government has adopted several initiatives, such as the various scholarships schemes, and the literacy and skills training programs, all of which are intended to address in part, the special needs of women. These initiatives are pioneering programs, and thus, it is hoped that when the National Action Plan is developed, programs would be designed to ensure that women's peace, security, and protection are adequately addressed.

Beijing+15

148. Liberia has also submitted information to the United Nations to the United Nations for the 15-Year Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+15) during which Member States providing assessments of progress made, and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Platform for Action at the national level. Their responses to the common questionnaire of the United Nations regional commissions were the basis for analysis of trends and challenges in implementation.

149. The information in the questionnaire was utilized in the global 15-year review and appraisal process and in the compilation of reports of the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session in March 2010³⁸.

150. In Liberia's report in response to the questionnaire dated March 2009, the MOGD addresses a number of key critical issues concerning the implementation of CEDAW and other measures³⁹.

3. THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN LIBERIA⁴⁰

151. Women have played a major role throughout the history of Liberia. They comprise 54% of the labor force in both the formal and informal sectors. In agriculture they constitute the majority of smallholder producers and it is estimated that they produce approximately 60% of agricultural products, carry out more than 80% of trading activities in the rural areas and are heavily engaged in the artisanal fishing industry, in addition to fulfilling daily household chores. Yet women in Liberia remain among the most disadvantaged.

152. Inequalities in the society continue to hold back sustainable development and peace; gender discrimination being one form. Widespread patriarchal beliefs leads to limitations for women, for example through discrimination in practices related to property and inheritance within customary law (more under Discrimination within legal systems further down) and lower level of education⁴¹.

³⁸ UN Women. 2010. Beijing+15. National-level review of implementation. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/national-level.html#res>

³⁹ Ministry of Gender and Development. 2009. Liberia's Report on Beijing+15. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.uneca.org/acgs/beijingplus15/questionnaire/daw/english/liberia-daw.pdf>

⁴⁰ Government of Liberia and UNIFEM. 2011. Empowering Women in Liberia. Joint Program on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Factsheet. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://unliberia.org/doc/genderemail.pdf>

⁴¹ Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. 2012. For women's full participation in conflict resolution and peace-building. How has the conflict affect women? Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/five-conflicts/liberia/>

- 153.** Liberian women are disproportionately clustered in the least productive sectors, with 90% employed in the informal sector or agriculture. Their predominance in the informal economy translates into low productivity, meager earnings and exposure to exploitation.
- 154.** Illiteracy rates among women aged 15-49 are particularly high (60%) compared to men (30%). 42% of Liberian women and 18% of men have never attended school.
- 155.** In rural areas, literacy rates are staggeringly low at 26%, while the gender gap in secondary school attendance is very high, with a net attendance ratio of 6 percent for females. While 19% of men have completed secondary school or higher, only 8% of women have accomplished the same.
- 156.** Maternal mortality is one of the highest in the world, and is estimated at 994/100,000 births. According to the 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey, 48% of Liberian women become pregnant by the age of 18, and the unmet need for family planning is over 60%.
- 157.** Health needs are significant with limited access to health care facilities. In Liberia, 40% of the population is highly vulnerable to food insecurity, and women, who lack means of sustainable livelihoods, employment skills and suffer from higher rates of malnutrition, are particularly susceptible.
- 158.** In addition to food insecurity, women are also exposed to gender based violence, sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS, especially among young girls. Vicious and systematic acts of sexual violence were perpetrated against a significant number of Liberian women throughout the years of conflict. Following the end of the conflict, rape and sexual violence remain an ongoing problem.
- 159.** Based on the 2009 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), the Development Center of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ranks Liberia 87th out of 102 non-OECD countries assessed⁴².
- 160.** The position of women in Liberia, however, varies much according to region, ethnic group and religion. Statutory and customary legal systems also act together.
- 4. THE CASE FOR GENDER EQUALITY**
- 161.** Gender equality is a core development objective in its own right. It is also critical to achieve other development objectives, and to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of efforts to reduce poverty and support economic growth. Greater gender equality can make institutions more representative,

⁴² OECD Development Centre. 2012. Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2009. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://genderindex.org/ranking>

enhance productivity and improve development outcomes for the next generation.

i. *More representative decision-making.*

Empowering women as economic, political, and social actors can change policy choices and make institutions more representative of a range of voices. The 2011 Human Development Report (HDR)⁴³ finds that greater involvement of women in decision-making is of instrumental importance in addressing equity and environmental degradation. The findings are that women show more concern for the environment and support pro-environmental policies. Countries with higher female parliamentary representation are more likely to set aside protected land areas, as a study of 25 developed and 65 developing countries reveals. Countries with higher female parliamentary representation are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties, according to a study of 130 countries with about 92 percent of the world's people.

ii. *Productivity gains.* Women now represent 40 percent of the global labor force, 43 percent of the world's agricultural labor force, and more than half the world's university students. Productivity will be raised if their skills and talents are used more fully. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), equalizing access to productive resources between female and male

farmers could increase agricultural output in developing countries by as much as 2.5 to 4 percent. Eliminating barriers that prevent women from working in certain occupations or sectors would have similar positive effects, reducing the productivity gap between male and female workers by one-third to one-half and increasing output per worker by 3 to 25 percent.

iii. *Improved outcomes for the next generation.* Greater control over household resources by women can increase countries' growth prospects by shifting spending patterns in behaviors that benefit children. Also enhancements in women's education and health have been associated to better outcomes for their children.

162. Despite recent advances in the promotion of gender equality, it still remains the case that in most societies there are significant differences between the rights and opportunities of women and men. For poor women in poor communities, significant gender gaps persist. And these disparities are exacerbated when poverty combines with other forms of exclusion, such as ethnicity, caste and geographical seclusion.

163. According to the HDR, the greater equality between men and women and within populations may have transformative potential in advancing environmental sustainability. Analysis suggest that environmental challenges and gender inequalities are mutually

⁴³ UNDP. 2011. Human Development Report: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

reinforcing; seriously jeopardizing health, education, livelihoods and other aspects of human well-being⁴⁴. The report presents empirical findings for the causal relationship between inequality (measured in terms of Human Development Index (HDI) and gender disparities) and environmental sustainability. Poor sustainability performance - measured by net forest depletion and air pollution - raised inequality in the HDI; on the other hand, higher levels of gender inequality (as measured by the Gender Inequality Index GII) led to lower levels of sustainability. The study also shows how promoting gender equality can advance environmental outcomes by improving access to clean water and sanitation, combating land degradation and reducing deaths due to disasters, indoor and outdoor air pollution.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 164.** Gender is a vital element to be taken into account when considering actions both to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. Climate change impacts are not only economic and physical, but also social. Because of gender differences in social-cultural and economic roles and responsibilities, the effects of climate change affect women and men in different ways, and often women more harshly.
- 165.** The HDR cautions that gender inequalities intersect with climate risks and vulnerabilities, concluding

that climate change is likely to amplify existing patterns of gender disadvantage. Women's historic disadvantages, their limited access and control over decision-making, environmental and economic resources, and restricted rights, make them more vulnerable to climate change.

- 166.** The disproportionate burden of climate change on women can be countered by empowerment of women, recognizing them as the important actors of change that they are. Women have important roles as primary land, water, and natural resources managers, and are powerful agents of change in formulating responses to climate change. Women are part of the solution. Though their leadership, copying strategies on adaptation are developed. Women are also fundamental in mitigation, largely due to their critical role in energy efficiency, their receptiveness to greener sources of energy, as well as their power to change consumption patterns.
- 167.** Incorporating a gender perspective successfully and effectively requires that men and women understand the process of climate change, and share information on counteracting its negative impacts on an equal basis to both women and men. It is important that women have equal access to knowledge, awareness, capacity building, resources and technology, which are prerequisites in influencing climate change. Likewise, it is fundamental that women participate more actively in decision-making and policy development at all levels.

⁴⁴ UNDP. 2011. Human Development Report: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

168. Two complementary principles that are accepted globally underlie this ccGAP: (i) gender equality and (ii) the empowerment of women⁴⁵.

169. Based on the above, Parties to the UNFCCC have acknowledged the need to mainstream gender into the climate change negotiations. The Cancun Agreement includes 8 gender references while the Durban Outcomes includes 19 gender references (see Annex 1).

170. Building on the understanding as set out above, this ccGAP acknowledges gender mainstreaming as the primary methodology employed, seeking to recognize and bring to the fore the diverse roles, needs and contributions of both women and men in the sustainable development agenda. Rather than merely adding women's participation onto existing strategies and programs *post facto*, mainstreaming gender aims to transform unequal

social and institutional structures by recognizing the promotion of gender equality as a central driving principle - reducing vulnerability - enhancing significantly the efficiency, effectiveness and overall implementation of programs and projects.

171. The availability of data in relation to the gender-differentiated impact of climate change in Liberia is a big constraint. Due to civil war and other priorities during the reconstruction period, research and data collection have not been systematical conducted. During the consultation process for developing the present ccGAP, the women representatives from the Ministry of Gender and Development of the 15 counties in Liberia as well as the Gender Focal Points in the Ministries were requested to identify if they perceived that climate change is having and will have a differentiated impact on men and women. Their perceptions are as follows:

45 Equality between women and men is a principle that ensures human development while, at the same time, is a fundamental objective in the fight against poverty. Women and men play different roles and have different responsibilities in their families, in their community or in society. They participate in different ways in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their countries and communities. Understanding these differences allows a more focused intervention when developing policies, programs and projects meant to improve the condition of people. Above all, what is intended is that these differences do not generate or worsen conditions of inequality and exclusion.

Empowerment is a process for women to gain power and have more control over their lives and is an effective route leading to gender equality and also to reducing poverty. It involves consciousness raising, building self-confidence, improving health and wellbeing, and broadening options and opportunities. Empowerment is an important strategy to transform power structures in all spheres: legislation, education, institutions and in any entity, whether public or private, that predominates, in this case male, and is detrimental to women's social condition.

DIFFERENTIATED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN AND MEN

WOMEN

- Increased deaths rate caused by malaria
- Increased stress due to overload of work
- Increased malnutrition and anemia
- Miscarriage due to diseases or carrying water and firewood
- Increased maternal mortality
- Increase in social vulnerability
- Increase in maternal and neo-natal mortality
- Reduces life span of women
- Emotional trauma
- Traditional practices will be affected; eg. Sande society
- Hunger
- Destruction of homes
- Trek long distances to fetch water
- Poor livelihood
- Unemployment
- Increase domestic violence
- Increase in early marriage
- Reduce independence
- Reduce resilience to shock (illness)
- Reduce income
- Food insecurity
- Migration
- Health hazard
- Increase domestic burden
- Vulnerable to SGBV and SEA
- Financial constraints
- Unsafe drinking water

MEN

- Loss of family
- Responsible to find shelter
- Increased stress
- Vulnerable to STIs
- Migration from rural to urban communities
- Exhibition of aggression on the family
- Reduces life span of men
- Destruction of homes
- Low capacity to sustain family
- Affect poro society (traditional)
- Decrease in economic status
- Homeless
- Unemployment
- Low respect
- Frustration and emasculation
- Insecurity
- Reduce resilience to shock (illness)
- Food insecurity
- Increased labor
- Difficulties in farming
- Separation from the family
- Relocation of belongings
- Poor health condition
- Unsafe drinking water
- Single parenthood

5. METHODOLOGY

172. On the 1st of December 2011, the IUCN Global Gender Office received an official request from the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of Liberia, Ms. Anyaa

Vohiri, to be engaged in the preparation of a National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change (ccGAP:Liberia).

173. The Government of Liberia furthermore requested the development of the said Action Plan within the broader framework

of (i) Liberia's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), submitted to the UNFCCC in 2008;(ii) the country's Initial Communication Report under development at the time of writing this document; (iii) Liberia's National Gender Policy (2009); and (iv) the national development agenda (Vision 2030).

174. Made possible through the generous financial support received from the Government of Finland, a two-staged approach was conducted in order to develop the Action Plan, i.e.: a capacity building and consultative process with women representatives from the 15 counties (held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 27-28 April 2012) and a multi-stakeholder workshop with representatives from civil society, environmental and development NGOs as well as government representatives from various sectors (held in the same city from 2 -4 of May). In both instances, the events were co-convened by the MODG, the EPA and the FDA.

175. The main objectives of the workshops were to:

- Identify and understand the importance of gender and climate change; and
- Identify possible areas of action/ intervention that could be taken up in an Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change in Liberia.

176. This document is the result of a series of inputs, including research, interviews with policy makers, stakeholder consultations and peer review, amongst

others. Importantly, it has been drafted on the basis of an analysis of the current national priorities concerning climate change, as set out by the Government of Liberia, at the time of its development.

177. It defines the role that the Environmental Protection Agency as the climate change focal point of Liberia will play in initiating and facilitating efforts nationally. However, it also states the need to work in an integrated and cohesive manner with strategic partners dealing with environment and gender at the national level.

178. The ccGAP integrates gender considerations into six priority sectors as identified by the Government and participants, i.e. agriculture, water, health, energy, forests/REDD and coasts. It establishes clear objectives, outlines substantive activities that are accompanied by reachable indicators within the ambit of the six priority sectors as identified and highlights the specific contribution women do and can make within each of these as well as the required interventions necessary to incorporate the role of women effectively. The time frame of the Plan is five years, from 2012-2017.

179. Upon completion of the first draft of this document, the three Government Partners, with the necessary technical and scientific support provided by the IUCN, will engage stakeholders at the national- and county levels in a consultation process. Upon completing the validation process, the ccGAP will be presented to cabinet for its endorsement.

1. OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CCGAP: LIBERIA

To ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into Liberia's climate change policies, programs and interventions so that both men and women have equal opportunities to implement and benefit from mitigation and adaptation initiatives in combating climate change and positively impact on the outcome of "Liberia Rising 2030".

2. PRIORITY SECTOR 1: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Situation Analysis

- 180.** Agriculture is a major contributor to the economy of Liberia. It provided the mainstay of the economy throughout the Liberian conflict and has accounted for over half of GDP in the post-war period (compared to one-tenth in the late 1970's)⁴⁶.
- 181.** Agriculture is of high priority in the government's efforts towards poverty reduction and to rebuild its economy after the 14-year civil war, which ended in 2003. This is captured in the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP I) of Liberia and also in current discussions towards the development of PRSP II, which aims to transform the country from Least Developed status to Middle Income status by 2030, and considers climate change as a major issue.
- 182.** The agricultural sector accounts for about 70% of jobs and over 90% of total export earnings and since 2003. It is also a significant contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country⁴⁷.
- 183.** A large portion of the economically active population of Liberia (approximately 70%), are engaged either directly or indirectly in smallholder subsistence agriculture or fisheries⁴⁸. The traditional subsistence farming system mainly involves shifting cultivation, with use of low technologies and is very labor intensive. Major food crops produced include rice, cassava, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, etc.,

⁴⁶ Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ministry of Agriculture. Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy –FAPS (2009): From subsistence to sufficiency. Republic of Liberia.

whilst commercial agriculture mostly involves rubber, oil palm, coffee and cocoa plantations.

- 184.** Historically, agricultural performance has been limited by structural constraints, poor policies and the armed conflict. The decline in productivity of the sector has in recent years also been attributed to unpredictable rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures due to climate change. This is affecting soil moisture and water availability for food production. Pre-and post-harvest losses due to pests and diseases and insufficient storage are also high, averaging about 40% for food crops annually⁴⁹. The country therefore relies heavily on importation of food products, particularly, rice, livestock and fish, to meet local consumption demands.
- 185.** About two-thirds of the country's food basket is imported. Currently, 60% of the rice consumed, which is the country's main staple, is imported from Asia and South America. Although this is a significant improvement over the 90% figure that was prevalent immediately after the civil war, a lot more needs to be done to reduce the country's dependence on importation. This would help reduce Liberia's vulnerability to food price and availability shocks on the global market.
- 186.** The impacts of the civil conflict can also be seen in other agricultural sub-sectors. Livestock production has for example declined to less than 10% of national consumption requirements. The fisheries sub-sector is similarly under-developed even though it contributes to about 3.2% of the GDP of Liberia, employs over 11 250 people, and makes up about 65% of the country's animal protein needs⁵⁰.
- 187.** Food insecurity is more prevalent in the rural areas. However, when there are sudden shocks due to food price increases, as was experience in 2008 and 2011, respectively, it is the more-cash dependent urban people who are affected the most.
- 188.** An emergency assessment undertaken in April-May 2011 found that rising food prices have led to a decrease in food consumption in Monrovia, with 40% of households having little to eat⁵¹. Additional food shortage problems have also emanated from the influx of Ivorian refugees into the country since 2010, which has put a strain on insufficient food sources. In such cases it is small children who suffer the most. Maryland County in particular, has been singled out in the 2010 CFNS study, as the most food insecure county in the country.
- 189.** Low capacities of farmers and institutions, lack of adequate infrastructures-most of which were destroyed during the war, strengthening of private sector involvement, reducing deforestation and the use of unsustainable agricultural systems,

49. UNICEF. 2012. The Situation of Children and Women in Liberia; From Conflict to Peace. UNICEF. Monrovia, Liberia.

50. FAO. 2012. Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles- Liberia.

51. Liberia Market Price Monitor. April 2011. BULLETIN 16. Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Price Statistics Section, LISGIS and the WFPVAM Unit.

creating opportunities for women and the youth and ensuring food security, are amongst the other numerous challenges that confront the sector in recent times. Smallholder farm sector has received very little support and investment⁵².

- 190.** The Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS) therefore seeks to guide Liberia in the revitalization and improvement of its agricultural in order to overcome these challenges and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. It focuses generally on building effective and efficient human and institutional capacities including that of women and youth, ensuring quality and quantity of good nutrition for Liberians; inclusive participation of stakeholders and improving productivity and market value of products.

Nutrition

- 191.** Nutrition is an important determinant of well-being and the livelihood status of people. The impact of the civil crisis on food security and nutrition is still being felt today, in Liberia. A 2010 Comprehensive Food Security and National Survey (CFSNS) identified that nationally, 42% of children under 5 years, were chronically malnourished (stunted) and 3% have acute malnutrition (underweight). Nutrition statistics indicate that 41% of Liberians

are insufficiently fed. 13% eat only rice, roots and tubers⁵³, whilst most of those in the rural areas only eat meat or fish they have captured or rear. Over half of rural families keep chickens and livestock ownership has seen a gradual increase from 5% in 2005 to 10% in 2010⁵⁴.

- 192.** The problem of food insecurity discussed in the sections above, translates into a widespread problem of acute and chronic malnutrition, especially amongst infants and children under 5 years. The situation has however improved since 2006, particularly for acute malnutrition, with a decrease of percentage of underweight children from 27% in 2006, to 15% in 2010. The percentage of children with chronic malnutrition or stunting unfortunately still remains amongst the highest (42%) in the world⁵⁵.

- 193.** According to the recent national Liberia Micro-nutrient Survey (LMNS-2011), about 60% children are suffering from anemia and almost 40% of pregnant women. 44% of the deaths of young children are associated directly or indirectly with malnutrition. Coverage of micro-nutrient interventions such as growth monitoring by General Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and other initiatives are inadequate and inequitably distributed⁵⁶. This increasing prevalence of anemia unfortunately presents a vicious cycle since it can

⁵² UNICEF. 2012. The Situation of Children and Women in Liberia; From Conflict to Peace. UNICEF. Monrovia, Liberia

⁵³ The state of Food Insecurity in Liberia, op cit., Key Messages cited in UNICEF (2012) p.32

⁵⁴ The state of Food Insecurity in Liberia, op cit., Key Messages cited in UNICEF (2012) p.32

⁵⁵ UNICEF. 2012. The Situation of Children and Women in Liberia; From Conflict to Peace. UNICEF. Monrovia, Liberia

⁵⁶ Government of Liberia.2009. National Nutrition Policy. Liberia.

in turn have a rippling effect on food production due to its impact on work capacity and productivity of women, who are a majority of the agricultural work force. Household incomes are therefore invariably affected⁵⁷.

- 194.** The country's National Nutrition Policy (NNP) was therefore developed in 2009 to provide the MOHSW with the needed framework for improving the nutritional status of the country through the institutionalization and implementation of appropriate actions that also accelerate the coverage of nutrition interventions. These actions are based on the foundation that "access to quality health and social welfare services is a human right and precondition for individual and societal development"⁵⁸.

Gender in Agriculture and Food Security

- 195.** Generally women's contributions are not duly recognized due to the absence of gender-disaggregated data. However, Liberia's National Gender Policy (NGP) highlights that women provide about 80% of the agricultural labor force of the country⁵⁹. They are involved in smallholder production of cash and food crops as well as marketing and trading, where they use their informal networks to link rural and urban markets. Women are usually responsible for household food security, fetching of wood and water, and general care for their children and the entire family.

- 196.** Traditionally, in marine and artisanal fisheries, women tend to engage more in fish processing and marketing activities whilst the men go out to sea to do the fishing. In in-land fisheries however, after land- and pond preparation has been done by men, it is the role of the women to manage the pond, harvest, process and market the fish for income.

- 197.** Despite women's significant contribution to the agriculture sector in Liberia, they are disproportionately clustered in the least productive sectors, with 90% employed in the informal sector or agriculture. Women's predominance in the informal economy also translates into low productivity, meager earnings and exposure to exploitation. This places them amongst the most disadvantaged and increases their vulnerability to shocks.

- 198.** They have less access to productive inputs than men; including land, skills training, basic tools, credit and technology thus they often have to depend on male relatives to access these resources.

- 199.** The numbers of female-headed households and single parent families have also increased since the civil crises, leading to more burdens of child and family care. Food insecurity was particularly heightened during the conflict. As a result, in 2006, some 81 percent of the rural population was

⁵⁷ Klemm, R., et.al. 2011. Are We Making Progress on Reducing Anemia in Women?: A Cross-Country Comparison of Anemia Prevalence, Reach, and Use of Antenatal Care and Anemia Reduction Interventions. The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project.

⁵⁸ Government of Liberia. 2009. National Nutrition Policy. Liberia.

⁵⁹ Ministry of Gender and Development. 2009. Liberia National Gender Policy. Government of Liberia. Liberia.

found to be either moderately vulnerable (41 percent) or highly vulnerable to food insecurity (40 percent), while 11 percent of the rural population was food insecure and only 9 percent was food secure⁶⁰. A significant proportion (about 90%) of the estimated 4.6 million hectares of arable land still remains uncultivated at present⁶¹.

200. A Cross-Country Comparison of anemia prevalence under taken by USAID⁶² indicates that in low-income, food-deficit countries where a majority of women work in agriculture, increasing prevalence of anemia has had a rippling effect on food production due to reduced work capacity and low productivity. This ultimately affects the income levels of households.

201. In terms of employment, women and men are employed equally on a ration of 1 to 1 within the agriculture and fisheries sectors⁶³. Women, however, make up over half of crop farmers and less than one-third of the workers in livestock, poultry and fishing.

202. Recognizing these issues, Liberia's development agenda currently puts strong emphases on gender equality. A major milestone was chalked in the empowerment of women to contribute more effectively to development,

through the establishment of a National Rural Women's Program (NRWP) by the MOGD in 2008.

203. This is a network which brings together rural women leaders from all of Liberia's 15 counties to prioritize grassroots, women-led development issues and to create a centralized leadership structure that will champion efforts towards increasing food production and marketing capacity, recognition of women's rights, enhancing women's capacity and leadership skills amongst other key developmental issues affecting women.

204. Another USAID-funded assessment of the NRWP conducted by the Women's Campaign International and the Ministry of Gender and Development in November 2009⁶⁴ revealed that most women now have a better understanding of their rights than in the past. More women have been empowered through education and awareness raising on gender-based violence (GBV) and adult literacy classes.

205. A draft strategy is currently under development for the mainstreaming of gender in the Agriculture and Natural Resources sector⁶⁵. This is being executed as part of Agriculture

⁶⁰ Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

⁶¹ FAO.2012. Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles- Liberia.

⁶² Klemm, R., et.al. 2011. Are We Making Progress on Reducing Anemia in Women?; A Cross-Country Comparison of Anemia Prevalence, Reach, and Use of Antenatal Care and Anemia Reduction Interventions. The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project.

⁶³ Ministry of Gender and Development. 2009. Liberia National Gender Policy. Government of Liberia. Liberia.

⁶⁴ Women's Campaign International and the Ministry of Gender and Development. 2009. Assessment of Liberia's National Rural Women's Program. USAID- Women's Campaign International-Ministry of Gender and Development. Liberia.

⁶⁵ Ministry Of Agriculture. 2010.Final Draft Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agricultural Programs and Projects in Liberia. Draft March. Liberia.

Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP), in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), with funding from the African Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development. The ASRP seeks to increase the income of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, especially women, on a sustainable basis.

- 206.** The draft gender strategy has identified that some of the key constraints that women face in the sector that have affected their participation in leadership and decision-making, include the lack of recognition of their agricultural contributions beyond their domestic roles as helpers and carers for their families, as well as a low level of education and limited technical and entrepreneurial skills. Women also have limited access

to productive services, including financial support and credit, as well as storage and processing facilities. Additionally, certain cultural and traditional practices also place women at a disadvantage particularly with regard to land and property rights.

- 207.** The strategy goes on to propose some interventions for addressing these challenges in coordination with the country's NGP. The proposed gender-sensitive interventions include gender budgeting, the establishment of a gender advancement unit in the MOA, rural gender reform programs, introduction of gender performance objectives, support to women organizations involved in the agriculture sector, and the establishment of agricultural clubs in Junior and Senior High Schools.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: AGRICULTURE

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To strengthen the agricultural policies so that they become gender sensitive to climate change and its related treats agriculture	<p>Review documents on the national agriculture sector</p> <p>Hold stakeholder hearings to review existing policies for amendments and recommendations that will reflect gender sensitivity (ensure participation of rural and young women in the process)</p> <p>Incorporate best practices from other countries on agriculture, gender and climate change</p> <p>Ensure take-up in the national agricultural policy framework</p> <p>Distribute criteria to donors and implementing partners</p>	<p>No. of gender-sensitive agricultural policies in place</p> <p>No. of women groups (by location and age) that participated in the policy revision</p> <p>No. of donors and implementing partners using the policy guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD • EPA • NGOs • MIA • CDA • INGOs • Donors
To promote women's rights and access to land (in statutory and customary laws)	<p>Sensitize local community to be aware of land issues through traditional leaders that will promote knowledge and implementation or enforcement of the statutory law</p> <p>To allow women to be aware and exercise their rights to access and control of land they are entitled to</p>	<p>Increase in hectares of cultivated land for women</p> <p>No. of rural women having access to and owning productive land</p> <p>No. of women participating in decision-making on land ownership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD • EPA • NGOs • MIA • CDA • INGOs • UNWomen • National Legislature

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: AGRICULTURE (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
	Reinforce awareness on women rights and access to land through electronic and local media		
	Mobilize local community and their leaders to develop and incorporate gender in tradition/ customary guidelines		
	Update legislature at constituency level, on women's rights issues with regards to land tenure and ownership		
To increase knowledge and awareness of women farmers on climate change	Develop awareness programs Conduct trainings in 3 regions on climate change adaptation and mitigation	No. of awareness programs developed and rolled-out No. of women trained No. of trainings conducted Extent to which farmers programs adopt climate change strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD • EPA • NGOs • MIA • CDA • INGOs • Media Institutions
To increase women farmers access to improved ⁶⁶ varieties of farming seeds, tools and other resources	Collect sex disaggregated data on crop preferences and resources needed Build seed banks at the chiefdom, clan and community	No. of seed banks built No. of varieties of climate change smart seeds available in bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD • EPA • NGOs • MIA

⁶⁶ Resistant to droughts, flooding, pests and diseases.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: AGRICULTURE (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
	level that will be control and managed by women	No. of women accessing and benefiting from seed bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDA • INGOs
	Train women in seed bank management		
	Timely distribution of seeds to women farmers		
To increase the knowledge and skill of women farmers in pest control	To establish farmer-field schools managed by women	No. of farm-field schools managed by women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD
	To train women in the production and use of local, environmentally friendly, insecticide and pesticide to combat pests	No. of women using environmentally friendly technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA • NGOs • MIA • CDA • INGOs • MOE
	Involve agricultural extension officers	Reduction in losses due to pests and diseases	
	Introduce the knowledge and skills of pest control at the grade school level	No. of students that have received training	
To improved agriculture related infrastructure to adapt to the effects of climate change	Conduct a baseline study on agricultural infrastructure needs disaggregated by sex	No. of baseline study conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD
	Improve availability and efficiency of the irrigation system for women farmers	Needs assessment completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA • NGOs • MIA
	Introduction of infrastructure to improve drainage in flood-prone areas	Sprinkler and drop irrigation system extended, improved and available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDA • INGOs • MPW

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: AGRICULTURE (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
	Build or rehabilitate farm-to-market roads	No. of roads built and/or rehabilitated and in use	
To improve and increase the availability of technology to women farmers to respond to climate change and its effects	Ensure that the technology proposed in the Draft INC (under development) are gender-responsive and benefit women ⁶⁷	No. of technology available to women No. of women benefitting from technology projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • CBOs • MOGD • EPA • NGOs • MIA • CDA • INGOs
	Form corporative of women farmers in the cultivation and harvesting of crops which will increase yields in response to climate change	No. of new women cooperatives formed and functioning effectively	
	Train women in the use of sophisticated equipment to engage in mechanized farming to increase their productivity in coping with effect of climate change	Percentage increase of yield by women farmers Reduction of community malnutrition in children from 0 – 5	
	Provide climate-smart equipment (such as farming tools) for women farmers	No. of climate change smart equipment available for agriculture women group	
	Provide women and women cooperatives access to post harvest technologies i.e. storage and food preservation	No. of households benefiting from food fortification programs	
	Food fortification technology introduced to reduce malnutrition		

⁶⁷ Cover crops and manure application, wetlands and river valley cultivation, changes in timing of land preparation activities, mixed farming crop.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: AGRICULTURE (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To promote linkages between women farmers and existing markets and improve their access to credit facilities	Linking women cooperatives to markets	No. of women cooperatives linked to markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA • Liberia Marketing Association
	Develop the skills of women farmers in entrepreneurship and value-addition	No. trainings conducted to enhance women's capacity in adding value to their farm produce	
	Train women in mechanisms to add value to their farm products	No. of women farmers subject to business training	
	Organize and conduct entrepreneur skill training for women farmers to combat the effect of climate change on their yield	Amount of credit accessed by women farmers	
	Establish and extend credit facilities to benefit women farmers	No. of farms with improved access to market	
	Improve farm to market roads to ensure access to markets		

3. PRIORITY SECTOR 2: COASTS

Situational Analysis

208. Liberia is highly vulnerable to climate change in coastal areas and experts express concern that densely populated communities throughout the shores of West Africa will soon be showing the similar effects of coastal erosion.
209. Houses on the shores of the country are collapsing at the edge of the sea due to coastal erosion from climate-related sea level rise and other factors. A large portion of these people live on very low lying land, often in unplanned settlements or illegal or extra-legal settlements.
210. Government records show that in the area of Buchanan, for example, about 250 people lost their homes in recent years, with the last several years seeing a loss of a full 10 meters from the area's coastal beaches.
211. In other populated coastal areas, the Liberian Environment Agency measured between three and five meters of land being lost annually, with 50 meters of shore having disappeared since 2005 from one town alone.
212. Some families, unable to afford new dwellings, are still living in the portion of their home that has not been taken over by the rising tide waters.
213. To exacerbate this situation, the coastal population is poor and all social indicators – e.g. access to health and education – are very low.
214. A large proportion of the coastal community also live in temporary and/or poorly constructed housing with little protection from sea or storm surges. Unemployment is high and the gender situation is weak.
215. For this combination of reasons, the community's capacity to adapt to climate change is very low, and resilience is very limited.
216. Unregulated sand mining and unsustainable harvesting of mangroves, which act as natural barriers from storm surges, have aggravated the effects of climate change.
217. To counteract the negative impacts of climate-related coastal erosion, the Liberian government has announced a short-term plan to protect infrastructure. Unfortunately, the reality is that it lacks resources for significant projects.
218. Other constraints faced by the Government, include, amongst others:
- i. The capacity of government to plan and respond to climate change in coastal areas from the national level is weak and is in need of strengthening.
- Very limited information on sea levels and coastal erosion is available, largely due to a lack of trained personnel and forecasting equipment. Improved data collection, storage

analysis and the establishment of an effective climate forecasting system is therefore required.

A Coastal Management Force at the MLME also exist, but is not functional. Awareness of the issue of coastal erosion amongst government officials are generally low, and policies on environment, forestry, agriculture, transport, etc. exist, but does not adequately take into account the issue of climate change. Furthermore, there are also no courses taught at any of the universities in Liberia on coastal management.

- ii. Capacity of coastal Counties to plan and respond to climate change needs to be strengthened.

Awareness at the County level on climate change issues is low. Subsequently, the integration thereof into county development planning and project implementation is also lacking. There is therefore a need for county coordinators to be recruited and trained. As adaptation measure – and in addition - the local coastal populations should also be trained to crush rocks and build gabions and revetments. At present, no County Development Agenda mention climate change.

- iii. Sustainable and affordable measures to protect coastal areas against climate change impacts should be demonstrated. According to government sources, coastal areas in Liberia currently

experience as much as 3 – 5 m of beach loss every year. Coastal protection methods such as groynes, gabion baskets, and mangrove conservation could be very effective in government's attempts to fight back coastal erosion and the value of these should be demonstrated and projects initiative at selected sites to raise awareness of their effectiveness.

Gender and Coasts

- 219. Fishing is a dynamic system that goes beyond the activity of catching. The system is composed of a cycle that involves the catching, processing, storage, and marketing of fish and preparation of food for the fishermen, amongst others. Roles and participation in fishing and fishing related activities are differentiated and divided along gender lines. For example, in artisanal fishing communities, women are mainly responsible for performing the skilled and time-consuming jobs that take place on-shore, such as fish smoking.
- 220. In Liberia women's role largely centers on the processing and marketing of fish that are caught by men. However, they are also engage in fishing with small implements, wading and gleaning the shores for shellfish.
- 221. In the artisanal sector of Liberia, women do most of the fish marketing. Marketing of fish provides the main source of income in many families of the country, reflecting in improved livelihoods when women control this income.

- 222.** Due to electricity scarcity, conserving fish is very limited (i.e. access to ice, cooling system). Therefore the main source for conserving fish is by smoking it, using mainly biomass from forest and mangroves in clay or drum dryers. There are ongoing initiatives in Liberia, by the World Bank for instance, to introduce new technologies such as solar dryers and cold storage systems.
- 223.** At present, the European Union is proposing to undertake a project to introduce standards to export smoked fish to the European market. The project is being run by the Competitive Authority comprises of the Ministry of Health and Agriculture. Unfortunately the project does not have a clear gender mandate.
- 224.** It should be noted that, in spite of the importance of women's participation in fishing activities - be it at the time the fish are caught, processed, or sold, the conditions under which their involvement takes place in Liberia are not of an equitable nature:
- Women do not usually participate in meetings held by the fishermen's organizations;
 - Most of the fishing projects are male-oriented, and the participation of women is limited with regards to planning, programming and management; and
 - There are very few policies or programs within the fishing sector where gender aspects are considered.
- 225.** The technological bias that favors men, particularly in fisheries projects, also contributes to the inferior position and suppressed rights and privileges of women in the fishing sector. Women involvement in processing and marketing, though recognized, needs to be considered to a larger extent in the planning of fisheries development projects. For example, even though women do not catch the fish, they can ensure that the regulations in relation to size and type of fish are enforced. Hence, the importance of women's participation in meetings dealing with mesh size and other regulations should be emphasized.
- 226.** These actions, due to the impact of climate change in the fishery stock, will become of vital importance in the coming years.
- 227.** From a gender perspective, a number of gender-responsive interventions can also be made to strengthen Liberia's response to climate change in coastal erosion by harnessing and capitalizing on the role of women in affected societies.
- 228.** If technicians are trained in the collection of data, storage and analysis, women should be included. Communication material that are developed to raise the awareness of various stakeholders on the issue of climate change and coastal erosion should include a gender perspective, and women groups should be provided with basic equipment to involve them in the establishment of an effectively functioning climate forecasting system.

- 229.** Any review of policy must be gender-responsive at all levels. In particular, a gender screening of the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) is required.
- 230.** Sectoral experts should be trained on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and the necessary technical assistance should be provided through the establishment of a national Roster of Women Experts that could assist with the technical capacity the government and other stakeholders are in need of.
- 231.** The proposed Integrated Coastal Management Unit should also make provision for a permanent representative for women and/or women's organizations/groups.
- 232.** Women and women's groups should be considered important stakeholders and should be consulted on an ongoing basis.
- 233.** Scholarships for women in the field of Integrated Coastal Management should be made available.
- 234.** Women's groups can be trained in the crushing of rocks and the building of sea defenses as new entrepreneurs and should also be seen as key actors in mangrove restoration- and alternative livelihood/energy projects.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: COASTS

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To develop and implement gender climate change sensitive policies for aquaculture and integrated coastal management	Revise and amend policies on aquaculture and integrated coastal management from a gender and climate change perspective	No. of gender sensitive policies, plans and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLME • EPA • Coast Guard • CSOs • MOGD • MIA • MOD • Bureau of Maritime
	Consultation and stakeholders validation of policies	Amount budget allocated and spent to support gender and climate change adaptation in coastal zones	
	Public awareness and dissemination of policies, plans and programs		
	Ensure that all the projects in the fishery sector are gender-screened		
	Gender-sensitive ecosystem based approaches to aquaculture practices promoted		
To conduct gender-sensitive vulnerability studies on coasts to be used in planning and available in public domain	Conduct gender disaggregated vulnerability study in coastal zones	Gender disaggregated vulnerability study concluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLME • EPA • Coast Guard • CSOs • MOGD • MIA • MOD • Liberian Maritime Authority • Media Institutions • Private Sectors
	Develop a capacity building process for women so that they can run local meteorological stations to report on coastal weather conditions and enhance the initiatives contained in the NAPA.	Improved early warning meteorological information for coastal zones management	
		No. of women participating in mini weather stations along the coast	

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: COASTS (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>Use these women to act as information focal points for weather information that has to be transmitted to communities regarding major metrological events along the coasts (early warning system-see below the information will relay in the information that can be sent and recieved by the women by mobile phones)</p> <p>Build the capacity of women in communities to build infrastructure to adapt to sea-level rise</p>	<p>Women participation in the building of coastal infrastructure</p> <p>No. of disasters averted</p>	
<p>To put in place a robust gender balanced monitoring system in coastal zones</p>	<p>Consult with stakeholders in the selection of gender balanced coastal monitors (women whistleblowers)</p> <p>Development ToR to guide women participation in coastal zone monitoring. The system will relay on the use of mobile phones for women.</p> <p>Establish alliance with mobile companies to support/ patronize this program</p> <p>Train and empower women coastal monitors</p> <p>Monitoring coastal zones and assessing measures put in place for women participation</p>	<p>No. of women trained in coastal monitoring</p> <p>No. of incidences reported by women monitors</p> <p>Disaggregated information on anthropogenic activities and impacts in coastal zones available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOD • EPA • NGOs • MOGD • LWSC • MLME • MIA

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: COASTS (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To implement coastal forest regeneration program in the hands of women	<p>Disseminate and introduce alternative energy solutions in coastal communities for fish smoking</p> <p>Introduce a program to regenerate the mangroves in the hands of the women (link this program with REDD+ initiatives)</p>	<p>No. of women using alternative energy</p> <p>No. of reforested hectares in hands of the women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA • FDA • MOGD • MOA • NGOs • MIA
To offer coastal management course at University levels	<p>To create awareness of coastal management to strength and make coastal management force functional</p> <p>Develop a special quota and scholarship scheme for women</p>	No. of trained climate managers/specialist by sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All universities or institutions of higher learning • EPA • MLME
County Development Agenda captures climate change	Recruit and train female county coordinators on coastal management	Percentage of coastal coordinators trained disaggregated by sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coastal counties • MOGD

4. PRIORITY SECTOR 3: FORESTRY AND REDD

Situation Analysis

- 235.** Liberia is endowed with very rich forestland and biodiversity which contribute significantly to the country's revenue. Natural forests cover 4.8 million hectares of the land area and current estimates of flora and fauna indicate over 2000 species of flowering plants, of which 240 are valuable timber trees⁶⁸. Forests are also a vital source of food, medicines, building materials, income/ livelihoods for local people, as well as a source of ecosystem services.
- 236.** Prior to the civil crisis, the forestry sector was a major contributor to economic growth in Liberia, with a peak total log and timber production of 1 million cubic meters per annum, valued at approximately US\$100 million. The sector provided approximately 50% of export earnings and about 20% of GDP⁶⁹. The huge potential of the sector to significantly contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth of Liberia in post-war times is therefore highly recognized.
- 237.** Deforestation is currently a major challenge in this sector, with an annual deforestation rate of 0.2% or cumulative 2.6% forest loss⁷⁰. Charcoal and fuel wood production are the major drivers of deforestation, in addition to the increasing rate of illegal logging, mining, farming and hunting activities, and construction of settlements and roads⁷¹. As forests are intricately linked to climate change, concerns have been raised about the unsustainability of current levels and methods of extraction and use of forest products.
- 238.** Efforts have been made by government to harness the forestry sector into becoming a source of higher incomes for the rural population, where opportunities are provided for meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in value chains and community rights are recognized. Equity in the sharing of forest benefits and adequate environmental and other regulatory safeguards are also crucial for ensuring sustainability.
- 239.** As a major step, sanctions were imposed on Liberian log and timber exports by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 2003, to curb the poor governance and corruption in the sector at that time and its role in fueling the civil conflict. The sanctions were lifted in 2006 following a legal review and community-based natural resource management reform measures that were initiated by the new Government⁷².
- 240.** The reform measures included the reform of the forest policy, the enactment of a new forest reform law, forest land use planning, forest

⁶⁸ EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

⁶⁹ Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

⁷⁰ EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

institutional reforms, and transparent control of timber production through a chain of custody system.

- 241.** The new forest policy seeks to integrate the 3Cs (Community, Conservation and Commercial) uses and management of forest resources with sustainable forest management. A new Forest Management Strategy has been formulated and validated through public consultation with stakeholders. The Community Rights Law with Respect to Forest Lands has also been drafted and submitted to parliament for approval. This provides the legal framework for active participation of communities in forestry⁷³.
- 242.** It is envisaged that this reform will provide the legal framework and the ground rules for ensuring revival and pro-poor growth of the sector. Cross sectoral/institutional collaboration is also very key if this objective is to be achieved.
- 243.** Additionally, in order to address the increasing rate of deforestation within the country, reforestation efforts were initiated prior to the civil conflict, which have produced up to 10,158 hectares of artificial forests.
- 244.** Liberia is progressively taking steps towards ensuring that REDD+ programs are effectively implemented to optimize benefits and positive impacts it will have on forest governance and the livelihoods of communities. Establishing

an effective management and regulatory framework for REDD+ readiness and implementation at national, sub-national and local levels is critical for REDD+ in Liberia⁷⁴. Thus, once the R-PP is approved, its implementation will facilitate the collation of lessons, experiences and views from stakeholders towards the development of a National REDD strategy, and its subsequent implementation.

- 245.** Another World Bank-proposed project Liberia: Consolidation of Liberia Protected Area Network (COPAN), is under development to consolidate and expand the Liberian protected area network⁷⁵.
- 246.** The NAPA of the EPA has proposed several adaptation initiatives that are aimed at reducing the adverse effects of climate change on a range of sectors, of which the Forestry is one of the priority areas⁷⁶.

Gender in the Forestry Sector

- 247.** The historic election of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the first African female president has had a significant impact on the perception of both men and women as regards to gender stereotypes in career roles and decision-making. Although most government departments including FDA are mostly male dominated– with women perhaps in few administrative positions, this is gradually changing in recent times.

⁷³ Koffa S. 2010. Evaluating Investment And Financial Flows Of Forestry Sector Issues In Climate Change Mitigation In Liberia. UNDP.

⁷⁴ R-PP Country Submission for Liberia – approved Resolution PC/9/2011/2.

⁷⁵ Koffa, S. 2010. Evaluating Investment And Financial Flows Of Forestry Sector Issues In Climate Change Mitigation In Liberia. UNDP.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

Women continue to gain high-level positions in government and other areas of natural resource governance.

- 248.** Out of the four protected areas in Liberia⁷⁷, at the time of this study, one of the proposed parks are headed by female wardens who are already achieving a positive impact on the sustainable management of the natural resources in their areas.
- 249.** The wardens attribute the success of their leadership to having better negotiation skills than their male counterparts and having earned a good level of trust from the communities, who look up to them as mothers and friends. They also make a conscious effort to invest time, specifically in working with community women, which has for example resulted in the reduction of the indiscriminate capture of wild meat.
- 250.** Policy and institutional structures are needed to effectively mainstream gender into issues affecting the sector, coupled with targeted capacity building and training programs to help build understanding of stakeholders about gender considerations. For example, a gender strategy for the forestry sector, would provide a useful tool for the FDA to identify important entry points for gender mainstreaming and development of gender-sensitive interventions for addressing existing challenges including climate change.

- 251.** The FDA identifies the need for the encouragement of more women to take up career paths in the forestry sector. At the time of this study are less than 10% of total number of rangers in the country were women. Scholarship schemes have also been recommended as an incentive to motivate girls to take up forestry as a profession.
- 252.** It is also noted that although secure tenure is a major challenge throughout the country, lack of title deed places women in more vulnerable positions when faced with crisis/shocks such as economic problems, family conflict, marriage breakdown or widowhood. Social customs hinder women's mobility, constrain their participation in decision-making and limit their involvement in productive activities.
- 253.** Traditional norms continue to restrict women from development opportunities. Although women are capable of owning land; usually from their parents, they are the main group in the society whose land rights are demonstrably vulnerable to diminishment in the face of land shortages.
- 254.** A woman born in a community has much stronger rights than a woman who marries into the community and land, like other assets may be lost to a woman should she leave the marriage without her family repaying dowry received, even if the dowry did not

⁷⁷ One is in the process of being legally gazetted

include farmland. These problems limit the effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts, particularly in rural areas.

255. The codified customs of Hinterland Law (1923-1949)⁷⁸ only makes reference to women in relation to protection against their personal abuse, wrongful use of their labor and treatment as chattels. Although section covers marital matters (art.55), it does not specify land portions or partition over property, except in respect of dowry. Women's property rights is however clearer in statutory law.

256. Women's land rights were revisited in 2003 within a law designed to bring coordination between customary and statutory laws. Section 2.6 provides for retention of land that is brought into the marriage whilst Section 3.2 guarantees widows the right to one third share of their husbands' property⁷⁹.

257. Despite this advancement in legislation, community norms and arrangements continue to restrict women's access to land. An example being reports that community leaders, who are mostly men, often have a systematic preference for men when granting land on a yearly basis for cultivation⁸⁰.

258. In view of these existing challenges faced by women with regards to rights and access to land and natural resources, efforts are being made to

expand the role of women and increase women's participation in non-traditional segments of the economy.

259. The current PRSP therefore considers incorporation of gender issues in rural strategies and programs as critical for ensuring that the role of women is supported in all sectors of the economy, opportunities are created for women in non-traditional rural activities, including women with disabilities, and women's access to productive assets and services is enhanced.

260. It seeks to facilitate women's participation in farmer field schools and other rural community organizations, as well as explore options to create and strengthen the institutional capacity of women. A focus on building their capacity and skill sets will serve as the anchor and foundation needed for Liberia to move forward.

261. Although Liberia's R-PP has also identified gender and the participation of women and youth in the REDD process as a key area of stakeholder concern, specific activities or interventions are yet to be developed to exclusively address gender considerations.

⁷⁸ Arthur Grimes School of Law. 1973. Customary Laws of Liberia. Compilation of the 1949 Revised Laws and Administrative Regulations for Governing the Hinterland. University of Liberia.

⁷⁹ Wily L. A. 2007. So Who Owns The Forest. An investigation into forest ownership and customary land rights in Liberia. Sustainable Development Institute/FERN.

⁸⁰ Greenberg, M. 2009. A Gender Assessment for USAID in Liberia. USAID. Liberia.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: FOREST/REDD+

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To ensure that gender and climate change is mainstreamed in the national forestry sector policy and regulations	Hold stakeholder hearings to review existing policies for amendments and recommendations that will reflect gender sensitivity (ensure participation of rural and young women in the process) in local languages	No. of donors and implementing partners using the policy guidelines Forestry sector policy and regulations include gender considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA in collaboration with CSOs CBOs, • Media institutions and relevant government ministries and agencies
	Conduct adequate awareness on the national forestry policy through print and electronic media, town criers etc.	No. of women and women groups involved in hearings	
	Include the voices of rural women in the revised policy		
To increase the number of trained women in the forestry sector nationwide	Conduct a mapping of women in the forestry sector	National mapping completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA in collaboration with CSOs, CBOs, Media Institutions and relevant government ministries and agencies • Women organizations working on forest issues • Learning institutions
	Implement a school career day program for girls to stimulate interest in the forestry sector	School career day successfully implemented yearly	
	Provide more scholarships, incentives to attract women in the sector – this scholarship will be under the Ministry of Education ⁸¹	Female graduates taken up in the forestry sector	

⁸¹ The Ministry of Education has negotiated similar benefits/requirements with companies in the energy sector that want to invest in Liberia

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: FOREST/REDD+ (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
Increase women participation in decision and policy making as it relates to CC	<p>Adequate representation of women on CFF, CFDC and other committees</p> <p>Create awareness to community dwellers (community and traditional leaders) women on the importance of their participation in decision-making in the Forest Sector</p> <p>Carry out affirmative actions for women in the recruitment process and selection of women in the various forestry committees</p>	<p>Number of women represented on various committees</p> <p>Quotas established for women participation in the forest committees and fora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA along with Learning institutions, CBOs and CSOs • Women organizations working on forest issues • MIA • MOGD
To identify and utilize entry points for gender mainstreaming into the national REDD Strategy and its implementation	<p>Pro-actively include women and gender considerations in REDD+ policies and processes through the development of a gender-sensitive roadmap for Liberia</p> <p>Mainstream gender consideration into the current RPP and its implementation</p>	<p>No. of gender references contained in REDD programs, projects and initiatives</p> <p>Gender adequately addressed in the R-PP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA • EPA • RTWG • CSOs • CBOs

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: FOREST/REDD+ (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To improve women involvement in agro-forestry and conservation in urban, peri-urban and rural areas for both adaptation and mitigation	Train women in tree-nursery establishment and maintenance	No. of nurseries in the hands of women established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA • EPA • CSOs CBOs
	Involve women in agro-forestry and afforestation initiatives, i.e. tree planting initiatives with girl-guides, etc.	No. of girl guides and women organizations involved in tree-planting initiatives	
	Develop an urban forest program in the hands of women	Increase in household income from NTFPs	
	Train women to conserve the forest by utilizing NTFPs to establish small scale businesses		
	Develop and enhance forest-based business opportunities for women, e.g. NTFPs		
	Alternative livelihood schemes in the hands of women for forest communities impacted by the negative effects of climate change		

5. PRIORITY SECTOR 4: HEALTH

Situational Analysis

- 262.** Liberia lies mostly within the forested area of the West African bioclimatic zones with some savannah areas to the north of the country.
- 263.** Climate change will impact the prevalence and spread of disease, including both those caused by water-borne pathogens (such as cholera) as well as those caused by vector-borne diseases (such as malaria, onchocerciasis and schistosomiasis). Vector-borne disease, in particular, has aquatic phases and the changes in the pattern of rainfall - and subsequent habitat change - will therefore also affect their epidemiology. Other climate-sensitive diseases include respiratory disease (such as tuberculosis) and disease associated with, or exacerbated by, malnutrition (such as HIV/AIDS)⁸².
- 264.** Liberia has established a national vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2030⁸³ and the health and social welfare of the population is critically important in achieving that goal⁸⁴.
- 265.** According to Liberia's Retrospective Analysis Towards Liberia Rising 2030⁸⁵,
- Liberia has experienced a growth rate of 65 percent between 1984 and 2008. This high growth rate is due to several factors:
- i. Levels of fertility, which have been quite high in Liberia, but have been declining over the years⁸⁶;
 - ii. Levels of mortality, which are high, but have been significantly declining over the years⁸⁷; and
 - iii. Internal migration, in contrast with the net effect of international migration that has been negligible for the past four censuses⁸⁸.
- 266.** The growing population of Liberia is young and increasingly urban, but the majority continues to live in rural areas. The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) established by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has been successfully rolled out across the country, and evidence points to the fact that the overall health status of the population improving.
- 267.** Despite the success of the BPHS, the public facility network continues to be out of reach for a large proportion of the population living more than one hour's walk from a health facility.
- 268.** The DHS indicates that the infant mortality rate in Liberia declined from

⁸² EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

⁸³ Commonly referred to as Vision 2030.

⁸⁴ Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. 2007. National Health and Social Welfare Policy. Government of Liberia.

⁸⁵ Government of Liberia. 2011. Liberia Retrospective Analysis Towards Liberia Rising 2030. MOPEA and GC. Liberia.

⁸⁶ The average number of daughters per women in 2008 was 2.8 and the net reproduction or the number of daughters born per women to replace her at the end of her reproductive period was 2.4 in Liberia. Crude births ranges from 39.6 per 1,000 in urban centers to 45.6 per 1,000 in rural areas.

⁸⁷ The 2008 census child mortality figures indicate a declining trend over the past 24 years. Similarly, infant mortality almost split in half from 144 deaths in 1984 to 78 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008.

⁸⁸ In Liberia, the major causes of migration are the search for employment opportunities, agricultural land, marriage, education and escape from the adverse effects of natural and man-made disasters.

144 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1986 to 71 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007, thus contributing toward the achievement of MDG4. But despite this progress, many health problems still persist in Liberia.

269. The full vaccination coverage remain low at 51 percent and malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases and malnutrition remain the main causes of the death of children under the age of 5.

270. It is projected that Liberia’s population will also still grow for many years to come⁸⁹, implying a high child dependency ratio that will place a heavy burden on the working population, constrain the provision of basic social services, and subsequently also the opportunities for a demographic dividend, as result of this and other causes, will be delayed.

271. In Liberia, mortality is exacerbated as a large percentage of the population, and especially the rural and urban poor have limited access to health and social welfare. Data obtained from the MOHSW showed an increase of 39.3 percent in the number of health facilities in Liberia. A further 44 percent of health facilities were implemented and managed by non-governmental organizations, while 28 percent were implemented and managed by government and private individuals/organizations⁹⁰.

272. In the first annual epidemiological report published since the civil crisis, data on Liberia’s disease burden was summarized according to causes of visits to Ministry of Health facilities. The table below indicates the major diseases of the country and provides some statistics of their incidence during the two years of 2007 and 2008. The lack of information for the period of the civil crisis hampers analyses to seek trends⁹¹.

MAJOR CAUSES OF VISITS TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN 2007 AND 2008

DISEASE	INCIDENCE PER 1000 PEOPLE (all age groups)	
	2007	2008
Malaria	104	119
Acute respiratory infections	55	41
Sexually transmitted diseases	24	32

⁸⁹ Government of Liberia. 2011. Liberia Retrospective Analysis Towards Liberia Rising 2030. MOPEA and GC.

⁹⁰ MOHSW. 2011. National Health and Social Welfare Financing Policy and Plan. Government of Liberia. Liberia.

⁹¹ EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

MAJOR CAUSES OF VISITS TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN 2007 AND 2008 (CONT.)

DISEASE	INCIDENCE PER 1000 PEOPLE (all age groups)	
	2007	2008
Skin infection	18	15
Diarrhea (bloody and non-bloody)	15	10
Urinary tract infection	13	7
Worms	12	13
Trauma	8	9

Source: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2008a

Source: EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

273. The incidence of malaria varies both seasonally and regionally. Although the data are probably biased by population densities and accessibility to health care and diagnosis facilities, Montserrado County, in which Monrovia is situated, reported the highest number of cases in persons more than 5 years old in 2008, followed numerically by Lofa County, Nimba County, Grand Bassa County and Bong County. A national survey of malaria was conducted in 2009 (National Malaria Control Program, 2009), which showed that for children, the disease is least common in Monrovia (prevalence 15%) and most prevalent in North Central (42%) and South Eastern B (35%) regions.

274. Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia, with 38 percent of outpatient attendance and 42 percent of inpatient deaths attributable to malaria. According to the World Health Organization, the entire population (>3,950,000) of Liberia is at risk of malaria caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*.

275. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (2009), malaria accounted for 69 percent of the total most preventative disease cases in 2009, followed by sexual transmitted infections (16 percent), pneumonia (6 percent) and malnutrition, diarrhea and hypertension constituting minor

proportions, accounting for less than 5 percent on average. Importantly, however, the Government of Liberia considers a rise in the national HIV situation as the most worrying situation.

- 276.** Other diseases identified in the Draft Initial National Communication include non-pneumonia respiratory infections, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), skin infections, diarrhea (bloody and non-bloody), urinary tract infection, worms, trauma, notifiable epidemic prone diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, mental health, and eye disorders.
- 277.** Climate change simulations using an ensemble of Regional Climate Models suggest that, on average, the rainfall in Liberia countrywide will increase by 3.4%, 3.7% and 10% and that temperature will rise by 1.6°C, 2.5°C and 3.4 °C by the 2020s, 2050s and 2080s, respectively.
- 278.** The diseases likely to be affected can be assessed in relation to those that are most environment-affected. Environmental changes are in turn subject to climate changes and so the “climate vulnerability” of diseases can be assessed in terms of their likely susceptibilities to the effects of increased or decreased precipitation, climate variability, flooding or drought and changes in the timing of seasons.
- 279.** It is likely that global warming will lead to rise in the sea level and Monrovia, in

particular, is very vulnerable to flooding from this threat,⁹² irrespective of changes in rainfall regimes.

- 280.** It has been estimated that 230,000 people are at risk and 2,150 km² will be lost by a one meter sea level rise, including land and infrastructure and much of Monrovia, valued at US\$250,000,000.
- 281.** Combining the two threats of increasing rainfall and flooding due to sea-level rise, will lead to enhanced vulnerabilities to epidemics of malaria, cholera (likely to increase by 10% by 2100) and diarrheal disease, increased incidences of Lassa fever, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, yellow fever, hepatitis A and intestinal worms.
- 282.** Very heavy rainfall and flooding could lead to fatal and non-fatal injuries and mental problems. Current expansion of the geographical range of dengue fever could include Liberia since the vectors (*Aedes spp.* mosquitoes) are present and the disease has been identified in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire⁹³, in line with predictions of the disease's expected spread⁹⁴ which imply that dengue fever will become a major problem throughout Africa with the entire population of Liberia becoming at risk by 2085.
- 283.** If the changes in the climate lead to warmer environments as projected,

And Warmer

⁹² EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

⁹³ Franco, et al. 2010. Recent expansion of dengue virus serotype 3 in West Africa. *Eurosurveillance*, Volume 15, Issue 7, 18 February.

⁹⁴ Hales, et al. 2002. Probability of Dengue Fever. *Adaptation Atlas*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.adaptationatlas.org/impactDetail.cfm?id=135>

the associated land use changes are likely to lead to spread of the savannah. Increased temperatures will allow insect vectors of disease such as mosquitoes and tsetse flies (*Glossina spp.* vectors of human trypanosomiasis) to complete their life cycles faster increasing their populations accordingly.

284. For mosquitoes, a combination of wetter and warmer conditions will also lead to more breeding sites becoming available (ecological niche), which will in turn exacerbate the transmission of malaria, lymphatic filariasis, etc.

285. Higher temperatures will also indicate high rates of measles amongst the community.

Nutrition

286. Malnutrition, caused by inadequate dietary intake and disease and exacerbated by poverty and poor access to health care, continues to be a major public health problem in Liberia⁹⁵. Please refer to Priority Sector I: Agriculture for further information in this regard.

Gender and Health

287. Maternal and child mortality, remain high in Liberia. Major diseases such as malaria and diarrhea continue to be among the most common illnesses, and new diseases reflecting changes in lifestyle and diet of the Liberian people threaten the population.

A SUMMARY OF SOME KEY DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS FROM THE 2008 CENSUS REPORT

Total fertility rate (TFR)	5.8	4.9	3.5	3.1
Life expectancy at birth (males)	51.6	54.0	58.6	63.4
Life expectancy at birth (females)	53.9	66.2	60.9	65.5
Life expectancy at birth (Both sexes)	52.7	55.0	59.7	64.4
Dependency Ratio	0.82	0.74	0.6	0.56

Source: EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

⁹⁵ Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. 2011. Essential Package of Health Services, Primary Care: The Community Health System. Government of Liberia.

288. Maternal health is a major issue in Liberia, where maternal mortality is one of the highest in the world – and has increased since the end of the conflict. Factors include the age and health of mothers, i.e. small bodies from poor nutrition, and lack of access to proper healthcare: According to the DHS, 48% of women become pregnant by age 18, and the unmet need for family planning exceeds 60%. For mothers ages 15-19, there is a 14% maternal mortality rate⁹⁶.

289. The DHS also reported that only 37 percent of deliveries take place in a health facility. Of these, 70 percent takes place in Monrovia and 26 percent in rural areas. Additionally, thirty (30) percent of women who deliver do not receive any postnatal care at all⁹⁷.

290. The World Health Organization (WHO)⁹⁸ recognizes that climate change is already affecting human health directly (e.g. impacts of thermal stress, death/injury in floods and storms) and indirectly through changes in the ranges of disease vectors (e.g. mosquitoes), water-borne pathogens, water quality, air quality, and food availability and quality. It also recognizes that the impacts dependent on age, socioeconomic class, occupations and gender.

291. Pregnant women are particularly susceptible to water-borne diseases. For example, pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to malaria as

they are twice as ‘appealing’ to malaria-carrying mosquitoes as non-pregnant women. A study that compared the relative ‘attractiveness’ of pregnant and non-pregnant women to mosquitoes found that the mechanisms underlying this vulnerability during pregnancy is likely to be related to at least two physiological factors. First, women in the advanced stages of pregnancy (mean gestational age 28 weeks or above) produce more exhaled breath (on average, 21 percent more volume) than their non-pregnant counterparts. There are several hundred different components in human breath, some of which help mosquitoes detect a host. The study also found that the abdomen of pregnant women was on average, 0.7°C hotter than that of non-pregnant women and that there may be an increase in the release of volatile substances from the skin surface as well as a larger host ‘signature’ which allows mosquitoes to detect them more readily at close range. Maternal malaria increases the risk of spontaneous abortion, premature delivery, stillbirth and low birth weight⁹⁹.

292. Climate change in Liberia is having, and will continue to have, a detrimental effect on the agricultural sector, affecting the production of their main staple crops. Women are more prone to nutritional deficiencies because of their unique nutritional needs, especially when they are pregnant or

⁹⁶ Greenberg, M. 2009. A Gender Assessment for USAID in Liberia. USAID. Liberia.

⁹⁷ These data are inconsistent to those contained in the National Gender Policy 2009, that indicates that 75 percent of births take place outside of a healthcare facility in Liberia.

⁹⁸ WHO. 2011. Gender, Climate Change and Health. Switzerland.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

breastfeeding, and in some groups in Liberia there are household food hierarchies. Therefore, the lack of food will affect women in a disproportionate way, since climate change already finds them in a disadvantageous situation. An analysis of demographic and epidemiological data by UN agencies in 2007, revealed that if efforts to address key nutrition problems such as underweight, stunting, and micronutrient

deficiencies are not accelerated, 78,100 Liberian women and children will die, 87,000 babies will be born mentally retarded, and a staggering US\$ 431 million will be lost to the economy by the year 2015 due to the impact of poor nutrition on productivity. An estimated 44 percent of childhood deaths are attributed to malnutrition, making it the single most common cause of death of Liberian children¹⁰⁰.

¹⁰⁰ Joint Programme on Food Security and Nutrition. n.d. Fact Sheet: Food Security and Nutrition. Government of Liberia and United Nations Monrovia, Liberia. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: <http://www.unliberia.org/doc/FSNemail.pdf>

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: HEALTH

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To mainstream gender and climate change into health policy	Desk review of existing policy lead by the MOGD and the EPA	No. of gender and climate change references in revised policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW • EPA • Development Partners • MIA • MOA • INGOs • MOGD • CSO • NGOs
	Hold regional and national consultation		
	Incorporate new ideas		
	Presentation by the MOGD to the MOHSW		
	Validation and approval		
	Ensure that a representative from the MOGD or women organizations be part of the Climate Health Working Group (CHWG) ¹⁰¹		
To build capacity of men and women health workers to response to climate change related diseases with the view of enhancing implementation and intervention	Conduct training needs assessment	Number of Counties assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW • MOGD • EPA • MIA • Development Partners MOE • INGOs • CSO • Communities • NGOs
	Roll out training	Number of trained manpower – male and female	
	Monitor and evaluate impact	Number of monitoring visits	
		Number of health workers (disaggregated) applying knowledge on job	

¹⁰¹ The INC proposed the creation of the CHWG, to link health authorities with meteorologists, climatologists and other stakeholders.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: HEALTH (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To promote gender sensitive health care delivery services that relates to climate change	<p>Train and employ more female health workers to response to women health needs</p> <p>Increase budget allocation specifically to address women health</p> <p>Establish gender focal person specifically on climate change</p>	<p>No. of health workers trained</p> <p>No. of female workers employed to respond to climate changes related diseases</p> <p>Amount of budget increased and spent on women's health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW • MOGD • Development Partners • MIA • CSO • INGOs • NGOs • National Legislature • MOF • MOPEA
To incorporate gender and climate change criteria in the Health Database Management System proposed by the INC	<p>Review and amend existing data, as necessary</p> <p>Adapt new database management system</p> <p>The archiving of data on health should be integrated with meteorological data to seek trends and initiate the beginnings of monitoring and forecasting systems</p> <p>Data collected should be gender-disaggregated in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the differentiated impacts on women and men and enhance the usefulness for further projects</p>	Database Management System disaggregated by sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW HMIS • EPA • MOGD • LISGIS • Development Partners

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: HEALTH (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To carry out awareness campaign with community members, religious and traditional leaders on gender and climate change	<p>Establish contact with the Religious and Traditional Councils</p> <p>Define training and possible messages to be transmitted to their members</p> <p>Conduct national campaign</p>	<p>No. of traditional and religious grouping receiving the message</p> <p>No. of Counties that received awareness messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW • EPA • Development Partners • MIA • Inter-religious Council • MOGD • CSO • INGOs • NGOs • Media institutions
To promote the use of malaria and HIV and AIDS voluntary testing among women	<p>Conduct assessment</p> <p>Creation of awareness to de-stigmatize HIV and AIDS</p> <p>Set out monitoring & evaluation mechanism</p> <p>Availability of testing kits in health facilities</p>	<p>No. of test conducted</p> <p>No. of new outbreak of diseases among women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW and Partners • CSOs • Media Institutions
To build the capacity of women and adolescent girls in prevention, simple diagnosis and treatment of endemic diseases related to climate change	<p>Conduct mapping to identify women groups and adolescent (girls) in communities</p> <p>Conduct focus group discussions</p> <p>Conduct training</p> <p>Conduct monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Reduction of outbreak of climate change related diseases</p> <p>Number of women – disaggregated by age-participating in trainings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW Development Partners • MIA • INGOs • NGOs • CSOs

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: HEALTH (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To include in the curricula of medical schools and universities on climate change issues and health from the gender perspective	<p>MOGD and EPA establish contact with high-education medical institutions in Liberia to start a process to review the curricula</p> <p>Development of new topics in curricula</p> <p>Establish contact with international institutions and university to provide content and material</p>	Curricula in at least half of the high-level institutions include gender and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOGD • EPA • MOE • MOHWS • Universities • WHO

6. PRIORITY SECTOR 5: WATER AND SANITATION

(including re-creation and water for the environment).

Situational Analysis

- 293.** In Africa, Liberia has one of the highest per capita renewable water resources, and of more than 71 000 m³/ per capita per year. Despite this fact, water is, however, limited in many communities and towns during the dry season¹⁰².
- 294.** Recent runoff studies conducted in one of Liberia's most important water basins – the St. Paul River - shows that the projected water balance is expected to contract by up to 25%. This will affect the production of hydropower and also have a serious impact on the water supply in Monrovia¹⁰³.
- 295.** Since 2007, Liberia has had a National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy which comprises two areas:
- i. *Water resources management:*
Stating the framework for managing water resources and including objectives, principles and strategies for monitoring, assessment, allocation and the protection of water; and
 - ii. *Water resources use:*
Which includes objectives, principles and strategies for the development and use of water for domestic water supply, agriculture, industry (including hydropower) and other water uses
- 296.** At present, seven governmental institutions are involved in the water sector, including: the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (with the overall responsibility for managing the water resources of Liberia); the Ministry of Rural Development, in charge of providing water supply and sanitation services to rural areas; the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, responsible for setting and monitoring water quality standards; the Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Transport; the Liberian Water and Sewage Corporation (LWSC), provides drinking water for inhabitants in both urban and rural areas; and the EPA which coordinates and harmonizes the implementation of policies and laws related to the environment - including water.
- 297.** Before the war, and with the exception of Monrovia, investment in water supply infrastructure in Liberia was minor. In addition and after the war, the scarce water and sanitation services were significantly undermined. Drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities fell from 37 percent and 27 percent of the population in 1990, respectively, to 17 percent and 7 percent respectively in 2003. Monrovia's water supply fell from 18 million gallons daily to just 1 million gallons per day¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰² EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

¹⁰³ FAO-AQUASTAT.2005. Liberia. Retrieved from the World Wide Web: http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/Liberia/index/stm

¹⁰⁴ Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

- 298.** In line with the minimum requirement set by the World Health Organization (WHO), Liberia's domestic water use is below 50 liters per person per day. The problem is not only quantity but also the quality thereof. The little data available indicates that about 80% of the 150 wells researched in the late 80's did not meet WHO drinking water standards. The main pollution was caused by bacterial and heavy metal contamination¹⁰⁵.
- 299.** Only 4% of rural and 25% of urban households have access to safe drinking water and only 5% have access to sanitary facilities¹⁰⁶. However, according to recent studies from UNICEF 2012, this data seems to have change¹⁰⁷. Access rate to an improved drinking water source is 68% nationwide, 79% in urban areas and 51% in rural areas. However, a more in depth analysis revealed that among those with such access, more than 40% were not functioning.
- 300.** Furthermore, the current operation of water and sanitation facilities is also unsustainable. A water mapping exercise conducted by UNICEF in 2011¹⁰⁸ shows, that 40% of the water sources were not functioning properly, because the pump was broken, or the well had lost its capacity. Women representatives from the 15 counties express the need to invest in the procurement of spare parts and to train women in the maintenance thereof.
- 301.** It is projected that Liberia's economy loses 17.5 million US dollars (2.0 percent of GDP) each year due to poor sanitation. Forty-eight percent of these costs come from the annual premature death of 3,000 Liberians from diarrheal disease, including 1,800 children under the age of 5, nearly 90 percent of which is directly attributable to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene. Health-related costs accounted for about 40.6 percent of the total economic costs, while access time and productivity losses accounted for about 11.3 percent¹⁰⁹.
- 302.** There is only one, conventional sewage system in the country that at present is not functioning. Furthermore, 1.2 million Liberians use unsanitary or shared latrines, while 1.7 million have no latrine at all and defecate in the open¹¹⁰.
- 303.** After the war, and for more than a decade (1989-2005), there was not a single governmental institution in charge of proper disposal of waste. According to Liberia's PRS, only 15 percent of the population has access to human waste collection and disposal facilities.
- 304.** At present, Liberia also does not have a Solid Waste Management Policy, Strategy or any other Regulations to help ensure effective coordination and

¹⁰⁵ UNDTCD. 1987. Water Resource Policy, Management and Legislation. United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. New York.

¹⁰⁶ Ministry of Gender and Development. 2009. Liberia National Gender Policy. Government of Liberia. Liberia.

¹⁰⁷ UNICEF. 2012. The Situation of Children and Women in Liberia; From Conflict to Peace. UNICEF. Monrovia, Liberia.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). 2012. Economic Impacts of Poor Sanitation in Africa-Liberia. Water and Sanitation Program.

¹¹⁰ Ibid and EPA. 2012. Initial National Communication Report. Zero draft. UNEP-GEF and EPA. Monrovia. Liberia.

sustainability in the disposal of domestic refuse, clinical waste and toxic waste.

- 305.** Monrovia's 1.6 million inhabitants generate 780 tons of solid waste daily, and there is no reliable landfill site in Monrovia and its environs.
- 306.** In Monrovia, the Government has started to put into place improved management practices with the establishment of 120 collection points. Weekly haulage of solid waste in Monrovia increased from 980 m³ in March 2007 to 2,125 m³ in November 2007¹¹¹. Additionally, there are emerging initiatives for waste collection undertaken by community-based enterprises.

Gender in Water and Sanitation

- 307.** Women and children, especially those living in rural and peri-urban areas, continue to spend enormous amounts of calories just to fetch water from distant sources. Women are more likely than men to collect drinking water and, therefore, are also disproportionately and negatively affected as a result. In half of households, adult women usually get water, compared with 11% of men¹¹².
- 308.** According to consultations conducted with women representatives from the 15 counties, men are typically or exclusively those to get the training to maintain and repair water systems.

309. A study by the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) of community water supply and sanitation projects in 88 communities in 15 countries found that projects designed and run with the full participation of women are more sustainable and effective than those that do not involve women as full partners¹¹³. Therefore, it is fundamental that in adaptation measures that would help reduce vulnerability associated with climate change women are fully engaged. Some of the possible measures are to:

- Develop the capacity of women to improve observation and forecasting;
- Develop gender-sensitive early warning systems;
- Conduct gender-sensitive map hazards and vulnerabilities;
- Promote water conservation and market-based water allocation with active participation of women; and
- Increase irrigation efficiency for women's needs.

310. Increase in morbidity due to poor sanitation, falls disproportionately on women as caregivers who may spend additional time looking after the sick.

311. Solid waste management programs in hands of the women in urban areas could become an important source of employment.

¹¹¹ Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy. Republic of Liberia. Monrovia, Liberia.

¹¹² Greenberg, M. 2009. A Gender Assessment for USAID in Liberia. USAID. Liberia

¹¹³ Wijk-Sijbesma, C.A. van, Mukherjee, N. and Gross, B. 2001. Linking sustainability with demand, gender, and poverty: A study in community-managed water supply projects in 15 countries. International Water and Sanitation Reference Centre, Washington, D.C. and Delft. The Netherlands.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: WATER AND SANITATION

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
<p>To ensure that climate change and gender are mainstreamed in the WASH policy, plans and strategies</p>	<p>Review/revision/adoption existing WASH Policy, Plans and Strategies to identify entry points for gender and climate change</p> <p>Dissemination of WASH policy documents in rural and urban areas through media and training of women groups and youth forum</p>	<p>No. of gender/cc entry points identified</p> <p>Revised WASH Policy approved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH Actors • CSOs • LWSC • MOH • MPW • INGOs • MLME • UNDP • CHF • WATER AID • Local government • Private sectors • Media
<p>Increase the capacity of women as plumbers/water supply technicians water quality control experts to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change</p>	<p>Trained at least 50 women in plumbing, water plant treatment, community-based quality monitoring systems and service provision at county level</p> <p>Provide adequate funding for women at county level to develop entrepreneurs in the water services sector</p>	<p>No. of women trained in plumbing and services in county level</p> <p>No. of women entrepreneurs in the water sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWSC • MPW • INGOs • Concession Companies • MOH • NGOs • MLME • UNDP • CHF • Local government • Private sectors • Media

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: WATER AND SANITATION (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
Increase access to safe drinking water for women and men both in rural and urban communities	Construction/ rehabilitation of local dams regionally both in rural and urban areas	No. of local dams rehabilitated/ constructed regionally in the rural and urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWSC • MPW • INGOs • EPA
	Rehabilitate and install hand pumps, wells and main water lines in both rural and urban areas	No. of pumps, wells and main water lines installed both in rural and urban communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concession Companies • MOH • NGOs • MLME • UNDP • CHF
	Establish repair workshops and spare part shops for maintenance of hand pumps in the hands of women	No. of female-owned workshops established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government • Private sectors
	Conduct periodical training as new technologies evolves	No. increase in the functioning of hand pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media
Establishment of gender based programs for improved conservation and management of lakes and river basins	Mobilized women groups to establish nurseries and plant trees upstream to avoid soil erosion and improve water quality	No. of women groups involved in protection of watersheds throughout the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWSC • MPW • INGOs • Concession Companies
	Conduct training for women in nurseries and trees planting	No. of women trained in nurseries and tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH • NGOs • MLME • UNDP
	Introduce community waste management projects (see below)	No. of nurseries in the hands of women No. of trees planted by women groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHF • Local government • Private sectors • Media

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: WATER AND SANITATION (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To enhance women's role in community waste management initiatives	Raise women and women NGOs awareness about waste management and related projects at urban and rural areas	No. of trained women in waste process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWSC • MPW • INGOs
	Train women in separation from source (sorting) to facilitate recycling in urban and rural areas and as environmental health workers	No. of women implementing waste management in their community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concession Companies • MOH • NGOs • MLME
	Support women in waste recycling programs through NGOs, Local governments and private sector in urban and rural communities	No. of waste management project lead by women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP • CHF • Local government
	Provide technical support for new mechanisms such as waste minimization	No. of campaigns and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sectors • Media
	Club raise media role for change consumption pattern		
	Establish a waste recycling sector involving women entrepreneurs		
	Utilize media campaigns to promote change on consumption patterns		

7. PRIORITY SECTOR 6: ENERGY

Situational Analysis

- 312.** The availability of sufficient, reliable and affordable sources of energy is widely understood to be the predominant driving force behind economic development.
- 313.** Liberia is a small, open and dual economy. Production on the one hand takes place on the back of a formal, monetized, sector comprising government, foreign-owned investment operating tree crop plantations, mining concessions and foreign-owned trading houses, etc.
- 314.** On the other hand many Liberians operate primarily in the subsistence agriculture and informal sectors. In fact, it is estimated that at least 70 percent of the active labor force is engaged in agriculture¹¹⁴.
- 315.** Liberia is endowed with significant primary energy sources, including biomass, hydroelectricity, petroleum and renewable energy resources and these plays a crucial role in the development of Liberia's economy. It is also a major component of Liberia's infrastructure and supports economic activities and social development.
- 316.** However, the country remains below the regional HDI average of other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa¹¹⁵.
- Liberia's infrastructure has, over time, been badly damaged with many roads being impassable. The same applies to several health, education, water supply and energy facilities. There was no electricity in the country for 15 years and electricity were just partially recovered in Monrovia in July 2006¹¹⁶.
- 317.** Poverty is pervasive and statistics indicate that 64 percent of Liberians live on less than US\$ 1.00 a day. It is well established that energy is central to reducing poverty and hunger, improving health, increasing literacy and education and improving the lives of women and children¹¹⁷.
- 318.** In 2006, carbon dioxide (CO₂) was responsible for 50-60% of the local emissions into the atmosphere in Liberia. Most of these come from the consumption of petroleum products.
- 319.** Key sources of greenhouse gases in Liberia include fuel combustion in power plants and transport, the use of charcoal and firewood, burning of forests products for agricultural purposes and the solid wastes incineration (open burning).
- 320.** There are other minor sources such as industrial fuel combustion and emissions from vehicle and aircraft exhausts. Thermal power plants are a major source of greenhouse gases as well as suspended particulate matter and oil waste.

114 See Priority Sector I: Agriculture

115 Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Retrospective Analysis towards Liberia Rising 2030. MOPEA and GC. Manuscript.

116 Brandolini, G. V. and Tigani, M., 2006. Liberia Environment Profile. Agreco G.E.I.E Commission. Liberia.

117 Government of Liberia. 2008. Liberia Retrospective Analysis towards Liberia Rising 2030. MOPEA and GC. Manuscript.

- 321.** Demand for power grew exponentially in the initial years to the creation of the Monrovia Power Authority (1960), when power was not expensive. In the following 20 years (1970-80) power price shot up because of growing fuel costs and demand growth dampened.
- 322.** The breakdown in electricity supply over the years led to the proliferation of generators in the country, an important source of greenhouse gases but also POPs. It is estimated that in 2004 there were about 45 000 small privately operated generators, concentrated mainly in Monrovia¹¹⁸.
- 323.** According to the UNDP, about 99.5% of the Liberian population rely on biomass (firewood, charcoal and palm oil) for their energy needs. To meet energy needs, the local population has resorted to uncontrolled production of charcoal, which has caused significant deforestation in several areas, including mangrove forests, common along the coast and being harvested as firewood for the local energy requirement.
- 324.** This trend poses a threat to biodiversity and forests, since the production of these traditional fuels is done in an unsustainable manner.
- 325.** It is estimated that by 2006 MT 960,000 of trees are cut down annually to produce charcoal for the Monrovia area alone. Unfortunately, fuel wood and the charcoal market came to be a lucrative one: generating employment and sometimes as much as 40% of total income.
- 326.** Use of fuel wood also has important health, socio-economic and environmental implications that have differentiated and adverse effects on women, in particular.
- 327.** Indoor use causes CO₂ pollution, costs of the time and distances travelled to collect firewood, and destruction and degradation of the forest. The rural three-stone and urban cook stoves are inefficient technologies.
- 328.** The Liberian Government has recognized the need to pursue the development of small to medium scale renewable energy sources such as solar, mini-hydro and biomass and this should be supported and encouraged. These options should be considered as part of a plan to provide electricity services in areas not served by the Monrovia grid.
- 329.** Initiatives have been undertaken in terms of solar energy needs assessments, and processes are underway that enable the provision of solar panels to some rural communities in a manner that reduces the energy shortage and poverty simultaneously.
- 330.** For the many people without access to basic energy services and with no prospects of getting such access, renewable energy can often be the cheapest option in the long run.

¹¹⁸ EPA. 2004 quoted in: Brandolini, G. V. and Tigani, M., 2006. Liberia Environment Profile. Agreco G.E.I.E Commission. Liberia.

However, scarce financial, human and institutional resources as well as cultural issues constrain the sector. For instance, socio-cultural beliefs surrounding the use of human waste as biogas feedstock, and high investment costs have hampered the development of biogas in Liberia.

- 331.** In 2006, it was reported that prior to the civil war, the Liberian Hydrological Service of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, used to maintain a network of 28 hydrological and hydro-geological stations covering eleven river basins around the country, where basic hydrological data were collected. Maintenance of these has not been re-established since the end of the crisis¹¹⁹.
- 332.** Irrigation has not been a factor in increasing agricultural productivity, the only forms of irrigation projects being for rice paddies in swamps. Diversion channels from rivers are used to regulate water depth. The traditional upland shifting cultivation depends on seasonal rainfall.
- 333.** Consideration should be given to more research on irrigation and establish irrigation facilities for climate change adaptation
- 334.** The absence of industry utilizing much water means that water supply for industry is negligible. The intensive drainage pattern gives Liberia very high potential for hydropower development as a source of energy.

Gender and Energy

- 335.** Notwithstanding the source, energy remains very important for women. They need to use it, and often are the customers who must pay for it¹²⁰.
- 336.** If energy programs focus on new technologies and/or train people to install and manage them, women should be included – those are valuable skills. And if the programs involve community decisions, women have positions regarding priorities.
- 337.** In the National Gender Policy of the Government of Liberia, energy is highlighted on at least two occasions:

4.1.3 Agriculture³, Objective¹⁰⁶ (p. 37): To promote the implementation of gender sensitive national agricultural policy; and mainstream gender in all agricultural programs, strategies and activities.

Strategic Action: “Implement Integrated Rural Women’s Programs to enhance women’s access to credit, land, extension services, water, energy, health, education, improved technology and market information”; and

4.1.4 Employment⁴, Objective¹⁰⁷ (p. 39): To empower women and men economically by providing skill training and information, creating employment and raising incomes.

Strategic Action: “Facilitate women’s access to safe and affordable public

¹¹⁹ Brandolini, G. V. and Tigani, M., 2006. Liberia Environment Profile. Agreco G.E.I.E Commission. Liberia.

¹²⁰ Greenberg, M. 2009. A Gender Assessment for USAID in Liberia. USAID. Liberia.

infrastructure such as rural appropriate transport services, water, electricity, energy in order to reduce drudgery of their workload and enhance their economic empowerment.”

338. The challenge remains to provide sufficient, reliable and cost-effective energy to women in a manner that is equitable and environmentally and socially sustainable.

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: ENERGY

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To develop gender sensitive and climate change database in the energy sector	Conduct research through a nationwide survey	Research report finalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOGD • MLME • NGOs
	Organize nationwide stakeholder and decision makers workshop	Extent to which data is disaggregated (by sex and location)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA • LISGIS • RREA
	Build and expand the capacity of Ministerial Gender Focal Points (GFCs) on the links between gender and energy with clear ToRs	Proportion of GFPs reporting correct data	
	Set up database		
To ensure that climate change and gender are integrated in the National Energy Plan (NEP) and policies and adaptation strategies	Lobby with Government to incorporate climate change and gender in the National Energy Plan and policies	No. of initiative meetings minutes that addresses gender mainstreaming in energy and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFP • MOGD • MLME, • NGOs • INGOs • UNDP • IUCN
	Review the NEP, strategies and legislations to ensure that gender, energy and climate change are integrated	No. national policies and NEP, include Gender and climate consideration	
	Develop funding scenarios for integration of gender issues in energy management and programs	No. of meetings / delegation include women's participation	
	Review the National Energy Policy, strategies and legislations to integrate gender, energy and climate change	Amount of funds generated and spent No. of amendments to the NEP concerning gender and climate change	

EXAMPLES OF ACTION: ENERGY (CONT.)

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	RESPONSIBLE
To create awareness on the relation between climate change, energy and gender	Design and develop manuals, courses for women on climate change, energy and gender issues in simple English (Liberia Style)	Number of TV channels and private media engaged in awareness creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLME • NGOs • EPA • Media institutions
	Develop initiatives to encourage women and men to use renewable green energy	Number of consultative meetings organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOGD • MIA
	Promote use of LPG (HCFC)		
Promote technical and scientific capacity of women in the use and maintenance of renewable energy and energy efficient appliances	Design and conduct training for women groups on use and maintenance of renewable technology (Solar appliances, efficient cooking stoves, biogas, biomass, Community wood-lots, air pollution, GHGs, energy conservation, impact of climate change, effect of HCFCs)	No. of female technicians trained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLME • RREA • MOT • NGOs • EPA • MIA • MOGD • UNWomen
	Provide needed materials for sustainability (spare parts supplies)	No. of improved techniques used	
	Nationwide sensitization on the importance of renewable energy	Amount of CO ₂ reduction per household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of available materials Local spare part shops readily available No. of households using renewable energy (e.g. solar energy)

GENDER EQUALITY TEXTS INCLUDED IN THE CANCUN AGREEMENT

Preamble: The effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, **gender**, age, indigenous or minority status and disability;

I. A shared vision for long-term cooperative action: Recognizes ... that **gender equality** and the effective **participation of women** and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change;

II. Enhanced action on Adaptation: Affirms that enhanced action on adaptation should ... follow a country-driven, **gender-sensitive**, participatory and fully transparent approach; taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems;

III. Enhanced action on Mitigation C: Requests developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plan, to address, inter alia ... **gender considerations** and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of Annex 1;

III. Enhanced action on Mitigation E: Affirming that responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner... taking fully into account the ... consequences for vulnerable groups, **in particular women** and children;

IV. Finance, technology and capacity-building C: Decides that capacity-building support to developing country Parties should be enhanced with a view to strengthening endogenous capacities ... taking into account **gender aspects**; and

Annex IV: Parties are encouraged to nominate senior experts with a view to achieving, within the membership of the Technology Executive Committee, an appropriate balance of technical, legal, policy, social development and financial expertise ... taking into account the need to achieve **gender balance** in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

(FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 72). Requests parties to address: (...) **gender considerations** and the safeguards ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities

¹²¹ Summary provided by Women Environment and Development Organization on behalf of GGCA.

Gender equality texts included in the Subsidiary Body Outcomes in Cancun

Decision 6/CP.16- Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group:

2. Also decides that the Least Developed Countries Expert Group should be mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on: (c) Strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities within least developed country Parties;

Decision 7/CP.16- Progress in, and ways to enhance, the implementation of the amended New Delhi work program on Article 6 of the Convention:

2. Invites Parties, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the amended New Delhi work program: (c) To enhance efforts to elaborate national strategies and action plans on Article 6 of the Convention, including climate change communication strategies, taking into account, inter alia, the gender perspective; (e) To foster the participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples, civil society groups and relevant stakeholders in decision-making on climate change at the national level and their attendance at intergovernmental meetings, including sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the subsidiary bodies;

Agenda item 3: Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change:

7. The SBSTA noted that additional effort is needed to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS, to improve their understanding and assessment of

impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and make informed decisions on the implementation of practical adaptation actions and measures, and to assist Parties to enhance the capacity of relevant decision makers and stakeholders, at different levels, including representatives of women, local communities and indigenous peoples, to better utilize the information and tools provided by the Nairobi work program.

GENDER EQUALITY LANGUAGE IN DURBAN OUTCOMES

II. Enhanced action on mitigation

F. Economic and social consequences of response measures

90. Urges Parties to give full consideration to the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures to mitigate climate change on society and on all vulnerable groups, in particular women and children

III. Enhanced action on adaptation

103. Encourages Parties to nominate experts to the Adaptation Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change, while also taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7;

IV. Capacity building

Further reaffirming the importance of taking into account gender aspects and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity-building activities,

Annex VI Composition and working modalities of the Standing Committee

2. The Standing Committee shall be composed of members nominated by Parties for approval by the Conference of the Parties, who shall have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change, development and finance, taking into account the need to achieve **gender balance** in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

Annex VII Terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

1. The mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network is to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies [...] to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account **gender considerations** to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development.

4. The prospective host's existing governance and management structures will be scored based on the following sub criteria, which are of equal importance:

(c) Effectiveness of the current management structure of the host organization to ensure **gender sensitivity**, transparency, responsiveness, flexibility, financial management, auditing and reporting functions, and the ability to provide high-quality administrative, infrastructural and logistic arrangements, and accessibility to developing country Parties including least developing countries.

Green Climate Fund -report of the Transitional Committee Draft decision [-/CP.17]

3. [...] The Fund will strive to maximize the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation, and seek a balance between the two, while promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a **gender-sensitive** approach.

II. Governance and Institutional arrangements

C. Rules of procedure of the Board

2. Selection of Board members

11. The members of the Board and their alternates will be selected by their respective constituency or regional group within a constituency. Members of the Board will have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change and development finance, with due consideration given to **gender balance**.

E. Secretariat

1. Establishment of the secretariat

21. The secretariat will be staffed with professional staff with relevant experience. The staff selection will be managed by the Executive Director and will be open, transparent and based on merit, taking into account geographical and **gender balance**.

V. Operational modalities

31. The Fund will provide simplified and improved access to funding, including direct access, basing its activities on a country-driven approach and will encourage the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups and addressing **gender aspects**.

XIII. Stakeholder input and participation

71. The Board will develop mechanisms to promote the input and participation of stakeholders, including private-sector actors, civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, **women** and indigenous peoples, in the design, development and implementation of the strategies and activities to be financed by the Fund.

National adaptation plans Draft decision [-/CP.17]

A. Framing national adaptation plans

3. *Further agrees* that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention, should follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and by **gender-sensitive approaches**, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;

Annex

Draft initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans by least developed country Parties

B. Elements of national plans

2. Preparatory elements

3. In developing NAPs, consideration would be given to identify specific needs, options and priorities on a country-driven basis, utilizing the services of national and, where

appropriate, regional institutions, and to the effective and continued promotion of **participatory and gender-sensitive approaches** coordinated with sustainable development objectives, policies, plans and programmes.

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Draft decision [-/CP.17]

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other relevant organizations, the following workshops, informed by the information contained in annex I to the report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its thirty-fourth session and subsequent views of Parties, and to include indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and **gender-sensitive tools and approaches** as cross-cutting issues:

Draft decision on guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities related to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I Draft decision [-/CP.17]

Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

2. *Agrees* that systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected should, taking into account national circumstances and respective capabilities,

and recognizing national sovereignty and legislation, and relevant international obligations and agreements, and respecting **gender considerations**:

Capacity-building under the Convention Draft decision [-/CP.17]

Reaffirming the importance of taking into account **gender aspects** and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity-building activities,

Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol Draft decision [-/CMP.7]

Reaffirming the importance of taking into account **gender aspects** and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity-building activities,