# United Nations Development Programme Liberia

# Energy & Environment Project (E&E)

# Environmental Protection Agency



## Annual Project Progress Report – 2023

**December 27, 2023**

**Project ID:** 00126149
**Duration:** 2020-2024
**CPD Outcome:** Inclusive and sustainable economic transformation informed by evidence-based macro-economic policy promoting access to livelihood, innovative and competitive private sector and efficient natural resource management. Liberia governance systems strengthened to ensure consolidation of peace and stability supported by effective and well-functioning institutions that foster inclusive participation of stakeholders, especially women and youth, with enhanced service delivery at local levels
**Total Budget: USD $624,652.89**
**Implementing Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
**Responsible Party(ies):** EPA

S. Harris-Cooper
12/27/23

**Table of Contents**

Executive Summary ..... 3-4

Context ..... 4-5

Implementation Progress ..... 5

Output 1 ..... 5-6

Output 2 ..... 6

Output 3 ..... 6

Output 4 ..... 6

Gender ..... 6-7

Capacity Development ..... 7

Challenges ..... 7

Risks ..... 7

Lessons Learned ..... 7

Future Plans ..... 7-8

ANNEX ..... 8

Pictorials ..... 9

## Executive Summary

The Liberian environment is under immense threats from many natural and man-made factors (e.g. human activities) that have imposed enormous negative consequences for the lives, livelihood, safety and health of its populations. Climate change, disasters, environmental pollutions; encroachment and depletion of the rain forest and biodiversity; inadequate energy infrastructures and supplies; unsustainable environmental practices as well as their associated impacts have continued to negatively affect the lives and livelihood of the people and challenge the developmental process of the country.

With the plethora of these challenges, the Energy and Environment (E&E) Programme is seeking to support the Government's efforts in achieving diversified and inclusive economic growth through investments in sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture, food security, job creation and improved resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

Through its Energy and Environment (E&E) Programme, UNDP is supporting the government through its relevant Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs) to address environmental issues and mitigate their impacts to support the collective growth and development of the country. The E&E Programme is tackling these challenges within a broader development context that would facilitate synergies amongst the following four thematic/focus areas: 1. *Livelihood Diversification, Disaster Resilience and Climate Change*; 2. *Biodiversity, Conservation Ecotourism and Land Management*; 3. *Renewable Energy Access*; and 4. *Waste Management*. In line with the CPD (2020-2024), the E&E Programme will provide support to *promote diversified, and inclusive economic growth along a low carbon and climate resilient pathway that is underpinned by investments in sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture, food security, job creation and improved resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Liberia*. These results are expected to be achieved within five years (2020-2024).

The main achievements realized under the project during the year 2023 are as follows:

| **Objective/Outcome** | **Achievement** |
|---|---|
| **Output 1.1: Climate-resilient programs, policies, and plans in key sectors developed** | ✓ Supported the celebration of International Day of Forest (IDF) on 21 March, in Buchanan. Serving as keynote speaker, the UNDP Energy and Environment Specialist provided awareness and education on forests' importance to more than 400 persons at an in-door program. The theme of this year's IDF was "Forest and Health".<br>✓ The endorsement letter for the PPG of the USD10 million allocated to Liberia under the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund for urgent climate change |

| | |
|---|---|
| | adaptation needs was signed and submitted. The Concept paper (PIF) completed and submitted and awaiting approval by GEF.<br><br>✓ Capacity building training support for MFDP in mainstreaming environment and climate activities into budgetary allocation was successfully completed and which might pave the way for a robust coordination with the Aid Management Unit at MFDP. |
| **Output 1.2.: Capacity for disaster-risk governance, preparedness, and awareness at national and sub-national levels strengthened** | ✓ The National Fire Preparedness and Response Plan has been drafted pending validation.<br><br>✓ The strengthening of the NEOC and I county disaster management committees through training and logistics was also completed; office furniture and stationary were procured and delivered to be used at the Regional Disaster Management Hub in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The establishment of the regional disaster management hub in Tubmanburg brings to two the total number of regional hubs established. The regional hub in Gbarnga has improved coordination between the three counties of Bong, Margibi and Lofa. |
| **Output 1.3: Gender-sensitive Livelihood diversification schemes established for improved adaptation to Climate Change, disasters, and biodiversity management.** | ✓ The Agribusiness and Fish processing schemes manuals were completed and trainings conducted for 95 women (51 in agriculture and 44 in fish processing) in Lofa and Rivercess counties by the two national consultants. |
| **Output 2.1: Policies and Institutions strengthen to promote sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity at the national and community levels** | ✓ The County Environmental Action Plan was completed and submitted by the national consultant, for Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties.<br><br>✓ The community engagements for the determination of appropriate and agreed eco-based ecotourism facilities were completed. Based on findings, a blue print for the facility was completed and a contract offered for the construction of a women-led eco-based guesthouse in Sebehun, Grand Cape Mount |

| | |
|---|---|
| | County, to promote eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation. |
| **Output 3.1: Environmentally- friendly and energy efficient cooking stoves accessed by households.** | ✓ Forty-five women, drawn from Margibi, Grand Bassa and Bong were trained in the construction of the eco-stoves. Each of the 45 women produced 10 eco-stoves totalling 450 stoves. Each county received 50 stoves as a start-up for business and designated as Green Gold Liberia representatives in the counties. The remaining stoves were distributed to vulnerable communities in Kakata. Under the same initiative, the construction of a production center in Gbarpolu County was completed by Green Gold Liberia.<br>✓ The development of the Africa Minigrid Program project proposal is completed, pending validation in January 2024. |
| **Output 3.2: Conducive environment for investment and use of alternative energy sources created** | ✓ The Green Climate Fund Solar for Health funding proposal has been completed, submitted and awaiting approval by GCF. For Liberia specifically, with support from the Ministry of Health, the national ambition is 288 health care facilities. Liberia is requesting a total of $36 M GCF grant. Government co-financing will be finalized during the first implementation of the project. |
| **Output 4.1: Policy and institutional framework for sustainable management of waste at the national and county levels established** | ✓ As a result of a comparative process, one CSO was selected to carry out a waste management project in 4 urban centers in Lofa county. The agreement was signed and work is ongoing.<br>✓ For the setting up of three WASH windows at three county service centers in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba, procurement was completed and some of the items delivered to the WASH Commission. The 14 motorbikes will be delivered to the incoming leadership.<br>✓ Hydrological equipment for the Hydrological Services of the Ministry of Mines and Energy was procured and delivered. The equipment is expected to improve hydrological data |

| | |
|---|---|
| | collection in the country.<br><br>✓ The multi-stakeholder waste Resource Recovery Platform has been established. As per the term of reference of the Platform, coordination in the sector is expected to improved. |

The project operated on an Annual Work Plan output of **USD $624,652.89** was budgeted and used for outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 and project management.

**Context**

The aim of the program is to develop a framework, grounded in the realities of the environment and development challenges facing Liberia, and in agreement with with existing global predicament, that will inform and ensure UNDP interventions focused on capacity building for improved climate response and environmental management. The broad objectives are to *promote diversified, and inclusive economic growth along a low carbon and climate resilient pathway that is underpinned by investments in sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture, food security, job creation and improved resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Liberia.* Therefore, the programme focuses on Inclusive growth and sustainable development as well as mainstreaming climate change into national policies and agendas which is gender sensitive.

The main partners are the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), Ministry of Public Works (MoPW). Given that the Government of Liberia's policy objective is to decentralize decision making to the lowest level, the strategy also focuses on engagement with County authorities and community institutions, and women's groups, focusing particularly on supporting the building of community natural resource management institutions. Other partnerships that will be developed in the implementation of the strategic interventions would include bilateral and multilateral donor organizations, INGOs, national NGOs and the private sector. Many environmental interventions are novel and intriguing for communities as well as for policymakers, and consequently it will be essential to develop demonstrable projects, mainly through the UNDP support for local communities and NGOs with the participation and inclusion of rural men and women.

## Implementation Progress

### Output 1.1: Climate-resilient programs, policies and plans in key sectors developed

Under this output, the E&E supported the celebration of International Day of Forest (IDF) on 21 March, in Buchanan. Serving as keynote speaker, the UNDP Energy and Environment Specialist provided awareness and education on forests' importance to more than 400 persons at an in-door program. The theme of this year's IDF was "Forest and Health".

### Output 1.2.: Capacity for disaster-risk governance, preparedness, and awareness at national and sub-national levels strengthened

Under this output, the strengthening of the NEOC and 1 county disaster management committees through training and logistics was also completed; office furniture and stationary were procured and delivered to be used at the Regional Disaster Management Hub in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

### Output 2.1: Policies and institutions strengthen to promote sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, and biodiversity at the national and community levels

As part of promoting of biodiversity conservation, the community engagements for the determination of appropriate and agreed eco-based ecotourism facilities were completed. Based on findings, a blue print for the facility was completed and a contract offered for the construction of a women-led eco-based guesthouse in Sebehun, Grand Capemount County, to promote eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation.

And also, the County Environmental Action Plan was completed and submitted by the national consultant, for Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties.

### Output 3.1: Environmentally- friendly and energy-efficient cooking stoves accessed by households.

Under this output, Forty-five women, drawn from Margibi, Grand Bassa and Bong were trained in the construction of the eco-stoves. Each of the 45 women produced 10 eco-stoves totalling 450 stoves. Each county received 50 stoves as a start-up for business and designated as Green Gold Liberia representatives in the counties. The remaining stoves were distributed to vulnerable communities in Kakata. Under the same initiative, the construction of a production center in Gbarpolu County was completed by Green Gold Liberia.

**Output 4.1: Policy and institutional framework for sustainable management of waste at the national and county levels established**

As a result of a comparative process, one CSO was selected to carry out a waste management project in 4 urban centers in Lofa county. The agreement was signed and work is ongoing.

For the setting up of three WASH windows at three county service centers in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba, procurement was completed and some of the items delivered to the WASH Commission. The 14 motorbikes will be delivered to the incoming leadership

Hydrological equipment for the Hydrological Services of the Ministry of Mines and Energy was procured and delivered. The equipment is expected to improve hydrological data collection in the country.

The multi-stakeholder waste Resource Recovery Platform has been established. As per the term of reference of the Platform, coordination in the sector is expected to improved.

**Gender**

It is evident the meaningful role women play in decision-making, especially in this sector. Notwithstanding, this project has for the past years encouraged women's participation in all its activities. It has created a platform for gender inclusiveness especially when a female is heading the program. All of the consultancies under this program, have included gender balance with priority given to female candidates, and women are also prioritized during awareness activities. Of all the trainings and workshops conducted this year 2023, 50% of the participants were women.

**Capacity Development**

In order to guarantee that the program is able to build and sustain the capacity of relevant stakeholders, the program conducted two days' capacity-building trainings and awareness which included stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning on issues of climate change budgeting and management.

**Challenges**

The major challenge being faced by the program is the low budgetary support. The support is only geared towards activities and not the running of the program office such as vehicle maintenance, gas, internet data, etc. This program consisted of (6) projects in 2023 such as, Sinoe project, E&E project, MMCRP, Livelihood Project, Environmental Governance Project and the Forest Project. The program has been able to sponsor and produce one (1) project funding proposal yearly, but the budgetary support has been low and very tight. Additionally, the workload in the office has increased, and the program is in great need of a qualified and competent assistant.

**Risks**

The key risks to the implementation of the E&E AWP is the delay in the signing of project documents and the bureaucracy involved and getting key stakeholders involved in the technical aspect of the project. Also, important to note, is the delay of GoL in bringing forth its financial commitments under the different projects as co-financing.

**Lessons Learned**

Because the framework of the program is grounded on the realities of the environment and development challenges, and the program focuses on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable development as well as mainstreaming climate change into national policies. Partnership and collaboration among stakeholders and building trust are key in the coordination and successful implementation and sustainability of the projects.

**Future Plans**

The program plans to be more robust next year 2024 in achieving its outcomes and to focus more on tangible and measurable results, particularly in areas of biodiversity, waste management, and climate change. It is our hope that the program can be given more monetary support to develop one funding proposal on energy-efficient products and assist the project in reaching its activities in areas that are affected by climate change but that are not easily accessible to partners.

## ANNEX

### Financial Section

*[Note: All financial data presented in this report are provisional. From UNDP Bureau of Management/Office of Finance and Administration, an annual certified financial statement as of 31 December will be submitted every year no later than 30 June of the following year.]*

Table 1: Programme Funding Overview

| **Core Funding** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donor** | **Core Fund** | | | |
| UNDP | $ 624, 652.89 | | | |

Table 2: Programme Delivery

| AWP Output | Budget | Expenditure | % Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| USD $ 461,352.89 | USD $ 461, 352.89 | $ $ | |

**Table 3: 2014 Financial Performance (Cumulative)**

| Budget | Expenditure | Delivery Rate |
|---|---|---|
| *Instruction*<br>Show the annual budget here | *Instruction*<br>Show the expenditure (YTQ) | *Instruction*<br>Indicate in percentage |
| USD **$ 624, 652.89** | | |

## List of Acronyms

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme
EPA- Environmental Protection Agency
GEF- Global Environmental Facility
MOA- Ministry of Agriculture
NIM- National Implementation Modality
EWS- Early Warning System
GCF-Global Climate Fund
E&E- Energy & Environment
IPs- Implementing Partners
RPs- Responsible Parties
GGP- Green Growth Project
CCCD- Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
NAPS- National Adaptation Project
IAP- Integrated Approach Pilot



At the MFDP Capacity building training in Ganta, Nimba Co.



At the celebration of the World Tree Planting Day




At the graduation ceremony of the beneficiaries of the Eco-stoves training in Kakata, Nimba Co.



At the launching of the MSWRP ToR and SoP at the Paynesville city hall