



LIBERIA'S PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE: Using the I&FF approach to inform national processes

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National context

- Slowly recovering from civil unrest that has blocked development during the last decades → highly vulnerable to environmental instability due to high poverty rates (64% of population, or 1.7 million people)
- 70% of the population depends on rural economy → largely dependent on *rain fed subsistence farming, forest produce and fishing*
- Over 95% of the population relies on firewood, charcoal, and palm oil for their energy needs (CSET, 2004)
- Forests are a key national resource, but have suffered from years of no or mis-management



Policy responses

- **National Environmental Policy** (2003), resulted in establishment of EPA
- **Forestry Reform Law** (2006)
- **National Adaptation Programme of Action** (2008) identified broad national adaptation strategies, with agriculture and coastal zones identified as priority sectors
- **National Energy Policy** (2008) set greenhouse gas reduction targets (-10% by 2015), as well as targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transport fuels
 - ➔ overarching goal is to become carbon neutral
- **National Climate Change Initiative** (2010)
- **Initial National Communication** (2012, in prep.)



Project overview in Liberia

Key sectors selected:

- Energy (Mitigation), Forestry (Mitigation), Agriculture (Adaptation)

24-26 June 2009:

- Initial Inter-Ministerial Dialogue, Monrovia (65 participants)

13-15 October 2009 & 14-19 February 2011:

- I&FF trainings for 25 national experts by UNDP and ENDA Tiers Monde (centre of excellence)

3-4 August 2011:

- Final Inter-Ministerial Dialogue, Monrovia (50 participants)



Institutional arrangements

Key features:

- Strong national ownership
- Experts engaged from public and private sector
- Active working groups, meeting on regular basis

**Coordinating
Agency + lead
experts**

- **Environmental Protection Agency (co-ord)**
- **Centre for Sustainable Energy Technology (energy)**
- **Forestry Development Authority (forestry)**
- **University of Liberia (agriculture)**

**Additional
experts**

- **Centre for Sustainable Energy Technology**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Sustainable Development Institute**
- **Central Bank of Liberia**
- **Skills & Agricultural Development Services**

Support

- **United Nations Development Programme**
- **Regional centre of excellence (ENDA)**



I&FF assessment results

According to national assessment of investment and financial flows (I&FF) completed in August 2011, US\$ 2.89 billion is needed through to 2030 to implement priority actions in 3 key sectors

- **Energy (mitigation):** US\$ 1.29 billion to improve efficiency of energy production & use and to promote renewable energy
- **Forestry (mitigation):** US\$ 0.19 billion for sustainable forest management, enrichment of forest & restoration of plantations
- **Agriculture (adaptation):** US\$ 1.41 billion for resistant species, improving soil quality, fighting diseases etc.



I&FF assessment policy implications

Energy :

- Establish legal & regulatory framework including restructuring Ministry of Land, Mines and Energy to upgrade energy to Deputy Ministerial level
- Establish Energy Regulatory Board, Rural and Renewable Energy Agency & Rural Energy Fund

Forestry:

- Invest in programs to diversify income of forest dependent communities and incentivize engagement with tax breaks
- Public review of revenue distribution from commercial forestry

Agriculture:

- Integrate assessment measures & results into agriculture and food security policy



Impacts of the I&FF assessment

- Input to **2010 Presidential Climate Change Initiative**
- Input to **National Communication**
- Input to an ongoing study on **capacity barriers/gaps** for the implementation of mitigation activities (NAMAs, LEDS, MRV and National Communication) in Liberia
- Envisaged that results will **influence national budgetary allocations** to address climate change adaptation and mitigation in short, medium and long term
- Created **very strong inter-agency collaboration** during the I&FF assessment process & helped **raise awareness of senior politicians** on climate change issues



Presidential Climate Change Initiative

- Launched 2010 by President H E Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf
- Objective: The National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) is high-level policy coordination committee that is responsible for overall climate change policy in Liberia
- NCCSC serves as policy-clearing house for REDD+ and all other climate change related issues.
- All functions of NCCSC are facilitated through a National Climate Change Secretariat
- ➔ *The I&FF assessments helped reinforce awareness of CC and its cost to national development especially among policy makers*
- ➔ *I&FF is needed to address the cost of coastal adaptation in Liberia: this is a political sensitive topic and priority area for members of the NCCSC*



Initial National Communication

- Started in 2005 and scheduled for completion in June 2012
- Key results:
 - GHG emissions for base year (2000) amounted to 8,022 Gg CO₂ eq (without LULUCF)
 - Energy sector comprises 67.5% of total emissions, followed by agriculture (31.9%) and waste (0.6%)
 - With uptake of 69,991 Gg CO₂ eq from LULUCF, Liberia is categorized as net **SINK** with uptake of -61,969 Gg CO₂ eq.

➔ *The I&FF assessment identified that investments of US\$ 1.29 billion are needed from now until 2030 to implement a package of mitigation measures to improve efficiency of energy production & use and to promote renewable energy in Liberia. The measures would cut emissions 67% and make the country carbon neutral*



Key takeaways

- As national coordinator of the I&FF project, I express gratitude to the UNDP for initiating this project “Capacity Building for Policy Makers to address CC in Liberia”;
- It was timely and worthwhile, with all of our human capacity constraints, once we were introduced to the I&FF methodology, we took ownership of the process through a multi-stakeholder and collaborative process involving several national institutions, civil society and the private sector;
- The I&FF findings are proving to be very valuable for the SNC and in national planning and budgeting;
- The National Gender and CC Policy currently under development will also complement the I&FF.