

# THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



**Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE)**

**Youth Opportunities Project (YOP)**

## **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**

February 25, 2015

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<b>LIST OF</b>	<b>ACRONYMS</b>
YOP	Youth Opportunities Project
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environment and Social Management Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoL	Government of Liberia
IDA	International Development Association of the World Bank
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MWHI	Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PDO	Project Development Objectives
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RFP	Request for Proposal
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
LEPA	Liberia Environmental Protection Agency
LACE	Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LYEP	Liberia Youth Employment Program
EPAG	Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared for the proposed US\$10.0 million Youth Opportunities Project (YOP) Project, a youth employment and social protection program by the Government of Liberia. This ESMF will be used by the Principal Project Implementing Unit - Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) and other collaborators in ensuring that environmental and social safeguards concerns have been adequately addressed in the sub-projects to be implemented under the YOP Project.

### General Policy & Administrative Framework

The general framework for the assessment and management of environmental and social safeguards of developments/projects in Liberia is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency Act 2002, National Environmental Policy 2002, and the Environment Protection and Management Law (EPML) 2002. The (EPML) was enacted November 26, 2002 and published on April 30, 2003. Section 1 of The (EPML) gives the responsibilities of sustainable development, protection and environmental management to the LEPA. Section 6 of the EPML places a mandatory requirement for an environmental screening and/or Environmental Impact Assessment of all investment works or projects that could have potential significant environmental impacts with subsequent issuance of licensing or permitting from the LEPA as stipulated in the legislation as an *Annex I listed activity*.

The World Bank's ten safeguard policies are designed to help ensure that programs proposed for financing are environmentally and socially sustainable, and thus improve decision-making. The Bank's Operational Policies (OPs) are meant to ensure that operations of the Bank do not lead to adverse impacts or cause any harm, and contribute to sustainable development. These operational policies are:

- OP 4.01: Environmental Assessment
- OP 4.04: Natural Habitats
- OP 4.09: Pest Management
- OP4.12: Involuntary Resettlement
- OP 4.10: Indigenous Peoples
- OP 4.11: Physical and Cultural Property
- OP 4.36: Forests
- OP 4.37: Safety of Dams
- OP 7.50: Projects on International Waters
- OP 7.6 0: Projects in Disputed Areas

The YOP project triggered the World Bank's OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment policy. This updated ESMF is a revision of the existing ESMF for the YES Additional Financing project to reflect upscaling of the Community Livelihoods subprojects component under YES into the Productive Public works subproject components under YOP.

### Project Description

The Project is a Government of Liberia (GOL) initiative whose objective is to improve access to income generation opportunities for targeted youth and improve efficiency in cash transfers to targeted households in Liberia. The project has four main components as below;

**Component 1: Pre-Employment Social Support and Household Enterprises for Urban Youth.**

- i. Sub-component 1A: Pre-Employment Social Support
- ii. Sub-component 1B: Household Enterprises
- iii. Sub-component 1C: Capacity and Systems Building

**Component 2: Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support for Rural Youth.**

- i. Sub-component 2A: Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support
- ii. Sub-component 2B: Capacity and Systems Building

**Component 3: Cash Transfer Capacity and Systems Building.**

**Component 4: Project Implementation and Coordination.**

- i. Sub-component 4A: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Ministry of Youth and Sports
- ii. Sub-component 4B: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment
- iii. Sub-component 4C: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

The proposed activities under sub-components ***1B (Household Enterprises)*** and ***2A (Productive Public works and Life Skills support)*** could pose potential negative impacts and risks to human health and the wider environment. The impacts are likely to be minimal, localized and can be easily mitigated. Table 6 contains a summary of all the scope and nature of possible works for the various subproject types under the sub-components 1B and 2A.

**Description of Baseline Conditions**

**Land Area**

Liberia is situated along the wide South-West Curve North of the Upper Guinea Coast of the Equator (longitude 7° 18' – 11° 30' west and latitude 4° 20' – 8° 30' north). It covers an area of 38,000 square miles while its coastline is 350 mile long.

**Geographical location of Liberia in Africa**

It is located on the West Coast of Africa. It is bounded on the West by the Republic of Sierra Leone; East by La Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast); North by the Republic of Guinea, and on the South by the Atlantic Ocean.

**Relief**

The relief system of Liberia is sub-divided into 4 relief zones: 1) the coastal Belt extends upland 20 –25 miles (32 to 40 km). It is composed of gently undulating hills or low plains with an altitude not exceeding 50ft (15m), and 3 promontories that appear as landmark from the sea. These are: Cape Mount- which is the highest found in the north-west (close to Sierra Leonean border) and rises steeply to an elevation of over 10,000ft (350m); Cape Mesurado- the second highest in Liberia (in Monrovia) rises to 300ft; Cape Palmas- rises to about 100ft (30m) above sea level (South-East near the mouth of the Cavalla River), and a Belt of Rolling Hills that hardly reached an altitude of 300ft (100m). The coast line or coastal plain of Liberia is estimated at 579km long of almost unbroken sand strip (UNEP, 2004).

The relief zone is characterized by a great number of hills, some discontinuous ranges and occasional escarpments (e.g. Bomi Hills, Goe and Fawtro or Bassa Hills) regarded as the outlier of the disserted tableland that is the larger parts of Liberia's hinterland. These rolling hills have an elevation of about 90m above sea level and are covered with tropical rainforests.

The disserted plateaus are about 600 to 1000ft (200-300m) above sea level and are separated from the former belts by steep escarpments that rise to the western and central parts and covering the larger part of the country's hinterland. These plateaus comprise a series of mountain chains and massifs. The plateau and table lands have an elevation of about 300m while the mountain ranges reach an altitude of 610m.

The northern highlands- are found in the (Wologisi range- South West of Voinjama) along the border with Guinea. Its highest peak- the wuluvi, reaching an altitude of 4450ft (1350m) and the Nimba range form part of the more extensive Nimba complex within the Guinea highlands (with elevations above 6000ft (1800m). The highest peak on the Liberian side of Nimba range is the guest house hill, initially measured 4,540ft (1385m), but has been gradually leveled by the exploitation of iron ore. In reality, the Nimba Mountain (Mount Wuteve with 1,380m at Yekepa) is the highest mountain in Liberia. The mount is endowed with the highest grade iron deposit in the world. It also contains important minerals. Iron ore mining on Mount Nimba accounted for approximately 1 per cent of the world production, currently set at around 900 million tons. Wologisi Mountain is the 2nd highest peak.

In reality, the Nimba Mountain (Mount Wuteve with 1,380m at Yekepa) is the highest mountain in Liberia. The mount is endowed with the highest grade iron deposit in the world. It also contains important minerals. Iron ore mining on Mount Nimba accounted for approximately 1 per cent of the world production; currently set at around 900 million tons. Wologisi Mountain is the 2nd highest peak. Other smaller mountain ranges in Liberia include the Putu Range and Bong Range.

### **Climate**

The climate of Liberia is determined by the movements of the Inter-Tropical Front (I.T.F.) from November to April; the sun is overhead south of the equator. During the harmanttan, the air is dry, hot with often dust laden wind. This is the period of the dry season when Liberia comes under the influence of the tropical continental air mass. From May to October, the sun is overhead north of the equator. This period is the rainy season when Liberia comes under the

influence of the equatorial maritime air mass.

The period of heavy rainfall in Liberia takes place between May to October, with the highest rainfall being in June while the dry season runs from November to April, although there has been gradual changes in both seasons over the last 30 years. The main type of precipitation experienced in Liberia is the conventional rainfall. The level of rainfall in Liberia ranges from 70 to 80 mm, with an annual rainfall of 180 mm along the coast. Toward the interior, the rainfall decreases because the air loses its moisture except for high areas where it is forced to rise to cause some relief rains.

### **Soil and Geology**

There are four types of soils in Liberia (latosols or lateritic soils; regosol or sandy soil; alluvial soils and the lithosols). The latosol constitute 75% of the soil cover of the country while the regosol or sandy soil is about 5% of the total soil cover of the country. The regosol soil contains about 60% coarse and fine sand and small amount of clay. Few of the major useful plants that successfully grow on this soil type are coconut and palm trees. The alluvial, the fourth type of soils in Liberia contain a high amount of essential plant nutrients and are best for agricultural production. Alluvial soils constitute about 3% of the total soil types of the country. Lithosols make up 17% of Liberia's soil cover, with a high percentage of gravel because it is usually formed by slopes. Affected by erosion, lithosols contains shallow profile and coarse texture and, with limited agriculture potential.

### **Vegetation**

The combined factors of climate and geography associated with high temperature, high rainfall and low attitude result in high forest vegetation with rich biodiversity covering major parts of Liberia. It is believed that Liberia is the only country in West Africa that was once covered with tropical rainforest. At present, Liberia contains 4.3 million hectares of high forest with a deforestation rate of 0.3% (FDA 2000 report). About 35% of the forest is undisturbed, 45% disturbed but productive, and 20% disturbed and unproductive. Liberia's biodiversity (plants and animals life) is exceptionally diverse, with high rates of biodiversity and high population of species. Liberia is home to approximately 125 mammals, 590 bird species 162 naive fish species, 34 unknown reptiles and amphibians and over 1000 described insect species, over 2000 flowering plants including 240 timber species. Of the protected areas, Liberia has proclaimed Sapo as a National Park and Nimba Nature Reserve. The coastline consists of swamps related vegetation which includes mangrove forest and savanna that extends up to 25km inland.

### **Potential Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation**

The potential social and environmental impacts of the project relate to:

- Site selection
- Land acquisition
- Stresses on water resources
- Soil Erosion
- Pesticide use (but in fact, no pesticides will be purchased for the project and integrated pest management will be used instead)
- Eutrophication of aquatic environment

- Loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage
- Crop residue and other solid waste
- Atmospheric emission and particulate matter
- Noise
- Burrow pits
- Access by poor and young to temporary employment
- Improvement of youth employability

Table 1 contains the proposed mitigation measures to address the above listed potential environmental and social impacts associated with the YOP project.

**Table 1: Environmental mitigation measures**

Subproject Type	Potential Adverse Impact	Mitigation Plan
<b>Community Farms</b>	Stress on water resources	Integrated water management approach must be adopted Maintain border vegetation in canals and drainage systems
	Soil erosion and loss of productive capacity	Practice Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) to avoid nutrient depletion or accumulation. In areas with steep slopes, carefully consider planting zones and the direction of planting in relation to land contours to avoid erosion caused by precipitation or irrigation
	Pesticide use	No pesticide will be funded under this project. Chemical pesticides are included on a negative list in the Project Operational manual
	Eutrophication of aquatic environments	An integrated Nutrient Management approach should be adopted.
	Loss of biodiversity	Before clearing land for planting Community Agriculture Technician (CAT) would survey the project area to identify, categorize, and delineate any natural and modified habitat types and ascertain their biodiversity value at the community and district level. No activities will be funded that would lead to significant conversion or deterioration of natural habitats.
	Crop residues and other solid waste	Recycle crop residues and other organic materials by Leaving the materials in the fields, plowing, and / or composting. The potential for spreading of pests should be

		considered before implementing this practice
	Atmospheric emissions	Dust mitigation measures should be adopted. Minimize area of ground clearance Avoid dusty works during windy periods
	Physical Hazard (personal injuries)	Manual handling and basic health & Safety briefing should be given to farm workers
<b>Aquaculture</b>	Contamination of aquatic systems  Aquaculture (fish pond) activities, particularly pond-based systems, may affect aquatic systems due to construction and operation activities, primarily the mobilization of soils and sediments during construction and through the release of effluents during operation	Construct pond and canal levees with a 2:1 or 3:1 slope (based on soil type) as this adds stability to the pond banks, reduces erosion, and deters weeds.  Avoid pond construction in areas that have a slope of more than 2% as this will require energy-intensive construction and maintenance.  Stabilize the embankments to prevent erosion  Carry out construction work during the 'dry' season to reduce sediment runoff that may pollute adjacent waters
	Threat to biodiversity	Before clearing land and excavation of pits for fish farming, CAT would survey the project area to identify, categorize, and delineate any natural and modified habitat types and ascertain their biodiversity value at the community and district level
	Use of Fish meal and Fish Oil	Alternatives to supplies of fish feed produced from fish meal and fish oil should be sourced
	Burrow Pits	Burrow pits created to source fish pond construction material should be reclaimed to prevent trapping of wild and community livestock.
<b>Productive Public Works</b>	Dust emissions	Limiting dusty activities especially during dry and windy conditions.  Use water sprinklers where feasible especially under the public works subproject works



	Noise	Keep noisy youth sub-project works (singing and drumming) away from residential facilities.  Regular Servicing of all mechanical equipment and use of noise barrier/silencers where applicable.
<b>Household Enterprises</b>	Exposure to unacceptable to levels of occupational health risks such as noise, lighting and personal injury to beneficiary apprentices and their master trainers.	Relevant risk assessment must be undertaken and induction training including relevant occupational health and safety awareness must be given all new entrants. Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times to minimize exposure to identified risks.

The Proposed Budget for ESMF Implementation is detailed in the Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Environmental Management Plan Budget**

No.	Institution	Capacity Gaps Identified	Capacity Building Measures	Rate	Estimated Cost (\$)
1.	LACE	No single focal point at National level for implementation of ESMF arrangements	• Recruitment of Social Protection Program Manager to be safeguard focal point at National Level (25% allocation of his/her time to safeguards)	\$625 per month (x18mths)	<u>11,250.00</u>
2.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Inadequate number of staff at the regional offices	• Processing charges and permit fees for subproject works	\$30 per application	300.00
3.	Safeguard training workshop	Lack of safeguard implementation arrangement and roles and responsibilities within ESMF	• Safeguard Training workshop at LACE office for a selected Community Facilitators (to act as Training of trainers), LACE regional Engineers and LACE National Safeguard Coordinator	\$260 per session (x2)	520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b><u>\$12,070.00</u></b>

### **ESMF Implementation Framework and Administrative Arrangement**

The implementation of sub-components 1B and 2A of the YOP Project will be carried out by the LACE as the Project Implementing Unit at the national and regional levels. LACE is the government agency that has the overall project implementation and fiduciary responsibility the YOP Project. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has the responsibility for oversight and coordination of all youth-focused activities under the project and will thus monitor the YOP Project Productive Public Works sub-component. Other coordinating ministries at the national level include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Gender and Development and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

**National Level**

The implementation of components 1B and 2A of the YOP Project will be carried out by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) at the national level (See Table 4). A dedicated *Social Protection Program Manager* will be the focal point for all safeguard issues at the national level. S/he will be in charge of screening all subprojects under the Productive Public Works and Household Enterprises components in accordance with the guidance in the screening checklist to protect identified environmental/social receptors, meet the World Bank safeguards policies and Liberia national environmental regulatory requirements. S/he will be assisted by the *M&E Specialist* and the *LACE Engineers* for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF. The Social Protection Manager/M&E Specialist will coordinate with the Engineers at the regional level to ensure timely supervision of subproject works and flag up potential problems with implementation to management at the national level and World Bank team.

**County and District Level**

*LACE Engineers* at the regional level will take responsibility for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF at the County and District Level. The engineers will in turn liaise with Community Facilitators at the community level as part of the implementation arrangement. The *LACE Engineers* will provide timely feedback from their supervision and monitoring rounds to the Productive Public Works Project Manager at the national level who in turn cascade any relevant safeguard information to the attention of the Social Protection Program Manager.

**Community Level**

LACE will contract local NGOs to work as *Community Facilitators (CFs)* in the various communities where the Project is implemented. Community Facilitators will take responsibility for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements at the community level. The Community Facilitators will liaise with members of the Farm Management Committees, Community Agriculture Technicians and project beneficiaries at the community level to help with the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF. The CFs will in turn provide useful feedback to *LACE Engineers* to ensure compliance with ESMF requirements. The CFs will provide all necessary trainings on environmental and social management plans to the project beneficiaries to ensure effective implementation and compliance.

**Consultations for ESMF Preparation**

During the ESMF preparation and revision, consultations were held with selected project beneficiary communities from March 24 to April 3, 2014 to seek to integrate solutions to potential project environmental and social aspects into the project design via the ESMF. The consultation involved public hearings, face-to-face meetings with members of communities. Minutes and list of attendees were recorded and attached in the Annex of the report.

The Consultation was also extended to the following government organizations:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP);

- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA); and
- Ministry of Public Works (MPW).

A briefing/ disclosure meeting for the updated ESMF and updated RPF for the leadership of key implementing agencies were held on April 4, 2014 at the offices of the LACE. The revised ESMF was subsequently disclosed publicly by Government of Liberia on May 15, 2014.

### Monitoring and reporting of ESMF Implementation

Oversight for the environmental and social management process of the sub-projects will be assumed by a Social Protection Program Manager who will be assisted by a Productive Public Works Project Manager in LACE. Monitoring will be conducted during all phases of the project. The Productive Public Works Unit of LACE will prepare a long term monitoring strategy that will encompass clear and definitive parameters to be monitored for each sub-project. The monitoring plan will take into consideration the scope of development, the environmental and social sensitivity and the financial and technical means available for monitoring. The plan will identify and describe the indicators to be used, the frequency of monitoring and the standard (baseline) against which the indicators will be measured for compliance with the ESMF. A number of indicators (see **Table 3**) would be used to monitor the status of the compliance of the ESMF provisions.

**Table 3: Indicators for monitoring ESMF implementation**

Measures	Interventions	Output indicators
Technical measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Screening of subproject works</li> <li>-Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA and ESMP) and RAP</li> <li>-Develop a health and safety plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of subprojects screened</li> <li>-Develop the TOR</li> <li>-Number of ESIAs/ESMPs/Health and Safety Plans submitted for each sub-project</li> <li>-Number of studies carried-out</li> </ul>
Measures for monitoring and evaluating projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Perform monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>-ESMP (continuous monitoring, midterm and annual assessment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-List of indicator identified for each sub-project</li> <li>-Number of monitoring missions for each sub-project</li> <li>-Number of monitoring reports submitted for each subproject</li> </ul>
Institutional Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Establish Safeguard focal point at LACE national secretariat</li> <li>-Recruit an Environmental and Social Officer to support the LACE</li> <li>- Establish a safeguard focal point at the regional/County level</li> <li>-Establish a safeguard focal point at the community level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Development of a TOR for the Social - Protection Program Manager to serve as Safeguard focal point at national level for LACE</li> <li>- Safeguard focal point (LACE Engineer) is operational at regional level.</li> <li>-Safeguard focal point (Community Facilitators) are operational at community level.</li> <li>-Number of reports by LACE regional engineers and Community Facilitators submitted per sub-project</li> <li>-Number of missions the LACE regional engineers and Social Protection Program Manager has participated in per subproject.</li> </ul>
	Safeguard Awareness training for key project implementing staff. (Social Protection Program Manager, LACE Engineers and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of EA trainings conducted for staff per County/District</li> <li>-number of attendance (male/female) at EA</li> </ul>

	Community Facilitators)	trainings -Number of safeguard awareness trainings conducted before, during and after project implementation in each region -Number of staff attendance at the safeguard awareness trainings (Male/Female)
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### Capacity Strengthening for ESMF Implementation

In order for LACE to effectively carry-out the environmental and social management responsibilities in close collaboration with LEPA for subprojects implementation, institutional strengthening will be required. Capacity building will encompass LACE staff, LEPA Staff, CFs and the Local Communities. The LACE should therefore ensure that the following concerns and needs are addressed.

- Institutional structuring within the relevant departments to ensure that required professional and other technical staff are available;
- Facilitating the preparation of long list of consultants

To successfully implement the ESMF, a training program for LACE, is necessary. Proposed capacity building training needs are as follows:

- Environmental and Social Management Process.
- Use of Screening form and Checklist
- Preparation of terms of reference for carrying out EA
- Design of appropriate mitigation measures.
- Review and approval of EA reports
- Public consultations in the ESMF process.
- Monitoring mitigation measures implementation.
- Integrating ESMP into sub-projects implementation.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Liberia is situated in the coastal corner of West Africa where the general biophysical conditions of the North-South tendency of the coast abruptly changes into a west-east orientation. Liberia is enclosed in the longitude  $7^{\circ} 18' - 11^{\circ} 30'$  west and latitude  $4^{\circ} 20' - 8^{\circ} 30'$  north. It covers an area of about 111, 370 square kilometers and of this land area, 15,050 square kilometers is water and the remaining 96,320 square kilometers is land. It is bounded to the South by the Atlantic Ocean, Cote d'Ivoire to the East, Sierra Leone to the Northwest and Guinea to the North while the coastal plain is 579 kilo meter. Administratively, Liberia is divided into 15 counties and Monrovia is its Capital City.



**Figure 1:** Map of Liberia bordered by Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone (source Earth time inc)

The civil war had a devastating effect on the country's economy. Of its population of about 3.3 million, the gross domestic product (GDP) decreased by 50% as a result of long periods of economic decline and mismanagement including deteriorated capacity and weak institutions. The dismal performance of the economy as a result of the war has an adverse effect on human and social development. It is estimated that 76% of the population live below the poverty line of US\$1 a day and 52% even live in extreme poverty of under US\$0.50 a day (UNDP, 2010).



War related activities have caused extensive damage to an already inadequate economic and social infrastructure mainly in sectors such as transport, education, health, safe drinking water supply and sanitation Environmental Management practices are also poor.

The Government of Liberia has committed itself to an agenda of inclusive growth that highlights social protection and youth employment as critical in achieving this goal. The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) II includes social protection as a sector under the Human Development Pillar with the aim of protecting the poorest and most vulnerable households and groups from poverty, deprivation, and hunger while supporting them in attaining a minimum standard of living. The National Social Protection Strategy identifies improved livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households as critical to this goal.

The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) was established by an Act of National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia in July 22, 2004 with a mandate to improve the living standard of poor communities through a community-driven development (CDD). In support of the PRS II, LACE acts as the implementing agency for the Government's implementation of the Youth Opportunities Project (YOP) Household Enterprises and Productive Public Works and Life Skills support for Rural Youth sub-components.

## **2.0 Project Description**

The project will provide apprenticeships to vulnerable youth in urban areas and support agricultural transformation and value chain addition using a productive public works and CDD approach particularly for youth in rural areas. To mitigate the impact of future shocks, the project will also improve the efficiency in the delivery of cash transfers to targeted households including youth. Particular focus will be paid to pre-employment and life skills activities to strengthen youth participation in the labor market. The YOP activities will be designed and implemented directly or in close cooperation with the private sector (formal and informal). The project will have four components as described in the following paragraphs;

### **2.1 Project Components**

#### **2.1.1 Component 1: Pre-Employment Social Support and Household Enterprises for Urban Youth.**

This component will contribute to addressing youth labor market participation and behavioral constraints through the following three sub-components;

##### **i. *Sub-Component 1A: Pre-Employment Social Support.***

The objective of this sub-component is to increase the employment readiness of youth by supporting the development of non-cognitive skills, and positive attitudes towards work. This sub-component will offer intensive pre-employment and psychosocial support to improve productivity. The sub-component will also include psychosocial support to EVD affected youth and survivors. The interventions will consist of evidence-based stabilization and skills-focused group interventions, which integrate elements from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and



group interpersonal therapy in a series of workshops. Such interventions have been demonstrated to increase readiness in other contexts, including post-conflict situations, when combined with educational and economic interventions. This support will include core sessions to build skills in emotional regulation (including self-esteem and impulsivity), concentration, and problem-solving, which are critical to success in education and in the labor market. Knowledge and skills on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) will form a core element of the required pre-employment support offered under this sub-component, in order to influence behavior and competency in making the right decisions to succeed in employment and effectively manage their enterprises.

***ii. Sub-Component 1B: Household Enterprises***

Youth operating in household enterprises are constrained by lack of capital, inadequate skills, congesting and lack of physical space to work in urban settings. In response to these constraints, this sub-component aims to; (i) increase labor productivity of youth working in household enterprises, and (ii) facilitate the entry of youth into household enterprises. This intervention will support about 3,300 vulnerable youth in groups of 8 with on-the-job apprenticeships, formal vocational training, tools/equipment, basic business management training and start-up grants. This sub-component will be implemented in Montserrado County. The justification for the selection of this county include: (i) the county has the highest concentration of youth in Liberia; (ii) the county has been significantly affected by EVD; and (iii) the congestion element in Montserrado County makes it urgent to support the improvement and welfare of these youth.

Two cohorts of beneficiaries will be considered: (i) youth who are new entrants into household enterprises, who are underemployed and not in school; and (ii) youth involved in existing household enterprises and who can demonstrate management of an active household enterprise over the last 2 years. New entrants will be supported with on-the-job apprenticeships or vocational training (offered through existing formal vocational training institutes) to improve their skills and start new businesses. Government's medium term focus is to rebuild infrastructure and the energy sectors of the economy. Accordingly, job opportunities are expected in these sectors (e.g. carpentry, metal fabrication, block making, and electrical technicians), as well as related services. Even for youth who are operating in these sectors, business growth of these household enterprises is hindered by poor quality of outputs and services. This sub-component will initially focus on the construction and related service sectors, and support these household enterprises with apprenticeships, vocational training, tools/equipment, and cash grants to improve quality.

For new entrants, the project will set up targeting centers and use an on-demand approach to generate lists of potential beneficiaries. A community validation and poverty targeting tool will be used to select final beneficiaries. The on-demand process will consist of three key activities; (i) formation of registration teams; (ii) a public information communications campaign to disseminate the program's objectives, design, general eligibility and to solicit applications from applicants; and (iii) receipt of applications from potential beneficiaries. The communications campaign will also utilize various community structures and youth groups to disseminate information on the YOP. Subsequently, a simple validation tool to verify common features of poverty and vulnerability (analogous to a Proxy Means Test) will be used to generate a list of potential beneficiaries from the pool of applicants. A community validation process will then be

undertaken to ensure that only applicants with positive peer and community endorsements progress are included. As part of this process, a community validation exercise will be undertaken to ensure that selected beneficiary youth have positive community and peer endorsements, and are not involved in drug abuse. The final list of youth selected as beneficiaries will then be made available at the community level for a period of not less than one week to allow the community members to provide feedback. Any discrepancies will be corrected before confirming the list of Project beneficiaries.

After the targeting process, a Service Provider will facilitate the organization of youth into groups based on their self-defined interests. The number of youth in each group under this sub-component will be a maximum of 8 individuals; one individual from each household. Experience shows that the complexities of coordination, trust and group dynamics issues are more manageable in such small groups. 50 percent of the group membership will be females. The groups will be facilitated to prepare sub-project proposals, which will be evaluated and approved (further details will be provided in the POM). As part of this preparation, the Service Provider will also coach beneficiaries on basic business and money management practices.

Each youth group will be able to access a grant of US\$2,400 per approved sub-project (equivalent to US\$300 per individual), which will be released in tranches after the achievement of each milestone. The grants will be used to purchase tools, materials, and equipment for use on an approved sub-project over a period of 1 year. The group will also use the grant to access formal vocational training. The size of the grant has been determined based on the existing lessons on the minimum amount capital required to receive on the job training and start a household enterprise. The youth groups will procure the requisite supplies through a community procurement process, facilitated by the Service Provider. The service provider will coordinate with city officials and the county YOP committee to provide appropriate locations to facilitate the development of their enterprises. The service provider will continue to provide support to the youth groups for up to 6 months after the end of the sub-project. This includes supporting the youth groups to; (i) federate and formalize their household enterprises to form a sustainable community institution, (ii) establish modalities for the distribution of sub-project dividends, (iii) link up with to existing institutions, such as village savings groups.

This component requires master trainers who have the requisite business skills in the various trades to provide on-the-job coaching to beneficiaries. There are several sources of such master trainers. There are some medium-sized enterprises that produce relatively higher quality outputs, however, need to be better equipped in order to provide apprenticeships to youth under this project. This sub-component will therefore support such medium-scale enterprises with tools/equipment, in order for them to train both new entrants and existing youth household enterprises. To qualify for this support, however, these medium scale enterprises must be functional, registered with the Ministry of Commerce and have a minimum operating capital of US\$8,000. A second source of master trainers are skilled retired technicians, who will also be mobilized to provide technical support and training. Thirdly, in circumstances where the requisite skills are not in country, distance-learning arrangements via video conferencing will be organized to train the youth. A call for proposal approach will be used for medium scale enterprises and master trainers who would like to participate in this sub-project.

**iii. Sub-component 1C: Capacity and Systems Building**

The objective of this sub-component is to support capacity and systems building to key stakeholders at both central and local levels involved in the implementation of the YOP. Given that there many players in the Youth Sector in Liberia, YOP will provide Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to coordinate the activities of actors in the sector. In addition, the sub-component will finance: (i) preparation of project operational procedures and guidelines; (ii) knowledge exchange events, (iii) labor market intervention training (with an emphasis on soft skills in managing youth groups) for project staff, implementing agencies and service providers; (iv) provision of tools/equipment for implementing agencies; and (v) studies that will enhance youth employment dialogue in Liberia.

MYS will also be supported with several distinct sets of system building activities, specifically; (i) capacity building for the introduction of ICT-based operational enhancements (including targeting and electronic registration), (ii) building of a Monitoring and Evaluation system to monitor project results (which would in turn support the systematic tracking of results for the youth sector in general), (iii) development and implementation of social accountability and a grievance redress mechanism for Components 1 and 2 of the project, (iv) at least 3 evaluation surveys. An Impact Evaluation of the Pre-Employment Social Support and Household Enterprises Component and Productive Public Works Component and Life Skills will be undertaken to measure the project's impact on income generation opportunities of beneficiary youth.

**2.1.2 Component 2: Life Skills Support and Productive Public Works for Rural Youth.**

This Component will also consist of two sub-components:

**i. Sub-component 2A: Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support**

The objective of this component is to provide vulnerable youth in rural areas with immediate consumption smoothing support through productive public works and life skills training. The sub-component will adopt a community-driven development approach to engage youth in productive public works activities with an emphasis on community-level farm production. The component would support the preparation of new land for cultivation, and providing resources to youth groups to purchase agricultural inputs and agro processing.

Life skills support will aim at the following: conflict resolution, peer community awareness on sanitation, hygiene and health promotion to enhance the long term benefits to rural youth participating in the productive public works program. This component would also focus on behavior modification around self-esteem, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), communication strategies, work readiness, teamwork, community relations as well as basic business and money management practices.

This component will be targeted towards vulnerable youth (aged 18 – 35 years) in rural areas in all counties across Liberia. 10,000 beneficiary youth will be supported in groups of 10 – 15. Each youth will be required to cultivate 0.5 hectares of land for community agricultural projects.

A community-based selection approach will be utilized to select beneficiaries. The selection criteria will also include youth who are residents of the community and underemployed. Emphasis will be placed on non-traditional crops in Liberia (such as pineapples) that have a ready market. The component will also facilitate linkages between production, processing and marketing. Facilitation of the flow of information (using innovative ICT solutions) on markets and prices will be supported.

Planning for each sub-project will follow the agricultural seasonal cycle. The sub-project cycle will be based on the main planting season, which occurs from March to May each calendar year. Each member will be guaranteed a total of 100 days per year: 60 days of work on sub-project agricultural activities, 20 days of business training and 20 days of life skills training. The full sub-project cycle will be detailed in the POM.

Beneficiaries will be incentivized at a daily rate of US\$3.00 per day (and up to \$300 per season) in the initial phase of the program (this rate may be revised over the course of implementation to take into account increases in prices of the food basket and basic needs). The rate is currently appropriate for self-targeting because it is below official daily minimum wage of \$4, lower than the average market rate for unskilled labor, and consistent with rates currently being offered by other public works programs. It is expected that only vulnerable youth with no other, more attractive, livelihood alternatives or employment opportunities will be willing to participate in this program. Although cash incentives are computed on a daily basis, each youth group will receive payments on a piece rate basis, based on the completion of specific sub-project milestones (e.g. clearing, sowing, crop maintenance, harvesting). This will require that youth groups develop a milestone list (including completion of specific life and business skills modules) that will be posted and the money will be disbursed once the Community Oversight Committees and the implementing partner(s) verify the achievements. Benchmarks and standards will be set for each activity with technical support of community facilitators to ensure quality in the delivery of each milestone. Beneficiary groups can also expect to receive agricultural inputs worth up to \$100 to support their sub-projects.

The project will also facilitate the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between local chiefs/community leaders and youth groups to grant access to identified community land. To ensure stability and create incentives for youth to invest in livelihood activities, these MOUs would include provisions for access to the community land for agricultural purposes by the youth groups for up to 3 years.

#### ii. ***Sub-Component 2B: Capacity and Systems Building***

The objective of this sub-component is to finance capacity and systems building for the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) for the implementation of Life Skills Support and Productive Public Works. In particular, capacity building will support; (i) technical assistance to support sub-project implementation, with particular attention to training Farm Management Committees in community organization, project identification, beneficiary selection, community financial management and procurement processes, as well as monitoring and evaluation; (ii) technical assistance and monitoring by Community Agriculture Technicians, (iii) preparation of project operational procedures and guidelines, and (iv) knowledge exchange

events, including seminars at the county, district and central government levels and local and international study tours, (iii) labor market intervention training (with an emphasis on soft skills in managing youth groups) for project staff, implementing agencies and service providers;. Several distinct sets of system building activities will also be supported, including capacity building for the introduction of ICT-based operational enhancements (e.g., electronic registration and payment systems), Monitoring and Evaluation systems and Development Communication activities.

### **2.1.3 Component 3: Cash Transfer Capacity and Systems Building.**

With the Ebola outbreak, a number of Development Partners are financing cash transfer programs in Liberia. This component aims to improve efficiency in the delivery cash transfers to targeted households in Liberia. In particular, this component will support the building of blocks for a basic safety nets system including: (i) improving the process of targeting extremely poor households through the introduction of a Proxy Means Test (PMT); (ii) improving operational efficiency by strengthening ICT systems, particularly Management Information and electronic payments systems; (iii) ensuring the design and implementation of a functional M&E system; and (iv) strengthening of social accountability and grievance redress systems. It will complement and improve the delivery efficiency of the existing cash transfer programs in Liberia including the Bank financed USD 5 million cash transfer cash transfer program (financed under the Ebola Emergency Response Project – P152359) which aims to provide consumption smoothening to 10,000 households who are extremely poor, labor constrained, and affected by EVD. This program is building on the lessons of an EU and UNICEF-supported Social Cash Transfer program implemented through the MGCSP to extreme poor and labor constrained households in Bomi and Maryland counties.

Specifically, capacity building will support the MGCSP to; (i) set minimum standards of operations in the modalities of operating cash transfers, (ii) prepare project operational procedures and guidelines, (iii) develop coordination mechanisms and ensure synergies in the implementation of this sub-component, and (v) provide knowledge exchange events, including seminars at the county, district and central government levels and local and international study tours.

For sustainability and continuity, the government has expressed interest in consolidating the implementation of safety net systems by scaling up cash transfer investments to more extremely poor households for a longer time in line with its social Protection policy. This approach will set the foundation for support to a systems approach to Social Protection in Liberia. Government envisages long term support for cash transfer systems building and implementation.

### **2.1.4 Component 4: Project Implementation and Coordination.**

The MYS will bear the overall responsibility of ensuring the effective implementation of this project. There will be three implementing partners, each of whom will be responsible for implementing specific sub-components. Specifically, (i) the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) will be responsible for implementing Pre-employment Social Support as well as Capacity and Systems Building; (ii) the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) will be

responsible for the implementation of Household Enterprises, Life Skills Support and Productive Public Works, as well as Capacity and Systems Building; and (iii) the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) will be responsible for implementing Cash Transfers and Capacity and Systems Building. Each agency will also be provided with Project Management and Coordination. The table below summarizes these arrangements.

**Table 3: Youth Opportunities Project Implementing Agencies and sub-component**

<b>Implementing Agency</b>	<b>Sub-Components</b>
<b>MYS</b>	<b>1A:</b> Pre-employment Social Support <b>1C:</b> Capacity and Systems Building <b>4A:</b> Project Management and Coordination
<b>LACE</b>	<b>1B:</b> Household Enterprises <b>2A:</b> Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support <b>2B:</b> Capacity and Systems Building <b>4B:</b> Project Management and Coordination
<b>MGCSP</b>	<b>3:</b> Cash Transfer Capacity and Systems Building <b>4C:</b> Project Management and Coordination

This distribution is based on the strategic position of the MYS to coordinate the youth sector, the recent experience of LACE in the implementation of a number of productive public works, enterprise support and skills training programs, and the mandate of the MGCSP to implement Cash Transfer program. Existing county structures, in particular the County Steering Committee, chaired by the County Superintendent, will support implementation at their level. This component will consist of three sub-components:

i. ***Sub-component 4A: Project Management and Coordination for the Ministry of Youth and Sports.***

The objective of this sub-component is to support activities related to project management and coordination. This includes equipment, vehicles, fuel, office space, and communications costs, and incremental project-related operating costs under the MYS. This support will include support for the procurement of a service provider to implement Pre-employment Social Support, implementation of the MYS' Capacity and Systems building activities, , and facilitation of county steering committees and community oversight committees in the implementation of sub-component activities. This sub-component will also support coordination and consolidation of annual and quarterly reports for the entire project. The Ministry will ensure collaboration across sectors and counties, and as well as linkages with other policy makers in the overall implementation of the YOP project.

ii. ***Sub-component 4B: Project Management and Coordination for the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment.***

The objective of this sub-component is to support activities related to project management and coordination. This includes equipment, vehicles, fuel, office space, and communications costs, and incremental project-related operating costs under LACE for the implementation of



Household Enterprises, Life Skills Training, Productive Public Works, and Capacity and Systems Building sub-components of the project. This support will include procurement of a service provider to implement Life Skills training, facilitation of county steering committees and community oversight committees in the implementation of sub-component activities.

iii. ***Sub-component 4C: Project Management and Coordination for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.***

The objective of this sub-component is to support activities related to project management and coordination. This includes equipment, vehicles, fuel, office space, and communications costs, and incremental project-related operating costs under the MGCSP for the implementation of Cash Transfer Capacity and Systems Building component of the project. This support will include the procurement of service providers to implement operational aspects of the Cash Transfers, including data collection, electronic registration and payments mechanisms.

## **2.2 Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks relevant to the Project**

The YOP project will aim to strengthen the productivity of underemployed youth. The cash transfer component will strengthen the human capital of the targeted persons. The project will have a particular focus on the building of skills in the construction sectors of economy and in particular improving the quality of the products prepared and attracting new entrants in this sector. The project will also support agricultural transformation and marketing using a public works and CDD approach. Particular focus will be paid to pre-employment and life skills activities to strengthen youth participation in the labor market.

The potential environmental and social impacts of these investments are likely to be minimal, localized and easily to mitigate. Indeed most of the proposed project sites for the Community Livelihood subcomponent are likely to be existing locations which have been used for similar communal farming activities under the ongoing YES project. Issues with land management, dust, noise, fumes generation from communal farming activities, pollution of surface and groundwater resources, use of chemical pesticides(which in fact will not be funded under the project), correct use of applicable personal protective equipment and contamination of fish ponds are some of the potential environmental and social impacts that can be encountered during implementation of this project.

The Government of Liberia has revised the existing ESMF used by the LACE for the YES Project to ensure that all investments are adequately screened for their environmental and social impacts in accordance with best practices and where necessary, relevant mitigation measures will be provided to mitigate identified potential environmental and social impacts. This revised ESMF provides guidance on the management and administrative arrangements which will be adopted to successfully manage all potential safeguard concerns associated with this project. Safeguard focal points at the national, county/district and community levels have been identified and the roles and responsibilities of various key project stakeholders on safeguard arrangements have been explained within the revised ESMF.

Additionally a capacity assessment of the existing LACE staff to implement the safeguard provisions within the revised ESMF was conducted to identify opportunities to strengthen

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weakness and enhance good lessons learnt from the implementation of the parent project. This approach aims to ensure compliance with both national regulatory and World Bank policy requirements.

### **2.3 Consultations for Updating the ESMF**

Consultation is a method of public involvement and participation during environmental and social impact assessment to seek opinion of key project stakeholders on potential impacts of the investment project. This procedure was applied during the preparation of the ESMF for the YES Project in accordance with proposals within the Consultants' Terms of Reference (TOR), and in compliance with requirements of the Environment Protection and Management Law Act 2002 of Liberia. Consultation were held with key stakeholders including the following: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, local leaders, Government authorities, health authorities, NGOs, CBOs, Project Facilitators, Contractors, PMCs, Department of Social Welfare, National Youth Commission and other community members within the project areas.

During this revision of the ESMF, consultation were held with selected communities benefitting from the ongoing YES Project as well as potential communities to benefit from the YOP Project and government institutions to assess their impression of the performance of the implementation of the safeguard instruments and inform them about the upscaling subproject activities under the YOP. Annex 5 of this report contains minutes of the consultations undertaken as part of the revision of the YES Additional Financing ESMF.



### **3.0 LEGISLATIVE & INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Legislative Framework**

Article 7 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia set the basis for legal and institutional framework for the protection and management of the environment. It provides for public participation of all citizens in the protection and management of the environment and natural resources in Liberia. The Environment Protection Agency of the Republic of Liberia (LEPA) was established on November 26, 2002 by an Act of the Liberia National Legislature under the Executive Branch of Government to function as an autonomous body with the principal authority for the protection and management of the environment in Liberia. It is headed by an Executive Director who serves as Chief Executive Officer, responsible for management, administration and operation on a day-to-day basis.

The Environmental Protection Agency Act 2002, National Environmental Policy 2002, the Environment Protection and Management Law (EPML) 2002. The (EPML) was enacted on November 26, 2002 and published on April 30, 2003. Section 1 of The (EPML) gives the responsibilities of sustainable development, protection and environmental management to the EPA in partnership with regulated Ministries and in a close relationship with the people of Liberia. Part II, Section 5 of the legislation also designated the EPA as the principal Liberian authority for environmental management which shall co-ordinate, monitor, supervise, and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities for environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Section 6 of the EPML places a mandatory requirement for an environmental screening and/or Environmental Impact Assessment of all investment works or projects that could have potential significant environmental impacts with subsequent issuance of licensing or permitting from the Liberia EPA as stipulated in the legislation as an Annex I listed activity. With particular reference to the YOP, the following EPML Annex I listed activities could be relevant and may require assessment

#### **3.2 Projects Activities likely to Require LEPA Environmental Screening List (Annex I Section 6 of EPML)**

The following types of project activities are likely to require screening by LEPA in order to determine the need for an EIA and permit:

##### *Agriculture*

- Cultivating natural cash and food crops on lands not less than 50ha;
- Water management projects for agriculture (drainage, irrigation);
- Large scale mono-culture (cash and food crops)
- Pest control projects (i.e. tsetse, army worm, locusts, rodents weeds) etc;
- Fertilizer and nutrient management;
- Agricultural programs necessitating the resettlement of communities;
- Introduction of new breeds of crops;

- Arial spraying

The process flow chart in Figure 2 below illustrates the LEPA Environmental screening process that potential communal agricultural subprojects greater than 50Ha will have to go through to check whether they require an EIA and permit or not.

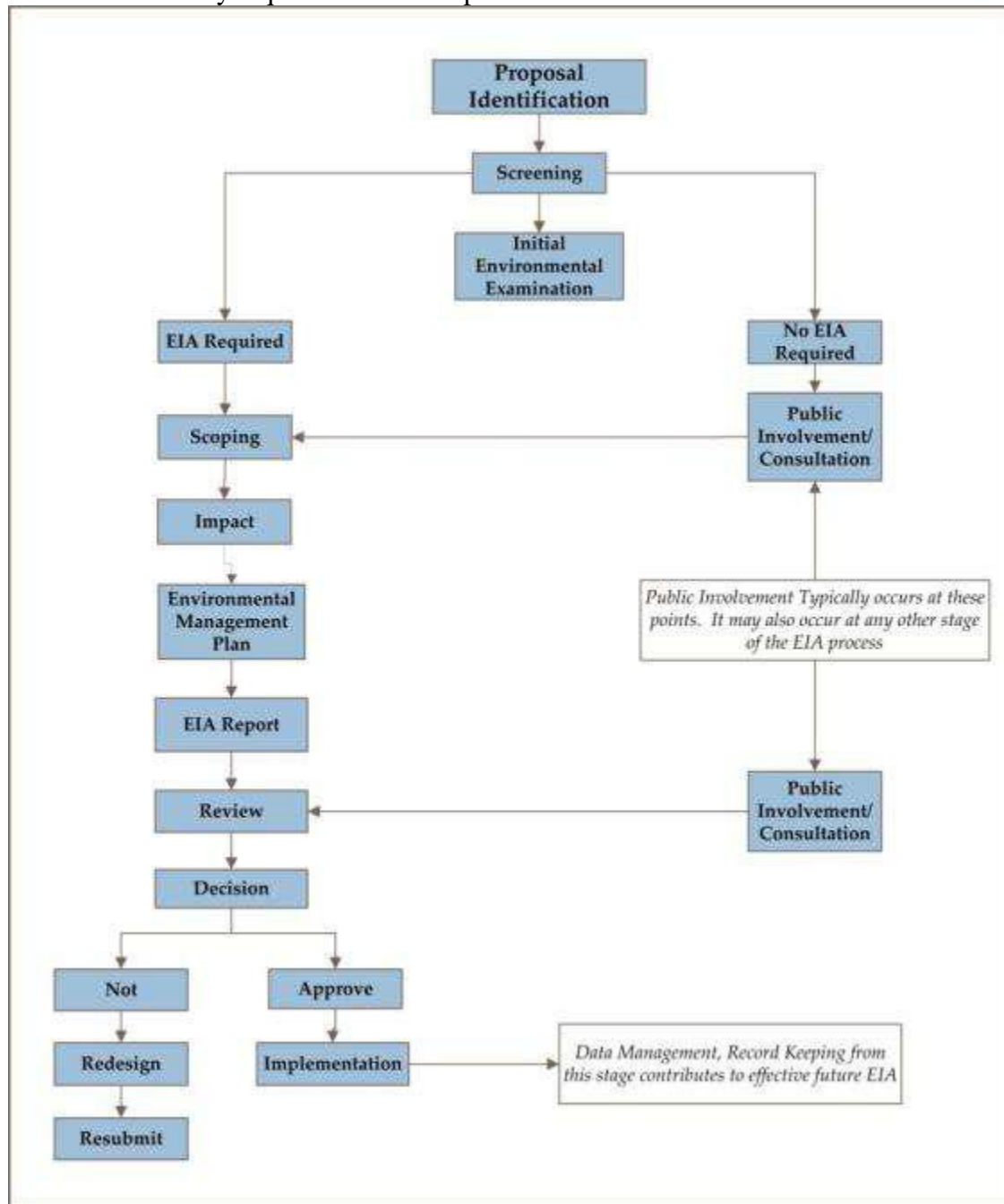


Figure 2: The EIA process flow chart in Liberia

### 3.3 Environmental Quality Standards

Several environmental quality standards have been prepared by the LEPA. Some of these environmental quality standards include: 1) Air Quality Standards; 2) Noise Level Standards; 3) Combustion Conditions and Emission Standards for Municipal and Hospital Wastes Incineration; and 4) Selected Standards for Discharge into surface waters. These standards would be applied in any follow on environmental impact assessment where necessary.

### 3.4 Institutional Framework

At a regional cooperation level, Liberia is a member of a number of organizations that play an important role in the protection and management of the environment. These organizations include the Economic community of West Africa (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union (MRU), the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), and the African Union (AU).

In addition to the LEPA, other organizations play vital roles in environmental protection and management in Liberia. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministries of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLM&E), Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPEA), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MHSW), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Commerce (MOC), and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC). The collaborating organization would be consulted as required by any relevant subproject works. The LEPA however is the principal enforcing authority in Liberia for environmental management and shall co-ordinate, monitor, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders when needed. Liberia has also ratified and is currently a party to several international environmental agreements, treaties and conventions.

### 3.5 World Bank Safeguards Policies

The World Bank Safeguards Policies (WBSPs) cover ten (10) areas: Environmental Assessment, Natural Habitats, Forestry, Safety of Dams, Pest Management, Projects in Disputed Areas, International Waterways, Indigenous Peoples, Involuntary Resettlement and Cultural Physical Resources.

#### *OP/BP 4.01 Operational Policy on Environmental Assessment*

The World Bank Operational Policy OP/BP 4.01 requires that an Environmental Assessment be carried out by applicants seeking for World Bank financing to ensure that projects are environmentally friendly, socially sound and sustainable. World Bank categorizes potentially funded projects as A, B C, or F in accordance with their potential impacts. The parent YOP project triggered this World Bank Operational Policy and is categorized as B (Partial Assessment) because some of the subproject components are likely to have adverse impacts but these impacts would be minimal, localized and can be easily mitigated.

An Environmental Assessment is required for such projects in order to examine their potential negative and positive environmental and social impacts and recommend any measure needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate or compensate for impacts and improve environmental and social performance. Similar to the requirement of the EPML 2002 Act of the Republic of Liberia, the

World Bank environmental assessments require the following information and studies to address environmental and social concerns regarding the project.

- a) Policy, legal, and administrative framework
- b) Project description
- c) Baseline study
- d) Environmental and social impacts
- e) Analysis of alternative, and
- f) Recommendation of measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance, included, as the case may be, an Environmental and social management Plan
- g) Public consultations

This revised ESMF by the LACE contains an executive summary, and ESMP components, which have been developed to meet the above requirements of both the World Bank and the EPML 2002 Act of the Republic of Liberia.

#### *OP 4.04 Operational Policy on Natural Habitats*

This Operational Policy of the World Bank provides guidelines for the protection of the natural habitats which may be affected as a result of the implementation of any project for which funding is provided. The policy objective seeks to ensure respect for and consideration for the conservation of the natural habitat, which could be affected by the project environment. Concern for such habitat must be expressed during the site selection process to avoid damage or to provide mitigation measures.

The YPO project will not fund any activities that would lead to significant conversion or deterioration of natural habitats; any such activities would not be eligible. The YOP project does not trigger the Bank's Operational Policy on National Habitats;.

#### *OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples*

This Operational Policy (OP) describes the policies and procedures for projects where indigenous peoples are present in the project area. The objective of this policy is to ensure that indigenous people benefit from development projects that avoid or mitigate potentially adverse effects on the indigenous peoples. In many cases, proper protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples will require the implementation of special project components that may lie outside of the primary project's design and objectives.

The Operational Policy states: "when the bulk of the direct project beneficiaries are indigenous people, the Bank's concerns would be addressed by the project itself and the provisions of Operational Directive would thus apply to the project in its entirety".

There are no peoples in the project areas that meet the criteria of OP4.10. The local residents in the vicinity of the areas of the projects are addressed by the project itself in this ESMF. The YOP project does not trigger the Bank's Operational Policy on Indigenous People.

*OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement*

OP4.12 seeks to avoid displacing persons where feasible or minimizing displacement by exploring all viable alternative designs. The World Bank requires that when resettlement is unavoidable, a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) be developed to ensure that displaced persons are provided with sufficient resources. These resources include compensation for losses at full replacement cost prior to the actual move, and support through the transition period in the resettlement and assistance in improving their former living standard, income earning capacity and production levels. The World Bank requires the encouragement of community participation when planning and implementing resettlement. In addition, displaced persons should be integrated socially and environmentally into host communities so that adverse impacts on host communities are minimized. Because details of the subprojects and their possible resettlement impact are not yet known at this stage, a separate Resettlement Policy Framework has been prepared for the project, to meet the requirements of this policy.

The YOP project has triggered this World Bank Operational Policy and a RPF has been prepared to address concerns with potential land acquisition issues for the subproject works under the Community Livelihood (communal farming, aquaculture works). The framework provides guidance on when preparation of one or more RAPs will be required during project implementation.

*BP/OP 4.36 Forest*

OP 4.36 Policy aims to reduce deforestation, enhance environmental contribution of forested areas, promote reforestation, reduce poverty and encourage economic development. Where there are limited forest resources beyond secondary re-growth in the project areas, this ESMF has been developed with duly respect for and complete consideration of this policy.

The YOP project does not trigger the Bank's Operational Policy on Forests.

*BP/OP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources*

Policy OP BP 4.11 was developed for the protection of physical cultural resources. This includes artifacts left by human inhabitants such as middens, shrines, battlegrounds, and unique environmental features. Physical cultural resources are defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance. Physical cultural resources may be located in urban or rural settings, and may be above or below ground, or under water. Their cultural interest may be at the local, provincial or national level, or within the international community.

The World Bank generally assists in the preservation of these cultural properties and normally declines projects that will significantly damage non-replicable properties. The management of cultural property is the responsibility of the government. If there are any questions concerning cultural property in the project areas, a brief reconnaissance survey should be undertaken in the

field by a specialist. The government, appropriate agencies, NGOs or university department should be consulted if questions arise about cultural property.

The YOP project does not trigger the Bank's Operational Policy Physical Cultural Resources as any subprojects that might affect known Physical Cultural Resources will not be eligible under the project. A chance find procedure has been included in this document to address the event that chance finds are made during project implementation.

### **3.6 Synergy between World Bank Safeguards and Policies and the EPA EIA**

The Environment Protection and Management Law created by the Act of 2002 provide guidelines for the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This law of Liberia contains elements that are similar to the contents of this present ESMF.

The World Bank's Safeguard Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12) provides for preparation of an Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), and implementation of a RAP where a project would necessitate the involuntary taking of land, leading to economic displacement and/or subsequent relocation of people. A RPF has been prepared for the project, as a separate document from this ESMF, that will guide the preparation of RAPs as needed..

The social structure of counties, chiefdoms and clans as described earlier does not allow for the forceful removal of people. The land for the proposed LACE supported community subprojects is being given according to established policy procedures of community consultation particularly with local authorities of a given subproject and other beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of these projects are included in all stages of the planning, implementation, and monitoring processes in order to ensure "ownership" and sustainability of the projects in accordance with the World Bank Group Policy.

## **4.0 LIBERIA BASELINE PROFILE**

### **4.1 General Description and Location**

The quadrangle of Liberia is located on the western side of the African Continent and southwest corner of the West Coast of Africa. It is positioned on the Atlantic coastline of Africa, and has a surface area of 111,370 km<sup>2</sup>, and the dry land extent is 96,160 km<sup>2</sup>. It lies between the longitudes of 7°30' and 11°30' west and latitudes 4°18' and 8°30' north. It is bordered by Guinea from the north, Sierra Leone from the west and Côte d'Ivoire from the east (see Figure1). Liberia has a studded coastline approximately 560 km long. It is characterized by unbroken sand strips, and is dominated by lagoons and marshes. Generally, Liberia has low relief topography. However, the hinterland is made up of ill-defined and dissected plateaus and low relief mountains few rising abruptly above the surface to an elevation of 400m above sea level (asl). The highest mountain (Mount Wutivi) is located in the northeast (Yekepa) and rises to an elevation of approximately 1,380m asl.

Liberia has virgin rain forests that are primarily located inland and in mountainous areas. The rest of the land is occupied by small farms. Liberia has four types of vegetation cover. Those are distributed according to the following: brush, grassland, cultivated and tree crops dominate the central and coastline areas; swamps are present as patches along the coastline mainly near river mouths; broadleaf evergreen forests are present in the southeastern part of the country; and broadleaf deciduous and evergreen forests dominate the northern parts and are present in the central parts.

Liberia has six major rivers that divide the country into several quadrants. The rivers are Cavalla, Cestos, St. Paul, St. John, Lofa, and Mano. The longest and largest is the Cavalla River.

### **4.2 Meteorological Setting**

The climate of Liberia is determined by the equatorial position and the distribution of low and high-pressure belts along the African continent and Atlantic Ocean. A fairly warm temperature throughout the year with very high humidity is common because of the moderating influence of the ocean and the equatorial position (UNDP, 2006).

#### **4.2.1 Precipitation**

Liberia has two seasons: rainy and dry seasons. The dry season lasts from November to April and the rainy season is from May to October. Average annual rainfall along the coastal belt is over 4000 mm and declines to 1300 mm at the forest-savannah boundary in the north (Bongers et. al. 1999). The months of heavy rainfall vary from one part of the country to another, but are normally June, July and September. The driest part of the country is along a strip of the eastward flowing Cavalla River, but even there, the land receives over 1778 mm of rain a year. Monrovia receives almost 4572 mm, about twice the estimate of rain annually. Observations concerning the diurnal distribution of rainfall prove that two-thirds of the rain along the coast, particularly in Monrovia and its environs fall during the night between 18:00 and 07:00 hours. Most of the rest of the rain usually falls during the morning while only a minimum of rain is recorded between



mid-day and early afternoon.

#### **4.2.2 Temperature and Sunshine**

The Atlantic Ocean has an additional ameliorating effect on the temperature along the coast with maximum annual and daily variations (UNDP, 2006). Generally, temperature remains warm throughout the country and there is little change between seasons. The temperature over the country ranges from 27-32°C during the day and from 21-24°C at night. The average annual temperature along the coast ranges from 24°C to 30°C. In the interior it is between 27-32 °C. The highest temperature occurs between January and March and the lowest is between August and September.

The sun is overhead at noon throughout the year, giving rise to intense insolation in all parts of the country, thus resulting in high temperatures with little monthly variations (UNDP, 2006). Temperature would have been much higher had it not been for the effect of the degree of the cloud cover, air, humidity and rainfall, which are influenced by the vegetation cover of the country. The days with longest hours of sunshine (average of six hours a day) fall between December and March. Daily sunshine hours are at a minimum during July, August and September.

### **4.3 Geological Setting**

Liberia is underlain by the Guinean Shield of West Africa and is composed mainly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks. Other rocks occur locally and are chiefly Paleozoic sandstone, Jurassic diabase dikes Cretaceous sandstones and Quaternary unconsolidated deposits. Rock outcrops are sparse in Liberia owing to tropical weathering that has produced a thick laterite and saprolite cover, which supports a dense rain forest. The rocks forming this crystalline shield consist of an older series of granulitic and migmatitic gneisses and amphibolites with subordinate granitoids. Remnants of slightly younger supercrustal rocks or sedimentary and volcanic origin are aligned predominantly in a SW-NE direction. Phanerozoic sediments are only exposed along a narrow coastal strip.

#### **4.3.1 Stratigraphy**

Approximately 90% of Liberia is underlain by Archean and Paleoproterozoic granitic rocks. The basement rocks can be divided into three major units on the basis of their radiometric age. The Archean rocks were affected by the earlier Leonian (3,500-2,900 Ma) and the younger Liberian (2,900-2,500 Ma) Orogenies. SW-NE trending greenstone belts of Birrimian age (2,100 Ma) have been reported from the southern central part of the country. The third unit comprises the Pan-African age province, which was metamorphosed and intruded about 550Ma ago. The Archean and Pan-African provinces are separated by a series of WNW-ESE trending faults comprising the Todi Shear Zone. Gneisses of the Archean and part of the Pan-African age provinces are metamorphosed to amphibolites grade. Granulite facies rock, however, are restricted to the Pan-African age province, but are probably derived from Archean rocks.



Two small outliers of classic sedimentary rocks, the Gibi Mountain Formation, form heavily forested hills 32 km northeast of the Todi shear Zone. They lie disconformably on Archean gneisses and are overlain by klippen of Precambrian itabirite-bearing quartzite. Isolated diabas or gabbro dykes (400 – 180 Ma) are intrusive to the Precambrian rocks. Unmetamorphosed laminated sandstones, arkoses, siltstones and conglomerates of possible Cretaceous age occur in narrow section (<5 km) along the coast.

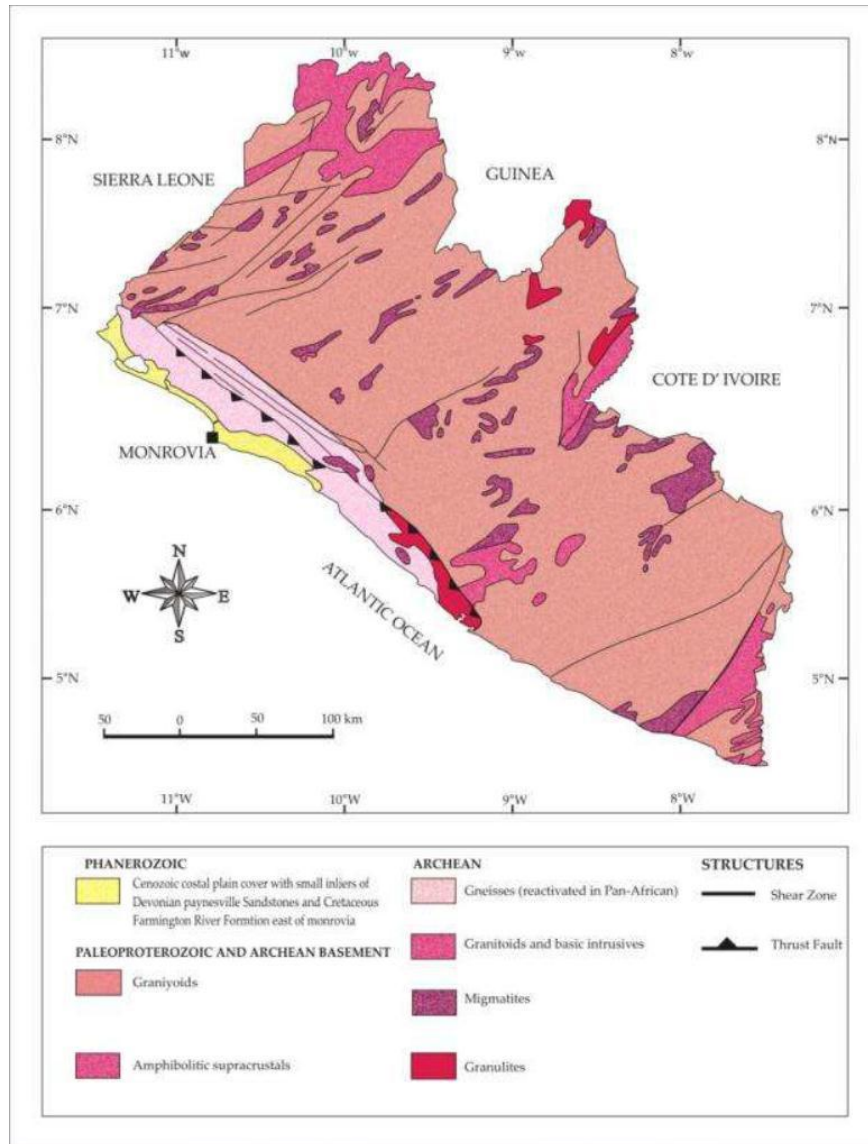


Figure 3: Geological overview of Liberia (source Earth time inc)

#### 4.4 Soil Type

The climate tends to become the dominant soil-forming factor in Liberia, reinforced by the associated effects of the abundant and dense vegetation. The warm and humid climate conditions cause intensive mechanical and chemical weathering of the parent rock and leaching of the soil

profile. As a result, Liberian soils share many important features, even though some minor variations reflect the more local influence of relief and geology. The bedrocks from which the rocks have formed are mainly of crystalline, igneous and metamorphic origin, consisting of granites, gneisses, gneissic sandstone and schists and shales. The three major groups of soil in Liberia can be identified: latosols, lithosols and regosols.

The latosols are lateritic soils occupying about 75% of the total area, and occurring on undulating and rolling land. They are heavily leached, and silica, nutrients and humus are mostly washed out. Iron and aluminum minerals have accumulated as permanent residual materials, forming hardpans and cemented layers within the subsoil, while on the surface hard and rounded iron oxides can be observed. This process which is called laterization has a pronounced binding effect, making the soils impermeable and increasing the hazards of run-off and erosion. The prevalence of the iron oxides gives the laterites the characteristic brown and red color.

In sharp contrast to the latosols are azonal soils, classified as lithosol. The striking characteristic of these soils is that profile development is very slow and often subject to erosion. The lithosol represent about 17% of the total area on mostly hilly and rugged land. They are mostly very shallow and frequently show outcrops of decomposing rocks because of their elevated position. The percentage of the gravel is also very high and therefore nutrient and moisture storage capacity of the soil is greatly reduced.

Regosols are sandy soils which occur within the narrow coastal belt and also in small patches farther inland. Along the coast they are mainly marine sediments consisting of more than 70% of fine to coarse sand and silt. These sands are heavily leached and bleached to an almost white color, and the percentage of clay and organic matter is very small. Where the drainage is poor, swamps develop.

Alongside the stream and river beds rich alluvial soils are encountered. They contain a high amount of the necessary plant nutrients and are best for agricultural production. However, they represent only between 2 to 3% of the total area.

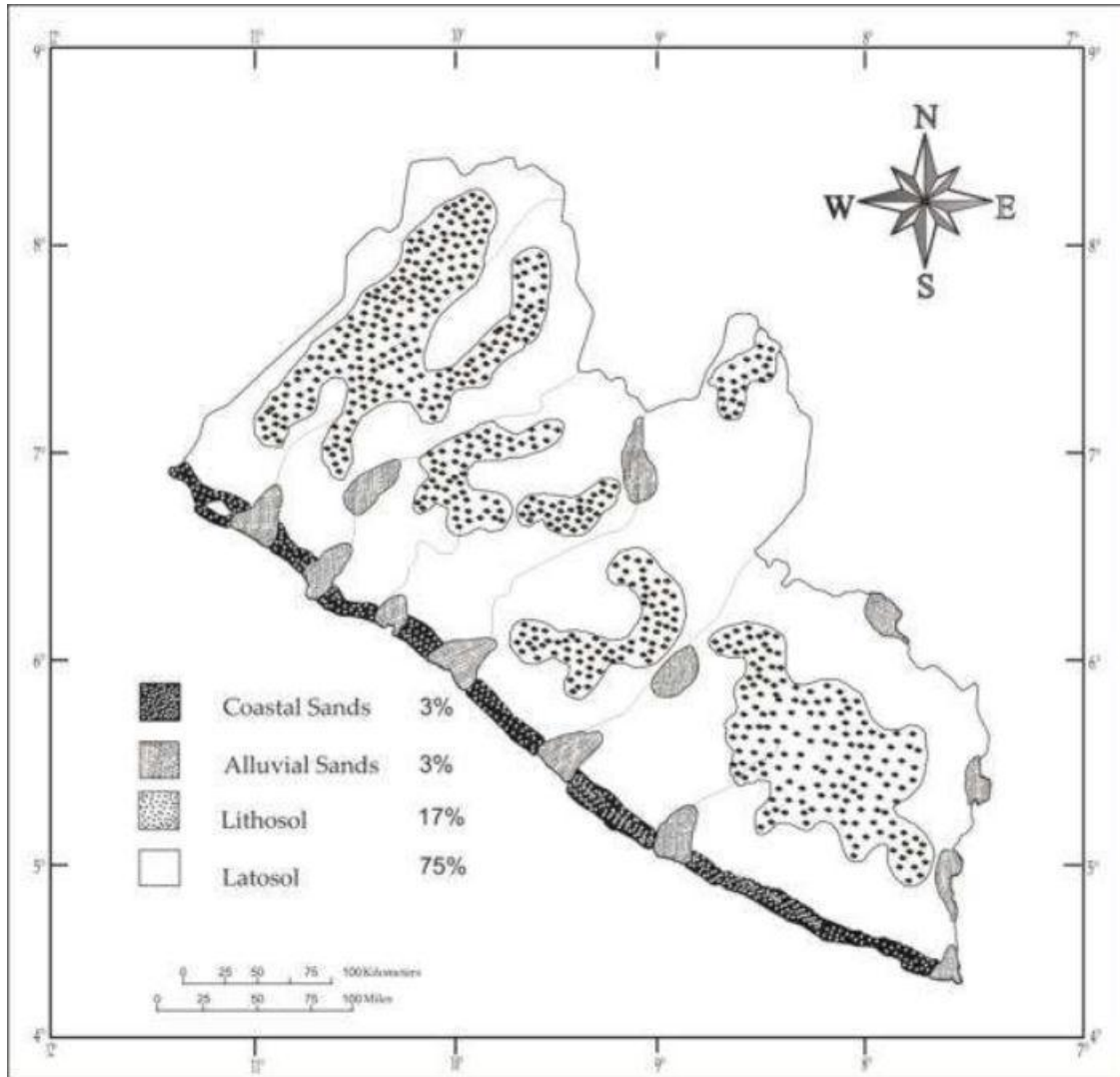


Figure 4: Soil Type Distribution in Liberia (source Earth time inc)

#### 4.5 Biodiversity

Liberia is among the nine different West African Countries straddled in the Upper Guinean Forest belt (L. Poorter, et al. 2004) that stretches from western Togo to eastern Sierra Leone. This forest belt is considered as one of the highest global conservation priorities due to its high levels of endemism, species rarity and the extreme and immediate threat facing its survival. The rich biodiversity of the country is currently threatened by two major factors (D. Wiles, 2007):

- Loss and fragmentation of habitat caused by deforestation;
- Wildlife remains a critical source of protein to rural Liberians, as well as source of cash income.

The Mount Nimba, Cestos-Senkwehn rivershed, Lofa-Mano and Sapo National Park areas contains many endemic species.

#### 4.5.1 Fauna and Flora

Liberia is home to approximately 150 mammals' species, 590 birds' species, 15 reptiles and amphibians' species and over 1,000 insect species. Forest areas in Liberia were once known to host a wide range of animals including elephant, pygmy hippopotamus, buffalo, large primates and large hornbills; these species have largely disappeared due to hunting, farming and logging activities.

Several antelope species that prefer patchy forest and regenerating forest/bush fallow areas are commonly reported in abundance in the interior. These include rare species such as Zebra and Jentik's duiker. Primates such as chimpanzees, three species of colobus monkeys, Diana monkey, various guenons and manabies are reported to be abundant in the mature secondary and primary forest. Wild pigs and porcupines exist in sparsely settled areas, and several members of the leopard group are also found.

The Leatherback turtles (*Demochely Coriacoa*) are critically endangered and along with the olive ridley (*Lepitochely olivacea*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta Caretta*) and Hawksbull turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) are found on Liberia's beaches. The sea turtles are widely hunted while nesting and are occasionally caught in artisanal fishermen's net.

There are over 2000 flowering plant species, with 59 of them endemic to the country and one endemic genus. Among the plant species, 240 timber species are known to inhabit Liberia's forest.

#### 4.5.1 Protected Areas

##### *Nationally Protected Areas*

Nationally protected areas of Liberia are shown in Figure 5. There are currently no protected areas on the coastline or offshore. However, two proposed protected areas are located on the coastline (see Figure 6):

- Cape Mount Nature Reserve - The proposed Nature Reserve of Cape Mount lies on the coast of Liberia northwest of Monrovia. It includes a spit of land which separates Lake Piso from the Atlantic. The town of Robertsport lies at the tip of this spit. The site includes part of the lagoon, mangroves, rocky and sandy shorelines together with a small area of lowland forest (BirdLife International. 2009).
- Cestos-Sankwen National Park - This site lies on the coast between the towns of Buchanan to the north-west and Greenville to the south-east and stretches inland northwards from the coast approximately 70 km. It includes part of the lower reaches of the scenic Cestos and Senkwen rivers, as well as the estuary of the latter. The proposed park includes evergreen lowland rainforest, 1,200ha of mangroves and undisturbed coastal vegetation including some of the last examples of littoral forest in West Africa. Part of the area overlaps the Krahn Bassa National Forest. Deforestation and a large

influx of people, and associated development of settlements and agriculture threaten the conservation value of the area (BirdLife International. 2009)

### *Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance*

There are five designated Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in Liberia. Three of these are located on or adjacent to the coastline (Figure 7). They include (<http://www.ramsar.org>):

1. Lake Piso Wetlands – the largest inlet on the Liberian coast, the area is surrounded by forested hillsides (including one of the rarest tropical rainforests in the region) and fed by a number of creeks and rivers that drain a series of swamps above the lagoon, the lower ones of which are tidal and support mangroves. Additional mangrove swamps occur behind the dune ridge on the west side of the lake mouth and at creek mouths. A series of small lakes with swampy margins occurs on the sandy forested spit that separates the lake from the sea. This area coincides with the proposed Cape Mount Nature Reserve.
2. Masurado Wetlands - Located in the capital city Monrovia and Montserrado County, the site is important for the protection of three mangrove species (*Rhizophora harrisonii*, *R. mangle* and *Avicennia africana*), which are threatened by intense charcoal burning and fuel wood collection. It provides a favorable habitat and feeding ground for several species of birds including the African spoonbill (*Platalea alba*), common pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*). It also hosts the vulnerable African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and the African sharp-nosed crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*) and plays an important role in shoreline stabilization and sediment trapping.
3. Marshall Wetlands – Comprising three small rivers, the area has sandy and rocky shores, and further inland is a population of secondary forests and savannah woodland. The wetland is chiefly a mangrove type with mature trees reaching up to 30m. In addition to the red colobus monkey (*Piliocolobus* sp.), a number of bird species listed by the Convention on Migratory Species appear in the area, such as the glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) and common pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). The site provides control against flooding and underground water recharge and is a sediment trap. The very large stands of mangroves, fish population and wildlife are valuable resources for inhabitants in the area. The three rivers are navigable by small boats and are used for transport from one village to another. Research on chimpanzees for human vaccines against hepatitis A, B and C is also being carried out at the site, with the animals released on islets in the mangroves afterwards.

### *Key Biodiversity Areas*

In addition to national protection, Liberia remains an international priority area for conservation. For example, in December 1999 the Global Environmental facility (GEF) funded the West African Conservation priority-setting exercise for the Upper Guinea Ecosystem. The project identified Liberia as a top priority country in West Africa for conservation purposes since 41% of its area is designated as being of exceptionally high biological importance. In September

2002, the West African chimpanzee conservation identified the southeastern Liberia forest block as one of the highest or top priority rainforest sites for chimpanzees.

In 2007, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identified Key Biodiversity Areas in Liberia (Langhammer, P.F. et. al., 2007). These areas are not legally protected, but are designated based on quantitative criteria based on manageable land units defined by local experts using global standards. Criteria include: presence of globally threatened species; significant populations of restricted range species; a representative sample of biome-restricted species; and, important congregations of species. This methodology was pioneered by Birdlife International, which also identified nine important bird areas in Liberia: Cape Mount, Cestos-Sankwen, Grebo, Lofa-Gola- Mano Complex, Nimba Mountains, Sapo National Park, Wologizi Mountains, Wonegizi Mountains, and Zwendru. Two of the identified important bird areas, Cape Mount and Cestos-Sankwen, are located on the coastline.

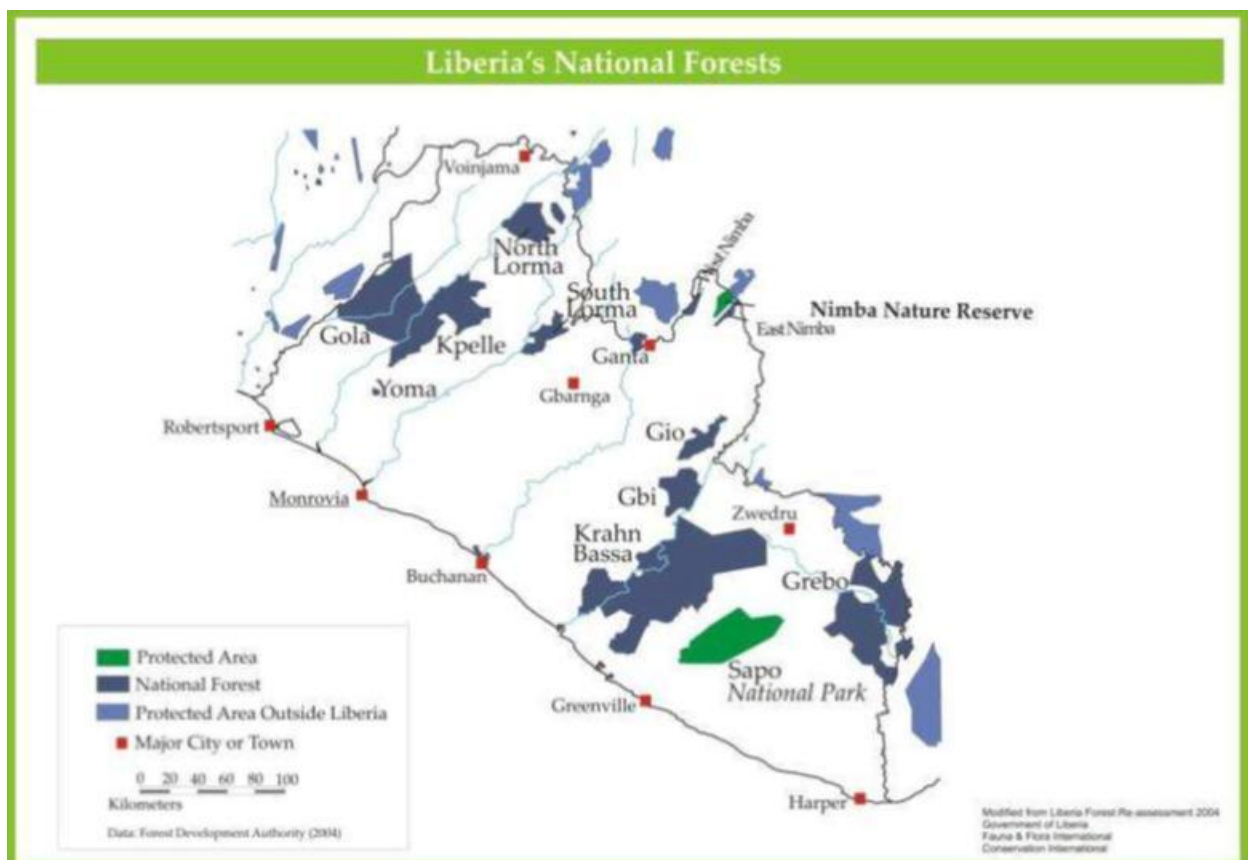


Figure 5: Protected areas, nature reserves, and protected areas of Liberia (modified from Conservation International, Liberia Forest Re-assessment, 2004)



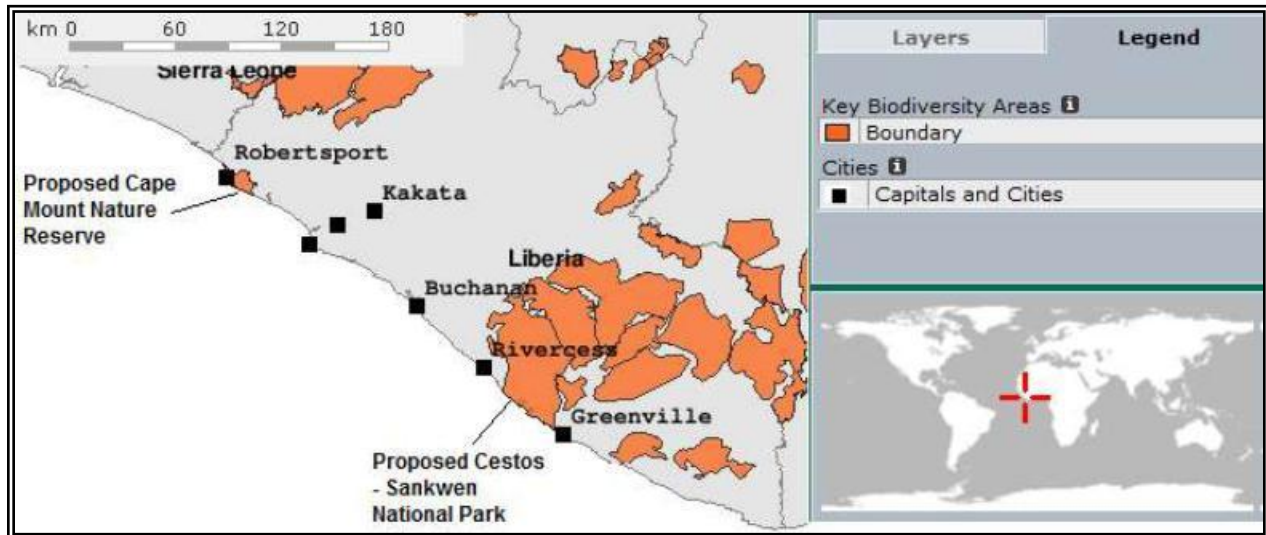


Figure 6: Proposed National Parks and Key Biodiversity Areas (Source: Birdlife International, Conservation International, IUCN, UNEP and WCMC . 2008. Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool).

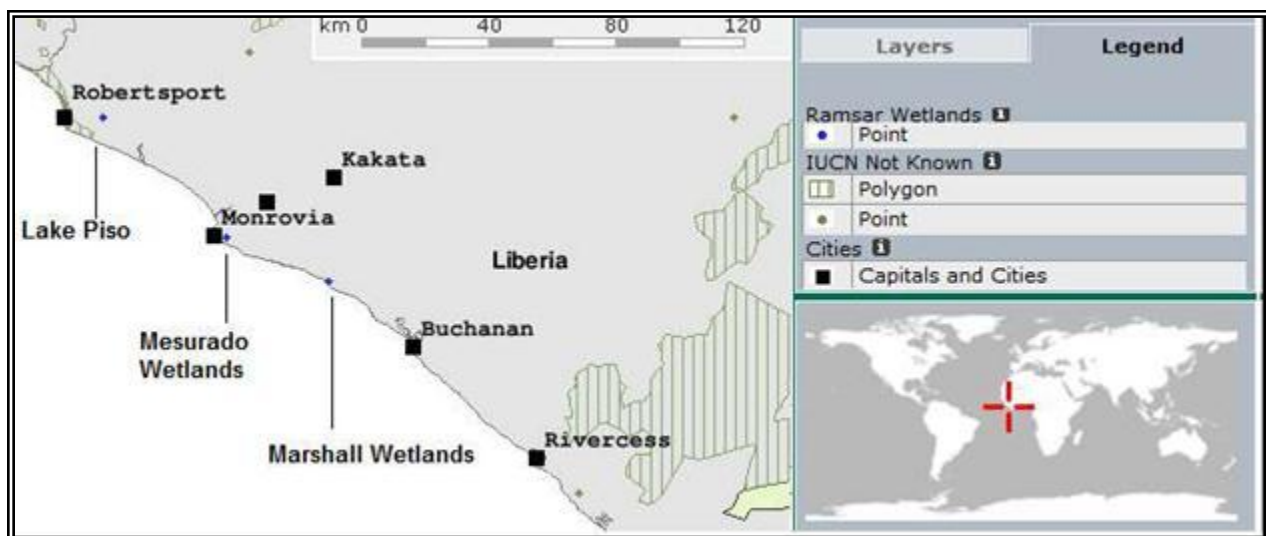


Figure 7: Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance Located on the Liberian Coast (Source: Birdlife International, Conservation International, IUCN, UNEP and WCMC .2008. Integrated biodiversity Assessment Tool).

## 4.6 Social Economic

### 4.6.1 Demographics

The population of Liberia as reported by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo- Information Services (LISGIS) in 2008 as 3,489,072. This population size is relatively small in comparison with other countries around the region despite the fact that the yearly rate of growth of the nation is slightly over two percent (2.1%) (LISGIS, 2008). It is also estimated that the total population of Liberia would double in 34 years as of 2008 (i.e. by 2024) if the observed annual growth rate of 2.1 percent persists into the future. Out of the total population, 1,764,555 are males, and 1,724,517 are females (LISGIS, 2008) (Table 5).

**Table 5: Population Distribution of Liberia**

County	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	41,807	40,229	82,036
Bong	161,928	166,991	328,919i
Gbarpolu	44,376	39,382	83,758
Grand Bassa	111,861	112,978	224,839
Grand Cape mount	66,922	62,133	129,055
Grand Gedeh	65,062	61,084	126,146
Grand Kru	29,330	27,776	57,106
Lofa	130,143	139,971	270,114
Margibi	99,900	99,789	199,689
Maryland	70,725	65,679	136,404
Montserrado	585,833	558,973	1,44,806
Nimba	232,700	235,388	468,088
Rivercess	33,860	32002	65,862
Rivergee	35,360	31,958	65862
Sinoe	54,748	50,184	104,932
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,764,555</b>	<b>1,724,517</b>	<b>3,489,072</b>

Liberia is presently divided into 15 major counties; Bomi , Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Sinoe, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand kru, River Cess, and River Gee. Each of these subdivisions is headed by a superintendent who



serves as the vice juror to the President of Liberia.

The total national population is seen to be unevenly distributed among the counties. The population distribution favors Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties in descending order of magnitude. Montserrado, Nimba and Bong Counties hold exactly 56 percent of the population (LISGIS, 2008). On the other hand, Grand Kru, River Cess, River Gee, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties hold the least population totals. They together have 10 percent of the national count and each of them contributes less than 2.5 percent (LISGIS, 2008).

In 2008, the population density of Liberia was 93 persons per square miles, with Montserrado County being the most densely packed where the population density is over 1,500 persons per square mile and can be much higher in Monrovia and its environs. As a matter of fact, Monrovia has a population of 1,010,970 people and alone is more than five times greater than the combined population of all county headquarter. It has a total population over 32 percent of the national population (LISGIS, 2008).

Counties of Margibi, Maryland, Bomi and Nimba are classified as dense population concentrations with densities falling between 100-199 persons per square mile. The counties that hold moderate population concentration (55-99 persons per square miles) include Bong, Lofa, Grand Bassa and Cape Mount. The rest of the counties comprising Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Cess, River Gee and Sinoe Counties are sparsely populated; they typically have distribution between 22 and 38 persons per square mile.

#### **4.6.2 Household Characteristics**

Liberian households consist of an average of 5.0 persons. Almost one-third (31percent) of households are headed by a woman (LDHS, 2007).

Housing conditions vary greatly based on residence. Only 3 percent of households have electricity. Electricity is almost non-existent in rural areas, while 7 percent of urban households have power. Only 10 percent of households nationwide have an improved (and not shared) toilet facility. About one-third have a non-improved facility, while 55 percent have no toilet facility at all (LDHS, 2007). Half of Liberian households have a radio, while only 7 percent have a television. Almost three in ten households have a mobile phone, while only 2 percent have a refrigerator. Even the most common household goods are not universal in Liberia only 60 percent of households have a table or chairs (LDHS, 2007).

More than two in five Liberian women age 15-49 yr. old have had little or no education. Only 8 percent of women and 19 percent of men age 15-49yr. old have completed secondary school or beyond. Urban residents are more educated than rural residents; more than half of women and almost one-quarter of men in rural areas have received no education at all compared to only one-quarter of women and 8 percent of men in urban areas. Education is particularly low in North Western and North Central regions, among both women and men (LDHS, 2007).

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#### **4.6.3 Land Use Pattern**

Agriculture plays an important role in the country's economy. During the pre-war years about 70 percent of the population lived in rural areas and depended on agriculture (crop and livestock production) for their livelihood. About 46 percent of the total land area of 9.8 million hectares is available for agriculture (FAO, 2005).

Most agriculture is carried out on small holdings, many of which are still cultivated in the traditional ways of shifting cultivation. These are also large individual and commercial plantations that produce rubber, coffee, cocoa, palm kernel, and other export crops. Land use patterns vary around the country; forested areas accounts for 46% of the land use, pastures about 20% and others 34%.

#### **4.6.4 Infrastructure**

Liberia's infrastructure was severely damaged by the war. Most Liberians have no access to electricity, improved water and sanitation facilities, acceptable housing, or decent roads. Weak infrastructure undermines income earning opportunities, limits access to health and education facilities, raises the price of goods and services, and weakens food security. Women and children bear a large burden as a result of poor infrastructure, as they must spend more time carrying water and other goods; are more vulnerable to crime; and have less access to health facilities, raising the risk of child and maternal mortality. Persons with disabilities are also disproportionately disadvantaged.

Perhaps the most critical infrastructure problem is roads, which Liberians across the country consistently placed at the top of their priorities during PRS consultations. Currently there is only around 700 km of paved road surface, almost all of which is damaged, and 1600 km of unpaved roads, which are mostly in need of repair. Farm to- market access is of paramount concern, and parts of the country remain cut off during the rainy season. It takes at least an hour for most rural dwellers to access a food market or the nearest potential transport option. Roads are central to reducing poverty, as they open up income-earning opportunities for the poor, improve access to health and education facilities, reduce transport costs and commodity prices, and help strengthen local governance.

Other transportation infrastructure is equally weak. Many bridges have been damaged and need rebuilding or repair. The limited railway network has not been operational for nearly 20 years. Civil aviation is limited to Monrovia with only UN flights operating upcountry. The Port of Monrovia is operational, but badly damaged and in need of urgent repairs.

Most Liberians use palm oil, kerosene and candles for light. While significant progress has been made since the end of the war, still only 25 percent of Liberians have access to safe drinking water and just 15 percent have access to human waste collection and disposal facilities. Most residents do not treat or boil their water, which has grave implications for the health and nutritional status of the population. Garbage collection is minimal with the availability of one open dump site located at the outskirts of Monrovia, Whein Town.

Many Liberians live in sub-standard housing. The war sparked massive internal displacements, with Monrovia hosting the majority of the Internally Displaced Peoples. There is a huge mismatch between the number of urban dwellers and available social services, leading to overcrowding, deteriorating living conditions, and the growth of slums and illegal home occupation. Over a third of the population cannot afford to honor their rent payments, contributing to a high incidence of squatting.

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF LIBERIA YOP PROJECT

### 5.1 Introduction

This section deals with the main potential environmental and social concerns likely to arise from the YOP Liberia project. The Project is a Government of Liberia (GOL) initiative whose objective is to improve access to income generation opportunities for targeted youth and improve efficiency in cash transfers to targeted households in Liberia. The project has four main components as below;

#### **Component 1: Pre-Employment Social Support and Household Enterprises for Urban Youth.**

- i. Sub-component 1A: Pre-Employment Social Support
- ii. Sub-component 1B: Household Enterprises
- iii. Sub-component 1C: Capacity and Systems Building

#### **Component 2: Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support for Rural Youth.**

- i. Sub-component 2A: Productive Public Works and Life Skills Support
- ii. Sub-component 2B: Capacity and Systems Building

#### **Component 3: Cash Transfer Capacity and Systems Building.**

#### **Component 4: Project Implementation and Coordination.**

- i. Sub-component 4A: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Ministry of Youth and Sports
- ii. Sub-component 4B: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment
- iii. Sub-component 4C: Project Implementation and Coordination by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

The proposed activities under subcomponents **1B (Household Enterprises)** and **2A (Productive Public works and Life Skills support)** could pose potential negative impacts and risks to human health and the wider environment. The impacts are likely to be minimal, localized and can be easily mitigated. Table 6 contains a summary of all the scope and nature of possible works for the various subproject types under the Components 1B and 2A.

**Table 6: Scope of Subproject works under the YOP Project Components 1B and 2B**

Subproject Type	Activities details
Household Enterprises	Apprenticeships support to improve youth skills and start new businesses several strategic sectors, including the construction sector e.g. carpentry, metal fabrication, block making, and electrical technicians.
Productive Public Works	Preparation: (a) Clearing of vegetation (brushing, de-stumping, clearing, agriculture bed etc) (b) Building of nurseries and sowing of seeds, if applicable  Planting: (a) Preparation of planting beds (building of ridges, mounds, field beds) (b) Planting of root and tuber crops, transplanting of vegetable seedlings or directly sowing vegetable seeds (c) Field maintenance (weeding, fencing, fertilizer and mulch application, integrated pests management)
Aquaculture	(a) Clearing of site and excavation for fish pond construction/extension (b) Draining of ponds for harvesting of fish stock

## 5.2 Potential Positive Impacts

The potential benefits of the project include:

- Socio-economic benefits to poor communities within selected beneficiary communities
- Mass employment and providing immediate necessary training for sustainable future employment
- Enhanced capacity to support decentralization and promote national growth

## 5.3 Potential Negative Impacts

The impacts considered likely to affect sustainable implementation and expected outputs of the project adversely are presented as follows:

- Site selection
- Land acquisition
- Stresses on water resources
- Soil Erosion
- Pesticide use (NB: *Use of chemical pesticide is included on the project negative list*)
- Eutrophication of aquatic environment
- Loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage
- Crop residue and other solid waste
- Atmospheric emission and particulate matter
- Noise
- Burrow pits.
-

### 5.3.1 Site Selection

As this is a CDD project, problems with site selection should be minimal as communities would have possibly identified the land before commencement of subproject works or would identify and select the site during the participatory appraisal process. However the specific situation of the activities within a community poses a whole range of problems which impact on project's success and sustainability. Some of the key issues are:

- Locating projects near cultural sites such as sacred groves and burial grounds, which could be regarded as insulting and frowned upon or shunned by the people.
- Conflict with existing or proposed land use which could create problems of incompatibility
- Conflict with nearby communities leading to tension in the use of the facility
- Sitting facilities on land where the ownership is disputed (or which has been set aside for shifting cultivation)
- Sufficient land area for facility installation and future expansion
- Ecologically sensitive sites such as plains, which liable to flooding, aquifer recharge zone, which may be lost, steep terrain prone to erosion and threat to fragile habitat and endangered species.

### 5.3.2 Land Acquisition

As indicated above some of the subproject will require land take, such as communal farming and aquaculture subproject activities). It is envisaged that the beneficiary communities (via individuals, elders or district authority) would donate land for the subprojects, which will be expected to meet the selection criteria outlined above. In some cases, such lands may be occupied by some local farmers. Acquiring such lands would be at some costs to the beneficiary communities.

### Mitigation

As per the Screening checklist, priority will be given to unencumbered land. However, wherever people are inevitably affected, the dictates of the World Bank OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement will be applied. This will ensure that all project-affected persons are appropriately compensated and resettled prior to the commencement of the project

### Stakeholder Consultation during Site Selection

During the site selection and project design the Social Protection programme Manager in conjunction with the Community Facilitator shall ensure that a stakeholders' consultation process that ensures that all key stakeholders, including potentially affected persons, are aware of the objectives and potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project and their views are incorporated into the projects' design as appropriate in order to avoid, minimize or compensate for all identified potential project environmental and social impacts. The consultation shall adopt the best method available (open forum at the community level, workshops, focus groups, surveys and interviews) to allow for project affected persons to air

their views/concerns on the potential project impacts. The consultations shall identify key issues and determine how the concerns of all parties will be addressed in the Environmental and Social management Plans as required following subproject screening exercise.

### **5.3.3 Stresses on Watercourses**

Farming activities on the community and aquaculture subproject works can impact on water courses if not properly managed.

#### **Mitigation**

An Integrated Water Management (IWM) approach must be adopted should be adopted to prevent and/or minimize potential impacts to water courses surrounding the community farming and aquaculture subproject works. Additionally border vegetation should be maintained in canals and drainage channels for all irrigation activities.

### **5.3.4 Soil Erosion**

Soil erosion from unmanaged irrigation and land clearance techniques especially during the dry an windy seasons could result from the community farming subproject. This could lead to reduction in productivity.

#### **Mitigation**

Apply different planting techniques (such as careful planting zones along steep slopes and direction of planting in relation to land contours) and an Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) approach to minimize soil erosion.

### **5.3.5 Use of Pesticide**

Use of chemical pesticide will not be financed under YOP. Chemical pesticide has been included on the negative list for this project.

#### **Mitigation**

Alternative integrated Pest management techniques should be adopted.

### **5.3.6 Loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage**

Site selection, clearance and excavation for the community farming and aquaculture subprojects could have negative impact on the identified biodiversity and on physical cultural property. The YOP project will not fund any activities that would lead to significant conversion or deterioration of natural habitats; any such activities (have been included on the negative list for this project) and will not be eligible.

#### **Mitigation**



Application of the site selection process through a community participatory appraisal process will provide the local knowledge on cultural heritage sites within the community, and no activities will be funded that would affect such heritage sites. For the unexpected event that artifacts or other physical cultural property is found during project implementation, a procedure of chance finds. Clearance from the Community Agricultural Technician (CAT) as part of the site selection and environmental screening process prior to site clearance and excavation would provide additional against loss of biodiversity.

### **Chance Find Procedure**

Anything of historical, cultural, archeological or other interest or value unexpectedly discovered within the Site or during excavations works shall be the property of the Government of Liberia. When any such discovery are made during subproject implementation works, the Contractor (Community Facilitator) shall stop all related works associated with the chance find and shall immediately notify the Social Protection Program Manager at the LACE Secretariat of such discoveries and carry out his/her instructions for properly dealing with such chance finds.

The management of cultural property of a country/community is the responsibility of the government. The government's responsible agency(ies) attention should be drawn specifically to what is known about the cultural property aspects of the proposed project site and appropriate agencies, NGOs, project affected person and local communities should be consulted; if there are any questions concerning cultural property in the area, a brief reconnaissance survey should be undertaken in the field by a specialist to ascertain the characteristics and location of the possible finds, cultural authorities contacts, relevant affected groups, relevant government laws and regulations and requirements and compliance requirements to ensure protection.

### **5.3.7 Dust and particulate matter Emission**

Site clearance and other public works activities could increase the amount of fine dust and particulate matter within the subproject work site.

### **Mitigation**

Limiting dusty activities under the subproject works to non-dry and non-windy periods. Using dust busting methods; water bowsers where feasible especially under the public works subproject works.

### **5.3.8 Land Reclamation**

Burrow pits excavated to source material for construction of fish ponds under the aquaculture sub project works could serve as traps for wild life and domestic livestock to fall into and die.

### **Mitigation**

All burrow pits should be reclaimed as soon as possible with suitable material.

**Table 7: Environmental mitigation measures**

Subproject Type	Potential Adverse Impact	Mitigation Plan
Community Farms	Stress on water resources	Integrated water management approach must be adopted  Maintain border vegetation in canals and drainage systems
	Soil erosion and loss of productive capacity	Practice Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) to avoid nutrient depletion or accumulation.  In areas with steep slopes, carefully consider planting zones and the direction of planting in relation to land contours to avoid erosion caused by precipitation or irrigation
	Pesticide use	No pesticide will be funded under this project. Chemical pesticides are included on a negative list in the Project Operational manual
	Eutrophication of aquatic environments	An integrated Nutrient Management approach should be adopted.
	Loss of biodiversity	Before clearing land for planting CAT would survey the project area to identify, categorize, and delineate any natural and modified habitat types and ascertain their biodiversity value at the community and district level
	Crop residues and other solid waste	Recycle crop residues and other organic materials by Leaving the materials in the fields, plowing, and / or composting. The potential for spreading of pests should be considered before implementing this practice
	Atmospheric emissions	Dust mitigation measures should be adopted. Minimize area of ground clearance Avoid dusty works during windy periods
	Physical Hazard (personal injuries)	Manual handling and basic health & Safety briefing should be given to farm workers
Aquaculture	Contamination of aquatic systems Aquaculture activities, particularly pond-based systems, may affect	Construct pond and canal levees with a 2:1 or 3:1 slope (based on soil type) as this adds

Aquaculture	aquatic systems due to construction and operation activities, primarily the mobilization of soils and sediments during construction and through the release of effluents during operation	<p>stability to the pond banks, reduces erosion, and deters weeds. Avoid pond construction in areas that have a slope of more than 2 percent, as this will require energy-intensive construction and maintenance. Stabilize the embankments to prevent erosion</p> <p>Carry out construction work during the 'dry' season to reduce sediment runoff that may pollute adjacent waters</p>
	Treat to biodiversity	Before clearing land and excavation of pits for fish farming, CAT would survey the project area to identify, categorize, and delineate any natural and modified habitat types and ascertain their biodiversity value at the community and district level
	Use of Fish meal and Fish Oil	Alternatives to supplies of fish feed produced from fish meal and fish oil should be sourced
	Burrow Pits	Burrow pits for fish pond construction material for fish ponds should be reclaimed to prevent trapping of wild and community livestock.
	Physical Cultural Resources	<p>Anything of historical, cultural, archeological or other interest or value unexpectedly discovered within the Site or during excavations works shall be the property of the Government of Liberia. When any such discovery are made during subproject implementation works, the Contractor (Community Facilitator) shall stop all related works associated with the chance find and shall immediately notify the Social Protection Program Manager at the LACE Secretariat of such discoveries and carry out his/her instructions for properly dealing with such chance finds.</p> <p>The management of cultural property of a country is the responsibility of the government.</p>

		<p>The government's attention should be drawn specifically to what is known about the cultural property aspects of the proposed project site and appropriate agencies, NGOs, project affected person and local communities should be consulted; if there are any questions concerning cultural property in the area, a brief reconnaissance survey should be undertaken in the field by a specialist to ascertain potential impact in order to design project works to avoid damage to cultural resources.</p>
Productive Public Works	Dust emissions	<p>Limiting dusty activities especially during dry and windy conditions. Using water busters where feasible especially under the public works subproject works.</p>
	Noise	<p>Keep noisy communal subproject works (singing and drumming) away from residential facilities.</p> <p>Regular Servicing of all mechanical equipment and use of noise barrier/silencers where applicable.</p>
	Physical Cultural Resources	<p>Anything of historical, cultural, archeological or other interest or value unexpectedly discovered within the Site or during excavations works shall be the property of the Government of Liberia. When any such discoveries are made during subproject implementation works, the Contractor (Community Facilitator) shall stop all related works associated with the chance find and shall notify the Social Protection Program Manager at the LACE Secretariat of such discoveries and carry out his/her instructions for properly dealing with such chance finds.</p> <p>The management of cultural property of a country is the responsibility of the government. The government's attention should be drawn specifically to what is known about the cultural property aspects of the proposed project site and appropriate agencies, NGOs,</p>

		project affected person and local communities should be consulted; if there are any questions concerning cultural property in the area, a brief reconnaissance survey should be undertaken in the field by a specialist to ascertain potential impact in order to design project works to avoid damage to cultural resources.
Household Enterprises	Exposure to unacceptable to levels of occupational health risks such as noise, lighting and personal injury to beneficiary apprentices and their master trainers.	Relevant risk assessment must be undertaken and induction training including relevant occupational health and safety awareness must be given all new entrants. Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times to minimize exposure to identified risks.

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## 6.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ESMF

This section describes the institutional setup for implementing the ESMF, roles and responsibilities of the focal persons, monitoring mechanisms, and training and capacity building programs have also been detailed in this section. The implementation of the YOP Project subcomponents 1B (Household Enterprises) and 2A (Productive Public Works and Life Skills Training) (See Table 4) will be carried out by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) at the national and regional levels. LACE is the government agency that has the overall project implementation and fiduciary responsibility. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has the responsibility for oversight and coordination of all youth-focused activities under the project and will thus monitor the YOP Household Enterprises and Productive Public Works sub-components. Other coordinating ministries at the national level include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

### 6.1 National Level

The implementation of the YOP Project will be carried out by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) at the national level. A *Social Protection Program Manager* will be the focal point for all safeguard issues at the national level. S/he will be in charge of screening all subprojects under YOP in accordance with the guidance in the screening checklist to protect identified environmental/social receptors and meet the World Bank safeguards policies and Liberia national environmental regulatory requirements (see Annex I for the subproject specific screening checklist). S/he will obtain relevant information from the Community Facilitators and LACE regional engineers to information the screening of YOP subprojects. She will also complete all relevant LEPA application/screening checklists in compliance with relevant national legislation. Additionally she will review all safeguard related reports to ensure they meet relevant standards and quality prior to submission to project sponsors, relevant NGOs & CSOs, the general public and relevant project affected persons for consultation on concerns, risks and potential environmental and social impacts. This public consultation must be designed to allow the consultees especially the project affected persons to voice out their concerns regarding the implementation of the proposed project activities. The consultation shall adopt the best method available (open forum at the community level, workshops, focus groups, surveys and interviews) to allow for project affected persons to air their views/concerns on the potential project impacts. The Social Protection Program Manager shall stop all related works with associated with potential discovery of cultural resources and ensure that chance find procedure (s) (See Table 7) are followed by the Community Facilitator as soon as s(he) is notified of any such discoveries. Annex 3 contains the safeguards job specific Terms of Reference for the Social Protection Program Manager for reference.

S/he will be assisted by the LACE Regional Engineers for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF. The Social Protection Programme Manager/M&E Specialist will coordinate with the Engineers at the regional level to ensure timely supervision of subproject works and flagged up potential problems with implementation to management at the

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national level and World Bank team.

## 6.2 County and District Level

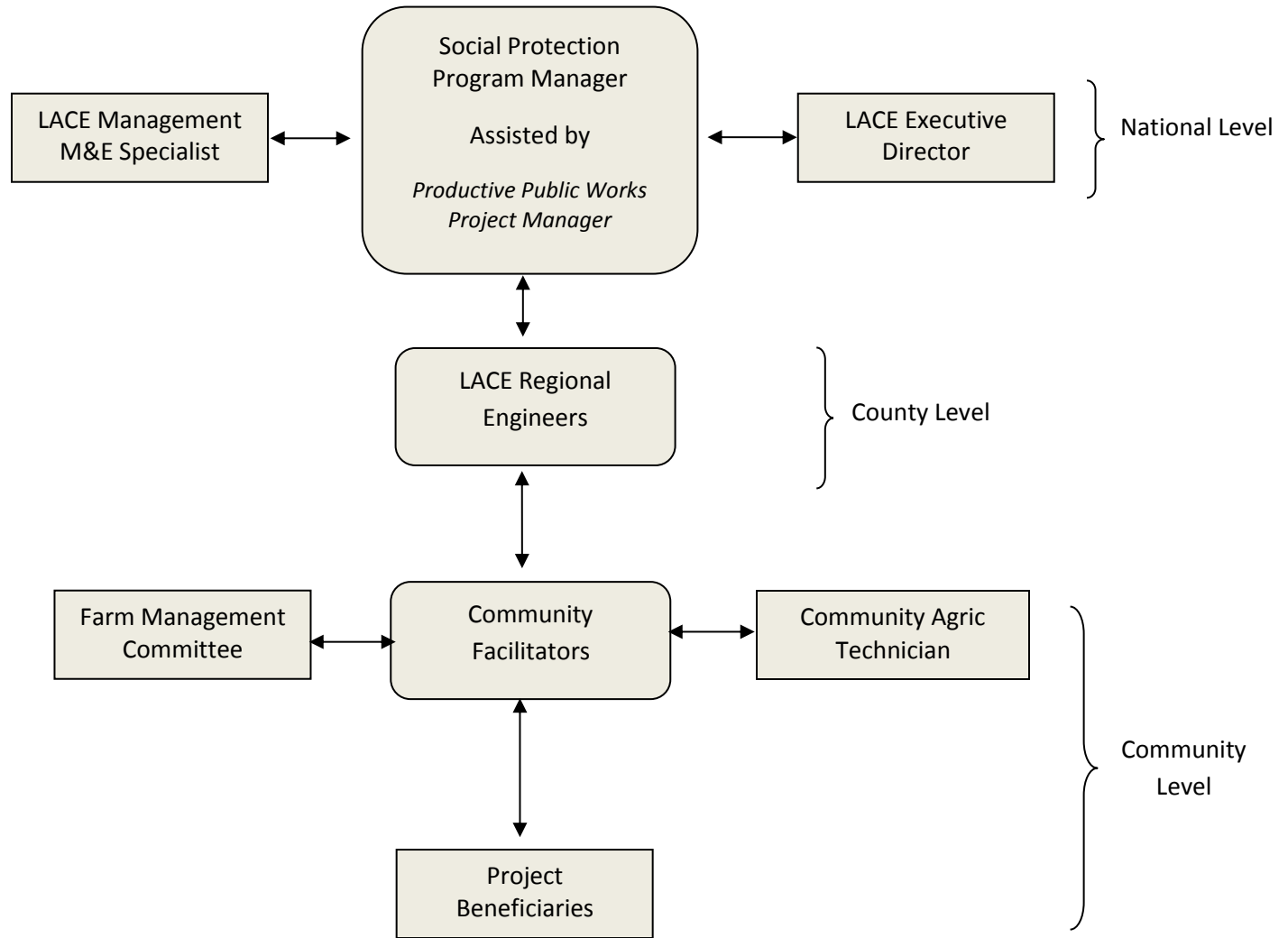
LACE *Engineers* at the regional level will take responsibility for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF at the County and District Level. The engineers will in turn liaise with Community Facilitators at the community level as part of the implementation arrangement. The LACE engineers will provide timely feedback from their project supervision and monitoring visits to the Productive Public Works Project Manager at the national level who in turn will cascade any relevant safeguard information to the attention of the Social Protection Program Manager. The LACE Regional Engineers will assist the Community Facilitators to complete the subproject E&S due diligence checklist (See Annex 2 for a copy of the E&S due diligence checklist) before submitting it to the Social Protection Programme Manager /M&E Specialist.

## 6.3 Community Level

LACE will contract local NGOs to work as *Community Facilitators (CFs)* in the various communities where the Project is implemented. Community Facilitators will take responsibility for the implementation of the safeguard arrangements at the community level. The Community Facilitators will liaise with members of the Farm Management Committees, Community Agriculture Technicians and project beneficiaries at the community level to help with the implementation of the safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF. The CFs will in turn provide useful feedback to LACE Engineers to ensure compliance with ESMF requirements. The CFs will provide all necessary trainings on environmental and social management plans to the project beneficiaries to ensure effective implementation and compliance. CFs will complete the sub-project E&S due diligence checklist (See Annex 2 for a copy of the E&S due diligence checklist) to check compliance and effectiveness of the project environmental and social management plans and submit them to the LACE regional engineers. CFs will also ensure compliance with all subproject contract clauses pertaining to environmental social management plans as detailed in Annex 4.

Figure 8 is an illustration of the ESMF implementation arrangement for the YOP Project.





**Figure 8: Implementation Arrangement for ESMF for YOP Project.**

#### 6.4 Budget for ESMF Implementation

Table 8 below describes the budget estimates for the implementation of the ESMF. The estimates are built on the assumption that some capacity was acquired from previous project experiences by LACE and LEPA as such there will be minimal implementation of proposed mitigation measures based on experience of implementation of parent YOP Project. Capacity for safeguard support at the LACE has been developed over the years with successful implementation of similar World Bank financed projects such as the Community Empowerment Projects I and II and parent YOP Project.

The proposed budget is as follows:

**Table 8: Environmental Management Plan Budget**

No.	Institution	Capacity Gaps Identified	Capacity Building Measures	Rate	Estimated Cost (\$)
1.	LACE	No single focal point at National level for implementation of ESMF arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of Social Protection Program Manager to be safeguard focal point at National Level (25% allocation of his/her time to safeguards)</li> </ul>	\$625 per month (x18mths)	<u>11,250.00</u>
2.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Inadequate number of staff at the regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processing charges and permit fees for subproject works</li> </ul>	\$30 per application	300.00
3.	Safeguard training workshop	Lack of safeguard implementation arrangement and roles and responsibilities within ESMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard Training workshop at LACE office for a selected Community Facilitators (to act as Training of trainers), LACE regional Engineers and LACE National Safeguard Coordinator</li> </ul>	\$260 per session (x2)	520.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b><u>\$12,070.00</u></b>

## 6.5 Monitoring and reporting of ESMF implementation

Monitoring is a key component of the ESMF during project implementation. It is essential that the basis for the choices and decisions made in the sub-project design and other E&S safeguard measures implemented are verified. Monitoring will verify the effectiveness of impact management, including the extent to which mitigation measures are successfully implemented.

Periodic monitoring of the general project and the specific sub-project activities will help to:

- Improve environmental and social management practices;
- Check the effectiveness of the LACE safeguard oversight responsibilities
- Identify project problem areas at a very early stage to quick intervention.
- Provide the opportunity to report the results on safeguards, impacts and mitigation measures implementation in time.

Some environmental monitoring indicators to assess the effectiveness of the institutional arrangement, and also mitigation measures implemented are suggested in the Table 9 below.

**Table 9 Environmental Monitoring Indicators**

Type of impact/ issue	Monitoring indicators
ESIA/ESMP	Number of ESIA, ESMPs prepared
Registration of projects with LEPA	Number of proposals successfully submitted to the LEPA by DC  Number of projects registered by the LEPA;  Length of time between submission and registration by LEPA
Water quality and pollution	Availability and number of temporary storage containers for sanitary and cleaning wastes including waste oils.  Design provisions for temporary sediment barriers on slopes to prevent silt from entering the watercourse.
Soil erosion	Constructed appropriate erosion-protection measures.
Public health problems	Availability and number of sanitary facilities for workers.  Number of local laborers and other workers  Number of environmental and safety meetings with workers
Safety of the public	Number of reported cases of accidents involving general public and related to works.
Land take/ and other resettlement related issues	RAP/ Compensation reports Compensation payments Time taken to pay compensation Number of complaints received
Occupational health and safety	Number of recorded accident cases
Air pollution	Speed control ramps with appropriate road signs
Sustainability of provided facility	Length of feeder road constructed Time taken to repair damaged roads Number of reported water related diseases and malaria cases Incidence and severity of flooding

Type of impact/ issue	Monitoring indicators
Socio economic	Number of people employed under the YOP project Number of women employed under the scheme Number of men employed under the scheme

## 6.6 Institutional Arrangements for Monitoring

The proposed institutional arrangements for monitoring the ESMF implementation processes and the mitigation measures at community level will be via the Community Facilitators (CFs). The CFs will ensure compliance with all safeguard arrangements within the revised ESMF and provide scheduled monitoring report on project safeguard status to the LACE regional engineers at the regional/county level. The LACE regional engineers will in turn report observations of safeguard status during their scheduled project inspection visits and feedback from CFs to the Social Protection Program Manager at the central LACE office for relevant action.

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## **7.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND DISCLOSURE FOR ESMF PREPARATION**

### **7.1 Stakeholder consultations**

Various stakeholder consultations have been held during the preparation of both the ongoing YES Additional Financing ESMF and that for the YOP Project. The parent YES Project adopted the ESMF for the CEPII Project which received a wide public consultation in January 2007. The consultations took the form of community fora, focus group meetings at both community and roundtable meetings. Key project stakeholders groups identified for consultations included Government ministries and agencies, including the Local Government Authorities, local NGOs and project beneficiary community members.

Meetings were held with key officials and opinion leaders to examine level of awareness and involvement with the project, concerns of project implementation, and to obtain relevant documents or baseline information of project area and the environmental and social setting of Liberia. The consultation of this updated ESMF for the YES Additional Financing was undertaken within selected communities in geographically representative Counties from March 23 to April 3, 2014. The consultations also served to gather information on the mandates and permitting requirements to inform the development of the Project. Annex 5 contains minutes of the recent consultations with communities undertaken as part of the revision of the YES Additional Financing ESMF.

### **7.2 Consultations with the LEPA**

Consultations were held with the Head of the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) unit of LEPA together with other key members of the ESIA team on the April 1, 2014 in the LEPA Monrovia office. Capacity at the LEPA has improved since the implementation of the parent project. The ESIA is now well resourced to undertake field visits of permitted/licensed investment activities with communities.

The objective of the meeting was to find out about the LEPA's impression about how LACE implemented the safeguard arrangement provisions within the existing ESMF and whether they had any concerns or recommendations going forward on the potential environmental and social impact of the YES Additional Financing. Given small scale community based nature of most of the subproject works especially under the Community Livelihood component (YES Additional Financing), the LEPA does not anticipate significant potential environmental and social impacts with the YOP as component 2A will upscale the Community Livelihood component of the YES Additional Financing. However for all agricultural based projects greater than 50 hectares, an EIA undertaken by an LEPA accredited independent consultant will be required to assess its potential impacts. Table 10 contains some of the questions asked during the consultation and the responses that were given by members of the ESIA team.

**Table 10: Consultation meeting with LEPA 01/04/2014 at Monrovia Head Office**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Consultation Issues</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1	Do you conduct ES compliance monitoring of Local Communities implementations?	No, except for donor funded projects
2	Has the EPA ever carried out Public Hearing or Grievance Redress for any of the LACEs projects?	No
3	If no, are you in a position to conduct them? (Any capacity gaps?)	N/A
4	Do all agricultural base projects require EIA screening and permitting?	No. Except for projects greater than 50Ha in size.
5	Do you accept EIA from any consultant?	No. We only accept EIA undertaken and/or authorized by our approved environmental consultants
6	Do you have the capacity to review RAPs from the Local Communities?	YOP, similar things are done for mining projects

## **7.2 ESMF Disclosure**

The World Bank policies require that environmental reports for projects are made available to project affected groups, local NGOs, and the public at large. Public disclosure of EIA documents or environmental reports is also a requirement of the Liberia EIA procedures. However, there is no limitation as to the extent and scope of disclosure. The parent YES Project adopted the ESMF for the CEP II Project which was publicly disclosed on in Country on the April 20, 2007 and on Infoshop May 25, 2007. LACE recently disclosed the ESMF for the YES Additional Financing. This revised copy of the ESMF for the YOP will be publicly disclosed in the media. The LACE in collaboration with LEPA will make available copies of the ESMF in selected public places as required by law for information and comments.

The notification should provide a brief description of the Project, a list of venues where the ESMF report is on display and available for viewing, duration of the display period, and contact information for comments.

A copy of the revised ESMF would be available at the LACE national office for the general public's perusal.

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**Annex 1: In-House Subproject Screening Checklist**

*To be completed by Community Facilitator, reviewed by LACE Engineers and approved by the LACE Social Protection Program Manager*

**Serial No.** .....

**Sub-Project Name:** .....

**County:** ..... **District:** .....

**Community:** .....

**Contact Person:** ..... **Position:** .....

**Phone No.:** .....

**E-mail Contact:** .....

**1.0 Description of Proposed Sub-Project****1.1 Nature of Sub-Project and Estimated Duration**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**1.2 Scope of Sub-Project** [Size of labor force, area covered or length & width of road, type of raw materials (quantities and sources), types of equipment, implements, machinery, etc.]

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**1.3 Waste Generation**

- i. Types: Solid ☐ Liquid ☐ Gaseous ☐ Other .....
- ii. Quantity: .....
- iii. Means/Place of Disposal: .....

**2.0 Proposed Site for Sub-Project****2.1 Location [attach a site plan or a map (if available)]**

i. Location or Area (and nearest Town(s)):

.....

ii. Land take (total area for sub-project and related activities):

.....

**2.2 Land Use of the Area for the proposed Sub-Project:**

Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing Dugout	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park/Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**2.3 Site Description [Attach photographs and sketches showing distances]**

- i. Distance from nearest water body or drainage channel (minimum distance measured from the edge of proposed site to the bank of the water body or drain).  
  
 More than 100 meters ☐      100 meters ☐      Less than 100 meters ☐
- ii. Number of water bodies and/or drainage channels/depressions crossed by the route/road corridor:.....
- iii. Distance to nearest community (house) and/or other existing structures from the proposed site:.....
- iv. Number of communities (structures) along the entire stretch of the Sub project road:.....
- v. Will project increase pressure on land resources ... ..
- vi. Will project result in involuntary landtake .....
- vii. Will people assets or livelihoods be affected .....
- viii. Will people lose access to natural resources .....

**2.4 Land Cover and Topography**

- i. Land cover of the site consists (completely or partly or noticeably) of:
 

Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Structure(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flood Plane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture (Animals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resource	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture (Crops)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other specify.....	

- ii. Elevation and topography of the area for the Sub-Project:
- |      |                          |          |                          |            |                          |            |                          |
|------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> | Valley   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slope      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undulating | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |                          |
- iii. Elevation and topography of the adjoining areas (within 500 meters radius of the site):
- |      |                          |          |                          |            |                          |            |                          |
|------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> | Valley   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slope      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undulating | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |                          |

### 3.0 Infrastructure

- i. The Sub-project would be developed in/on:
- |                  |                          |                       |                          |                |                          |       |           |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Undeveloped site | <input type="checkbox"/> | Partly developed site | <input type="checkbox"/> | Existing route | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | (specify) |
| .....            |                          |                       |                          |                |                          |       |           |
- ii. The Sub-project would involve excavation YOP ☐ No ☐
- iii. Estimated number and depth of the excavations, etc):
- .....
- iv. vi. Are any of the following located on-site or within 50 meters from the edge of the proposed site?
- |                                      |                              |                             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Water supply source                  | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pipeline                             | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Power supply source (electric pylon) | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drainage                             | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other(s) specify:                    |                              |                             |
| .....                                |                              |                             |

### 4.0 Environmental and Social Impacts

#### 4.1 Air Quality - Would the proposed Sub-project:

- i. Emit during subproject works
- |      |                          |       |                          |      |                          |
|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Dust | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smoke | <input type="checkbox"/> | VOCs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|
- ii. Expose workers or the public to substantial emissions? YOP ☐ No ☐
- Result in cumulatively increased emissions in the area? YOP ☐ No ☐
- vi. Create objectionable odor affecting people? YOP ☐ No ☐

#### 4.2 Biological Resources - Would the proposed Sub-project:

- i. Have adverse effect on any reserved area? YOP ☐ No ☐
- ii. Have adverse effect on wetland areas through removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means? YOP ☐ No ☐
- iii. Interfere substantially with the movement of any wildlife species or organisms? YOP ☐ No ☐
- vi. Be located within 100m from an Environmentally Sensitive Area? YOP ☐ No ☐

#### 4.3 Existing Population:

- i. Will people living in or near the project area be adversely affected
- .....

**4.4 Cultural Resources - Would the proposed Sub-project:**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. Disturb any burial grounds or cemeteries?  | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii. Cause substantial adverse effect on any archeological or historic site?                               | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iii. Alter the existing visual character of the area and surroundings, including trees and rock outcrops? | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4.5 Water Quality and Hydrology - Would the proposed Sub-project:**

- |   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| i. Generate and discharge during construction:  |   |                             |
| Liquid waste <input type="checkbox"/>   | Liquid with oily substance <input type="checkbox"/>     |                             |
| Liquid with human or animal waste <input type="checkbox"/>                                  | Liquid with chemical substance <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| Liquid with pH outside 6-9 range <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | Liquid with odor/smell <input type="checkbox"/>         |                             |
| ii. Lead to changes in the drainage pattern of the area, resulting in erosion or siltation? | YOP <input type="checkbox"/>                            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iii. Lead to increase in surface run-off, which could result in flooding on or off-site?    | YOP <input type="checkbox"/>                            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iv. Increase runoff, which could exceed the capacity of existing storm water drainage?      | YOP <input type="checkbox"/>                            | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4.6 Noise Nuisance - Would the proposed Undertaking:**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. Generate noise in excess of established permissible noise level? | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii. Expose persons to excessive vibration and noise?                | YOP <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4.7 Other Environmental and Social Impacts**

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**5.0 Management of (Environmental and Social) Impacts****5.1 Air Quality**

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**5.2 Biological Resources**

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**5.3 Cultural Resources**

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**5.4 Water Quality and Hydrology**

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**5.5 Noise**

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**5.6 Any Other**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Representative of  
Community Facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LACE Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LACE Social  
Protection Program Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Annex 2: E&amp;S Due Diligence Checklist

YOP Project Environmental & Social Due Diligence Checklist	
<b>Community Name:</b> _____ <b>Location:</b> _____ <b>Subproject Completion date:</b> _____	
<b>Public works construction plan—<i>check all that apply:</i></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Followed standard technical design <input type="checkbox"/> LACE safeguard focal person review and approval <input type="checkbox"/> Subproject works completed and in operation with all required facilities	
<b>E&amp;S Considerations—<i>check all that apply:</i></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Proper site selection <input type="checkbox"/> Land acquisition or donation properly documented <input type="checkbox"/> Documented process to assess Environmental and Social impacts and risks of its projects <input type="checkbox"/> Project site visits conducted as part of E&S screening and review <input type="checkbox"/> Grievance process established and working	
<b>EPA Approval and Permit—<i>check all that apply:</i></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did subproject works required EPA Screening (communal farming > 50 hectares) <input type="checkbox"/> EPA Review documented <input type="checkbox"/> EIA required YOP ____ no ____ <input type="checkbox"/> If EIA required, approved and permitted	
<b>Third Party Audit E&amp;S Specifications—<i>check all that apply:</i></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conducted by _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Confirms all E&S requirements completed	
<b>E&amp;S Authorized Certification:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent E&S performance reviewed and cleared <input type="checkbox"/> LACE Social Protection Program Manager _____ <input type="checkbox"/> LACE Regional Engineer _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Community Facilitator _____	
<b>If any E&amp;S Outstanding Issues Is There an Agreed Remedial Action Plan—list and explain:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Required additional actions <input type="checkbox"/> Any outstanding or unresolved grievances? <input type="checkbox"/> Target Dates <input type="checkbox"/> Management authority	
<b>Attachments</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photos	

### **Annex 3. Environmental and Social Safeguard Terms of Reference for Social Protection Program Manager**

This TOR describes the essential tasks required to support the environmental and social screening, review, appraisal and monitoring requirements for all Community Livelihood subproject works under the YOP Project. This list of responsibilities includes only those tasks related to environmental and social safeguards, not the complete responsibilities of the Social Protection Program Manager. See the LACE Manual for Administrative, Accounting, and Financial Management Procedures (MAAFP) for the complete TOR of the Social Protection Program Manager.

With regards to environmental and social safeguards, the Social Protection Program Manager will support the overall ESMF and RPF environmental and social due diligence. Specifically, the Social Protection Manager will be responsible for:

- Where required, development of all potential subproject works background information related to E&S application requirements (all necessary LEPA application forms) for submission to LEPA.
- Ensuring that the applications are screened and reviewed using the E&S Checklist and Screening Form attached in the revised ESMF.
- Preparation of each Subprojects Screening Form, LEPA Form and permit where required and any Land Allocation/Donation documents.
- Discussions with local authority officials on all E&S requirements and integration with LACE regional engineers, Community Facilitator, Community Agriculture Technicians and farm management committees into overarching E&S Framework.
- Providing technical advice, on an as needed basis to YOP project staff on E&S provisions and the requirements for final due diligence reports
- Monitoring subproject works as it relates to adherence with the E&S requirements and associated guidelines,
- Resolving implementation bottlenecks, and ensuring overall that E&S requirements proceeds smoothly;
- Conducting the annual E&S audit for all completed subproject works to ascertain performance.
- Collecting and managing E&S information relevant to the implementing authorities at the national level (i.e. environmental monitoring and audit reports); and
- Developing the annual E&S YOP subproject works status report.

In addition, the Social Protection Program Manager will provide technical advice on environmental management and mitigation practices for the LACE to enhance E&S provisions by developing:

- A series of Technical Planning Guidelines specific to the YOP subproject works were required.
- Liaise with the appropriate government agencies and local authorities at the County and District level to share knowledge and explain the objectives and E&S requirements and
- Lead the delivery of capacity-building programs for interested stakeholders.



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**Annex 4. Example of Environmental Contract Clauses**

Proper environmental management of subproject works can be achieved only with adequate site selection and works management. As such, the screening for subproject works should consider the following:

*Site selection*

Sites are likely to be offered as part of the community driven nature of subproject works. The site selection process should involve site visits and studies to analyze: (i) the site's urban, suburban, or rural characteristics; (ii) national, state, or municipal regulations affecting the proposed lot; (iii) accessibility and distance from inhabited areas; (iv) land ownership, including verification of absence of squatters and/or other potential legal problems with land acquisition; (v) determination of site vulnerability to natural hazards, (i.e. intensity and frequency of floods, earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions); (vi) suitability of soils and subsoils for subproject works; (vii) site contamination by lead or other pollutants; (viii) flora and fauna characteristics; (ix) presence or absence of natural habitats (as defined by OP 4.04) and/or ecologically important habitats on site or in vicinity (e.g. forests, wetlands, coral reefs, rare or endangered species); and (ix) historic and community characteristics.

*Subproject works design*

Subproject works design criteria be per recommendation from Community Agriculture Technician and Community Facilitators.

*Subproject works and environmental rules for workers*

The following information is intended solely as broad guidance to be used in conjunction with local and national regulations. Based on this information, environmental rules for site workers should be developed for each project, taking into account the project size, site characteristics, and location.

As these subproject works could cause minimal impacts on and nuisances to surrounding areas, careful planning of subproject works is critical. Therefore the following rules (including specific prohibitions and subproject works management measures) should be incorporated into all relevant subproject work files or folders.

*Prohibitions*

The following activities are prohibited on or near the project site:

- Cutting of trees for any reason outside the approved subproject works area;
- Hunting, fishing, wildlife capture, or plant collection;
- Use of unapproved toxic materials, including lead-based paints, asbestos, etc.
- Disturbance to anything with architectural or historical value;
- Building of bush fires;
- Use of firearms (except authorized security guards);
- Use of alcohol by workers.

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*Subproject worksite Management Measures*

Waste Management and Erosion: Solid, sanitation, and, hazardous wastes must be properly controlled, through the implementation of the following measures:

*Waste Management:*

- Minimize the production of waste that must be treated or eliminated.
- Identify and classify the type of waste generated. If hazardous wastes (including health care wastes) are generated, proper procedures must be taken regarding their storage, collection, transportation and disposal.
- Identify and demarcate disposal areas clearly indicating the specific materials that can be deposited in each.
- Control placement of all subproject works waste (including earth cuts) to approved disposal sites (>300 m from rivers, streams, lakes, or wetlands). Dispose in authorized areas all of garbage, metals, used oils, and excess material generated during subproject works, incorporating recycling systems and the separation of materials.

*Maintenance:*

- Identify and demarcate equipment maintenance areas (>15m from rivers, streams, lakes or wetlands).
- Ensure that all equipment maintenance activities, including oil changes, are conducted within demarcated maintenance areas; never dispose spent oils on the ground, in water courses, drainage canals or in sewer systems.
- Identify, demarcate and enforce the use of within-site access routes to limit impact to site vegetation.
- Install and maintain an adequate drainage system to prevent erosion on the site during and after subproject works.

*Erosion Control*

- Erect erosion control barriers around perimeter of cuts, disposal pits, and roadways.
- Spray water on dirt roads, cuts, fill material and stockpiled soil to reduce wind-induced erosion, as needed.
- Maintain vehicle speeds at or below 10mph within work area at all times.

*Stockpiles and Borrow Pits*

- Identify and demarcate locations for stockpiles and borrow pits, ensuring that they are 15 meters away from critical areas such as steep slopes, erosion-prone soils, and areas that drain directly into sensitive waterbodies.
- Limit extraction of material to approved and demarcated borrow pits.

*Site Cleanup*

Establish and enforce daily site clean-up procedures, including maintenance of adequate disposal facilities for subproject works debris.

*Safety during subproject works*

Subject to the ToR of the contract between the Community Facilitators and LACE, The CF's responsibilities may include the protection of every person and nearby property from subproject works accidents.

*Nuisance and dust control*

To control nuisance and dust:

- Maintain all subproject works-related traffic at or below 15 mph on streets within 200 m of the site.
- Maintain all on-site vehicle speeds at or below 10 mph.
- To the extent possible, maintain noise levels associated with all machinery and equipment at or below 90 db.
- In sensitive areas (including residential neighborhoods, hospitals, rest homes, etc.) more strict measures may need to be implemented to prevent undesirable noise levels.
- Minimize production of dust and particulate materials at all times, to avoid impacts on surrounding families and businesses, and especially to vulnerable people (children, elders).
- Phase removal of vegetation to prevent large areas from becoming exposed to wind.
- Place dust screens around subproject works areas, paying particular attention to areas close to housing, commercial areas, and recreational areas.
- Spray water as needed on dirt roads, cut areas and soil stockpiles or fill material.
- Apply proper measures to minimize disruptions from vibration or noise coming from subproject works activities.

## Annex 5. Sample of Minutes of Stakeholder Consultations

April 12, 2014

### MINUTES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CONSULTATIONS

#### Executive Summary

A LACE team representing the Government of Liberia assisted by World Bank Safeguard Specialist visited several YOP Liberia sub-project communities and held consultative meetings with specific stakeholders. Counties visited include: Bomi, Montserado and Bong within which selected communities were ear-marked as sampled sub-project areas in order to accomplish the objectives of the mission. However, due to the news of the “Ebola Epidemic” in certain part of Liberia, the team was advised not to travel distances that were far away from Monrovia.

The purpose of the meetings was to gather information as it relates to the useful input of other stakeholders, including project beneficiaries and some local leaders in revising the existing safeguard instruments, the ESMF and RPF of LACE to reflect realities of the proposed agro-project. It is also intended to identify, record, and analyze claims or grievances by community members relating to impacts negative or positive experienced on their lives during and after the implementation of sub-projects within their respective communities. Such information will be used in revising the ESMF and RPF, and to recommend specification that could support their compensation. During the period under review, the team sought information on the probability of involuntary displacement of people due to the sub-project, with a view that could lead to the preparation of resettlement policy framework. The meetings were participatory; men and women were given equal opportunity to speak their minds in every community visited.

On the overall, the mission was successful because its underlined objectives were ideally achieved. Below are separate minutes of meetings held in six selected communities on county basis, two in each county. Also, list of attendants at the various meetings are scanned and attached to the minutes. Below is table illustrating the communities visited during the consultative meeting held with some sub-projects’ beneficiaries.

Project	Community	County	CF Contact Person	Date of visitation
Road-side Brushing	Klay	Bomi	Frank Sheriff	March 26, 2014
Road-side Brushing	Tubmanburg	Bomi	Frank Sheriff	March 26, 2014
Road-side Brushing	Cheesemanburg	Montserrado	Amadu Sarnor	March 27, 2014
Road-side Brushing	Gboidoi	Montserrado	Amadu Sarnor	March 27, 2014
Road-side Brushing	Kolila	Bong	Anthony Dolokeleh	March 31, 2013
Road-side Brushing	Zeansu	Bong	Anthony Dolokeleh	March 31, 2013

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**Bomi County, Klay District- March 26, 2014**

On March 26, 2014, a team comprised of four persons, Felix Nii Tettey Oku, Senior Environmental Specialist World Bank, Koffa Chie, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist LACE, Lamin G. Kamara Jr., Project Engineer LACE, and Abraham G. Bah, Vehicle operator LACE was on the field holding Consultative meetings. The meeting was held with some members of the stakeholders including community members of Klay Community and local leaders.

The aim and objective of the mission was to gather information on potential negative and positive environmental and social impacts of the past YOP sub-projects on the Communities.

The first meeting was held in Klay Community, Klay District Bomi County with **51 participants** attended. The team was formally introduced by Mr. Koffa Chie and the purpose of the meeting was stated by Mr. Felix Nii Tetty Oku. The team was hold heartedly welcomed by the District Commissioner Mr. Alfred B.S Zinneah as protocol demands. However, the meeting was participatory, views and suggestions were brought forth on board for discussion. Participants were given the opportunity to express their views as it relates to the potential negative and positive environment and social impacts of sub-projects on the communities.

Below is a list of attendants at the consultative meeting.

No.	Name	Positive impact	Negative impact	Recommendation
1	Theresa Nagomo	She said that the project helped her and her entire family. Her pay was used to do business.	There was no negative impact experienced	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods.
2	Edwin B.G Kpagba	According to the District Clark, the project benefited the entire community one way or another. He further stated that the project uplifted the community and improved the livelihood of its residents	There was no negative impact experienced	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods.
3	James S. Martin	He used his pay from the project to pay his children school fees.	There was no negative impact experienced	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods.
4	Meima Boakai	According to her, she is a single so the project was a great help to her. She used her money from the project to take care of her and her children.		World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods.
5	Daniel Colman	He said the project was helpful to the community and that he commend the World Bank and LACE for the past projects	There was no negative impact experienced	He recommended that onwards project should be sustainable and long lasting at least 6-months.
6	Noah Jackson	He said the project helped his mother in-law to roof her building	There was no negative impact experienced	
7	James K. Sirleaf	The WATSAN and road side brushing helped to develop their community	There was no negative impact experienced	
8	Sheku J. Johnson	The project was good. It helped their community to generate fast money.	There was no negative impact experienced	He recommended that onwards project be spread out in every community.
9.	Alfred B.S Zinneh	He appreciated the World Bank efforts through LACE for her continuous support to Liberia. The project has empowered the community members in establishing mini businesses and has reduced the crime rates in the community.	He said that the community selection process was a serious problem on ground that you have more needed community and fewer projects.	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods.

10	Bah Taylor	He said that the project made people to be independent.		World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods
11	George Coleman	He said that was good and helpful	For him, time was what he as a negative impact on the project.	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods
12	Charles D. Kanley	He used his money to start his agriculture project and he's now producing crops and selling.	Experienced no negative impact	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods
13	Famata Sirleaf	She said that her money was used to buy Zinc for her new house.	Experienced no negative impact	World Bank should bring back similar project in our community to help us improve our livelihoods

The team was whole heartedly welcomed by the District Commissioner Mr. Alfred B.S Zinne as protocol demands. The meeting was participatory, participants were given the opportunity to express their views and personal experiences as regard the negative or positive environment social impact experienced as a result of LACE's YOP sub-projects implemented in their respective communities. Below are the views of participants on the environment and social impacts noticed on individual basis.



## List of Attendees at the Consultation

Consultation & Disclosure			
March 26, 2014			
Boni County, Klay District			
No.	NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
1.	Lamin G. Kamara, Jr.	Project Engineer, LACE/ON	
2.	Kobba Chie	M&E Specialist/LACE	
3.	Edwin B. G. Kpingsa	District Clerk	
4.	Alfred B.S. Zinnch	Dist. Commissioner	
5.	Sekou Johnson	Dean Elder	
6.	Abraham G. Bah	Driver	
7.	Musa Dukey	Community member	
8.	Musa Taylor	Community member	
9.	Famata Sirleaf	Community member	
10.	Bah Taylor	Elder	
11.	Foday m.p. humeh	Security	
12.	Marie Morris	Student	
13.	James K. Sirleaf	Teacher	
14.	Odeh Taofa	Student	
15.	David Suleaf	Student	
16.	Domah Dakinah	Student	
17.	Alfred B. Donkey, Jr.	Student	
18.	Falu Morris	Student	
19.	Thomas D. Sett	"	
20.	Jennet Dehn	"	
21.	James martin	"	
22.	MOSES Gbelle	"	
23.	Blama S Vainey	"	
24.	Ezi Z Gbelle	"	
25.	Naomi Marston	Community member	
26.	Bill Sackie	"	
27.	Miaffa Sando	"	

Rokee Mason - Community member	
Charles O'Connell Flery	
(30) James Johnson	
(31) Stephen Bonni	
(32) Sam Jackson	
(33) Konnah Passaway	
34 Anita Full	
35. OHELLA GAZE	
36. Theresa Ngomo	
37. Maima Boakai	
38. Hon. Peter S. Veniceus - - - - -	
39. Seadia Dorley - - - - -	
40. Soko Sirleaf - - - - -	
41 Fakamad Samaka paramount Chief	
42 DANIEL COLEMAN - - - - -	
43. George Coleman - - - - -	
44. Sekou T. Stibbelly - - - - -	
45 Junior Coleman - - - - -	
46. HAWA Quaye - - - - -	
47. J. Moirae Sirleaf - - - - -	
(48) N. Sako Varney - - - - -	
49. Joseph Brown - - - - -	
50 Aaron K. Barles - - - - -	
51. Morris Gray - - - - -	





**Project beneficiaries during the consultation meetings.**