

DRAFT REPORT

Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project Environmental and Social Management Framework



Ministry of Trade and Industry
Government of Sierra Leone
Freetown
Sierra Leone

INTEGEMS



Integrated Geo-information and
Environmental Management Services

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Agri-business Centre
AfP	Agenda for Prosperity
BDS	Business Development Service
BATNEEC	Best Available Technology (or Practice) Not Entailing Excessive Cost
CASPR	Country Assistance Strategy Progress Report
CAS	Country Assistance Strategy
CESMP	Contractor's Environmental and Social Management Plan
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CO	Carbon monoxide
CRA	Community Resource Assessment
DFID	Department for International Development
DAO	District Agricultural Officer
DCU	District Coordinating Unit
ESHIA	Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessments
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EHSP	Environmental Health & Safety Plans
ESIA	Environmental Social Impact Assessment
ESSO	Environmental and Social Safeguards Officer
EPA-SL	Environmental Protection Agency – Sierra Leone
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESSF	EPA-SL Environmental and Social Screening Form
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBOs	Farmer based organizations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems Data
GOSL	Government of Sierra Leone
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HIS	Health Information Systems
ICADEP	Inclusive Comprehensive Agricultural Development Program
ICB	International Competitive Bidding
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
INTEGEMS	Integrated Geo-information and Environmental Management Services
JCAS	Joint Country Assistance Strategy
LG	Local Government
MAFFS	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MWHTM	Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLP	National Land Policy
NOx	Nitrogen Oxide
NRM	Natural Resource Management

NSADP	National Sustainable Agricultural Development Program
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAFs	Project Affected Families
PAP	Project Affected People
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PDO	Project Development Objective
PFM	Project Fund Manual
PID	Project Information Document
PICD	Participatory` Integrated Community Development
PMT	Project Management Team
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
SMEDA	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority
SLSB	Sierra Leone Standards Bureau
SCADeP	Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project
SCP	Smallholder Commercialization Program
SLADF	Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund
SLAPCP	Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SLECAD	Sierra Leone Chamber for Agribusiness Development
SLIEPA	Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency
SMEDA	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency
SMEs	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
SOBA	Sierra Leone Opportunities for Business Action
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
USD	United State Dollars
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
WBG	World Bank Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Country Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country with a population of 7.1 million people and has made good progress towards political stability and economic growth. Sierra Leone has vast natural resources and the economy is heavily dependent on its land endowments; mineral resources including rutile, diamonds, gold, chromite and iron ore; water and tourism.

Agriculture, including agribusiness is a key sector of the economy, contributing over half of the GDP, and accounting for the largest share of labour markets both by type of employment and sector contribution. The sector is dominated by smallholder production of staple crops, mainly rice and cassava, which together account for about three-quarters of the volume of agricultural production. Agroindustry in Sierra Leone has been growing over the last decade with rising foreign and domestic investments in cultivation and processing of food and industrial crops such as rice, oil palm, sugar cane, horticulture, and livestock, mainly poultry. Agro processing investment opportunities are concentrated in oil palm, mainly for exports, and processed rice and poultry for domestic and regional markets. However, the entire agribusiness sector, including agro-processing, is highly fragmented, consisting of few medium- and large-sized formal firms, and a vast number of small, low productivity firms operating in few commodities, such as palm oil, rice, coffee and cocoa.

Over the past years, the policy and legal environment for making business in Sierra Leone has improved, which has attracted medium and large scale agricultural enterprises. While Sierra Leone has good potential for agroindustry to be an important driver of economic growth, diversification, and poverty reduction there are many challenges facing the sector and its investment attractiveness. Creating an enabling environment for investments in agribusiness, strengthening institutions, and improving firm productivity are critical elements of a sector reform and growth agenda to catalyse investments in agribusiness sector and agro processing.

Project Description

The objective of the **Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project** (hereafter, **SLAPCP**) is to improve business environment in agribusiness sector and increase productivity of targeted agro-processing firms in Sierra Leone. Achieving the SLAPCP objective contributes directly to strengthening agro-processing competitiveness, which is defined as the ability of agro-processing firms to generate new investments and increase market share in goods and services through improved productivity. The SLAPCP seeks to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agribusiness small and medium scaled enterprises (SMEs) in selected value chains as part of the overall objective to attract new investments in agribusiness and encourage existing investors to expand and grow in Sierra Leone.

To successfully design agro-processing competitiveness interventions it is necessary to place the SLAPCP in the context of sector specific interventions that improve the enabling business environment and firm level interventions that increase productivity and encourage innovations. The SLAPCP will therefore focus on addressing sector and firm level challenges that can boost competitiveness of agro-processing in Sierra Leone. At the sector level project interventions, will focus on the agribusiness sector, specifically on high priority agribusiness reform areas, institutional development, and public-private dialogue. At the firm level, the focus will be on the agro-processing or value addition segments of value chains and the companies that are providing services, such as packaging, equipment, and technologies to such agro-processing firms.

The SLAPCP consists of three components as outlined below:

- ✓ **Component 1:** Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms. The objective of this component is to help reduce burdensome agribusiness sector regulations that constrain productivity and weaken incentives of existing agribusiness firms and SMEs to reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and competitiveness.
 - Sub-component 1.1: Enabling business regulations for competitive agro-processing;
 - Sub-component 1.2: Targeted retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA);

- Sub-component 1.3: Building institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs; and
- Sub-component 1.4: Support to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDA) for stronger SME coordination.
- ✓ **Component 2:** Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains. The objective of this component is to increase the productivity and competitiveness of agro-processing SMEs and their suppliers in selected value chains.
 - Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level technical assistance (TA) and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players.
 - Sub-component 2.2: Provision of matching grants to SMEs: The TA Facility will make available the use of matching grant funds for the following purposes.
- ✓ **Component 3:** Project implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

The SLAPCP will focus on providing solutions to key market failures inhibiting competitiveness of the agro processing sector and limiting firm and SME productivity.

The direct beneficiaries of the SLAPCP interventions are agribusiness and agro processing firms in Sierra Leone, including SMEs, in targeted value chains. Institutional beneficiaries include the MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SLSB and SMEDA. The overall day to day coordination and management of the project will be carried out by a dedicated Project Coordination Unit, (PCU), under the supervision of the MTI, and the Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). The PCU will be comprised of a lean team of specialists with strong project management experience whose sole function will be coordinating and managing the technical components of the SLAPCP.

The SLAPCP will directly contribute to the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) that is under preparation. The upcoming CPF will reflect the priorities of the 2017 Sierra Leone Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD), which identified promotion of vertical integration as a key area for diversifying the economy and creating poverty-alleviating jobs.

The estimated total cost for the Project is US\$ 10 million financed by International Development Association (IDA), through an IDA credit to the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL). The IDA funding will be structured as an Investment Project Financing (IPF).

Legislative, Policy and Institutional Framework for the SLAPCP

The MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA and SLSB will have primary responsibilities as implementing partners for specific SLAPCP activities that are directly related to specific functional areas that they have been assigned responsibilities consistent with support for promoting agro-processing competitiveness. Environmental management tools (e.g., ESMF, ESMP and ESIA) that are being developed to address environmental and social risks during SLAPCP preparation will be done in collaboration with the Environment Protection Agency-Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), which has the national mandate to ensure compliance with environmental and social safeguard issues.

Sierra Leone, is administratively divided into five regions: four Provinces and Western Area. Each Province/Area (i.e., Eastern, Northern, North-western, Southern and Western) in the Country is divided into Districts; with 16 Districts in the entire Country.

National Requirements

The following national legislative, policy and institutional frameworks were reviewed for this ESMF.

- Sierra Leone Constitution, 1991
- Environment Protection Agency Act, 2008 (No. 11 of 2008) as amended in 2010.
- National Environmental Policy
- National Land Policy (2015)
- National Water and Sanitation Policy (2010)

- The Forestry Act: 1988
- The Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972
- The Factories Act, 1974
- The Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act, 2016

World Bank Requirements

The SLAPCP is an Environmental Category B project (Partial assessment) and the safeguards policy on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) is applicable. Project environmental and social risks are expected to be moderate and can be minimized through the implementation of mitigation measures. Since the specific locations/sites of the subprojects were not confirmed during the preparation stage of the SLAPCP, an ESMF is prepared.

The Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP/BP 4.01) requires environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for World Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thus to improve decision making. The EA is a process whose breadth, depth, and type of analysis depend on the nature, scale, and potential environmental impact of the proposed investments under the SLAPCP. The Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP/BP 4.01) further requires that the ESMF Report must be disclosed as a separate and standalone document by the GoSL and the World Bank as a condition for Bank appraisal of the SLAPCP. The disclosure should be both in Sierra Leone where it can be accessed by the public and at the Info shop of the World Bank and the date for disclosure must precede the date for appraisal of the SLAPCP.

Key Challenges and Risks

Existing environmental and socio-economic conditions will, in many cases, provide a basis for predicting impacts of the SLAPCP components and subcomponents. Political and governance risk are judged to be substantial in terms of their effect on the SLAPCP's development objectives. Political risk is considered high given the fragile country context and uncertainties relating to the recently concluded elections in April 2018. Economic activities slowed down because of the political uncertainties that resulted from the outcomes of the first-round elections on 7 March 2018 and from potential for political violence during the protracted elections run-off.

Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability are judged to be substantial. A major risk is failure in project coordination, especially among and within MDAs, non-state actors, and private agribusiness. Many development initiatives fail to achieve their expected results because of weak coordination during implementation. Private investors and other stakeholders consistently pointed out that institutions that provide critical support services to private sector investors remain weak and coordination amongst them is fragmented.

Weak GoSL buy in and engagement on business and regulatory reforms, lack of awareness of the importance of aftercare and insufficient budgetary and human resources for SLIEPA and SLSB to carry out the activities may hamper the success of business environment reforms and institutional development to support agribusiness investment and trade.

As the market for BDS provision is highly fragmented, there are risks involved in the coordination of service provision, competition between actors, and the potential to distort the market for such services. An SME scoping missions identified strong demand for capital from the potential beneficiaries but there are risks arising from low interest of SMEs and financial institutions, elite capture, and limited impact from the interventions.

Framework Environmental and Social Management Plan

This ESMF has been developed through a combination of ongoing stakeholder meetings and consultations and comprehensive reviews of the SLAPCP Project Appraisal Document (PAD), and relevant Sierra Leonean legislation, policies and guidelines and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies.

The general objective of this ESMF is to provide an overall framework for environmental and social management of the planned project activities under the SLAPCP, which is classified as Category B (Partial) according to World Bank Safeguard Policies (Environmental Assessment OP 4.01), and should be used, in conjunction with the Environment Protection Agency-Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) categorization and guidelines, as a practical tool during project implementation.

The SLAPCP is classified as Environmental Assessment Category B according to World Bank Safeguard Policies. Category B (Partial) projects are likely to have moderate and in most cases manageable environmental and social impacts. The ESMF ensures that the SLAPCP activities and subprojects are compliant with the relevant requirements of Sierra Leonean policies, regulations and legislations and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard requirements. It contains measures and plans to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse impacts and enhance positive impacts, provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of such measures, and information on the agency or agencies responsible for monitoring project impacts.

The ESMF ensures that the implementation of the SLAPCP will be carried out in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. It also ensures that the SLAPCP activities and subprojects are compliant with the relevant requirements of Sierra Leonean policies, regulations and legislations and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures. It explicitly sets out the principles and describes the steps to be undertaken in the selection and implementation of subprojects to be supported under the SLAPCP, so that any identified potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts can be properly managed.

Potential Social Impacts of the SLAPCP

There are both positive and negative social impacts associated with the SLAPCP. Overall, the SLAPCP is likely to have positive impacts, both in the short, medium and long term (see Table A). It is anticipated that the majority interventions and subprojects supported in the SLAPCP will be in the provision of hands-on business advisory and technical assistance to SMEs, upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs, and investments in business innovations to companies at different stages of development within the agro-processing sub sector as well as to those providing goods and services to the agro-processing sub sector.

The SLAPCP will have positive socio-economic impacts in the form of:

- **Job opportunities for locals:** The SLAPCP subproject will require labour and new job opportunities could be accomplished if the SLAPCP and SMEs endeavour to offer employment to local citizens of these communities.
- **Improved social welfare:** The SLAPCP subprojects are likely to generate greater household cash incomes and promote social welfare in local communities.
- **Increased economic development:** SLAPCP will provide job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour.
- **Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness:** The SLAPCP will positively impact on growth-oriented SMEs through the promotion of linkages between multiple market actors, including processors, suppliers, wholesalers, distributors, and supermarkets.

Negative (Adverse) Social Impacts

- **Population movement:** Attraction of immigrant populations to communities that have improved agro processing and production systems and social infrastructure. High influxes of people will result into poor air pollution, increased level of noise, poor waste management, public health issues and traffic-related accidents.
- **Potential conflict from issues related to labour:** Labour for the agro processing industry will be a sensitive issue, which could lead to vigorous competition for job opportunities.
- **Potential tension from unrealistic expectations held by the communities regarding benefits created by the SLAPCP:** Expectations concerning what the SLAPCP will offer the local communities (especially the youth) as well as the region could be unrealistic.
- **Lack of labour for traditional livelihood strategies:** Agro processing industries will employ more locals; this will lead to loss of labour for agricultural and other traditional livelihoods of the local population. This circumstance may lead to decreased food security.

Table A: Potential positive social impacts of the SLAPCP

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms	<i>Sub-component 1.1: Enabling business regulations for competitive agro-processing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Strengthened service delivery for agribusiness investors and improved agribusiness sector productivity and competitiveness. • Enhanced dialogue between the public and private sector on agribusiness sector reform priorities. • Improved generation of evidence and good practices on EIA for agribusiness. • Improved and strengthened public private dialogue mechanism. • Strengthened engagement among public and private sector stakeholders.
	<i>Sub-component 1.2: Targeted retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the SLIEPA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Improved and solid evidence base generated from investor perception surveys. • Increased support for agribusiness investor retention • Establishment of effective investment grievance mechanisms.

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
	<i>Sub-component 1.3: Building institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved provision of support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Diagnostic assessment of the current status quo of Quality Infrastructure. (b) Identification of key compliance challenges for agro-processing value chain. (c) Compliance with international market standards. (d) Upgrade of institutional capacity at the SLSB (e) Information dissemination and publishing on the SLSB website; and (f) Stakeholder engagement and round table events.
	<i>Sub-component 1.4: Support to MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA for stronger SME coordination</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened capacity of MTI. Strengthened communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project. Enhanced support to MAFFS' "Just in Time Agrimarket Initiative". Improved institutional development at SMEDA. Better support for implementation of the Country operational plan.
Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains	<i>Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level TA and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job opportunities Improved social welfare Increased economic development Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness Improved activities and technical assistance to SMEs. Improved SME productivity and competitiveness.

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of innovative instrument for the provision of hands-on business advisory and technical assistance. • Direct Implementation Support to SMEs. • Access to day-to-day services. • Market Linkages Facilitation. • Ecosystem Strengthening. • Strengthening and enhanced support to BDS providers on agribusiness-specific topics.
	<i>Sub-component 2.2: Provision of matching grants to SMEs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Provision of matching grants for capital investment. • Provision of matching grants for technical assistance.
Component 3: Project implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened the local competencies and capacity within the PCU/PFMU.

Potential Environmental Impacts of the SLAPCP

It is anticipated that many subproject investments supported in the SLAPCP will be in the services sphere, with low to medium associated environmental impacts (see Table B). The activities of SLAPCP Component 2 (specifically, Sub-component 2.1) beneficiaries, related to the establishment and implementation of the SME Technical Assistance Facility (SME TA Facility), may result in negative environmental impacts, if environmental aspects are ignored or improperly managed.

The following potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into broad environmental categories such as air pollution; increased noise levels; poor solid and liquid waste management; occupational health and safety issues; and increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict. However, the broad categories include both localized and cumulative.

Most of the developments or subprojects planned under the SLAPCP will vary from medium to small in scale. Consequently, the significance of the direct negative environmental and social impacts is likely to be relatively small and localized. However, some of subprojects may entail negative environmental impacts including:

- **Air Pollution:** Air quality can be affected by vehicles, generators and machinery with noxious fumes such as carbon monoxide, diesel fumes, as well as burnt oil fumes and dust.
- **Increased Noise Levels:** The significant impact of the SLAPCP on the noise environment will be limited in time to the construction and transportation activities.
- **Poor Solid and Liquid Waste Management:** The improper management and disposal of both solid and liquid wastes, including instalment and operation of new or disposal of old IT equipment or technology, can be detrimental to both the terrestrial and aquatic environments.
- **Occupational Health and Safety Issues:** Worker safety is critical to any operation, therefore, mishandling of equipment, the improper storage and usage of various chemicals and materials on site, poor and unsafe working conditions, high levels of continuous noise and fumes, as well as inadequate safety equipment can cause serious injury and down time to the workers and project and should therefore be avoided.
- **Increased Traffic and Potential for Traffic Conflict:** Access to the SME TA Facility for vehicles can create the possibility of road hazards, and community conflict can occur if traffic management procedures are not well managed.

The sum of impacts from implementation of many subprojects in an area may result in cumulative impacts on natural resources. Cumulative impacts can also be defined as impacts that potentially develop from the combined impacts of more than one subproject.

Table B: Potential environmental impacts of the SLAPCP

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms	<i>Sub-component 1.1: Enable business regulations for competitive agro-processing.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen service delivery for agribusiness investors and improve agribusiness sector Enhance dialogue between the public and private sector on agribusiness sector reform Generate evidence and good practices on environmental impact assessment (EIA). Strengthen public private dialogue mechanism to provide a structured platform. Strengthen engagement among public and private sector stakeholders. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Increased noise levels Poor solid and liquid waste management Occupational health and safety issues Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
	<i>Sub-component 1.2: Target retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the SLIEPA.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate solid evidence base from investor perception surveys. Support agribusiness investor retention and after care. Establish effective investment grievance mechanisms. Develop capacity building plans to strengthen the capacity of the technical staff. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Increased noise levels Poor solid and liquid waste management Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>Sub-component 1.3: Build institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Diagnostic assessment of the current status quo of Quality Infrastructure. (b) Identification of key compliance challenges for agro processors, SMEs, and others. (c) Initiatives to comply with international market standards. (d) Upgrade of institutional capacity at the SLSB to address compliance challenges. (e) Information dissemination and publishing on the SLSB website; and (f) Stakeholder engagement and round table events and coordination of other stakeholders. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
	<p>Sub-component 1.4: Support to MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA for stronger SME coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity of MTI. • Strengthen communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project. • Enhance support to MAFFS' "Just in Time Agrimarket Initiative". • Improve institutional development at SMEDA with focus on review laws, policies, etc. 	<p>Related to work place environment at the MTI, MAFFS and SMEDA. The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of the Country operational plan for market-driven BDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains	<p><i>Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level TA and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide activities around firm-level technical assistance to SMEs. Establish dedicated SME TA facility and SME productivity and competitiveness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high quality training and mentoring Coordinate skills development initiatives Create a platform for the voice of the private sector. Provide innovative instrument for the provision of business and technical assistance. Direct Implementation Support to SMEs. Access to day-to-day services. Market Linkages Facilitation. Ecosystem Strengthening. Strengthening and enhanced support to BDS providers on agribusiness-specific topics. 	<p>Related to localized impacts at the SME TA Facility and agro processing sites.</p> <p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Increased noise levels Poor solid and liquid waste management Occupational health and safety issues Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
	<p>Sub-component 2.2: Provide matching grants to SMEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide matching grants for capital investment and technical assistance and advice to SMEs. 	<p>Related to working environment at the SME TA Facility and about 60 SMEs.</p> <p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
Component 3: Project implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the fiduciary and non-fiduciary aspects of the SLAPCP activities. • Recruitment. 	<p>Related to working environment at the PCU and PFMU. The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Environmental and Social Impact Screening of Projects

The environment and social screening procedure will include four steps to ensure that environmental and social impacts are identified, mitigation measures proposed and monitoring measures incorporated, as summarized below:

- Step 1: Has the project activities been compared to the Project Screening Criteria Form annexed to this ESMF Report (see Section 11.1)?
- Step 2: Has the project been screened with the EPA-SL ESIA Screening Form annexed to this ESMF (see Section 11.2)?
- Step 3: If required, has a field visit been conducted and an ESMP prepared in accordance with the SME Field Appraisal Checklist and the Guidelines for Preparing an ESMP in Annex 3 and Annex 4 of this ESMF Report, respectively?
- Step 4: Has the proposal been reviewed and cleared by the Environmental and Social Safeguard Expert(s) within the PCU?

Environmental and Social Safeguard Expert(s) within the PCU will review the beneficiary's/applicant's proposal and the ESIA/ESMP to ensure that adequate environmental and social mitigation measures are in place.

At this stage of the SLAPCP preparation, the exact subproject sites and activities are unknown; hence, this ESMF is being developed to ensure that SLAPCP subproject related adverse environmental and social impacts are avoided or, when unavoidable, minimized and appropriately mitigated and/or offset (compensated) as they become known during implementation. The screening result will determine the need for further environmental and social assessments to determine the extent of potential environmental and social impacts and the type of instrument(s) to use. Where appropriate, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be prepared during SLAPCP subproject implementation following guidelines in this ESMF. It remains the responsibility of the Safeguards Officers of the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), implementing partners, agencies and beneficiaries to ensure that the necessary mitigation plans are developed and adhered to accordingly. The SLAPCP implementing partners, agencies and beneficiaries will use and refer to this ESMF during implementation of the SLAPCP.

The screening process aims to identify the environmental and social risks associated with proposed subprojects and propose additional environmental assessment that may be required or the adaptation of the ESMP template as provided as part of this ESMF depending on the risks identified

- **Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)** – The ESIA process will be accompanied by an ESMP which is a proposal on how the project would eliminate, and or minimize the identified environmental and social risks.
- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** - An ESIA enables both environmental, climate change and social issues to be considered during all stages of subproject design and implementation. It identifies, predicts, evaluates and communicates the potential environmental, climate, and social impacts and risks of projects in a systematic and objective way. It also recommends appropriate preventive actions and mitigating measures, and maximizes environmental opportunities where possible.

To address the potential adverse impacts, the environmental and social risk management procedure proposed under this ESMF will be applied in such a way as to ensure that potential negative impacts are prevented and/or mitigated appropriately, and positive impacts are enhanced. Mitigation measures seek to address and manage the potential impacts of the SLAPCP, to reduce or avoid negative social and environmental impacts.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Compliance with Safeguards

Monitoring and evaluation for compliance with environmental and social safeguards policies will be managed by the PCU. Monitoring will be fundamental to ensure that the objectives set forth in the ESMF and the ESIA/ESMPs are being achieved satisfactorily and where there are nonconformities to the

project scope and objectives will produce timely interventions. This will be a continuous process and will include compliance and outcome monitoring.

The goal of environmental and social monitoring is to measure the success rate of the project, determine whether interventions have resulted in mitigating negative impacts, whether further interventions are needed or monitoring is to be extended. Environmental monitoring will be carried out by the Environmental and Social Safeguard Experts within the PCU during the SLAPCP implementation phase to measure the success of the mitigation measures implemented.

Capacity Building

To ensure that environmental and social safeguards requirements are meaningfully integrated into the implementation of the ESMF, it is proposed that various types of training, tailored to their roles and responsibilities, will be conducted for relevant staff of the MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA, SLSB, SLECAD and agro processors at various levels. Prior to rolling out any capacity building program, a needs assessment of the target group will be conducted to tailor the content of the capacity building for effectiveness. Key staff directly involved in project implementation and with safeguards responsibilities will be taken through the proposed processes, procedures for screening of sub-projects. The indicative cost for capacity building and training is USD 54,000 per annum.

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender is a critical component in SLAPCP as it underlies many inequalities of power over access to and decision-making around agricultural resources and activities, including agro processing. Women are marginalised and constrained in their access to production resources and extension services, which adversely affects their farming activities. Understanding who accesses and uses which agro processing resources and facilities, and how his/her life and livelihood may be impacted (positively or negatively) is critical to ensuring SLAPCP activities do not cause undue harm to anyone, and at the same time, allows women and their needs to be mainstreamed in the project activities. Thus, gender mainstreaming within the SLAPCP is addressed by undertaking Gender Analysis and developing a Gender Action Plan.

Subproject proponents will be required to undertake Gender Analysis during the implementation of their activities by collecting gender-specific data that will lead to gaining knowledge on decision making processes among women and men at all levels; their differential control over the management of agro processing resources and the types of resources they use; access to land and agribusiness and agro-processing opportunities by women and men in the project areas.

This ESMF has outlined the development of a Gender Action Plan (GAP), which is a document that will be formulated during the development of the SLAPCP to ensure gender equality throughout the projects; identify the main gender-related issues that impact (or are impacted by) the SLAPCP; develops culturally-appropriate solutions to address those issues; and explains how those actions will be monitored. The Gender Management Plan will be formulated to ensure that gender-related adverse impacts are avoided, minimized and/or mitigated appropriately.

Climate Risk Analysis and Risk Resilience Measures

A climate risk analysis will be undertaken prior to the full design of a SLAPCP subproject to inform the design and decision-making processes. The purpose of climate risk screening is to determine the exposure of the SLAPCP subproject to climate-related risks based on available information about historic climate change variability and occurrences, current climate trends and future climate change scenarios, as well as to assess the likelihood of the project increasing the vulnerability of the expected target populations to climate hazards. It provides an opportunity to integrate climate issues into project design and therefore increase project resilience and hence sustainability. The SLAPCP has been assigned as Low Risk - primarily as a precautionary measure, and therefore according to this ESMF assessment processes does not require an in-depth climate risk analysis.

SLAPCP recognizes the need for developing climate resilient SMEs and entities through employing a combination of institutional and climate-smart technological interventions along with creating local capacity to identify adaptation strategies fitting into changing climates and market needs. It is also about enabling SMEs to employ the best available technology not entailing excessive cost for agro-processing to efficiently produce more products and income per unit of investments.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The GRM in this ESMF is based on principles of fairness, objectiveness, independence, simplicity, accessibility, responsiveness and efficiency. The Grievance Redress Procedure (GRP) will support the long-term goal of building strong and effective relationships with all those to be concerned by the SLAPCP activities and subprojects.

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The overall responsibility for SLAPCP's implementation will be with the MTI and MAFFS. The MTI will recruit a safeguards officer as part of the project implementation team. The Safeguards officer will be responsible for screening of all sub-projects. Once sub-projects have been screened the recommended action for further environmental assessment or otherwise will be communicated to the Project co-ordinator and the relevant studies sanctioned either using in house expertise or consultants. Once the relevant instruments have been developed the overall responsibility for ensuring that the required safeguards due diligence and mitigation measures as may be required will be for the project environmental safeguards officer who reports to the project co-ordinator. Further details on the safeguards implementation responsibilities are provided in more details in Chapter 4 and further detailed in the implementation responsibilities provided in Tables 7-1 and 7-2.

ESMF Budget

The ESMF implementation budget (US \$ 556,000 or SLL 4,170,000,000, over a 5-years period) relates to the preparation of specific ESIA's; capacity building for participating institutions; implementation of specific ESMP; and mid-term and completion audits of environmental and social performance to ensure that the environmental and social due diligence is carried out throughout the entire life of the project.

Stakeholder Consultations

The objectives of the stakeholder meetings were to: (i) provide SLAPCP background information to various stakeholders; (ii) receive feedback from stakeholders on issues and perceived concerns; and (iii) discuss ESMF methodology and resources to maximize the SLAPCP's environmental and social performance. Two stakeholder consultations were convened with the MTI and EPA-SL and other stakeholders. The first consultation was conducted on 10 April 2018 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The main points discussed with the MTI and EPA-SL are documented in Annex 2 of this Report.

The second Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was held on 20 April 2018 in Freetown and it involved 37 stakeholders from relevant MDAs, development partners, civil society organizations (CSO), non-government organizations (NGO) and private sector agro-processing organisations. The purpose of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was to discuss the ESMF Report (see Annex 2 for details of the proceedings from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop).

Public Disclosure

This ESMF Report will be disclosed to the public by presenting the project stakes and challenges, and the environmental and social risks management procedures/measures to the various beneficiaries and stakeholders and disclosing the document at the offices of the SLAPCP beneficiaries and concerned key stakeholders. The ESMF Report will be made available on the website of the MTI as well as the websites of the World Bank.

Conclusion

This ESMF has been prepared to guide the SLAPCP planners, implementers and other stakeholders to identify and mitigate environmental and social impacts in the SLAPCP. This ESMF will apply to any subproject within the SLAPCP.

Successful implementation of this ESMF will depend to a large extent on the involvement and participation of the SLAPCP beneficiaries, particularly the implementing partners, SME agro processors, affected communities and key stakeholders. Environmental and social awareness and education for the SLAPCP beneficiaries, particularly the implementing partners, SME agro processors, affected communities and key stakeholders will be an integral part of the ESMF implementation.

The PCU will develop appropriate information management systems to support the environmental and social management process. The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists (One environmental safeguards specialist, one social safeguards specialist) and M&E Officers within the PCU, MTI and/or

SMEs will be empowered to adequately administer the ESMF and will be given the necessary support and resources to ensure effective implementation.

As subprojects are implemented, additional public consultation may also occur through the ESIA process and through the interaction with the beneficiary communities. Those additional public consultations will be part of the SLAPCP implementation process.

1 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1 Project Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country with a population of 7.1 million people and has made good progress towards political stability and economic growth. The country has had four relatively peaceful national elections since the end of the 10-year civil war in 2002 and recorded average annual growth of 7.8 percent from 2003-2014. Post-war economic growth continued to be robust, bolstered by the resumption of iron ore exports, increased inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI), and rising government revenues. These developments led to a surge in economic activity, manifested in GDP growth of 15.2 percent in 2012 and 13 percent in 2013.

Despite the impressive growth, 2015 GDP per capita was USD 653.1, well below the Sub-Saharan Africa average of US\$1588.5. Poverty levels remain high, even though the poverty headcount declined from 66.4 percent in 2003 to 52.9 percent in 2011. Strong growth in rural areas, where poverty declined from 78.7 percent in 2003 to 66.1 percent in 2011, explains much of overall reductions in poverty. However, rural poverty level is still higher than urban poverty. While about 62 percent of the working age-population is formally or informally employed, there is a dearth of good quality jobs, particularly among urban youth and in rural areas. The lack of sufficient technical and vocational skills needed for the labour market compounds the unemployment problem despite the potential offered by a growing workforce that is dominated by young people.

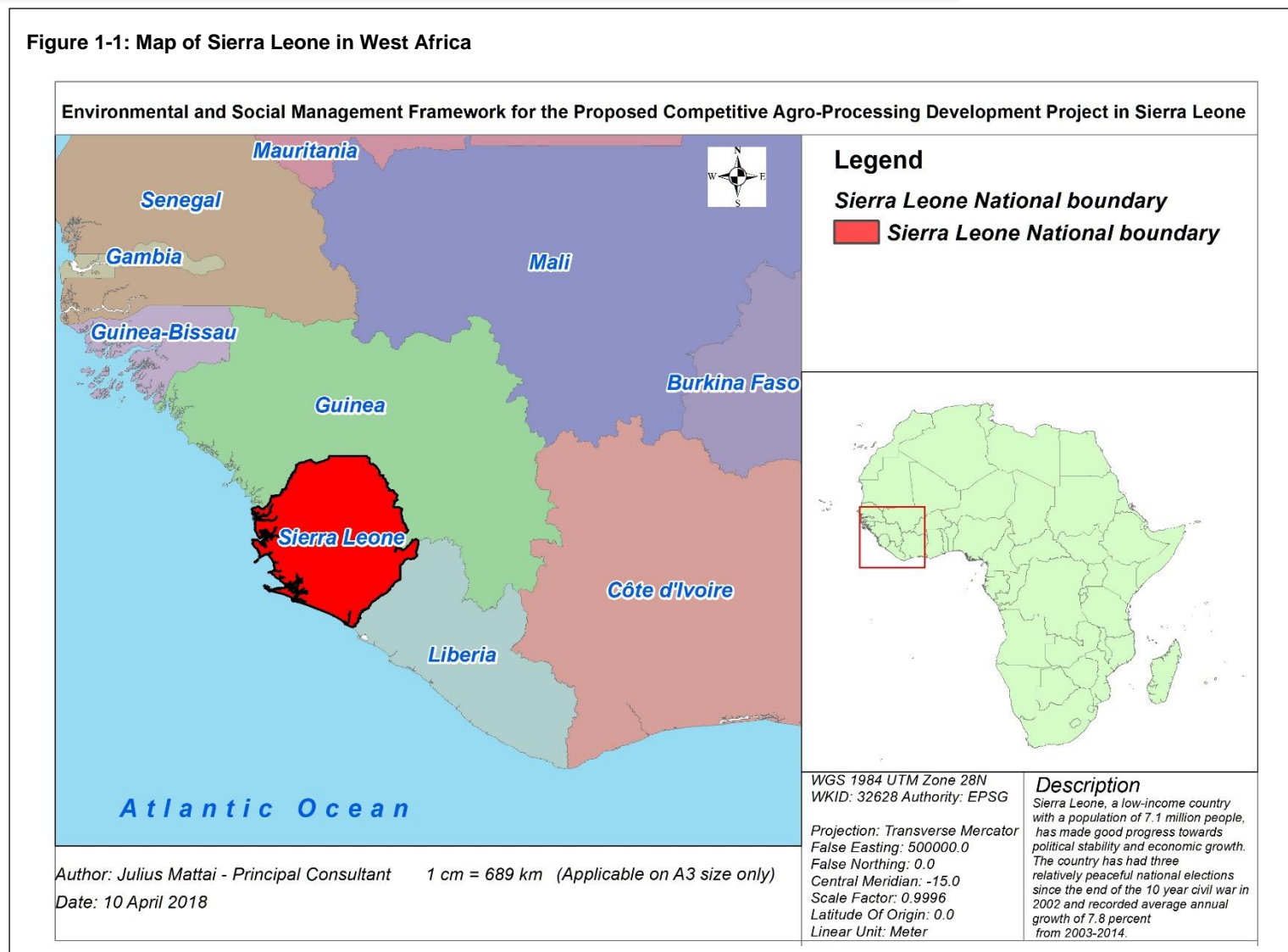
Sierra Leone has vast natural resources and the economy is heavily dependent on its land endowments; mineral resources including rutile, diamonds, gold, chromite and iron ore; water and tourism. Agriculture including forestry and fisheries still accounts for the largest GDP share but that share declined from 57 percent in 2012 to 41 percent in 2013. The mining sector's contribution to GDP increased substantially from 8.5 percent in 2011 to 16.8 percent in 2012 and on to 27.2 percent in 2013 due to the expansion of large-scale iron ore operations. The service sector, led by banking, retail, transport and tourism, accounted for 28.8 percent of GDP in 2013, down from 35.5 percent in 2011, while the manufacturing sector, dominated by cement and light manufacturing, accounts for only 2 percent of GDP.

Agriculture, including agribusiness is a key sector of the economy, contributing over half of the GDP, and accounting for the largest share of labour markets both by type of employment and sector contribution. The sector is dominated by smallholder production of staple crops, mainly rice and cassava, which together account for about three-quarters of the volume of agricultural production. Commercial farming and primary processing of commodities, such as oil palm, cocoa, coffee, other niche crops and livestock, is becoming increasingly important, contributing about 16 percent of agricultural value added in 2014. However, agriculture competitiveness is dampened by low productivity and several market, policy, and institutional coordination failures.

Strengthening economic diversification is a policy priority for achieving strong and sustainable growth and reducing poverty in Sierra Leone. Currently, the economy is dominated by mining and agriculture but there is huge potential to diversify into other sectors such as fisheries, light manufacturing, and tourism. While mining has dimmed, there are bright prospects for agribusiness investments. The Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA), has prioritized increased investment inflows in agribusiness as a key objective in its Strategic Plan, 2016 – 2018, which aims to attract domestic and foreign direct investments and to develop and diversify exports, particularly in the agricultural sector, given the sector's contribution to GDP and livelihoods. In addition, SLIEPA supports small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their competitiveness and participation in trade. Both the investment Promotion and Export Development and Promotion Departments have developed strategies and activities that focus on enhancing competitiveness of agribusiness, SMEs and other segments in agribusiness value chains that have strong potential for creating jobs and income opportunities.

Agroindustry in Sierra Leone has been growing over the last decade with rising foreign and domestic investments in cultivation and processing of food and industrial crops such as rice, oil palm, sugar cane, horticulture, and livestock, mainly poultry. Most of the increase in foreign agriculture investment is due to a sharp increase in multi-million investments in rice, cocoa, sugar cane, rubber, coffee, and oil palm, particularly after 2010. In addition to external investors, the domestic agribusiness sector has also experienced some growth over the last decade.

Figure 1-1: Map of Sierra Leone in West Africa



The promotion of value addition and private sector-led growth in agriculture are essential elements in achieving its vision and goal of the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP).

The National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan (NSADP) serves as the overarching sector strategy with a focus on: (i) Commodity Commercialization, (ii) Agriculture Infrastructure Development, (iii) Private Sector Promotion and (iv) Sector Coordination and Management. Through the NSADP, the Smallholder Commercialization Program (SCP) 2010-2015, helped organize smallholder farmers by establishing Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) and Agribusiness Centres (ABCs), involving about 122,500 farmers, of which 30 percent were female-headed households. The ABCs were designed as farmer-owned multi-purpose facilities delivering a broad range of services, including micro-credit, sales of inputs and tools, rental of labour-saving equipment, storage of seeds and farm products, processing, transport, information on new technologies and markets and group marketing. The successor of the SCP, the Inclusive Comprehensive Agricultural Development Program (ICADEP), 2016-2020 focuses on private sector-led commercialization and agribusiness development as a basis for inclusive growth. Key tenets of the strategy emphasize reduced government intervention with an emphasis on implementing evidence-based private sector support policies and projects.

Agro processing investment opportunities are concentrated in oil palm, mainly for exports, and processed rice and poultry for domestic and regional markets. Some processors are involved in niche commodities, such as fruit juices, lemon grass, and rubber for exports, mainly to EU and United States. Yet, the agribusiness industry, including agro-processing, is highly fragmented. Local agro-processors tend to be involved in a wide range of products but operate mostly in local markets. A few medium-sized formal firms and vast number of small, low productivity informal firms co-exist with a small number of large domestic and international companies that have operations linked to foreign investments. In contrast, large domestic and foreign investors operate modern processing plants that involve few commodities, such as oil palm, rice, and forestry products. Most agro-processors, irrespective of size or technology used, have underutilized capacity and face challenges getting access to domestic and international markets.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has developed a Private Sector Development Strategy for Sierra Leone fostering foreign and domestic investments in all sectors of the economy. The Sierra Leone Investment and Export promotion Agency (SLIEPA) was established in 2008 to promote private sector investments in Sierra Leone. The MAFFS has established in 2008, the Sierra Leone Centre for Agribusiness Development (SLECAD) whose purpose is to promote private investment in the agricultural sector. SLECAD gather various stakeholders of the agricultural sector and is currently developing an Integrated Programme for Private Investment in Agriculture. This is an agricultural value chain development programme for input supply, agro-processing and agricultural finance.

Over the past years, the policy and legal environment for making business in Sierra Leone has improved, which has attracted medium and large scale agricultural enterprises. Private sector medium and large scale agricultural production schemes have been established for food crops, such as rice, sesame, sorghum, cassava and others, and for cash crops such as palm oil and palm kernel oil, cocoa, coffee, cashew, fruits, sugarcane, rubber and cassava as an industrial crop, both for the domestic and export markets including for bio fuel. Many of these operations work in partnership with smallholder farmers who are finding an attractive outlet for their produce. Some progress has been made in enhancing quality of agricultural products such as cocoa, some of which is marketed under the bio and other labels, and rice, which is now being branded in some areas of Sierra Leone. The SLBS is gradually expanding its range and establishing quality standards for food products.

While Sierra Leone has good potential for agroindustry to be an important driver of economic growth, diversification, and poverty reduction there are many challenges facing the sector and its investment attractiveness. Creating an enabling environment for investments in agribusiness, strengthening institutions, and improving firm productivity are critical elements of a sector reform and growth agenda to catalyse investments in agribusiness sector and agro processing.

Several market failures are impeding competitiveness in the agribusiness sector and productivity of agro processing firms, including SMEs. These include policy, institutional, and coordination failures which raise the cost of doing business for agribusiness/agro processing investors as well as information asymmetries on demand and supply side that limit SME market opportunities and linkages with larger domestic and foreign agro processors. In addition, weak supply chain linkages, lack of access to finance and technology, and limited demand-led skills development pose challenges to agro processing firm productivity and agribusiness sector competitiveness in Sierra Leone.

The capacity of public sector institutions dealing with private sector development and business regulatory environment is limited. Inconsistent application of policies, regulations, and fiscal incentives significantly increase the cost (time and money) of doing business in comparison to alternative investment destinations. With a complex business and regulatory environment and wide-ranging policy agenda, there are significant challenges to effective implementation of government and development partner initiatives. Several government and agencies are involved with designing and implementing initiatives on business and regulatory environment, investment promotion and SME development but there is limited coordination among them.

The entire agribusiness sector, including agro-processing, is highly fragmented, consisting of few medium- and large-sized formal firms, and a vast number of small, low productivity firms operating in few commodities, such as palm oil, rice, coffee and cocoa. The market for business development services, entrepreneurial training, and agribusiness-focused content is fragmented. BDS providers have basic business training materials but lack proper information and experience in agribusiness and food sector and programmatic offerings typically do not extend beyond basic business plans and start-up advice. Agricultural productivity remains low, combined with low levels of farmer organization and coordination, which lead to highly unstable markets for agricultural commodities and unpredictability for inputs to agro-processing SMEs.

The Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA), has prioritized increased investment inflows in agribusiness as a key objective in its Strategic Plan, 2016 – 2018. This strategy aims to attract domestic and foreign direct investments and to develop and diversify exports, particularly in the agricultural sector. SLIEPA has developed strategies and incentives to attract private investors, strengthen competitiveness of agribusiness sector, and promote SMEs that have strong potential for creating jobs.

Many SMEs in Sierra Leone are women-owned and large numbers participate in different segments of agribusiness value chains. They represent a vibrant and capable group in the business sector but are often have unequal access to productive assets, finance and other services. Many women are therefore not realizing the full economic benefits from their engagement in agro processing and other segments of agribusiness value chains because of discriminatory, customary and statutory laws as well as unequal access to resources.

1.2 Project Description

To successfully design agro-processing competitiveness interventions it is necessary to place the project in the context of sector specific interventions that improve the enabling business environment and firm level interventions that increase productivity and encourage innovations. The proposed SLAPCP will therefore focus on addressing sector and firm level challenges that can boost competitiveness of agro-processing in Sierra Leone. At the sector level project interventions, will focus on the agribusiness sector, specifically on high priority agribusiness reform areas, institutional development, and public-private dialogue. At the firm level, the focus will be on the agro-processing or value addition segments of value chains and the companies that are providing services, such as packaging, equipment, and technologies to such agro-processing firms.

For the SLAPCP, agro-processing firms are defined as those involved in the processing and transformation of primary agricultural products - via quality upgrading or manufacturing - into consumable goods, generating value added. Project intervention at the firm level will emphasize improving firm level productivity, by upgrading local firms through tailored technical assistance to businesses at various stages of development, facilitating market linkages and provision of market information, access to grants for specific expansion projects, and by upgrading the quality of local business development services.

The SLAPCP will leverage on existing World Bank Group Projects in Sierra Leone. It will foster complementarities with the IDA-financed Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP), approved in January 2016. SCADeP addresses market failures that agribusiness firms encounter upstream and production levels (low farm productivity, poor quality and inconsistent supply of raw materials) while this project targets those market failures that agro-processing firms and SMEs face in downstream segments of value chains. It is expected that the increased farm productivity and reduced post-harvest losses from SCADeP supported interventions will increase the volume of agricultural commodities that are used as inputs for agro processing firms. Thus, project interventions aim to sustain and increase the demand for agricultural outputs delivered under

SCADeP. Complementarities and synergies in the two projects will be strengthened through consultations and active engagement in project design as well as in priority setting and coordination mechanisms during implementation of project activities.

Similar design and implementation arrangements will be developed with the Sierra Leone Skills Development Project which responds to private sector demands for skills through the proposed Skills Development Fund (SDF). The SDF will provide a platform for supporting demand-led skills development, with priority to training activities that lead to improved productivity and competitiveness in the formal and informal sectors. Agriculture/agro-processing is one of the priority sectors identified in the SDF, so beneficiaries of the agro-processing project would be eligible for SDF supported training that address identified SME skills gaps. In addition, the IDA-financed Agricultural Policy and Strategy Support Project which will help strengthening agricultural policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore, project activities will build on the IFC – World Bank SME Business Linkages Program which has helped agricultural SMEs connect with large foreign and local agribusiness firms.

SLAPCP interventions are designed to provide solutions to critical challenges constraining agro processing sector competitiveness and firm productivity that are not currently being addressed by GoSL and other development partners in a meaningful way. While several donor interventions have provided some combination of phased BDS, training, and access to finance, few have focused on delivering high-quality, agribusiness sector-specific BDS and training, with differential impacts on SMEs' market expansion and access. The outputs will provide analytic evidence and platform for policy engagement on business regulatory issues, such as EIA and regulators that private investors and other stakeholder perceive as critical challenges to competitiveness of agro processing sector and firm productivity.

SLAPCP also provides innovative and focused attention on upgrading agribusiness SMEs through improved BDS, hands-on TA support, and matching grant financing that links to specific business action plans. Many of the targeted SMEs are in the missing middle because they are too large to qualify for microfinance and too small to obtain finance from commercial financial institutions. Such enterprises do not get much attention in development interventions yet, they are crucial in ensuring productive investments and jobs. By exploring complementarities with World Bank supported SCADeP and Skills development project this project makes unique contributions to end-to-end solutions in targeted value chains. The synergies from integrated solutions will strengthen agriculture sector competitiveness and improve firm productivity while avoiding duplication of efforts.

Men and women differ in their access to resources and participation in agro processing segments of value chains. The SLAPCP therefore pay specific attention to gender-based differences and will incorporate gender into the design of project interventions to mitigate social and economic risks and improve project outcomes. The SLAPCP will support a study on gender in SME that will focus on identifying relevant gaps between women and men in agribusiness and agro processing segments of value chains. The output from this analysis will inform meaningful gender focus and initiatives in all project activities and to monitor actions that are designed to reduce identified gender gaps.

The overall responsibility for steering SLAPCP implementation will be with the MTI and MAFFS. Other Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and non-state institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency-Sierra Leone, (EPA-SL); SLIEPA; SLSB; SMEDA; and Sierra Leone Chamber for Agribusiness Development, (SLECAD) will have primary responsibilities as implementing partners (IPs) for specific activities that are directly related to specific functional areas that they have been assigned responsibilities consistent with support for promoting agro-processing competitiveness. Other key stakeholders include international and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local community-based organisations (CBOs) that have experiences in gender issues and promotion of women and active in agriculture and agro-processing, and multilateral funding organizations/donors.

1.3 Project Development Objectives

The SLAPCP development objective is to improve business environment in agribusiness sector and increase productivity of targeted agro-processing firms in Sierra Leone. Achieving the SLAPCP objective contributes directly to strengthening agro-processing competitiveness, which is defined as the ability of agro-processing firms to generate new investments and increase market share in goods and services through improved productivity. Productivity depends on improving the quality of the business environment and capability of the economy, including skills and capacity of institutions that provide services to local and foreign investors.

In line with its project document objectives (PDO), the SLAPCP seeks to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agribusiness SMEs in selected value chains as part of the overall objective to attract new investments in agribusiness and encourage existing investors to expand and grow. The World Bank's commitment to sustainable development, through a Bank Policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards are designed to support Borrowers' projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

The SLAPCP will focus on providing solutions to key market failures inhibiting competitiveness of the agro processing sector and limiting firm and SME productivity. These market failures are (i) policy, institutional, and coordination failures which raise the cost of doing business for agribusiness/agro processing investors; (ii) information asymmetries/failures on demand and supply side limiting SME market opportunities and linkages with larger domestic and foreign agro processors; (iii) weak supply chain linkages; (iv) lack of access to finance and technology; and (v) skills gap at firm and SME level. Project components are designed to address these specific market failures and are meant to complement other World Bank supported initiatives that address other market failures holding back the development of agriculture and agribusiness value chains in Sierra Leone. The MFD framework guided project design to focus on binding constraints in the enabling environment and measures for facilitating sustainable private sector investments.

The estimated total cost for the Project is US\$ 10 million financed by International Development Association (IDA), through an IDA credit to the Government of Sierra Leone. The IDA funding will be structured as an Investment Project Financing (IPF).

1.4 Project Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project interventions are agribusiness and agro processing firms in Sierra Leone, including SMEs, in targeted value chains. Institutional beneficiaries include the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) and the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB), MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA.

1.5 Project Components

The SLAPCP consists of three components:

- Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms (US\$2 million).
- Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity in agro-processing companies and SMEs in selected value chains (US\$6 million).
- Component 3: Project implementation, coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$2 million).

1.5.1 Component 1

Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms (US\$2 million)

The objective of this component is to help reduce burdensome agribusiness sector regulations that constrain productivity and weaken incentives of existing agribusiness firms and SMEs to reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and competitiveness. Project interventions also aim to improve the quantity and quality of existing agro-processing investments through enhanced focus on agribusiness investment retention and expansion and strengthening institutional capabilities that will facilitate investment and trade by agro processing firms and SMEs.

Sub-component 1.1: Enabling business regulations for competitive agro-processing (US\$450,000)

The sub-component aims to strengthen the business environment for agribusiness investors. Policy inconsistencies, burdensome regulations, and weaknesses in institutional capabilities and coordination have been identified as key constraints on firm productivity and agribusiness sector competitiveness. Project support will help identify business regulations that distort or create dis-incentives for agro-processing investments, operations, and enhance dialogue between the public and private sector on agribusiness sector reform priorities. Project outputs are expected to strengthen sector productivity and

competitiveness by reducing business and regulatory burdens as well as provide enhanced service delivery for agribusiness investors. The project will finance an integrated set of activities focusing on: (i) generating evidence and good practices on environmental impact assessment for agribusiness to simplify EIA procedures, reducing cost for obtaining environmental licenses, and ensuring that the existing legal framework for EIA is adequate and (ii) strengthening Public Private Dialogue mechanism to provide a structured platform for systematic engagement between the public sector and private investors in the agribusiness subsector. Specific support will include technical assistance to inform the business and regulatory reform agenda as well as funding of research and advocacy to set priorities for policy reform and strengthen engagement among public and private sector stakeholders in selected agribusiness value chains.

Sub-component 1.2: Targeted retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) (US\$500,000)

This sub-component will support SLIEPA to develop and implement an aftercare program for the retention and expansion for agribusiness investors. It will include: (i) investor perception survey to generate a solid evidence base that would increase understanding of the factors that influence the investment decisions of foreign and domestic agribusiness investors and provide an analysis of current and future trends and prospects based on perception of the investment climate ; (ii) implementation support for agribusiness investor retention and after care, including development of a menu of relevant and high quality investor aftercare services, capacity building, development of systems and tools (investment information system, investor relationship management system, standards operating procedures, etc.); (iii) investment grievance mechanisms to identify mechanisms to address investor grievances in the Sierra Leonean context, including host agency, and potentially establish a Systemic Investor Response Mechanism (SIRM); and (iv) devising capacity building plans to strengthen the capacity of the technical staff to be able to advocate and advice on issues relating to agribusiness investment promotion, export development and policy advocacy. Support for capacity building will focus on study tours and experience sharing visits to learn from and benchmark achievements from other Investment Promotion Agencies.

Sub-component 1.3: Building institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs. (US\$400,000)

This sub-component aims to strengthen institutional capacity at the SLSB to improve capabilities for enhanced compliance with standards and conformity assessments in Sierra Leone. Specifically, technical assistance will be provided to support: (i) diagnostic assessment of the current status quo of Quality Infrastructure, (QI), institutions, verification of the demand for the QI services, identify essential QI services, and training needs ; (ii) identification of key compliance challenges for agro processors, SMEs, and other actors in selected agro-processing value chain; (iii) initiatives to comply with regional and international market standards in selected agro-processing value chain; (iv) upgrade of institutional capacity at the SLSB to address key compliance challenges and solutions that will expand market opportunities for agro processors and SMEs in targeted value chain; (v) information dissemination and publishing on the SLSB website; and (vi) stakeholder engagement and round table events and coordination of other stakeholders.

Sub-component 1.4: Support to MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA for stronger SME coordination (US\$650,000)

In addition to institutional support for SLIEPA and SLSB, the project will support specific capacity building efforts (functional capacity building) at MTI and SMEDA to strengthen their capacity to provide clearly defined services to support agro-processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for SMEs and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority setting. Specifically, the project will support:

- MTI to strengthen their capacity to (i) provide clearly defined services that support agro processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for agro processing actors and related institutions and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority identification; (ii) strengthen communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project, expected deliverables, and linkages with other projects; (iii) support development of a cadre of senior and mid -level professionals on agribusiness through targeted training activities.
- MAFFS - Support “Just in Time Agrimarket Initiative” to create business linkages between producers of agricultural commodities, processors and consumers and provide timely information about the availability and demand for agricultural commodities to support agro processing and

marketing. Project support will be directed toward the provision of logistics for effective communication and information dissemination and capacity building for field staff.

- SMEDA – institutional development at SMEDA focusing on (i) review laws, policies and/or institutions to inform the formulation of reform proposals for a more conducive environment for sustainable enterprises and (ii) support for implementation of the Country operational plan for market-driven BDS provision to MSMEs (action plan for coherence amongst MSME players, guidelines for environmentally-friendly and viable business models for support services to women and men entrepreneurs in fragile setting).

1.5.2 Component 2

Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains (US\$6 million)

An agribusiness SME diagnostic conducted to support preparation of this project revealed that the capacity of many agribusiness SMEs to respond to market challenges is very low. SMEs generally lack basic market assessment skills, technologies to upgrade, and ability to manage sales, distribution networks, and forecast demand, supply, and prices. Domestic BDS providers, while generally competent in delivering basic business skills to SMEs, lack training content, information, and expertise in agribusiness and the food sector. Access to commercial finance is rare even for the most advanced firm, and SMEs are often squeezed by unfavourable terms by both their buyers, and upstream suppliers. The objective of this component is to increase the productivity and competitiveness of agro-processing SMEs and their suppliers in selected value chains.

The project will help improve SME productivity and competitiveness through (i) establishment of a dedicated SME TA facility as the main instrument for providing technical advice, implementation support, and business development service and (ii) provision of matching grants for capital investments and technical assistance to implement SME action plans. The TA facility will be under the overall guidance of the PCU but will be run by a competitively recruited Program Manager/Team Leader who will be responsible for managing sub-component 2.1 and sub-component 2.2. The TA facility manager will be supported by national and international business advisers with commercial and investment experience in the agro-processing sub sector as well in matching grant implementation. SMEs will be characterized by size (number of employees) and annual revenues. Small enterprises as those employing between 5 to 19 employees and with annual revenues up to Le 99 million while medium enterprises have between 20 to 49 employees and annual revenue between Le 100-500 million.

Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level TA and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players (US\$2.6 million)

This sub-component aims to upgrade SME productivity and competitiveness through the establishment of an SME Technical Assistance Facility that is expected to reach a total of 150 SMEs. Of these 150, 60 SMEs are expected to develop action plans that will be supported by the matching grants in sub-component 2.2. The TA facility will serve as an innovative instrument for the provision of hands-on business advisory and technical assistance to SMEs, upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs, and investments in business innovations to companies at different stages of development within the agro-processing sub sector as well as to those providing goods and services to the agro-processing sub sector. The facility will also partner with selected financial institutions that will assist in the vetting process, and will help create a pipeline for potential bankable projects. The SME TA facility will utilize a market systems development approach, considering the interrelated needs of various market chain actors throughout the ecosystem, with distinct offerings and activities around firm-level technical assistance to SMEs, and capacity-building of ecosystem players, including BDS providers. SMEs that are involved in agro-processing activities and those providing products and services to agro-processing, such as equipment supplies, packaging, distribution and logistics services, will be eligible to participate in the TA Facility.

Eligibility will also be based on a combination of revenue and size of firms, such as number of employees. SMEs will be selected for the TA Facility based on their commitment to growth, entrepreneurial and managerial potential, alignment with market segments that show viable potential in the local market, and the financial and technical viability of their businesses. Key selection criteria will include: (a) response to a written questionnaire designed to assess entrepreneurial traits and business potential; (b) assessment of the potential demand for their products, taking into account different market segments, and alignment of the firm's market segment with the overall cohort; (c) market competitiveness based on differentiation, cost, and/or focus; (d) the identification of concrete

operational, financial, or technical growth bottlenecks and the possibility of viable interventions for solving them; and, (e) the strength of the financial and technical business plans presented. SME eligibility and selection criteria will be detailed in the Project Operation Manual.

- **Direct Implementation Support to SMEs:** The project will aim to recruit cohorts of between 15 to 20 SMEs annually to join the SME TA Facility as beneficiaries, in which they will receive specialized deep dive diagnostic services, and technical assistance to implement specific action plans. The project will source SMEs to join the Facility through relationships with known lead firms, supermarkets, industry associations (such as SLECAD and the Association of Small-Scale Manufacturers), and previous and ongoing donor projects' application lists (such as the Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund, SLADF). Business action plans will describe specific managerial, technical, production, operational, supply chain, or marketing gaps, and suggest tailored solutions to address bottlenecks. SME support will involve training modalities that will include coaching through the venture lifecycle, involving one-to-one personalized training/mentoring to growth-oriented enterprises, based on their specific demand.
- **Access to day-to-day services:** The SME TA Facility will provide access to a suite of "everyday" BDS, such as accounting, legal, financial, and technical services, along with access to shared physical workspace, housed in the PIU offices.
- **Market Linkages Facilitation:** The TA Facility will aim to facilitate both upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs. SMEs have limited market and industry knowledge, which includes poor understanding of buyer quality requirements, inability to meet buyer quantity demands, lack of continuous and reliable upstream supply from primary producers, and a poor understanding of the profitability and market opportunities for various product lines. The SME TA Facility will address these constraints by contributing to the provision of market information to agro-processing SMEs and market chain actors. Provision of information such as regular spot prices of agricultural goods, market intelligence that forecasts information on a range of products, and updated quality and quantity demands from buyers will strengthen the entire market system for agro-processed products. The SME TA Facility will also play a key role in helping to foster commercial linkages between various market chain actors that will include corporate lead firms, supermarkets, distributors, and input suppliers by utilizing a "bottom-up" approach, customizing training to the needs of SMEs to position them as suppliers to larger firms that have been pre-identified.
- **Ecosystem Strengthening:** The TA Facility will help strengthen the wider agribusiness market ecosystem by supporting existing initiatives that have proved successful, such as pitch nights, entrepreneur meet-ups and coffee hours, farmers' markets, and hackathons. The Facility will also address overall coordination gaps in the wider ecosystem, with an aim toward connecting SMEs to other market chain actors, by communicating the needs of wider market actors to the SMEs. This could include delivering specific trainings to market chain actors, such as supermarkets, distributors, transport and logistics companies, wholesalers, and input suppliers. Including in the ecosystem strengthening is enhanced support to BDS providers on agribusiness-specific topics. The agribusiness entrepreneurship ecosystem diagnostic noted a lack of coordination among BDS providers, and poor linkages between SMEs and BDS providers. SMEs often do not know where to turn for specific types of advice and support services, and key skills and service offerings are missing from the BDS market around agribusiness-specific topics.

BDS providers will be invited to participate in trainings and capacity-building being delivered to SMEs, as part of the activities of the SME TA Facility. Additionally, select BDS providers may participate in complementary trainings and workshops on business support topics that are specific to the agribusiness and agro-processing sectors. Facility staff or consultants with industry experience will train BDS providers on potential topics such as sales and marketing, pricing and product positioning strategy, understanding consumer demographics, distribution strategies, compliance, lab testing, international standards and certifications, Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), category management, and packaging strategies. A network and accreditation system will aim to provide information to SMEs on BDS providers that have specific skills and offerings.

Sub-component 2.2: Provision of matching grants to SMEs (US\$3.4 million)

The TA Facility will make available the use of matching grant funds for the following purposes:

- **Matching grants for capital investment (US\$2.9 million)** - The TA Facility will manage a fund that will provide matching grants in the range of US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 50,000 to the cohort of about 60 SMEs for specific business or operational needs that are identified in the action plans developed as part of the deep dive exercise conducted in sub-component 2.1. If the action plan has identified a specific need that can be addressed through expansion capital, such as purchase of new equipment, the SME would be eligible to apply for a grant that covers up to 80 percent of the cost, with up to 20 percent of matched by the firm (both cash and in-kind), and/or external finance. Higher grant coverage may be allowed for special cases of youth entrepreneurs and women. The Facility will invite financial institutions to assess the SMEs and consider providing necessary funds to support their growth. SMEs involved in agro processing, food processing, value addition – either through product transformation or quality upgrades – will be eligible for matching grants.
- **Matching grants for technical assistance and expert advice (US\$500 thousand)** - Grants will be made available to SMEs to fund advice by an outside expert consultant, advisor, or from a service that can be provided by a BDS provider from a roster of providers that have been trained and credentialed by the Facility. This will occur when an SME's business action plan has identified specific technical assistance areas that the firm could benefit from, that exist outside the expertise contained internally within the Facility. This window will provide grant funding to cover the expenses of such advisory services, and can cover up to 90 percent of the total support costs, with firm contribution being either cash or in-kind.

1.5.3 Component 3

Project implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$2 million)

The overall day to day coordination and management of the project will be carried out by a dedicated Project Coordination Unit, (PCU), under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The PCU will be comprised of a lean team of specialists with strong project management experience whose sole function will be coordinating and managing the technical components of the project. The project will specifically support: (i) PCU staff salaries, equipment and operating costs, including operational costs required to coordinate project implementation and the costs of the National Project Steering Committee. The PCU will have primary responsibility for implementing the non-fiduciary aspects of project activities. The Project Fiduciary Management Unit, (PFMU), established under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, will be responsible for all fiduciary functions, including procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and internal audit. The Project will pay a management fee to the PFMU for the support of project related fiduciary functions. Even though monitoring and evaluation is housed in the PFMU, the project is expected to recruit an M&E officer that will be responsible for establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework and collect data to track performance on outcome, intermediate outcome, and output indicators. This is necessary because the role of the PFMU is to collate data on project performance from project M&E staff.

1.6 Overview of Key Challenges and Risks

Political and governance risk are judged to be substantial in terms of their effect on the SLAPCP's development objectives. Political risk is considered high given the fragile country context and uncertainties relating to the recently concluded elections in April 2018. Economic activities slowed down because of the political uncertainties that resulted from the outcomes of the first-round elections on 7 March 2018 and from potential for political violence during the protracted elections run-off. However, the run-off elections concluded peacefully and the newly elected Government has committed to sustained and focused business and regulatory reforms in agribusiness sector. Despite this commitment and the importance of the agriculture and agribusiness sectors in the economy, there is a risk of patchy political commitment to deal with substantive business environment and regulatory reforms because of vested interests and intertwining of economic and political power.

Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability are judged to be substantial. A major risk is failure in project coordination, especially among and within MDAs, non-state actors, and private agribusiness. Many development initiatives fail to achieve their expected results because of weak coordination during implementation. Private investors and other stakeholders consistently pointed out that institutions that provide critical support services to private sector investors remain weak and coordination amongst them is fragmented. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring that the PCU has clear mechanisms for effective coordination during project implementation. Coordination mechanisms will be built into the annual work planning process of technical PCUs that are implementing this project, SCADEP, and Skills Development Project. In addition, resources will be provided to strengthen coordination mechanisms on SME development at MTI as well as between SLIEPA and SLSB, including their engagement with industry associations, such as SLECAD.

Weak GoSL buy in and engagement on business and regulatory reforms, lack of awareness of the importance of aftercare and insufficient budgetary and human resources for SLIEPA and SLSB to carry out the activities may hamper the success of business environment reforms and institutional development to support agribusiness investment and trade. To mitigate this risk, the SLAPCP will involve relevant MDAs, government agencies, private sector representatives and intermediaries, such as chambers, associations, foreign representations, and the local and foreign investors themselves; civil society organizations (CSOs); local community representatives through a consultative process designed to ensure their buy-in and participation during project implementation.

As the market for BDS provision is highly fragmented, there are risks involved in the coordination of service provision, competition between actors, and the potential to distort the market for such services. Key to the successful implementation of these activities will be convening as many actors as possible, developing a strong and inclusive network of BDS providers that is open to as many as can apply and meet basic selection criteria, and a standardization of the training. The program will be delivered with an eye toward its financial sustainability, building into the model a price point for service provision that is feasible for continuation of the services after the program itself ends.

An SME scoping missions identified strong demand for capital from the potential beneficiaries but there are risks arising from low interest of SMEs and financial institutions, elite capture, and limited impact from the interventions. To mitigate these risks, the project will organize marketing and communication campaigns on the TA Facility; potential beneficiaries will be identified through industry associations and other development initiatives; and the grant for SMEs will be provided as complementary technical assistance from service providers who will be closely monitored by the Facility manager. The partner financial institutions will be required to have periodical meetings for reporting. The selection process of the Facility will ensure strong commitment from the beneficiaries and allow the Facility and the beneficiaries to agree expected outcome of the support.

2 LEGISLATIVE, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

This ESMF has been developed through a combination of ongoing stakeholder meetings and consultations and comprehensive reviews of the SLAPCP Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Project Document Objectives (PDO) and relevant Sierra Leonean legislation, policies and guidelines and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies.

2.1 National Legislations and Policies for Environmental Management

This ESMF has been designed so that all activities and subprojects under the SLAPCP will comply with the relevant laws, policies, regulations and guidelines of Sierra Leone.

Table 2-1: Relevant Sierra Leonean Legislation and Policies

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
National Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991	The Constitution of Sierra Leone is the overarching legal instrument that provides for the protection of the rights of individuals, private property, and sets principles under which citizens may be deprived of their property in the public interest as described in Section 21 of the Sierra Leone Constitution.	The proposed Project should observe the constitution in as far as environmental protection is concerned The project should be consistent with the sustainable development provisions enshrined in the Constitution	There are several provisions in the constitution, which have direct policy, legal and institutional implications towards the appropriate implementation of environmental protection and rehabilitation action plans to avoid, mitigate or compensate the adverse effects of development actions on the existing environment and social dynamics.
Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Act, 2008 (No. 11 of 2008) as amended in 2010.	This Act establishes the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), defines its functions and powers, provides for its organization and administration and provides rules for various matters regarding the environment in Sierra Leone. The Agency is established as a corporate body managed by Board of Directors and an Executive Director. Part IV of the Act exclusively deals with the activities requiring a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and describes	For activities that will require ESIA and/or ESMP to be developed, the ESMP must comply with the requirements of the EPA Acts in the coverage of environmental issues, project details, impacts, legislation, mitigation measures, management plans and procedures.	The EPA was established in July 2008, under the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment (MLCPE). The EPA is responsible for harmonizing the legislative, institutional and policy frameworks for the management of natural resources. It also ensures that obligations “given through Sierra Leone signature to

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
	<p>the permitting processes leading to the acquisition of an environmental licence.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (Amendment) Act confers executive powers to the Chairman of the Board.</p>		<p>Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance" are complied with.</p>
National Environmental Policy	<p>The National Environmental Policy (1994) seeks to achieve sustainable development in Sierra Leone through the implementation of sound environmental management systems which will encourage productivity and harmony between man and his environment. It also promotes efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of nationals, and serves to enrich the understanding of ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation.</p>	<p>The ESMF provides a general option impact analysis with environmental and social criteria and an overall assessment on how to reduce, mitigate, and/or offset adverse risks and impacts and enhance positive impacts and monitor possible environmental and social effects associated with the SLAPCP subprojects.</p>	
National Land Policy (2015)	<p>The National Land Policy promotes the objectives of equal opportunity and sustainable social and economic development. The principles guiding the Land</p>	<p>The SLAPCP recognises the private sector as the engine of growth and development; hence, the ESMF should be</p>	

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
	Policy include: (1) protecting the common national or communal property held in trust for the people; (2) preserving existing rights of private ownership and (3) recognising the private sector as the engine of growth and development, subject to national land-use guidelines and rights of landowners and their descendants.	subject to national land-use guidelines and rights of landowners and their descendants.	
National Water and Sanitation Policy (2010)	<p>This National Water and Sanitation Policy was developed in the light of the increasing challenges to the management to water resources in the country. The Policy covers water resources management, urban water supply and sewerage, rural water supply, hygiene and sanitation legal, regulatory and institutional framework.</p> <p>The Policy responds to the urgent need in Sierra Leone for integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to water management and development as well as the provision of safe and adequate water and adequate sanitation facilities</p>	<p>Because agro-processing demands the use of water resources and adherence to good water, sanitation and hygiene practices, the SLAPCP should take into consideration the provisions of the National Water and Sanitation Policy.</p> <p>The ESMP, if relevant, should conform to the requirement of the Policy.</p> <p>For SMEs activities that plan to abstract water from underground sources such as a borehole they will have to apply for an abstraction permit from the Ministry of Water Resources</p>	
The Forestry Act: 1988	Section 18 of the Forestry Act stipulates that: The Chiefdom Authorities or Local Council of any chiefdom may conclude an agreement with the Chief Conservator of forests providing for the constitution as a community forest of any land within the chiefdom, subject to the approval of the District Officer for the District in which the land is situated.	SLAPCP may involve earthmoving to clear and construct agro-processing facilities.	Using this Act as a guide in its operations, SLAPCP subprojects should study the vegetation and adopt prudent measures to minimize the clearing of vegetation and re-vegetate exposed surfaces.

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
Forestry Regulations, 1989	These are regulations that give effect to the Forestry Act, 1988. They state conditions under which a licence may be issued by an inspector of the Forestry Division, to clear land in a classified forest for various activities. They also deal with conditions under which, deforestation of, or vegetation removal can be affected.	This gives clarity to the Forestry Act, 1988, providing the necessary regulations to give effect to the Act. SLAPCP activities should pay heed to forestry rules and regulations.	
The Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972	<p>The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1972 came into force to help regulate the utilization and protection of the wildlife resources of Sierra Leone. However, Section 3 of this Act is particularly to establish strict natural reserves for the protection, of the land, flora and fauna from destruction and injury by any activities or projects.</p> <p>The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1972 was amended 1990 (the Wildlife Conservation Amendment Act), this amendment included redefinition of terms, and other modifications and qualifications.</p> <p>Further to this, the wildlife regulations of 1997, makes provision for the acquisition of licence and permits for hunting in designated areas. Any breach of the licence conditions can result in the licence being revoked by the Authorities concern.</p>	<p>The SLAPCP subprojects may be located within and around forest reserve in Sierra Leone. Agro-processing is prohibited in natural reserves. It must be ensured that such activities do not take place in such designated areas.</p> <p>Thus, a comprehensive EIA on such protected areas, habitats and species is imperative to document the SLAPCP's footprints for which the EIA document provides recommendations for the management of its impact.</p>	Forest Reserves are homes to various endangered species, including a wide variety of endangered birds and Duiker.
The Wildlife Regulations, 1997.	These regulations give effect to the Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972. They make provision for the acquisition of licences or permits for various activities in wildlife conservation areas. They also outline conditions for revocation of such licences.	<p>Agro-processing is prohibited in natural reserves. It must be ensured that such activities do not take place in such designated areas.</p> <p>SLAPCP will carry out all its operations and activities in accordance with the acts, policies</p>	Current wildlife legislation is widely recognised as out of date. The Wildlife Conservation Act of 1972 does not reflect the great advances in biodiversity conservation in the last forty years, nor

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
		and regulations on conservation of wildlife.	international obligations. Draft Wildlife Conservation Regulations of 1997 were not promulgated and do not reflect modern conservation requirement. Given that wildlife management is currently part of the forestry sector, Forestry legislation is important, but again the Forestry Act of 1988 and its implementing Regulations of 1990 are not compatible with modern forest or wildlife management.
The Factories Act: 1974	<p>The Factories Act of 1974 addresses issues related to workers Occupational Health Safety in factories. A part of the slope stabilization activities falls within the definition of a factory based on the following conditions.</p> <p>Part II section 3(v)- “any premises in which mechanical power is used regarding the making or repair of articles of metal or wood incidental to any business carried on by way of trade or for purposes of gain”.</p> <p>The Factories Act also includes machines safety, safe working conditions, sanitary amenities, periodic inspections, factory registration, and guidelines for reporting injuries, accidents and industrial diseases.</p>	<p>SLAPCP subprojects should maintain robust occupational health and safety policy that encompasses all the concerns in the Act and with consideration to international best practice.</p> <p>SLAPCP needs to observe internationally accepted Occupational Safety and Health principles (e.g., ILO Guidelines) to ensure optimal security and wellbeing within its working environment.</p> <p>The safety, health and welfare of all the workers associated with the proposed Project will need to be assured in line with all the provisions of this Act throughout the Project lifecycle.</p>	

Legislation/Policy	Summary	Relevance	Comments
		All the work places of the project beneficiaries would be required to be registered with the directorate of occupational safety and health	
	The Act establishes the Local Council (LC) as the highest political authority in the locality and confers legislative and executive powers to be exercised in accordance with this Act. This Act in its First Schedule under Section 2 establishes the localities, namely: districts, towns and cities. Part II of this schedule also establishes the number of Paramount Chiefs in each LC. The Third Schedule establishes the functions devolved to the LCs.	Public consultation and community involvement constitute a core element of MAFFS operations. The implementation of the SLAPCP will be done in collaboration with the local council.	
The Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act, 2016	Provides for the development of Sierra Leone Local content in a range of sectors of the economy such as industrial, manufacturing, mining, petroleum, marine resources, agriculture, transportation, maritime, aviation, hotel and tourism, procurement of goods and services; public works, construction and energy sectors; to promote the ownership and control of productive sectors in the economy by citizens of Sierra Leone; and to provide for other related matters.	The SLAPCP will create employment, respectively, the beneficiaries, especially SMEs are bound by this law to abide to its stipulations on employee management and relations	

2.2 World Bank Safeguards Requirements

The World Bank projects and activities are governed by Operational Policies (OP), which are designed to ensure that the projects are economically, financially, socially and environmentally sound. The World Bank has specific safeguard policies, which include Environmental and Social Assessments and policies designed to prevent unintended adverse effects on third parties, Project Affected Peoples (PAP) and the environment.

According to the Project Appraisal Document and for the ESMF, only the policy on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) is triggered by the SLAPCP.

2.2.1 Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)

The Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP/BP 4.01) requires environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for World Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thus to improve decision making. The EA is a process whose breadth, depth, and type of analysis depend on the nature, scale, and potential environmental impact of the proposed investments under the SLAPCP. The EA process considers the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cultural property) and transboundary and global environmental aspects.

The environmental and social impacts of the SLACP will come from the proposed investment activities under Components 1, 2 and 3. However, since the exact location of these investments/subprojects will not be identified before Bank appraisal of the SLAPCP, the EA process calls for the GoSL to prepare an ESMF. The ESMF will establish a mechanism to determine and assess future potential environmental and social impacts during implementation of the SLACP subprojects, and then to set out mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during operations of these activities, to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels.

The Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP/BP 4.01) further requires that the ESMF Report must be disclosed by the GoSL and the World Bank as a condition for Bank appraisal of the SLAPCP. The disclosure should be both in Sierra Leone where it can be accessed by the public and local communities and at the Info shop of the World.

The World Bank undertakes environmental screening of each proposed project to determine the appropriate extent and type of environmental assessment. The Bank classifies the proposed project into one of three categories, depending on the type, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project and the nature and magnitude of its potential environmental impacts. The World Bank environmental assessment categories are defined below:

- **Category A:** A proposed project is classified as Category A if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area broader than the sites or facilities subject to physical works. Environmental assessment for a Category A project examines the project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts, compares them with those of feasible alternatives (including the "without project" situation), and recommends any measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance.
- **Category B:** A proposed project is classified as Category B if its potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas--including wetlands, forests, grasslands, and other natural habitats--are less adverse than those of Category A projects. These impacts are site-specific; few if any of them are irreversible; and in most cases mitigatory measures can be designed more readily than for Category A projects. The scope of environmental assessment for a Category B project may vary from project to project, but it is narrower than that of Category A environmental assessment. Like Category A environmental assessment, it examines the project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts and recommends any measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance.
- **Category C:** A proposed project is classified as Category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. Beyond screening, no further EA action is required for a Category C project.

This ESMF also outlines the EPA-SL's ESIA/ESMP procedures and processes to be undertaken for implementation of subproject in the SLAPCP when they are being identified and implemented. These processes and procedures set out the requirements the SLAPCP and its implementing partners should use to screen their activities to identify potential adverse impacts and thereby determine the corresponding mitigation measures to incorporate into their planned activities.

The SLAPCP excludes any sub-project classified as Category A.

2.3 Institutional Framework

Various institutions will have responsibilities as implementing partners for specific SLAPCP activities that are directly related to specific functional areas that they have been assigned responsibilities consistent with support for promoting agro-processing competitiveness.

2.3.1 Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)

The MTI has the sole mandate of developing policies and programmes to stimulate local and export trade as well as to enhance private sector investment, industrial and economic growth. SLAPCP will support the MTI in strengthening their capacity to (i) provide clearly defined services that support agro processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for agro processing actors and related institutions and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority identification; (ii) strengthen communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project, expected deliverables, and linkages with other projects; (iii) support development of a cadre of senior and mid-level professionals on agribusiness through targeted training activities.

2.3.2 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)

The MAFFS is mandated with the implementation of government's agricultural, forestry and food security policies. MAFFS is currently implementing the SCADeP, which is a five years program that seeks to promote agricultural productivity through improved access to markets, improved access to finance as well as development of inclusive smallholder farmer agribusiness linkages in the targeted project areas of Sierra Leone. SLAPCP will leverage the SCADeP experience and expertise to create business linkages between producers of agricultural commodities, processors and consumers and provide timely information about the availability and demand for agricultural commodities to support agro processing and marketing.

2.3.3 Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA)

The SLIEPA has prioritized increased investment inflows in agribusiness as a key objective in its Strategic Plan, 2016 – 2018, which aims to attract domestic and foreign direct investments and to develop and diversify exports, particularly in the agricultural sector. SLAPCP Subcomponent 1.2 will support SLIEPA to develop and implement an aftercare program for the retention and expansion for agribusiness investors. Support for capacity building will focus on study tours and experience sharing visits to learn from and benchmark achievements from other Investment Promotion Agencies.

2.3.4 Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDA)

SMEDA was established to create a conducive environment within which small and medium enterprises can thrive and operate, to provide for Sierra Leone's fiscal, monetary and banking policy, trade and industry, technology, marketing, infrastructural and institutional development, and for other related matters. SMEDA's objective is to promote a conducive business environment, including an efficient and effective service delivery network to empower and develop SMEs for growth, productivity, and competitiveness.

2.3.5 Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)

This Environment Protection Agency Act (2008; Amended 2010) established the Environment Protection Agency-Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), defines its functions and powers, provides for its organization and administration and provides rules for various matters regarding the environment in Sierra Leone. Part IV of the EPA Act exclusively deals with the activities requiring a full environmental and social impact assessment and describes the permitting processes leading to the acquisition of an EIA Licence. Environmental management tools (e.g., ESMF, ESMP, ESIA, etc.) that are being developed to address identified environmental and social risks during SLAPCP preparation will be done in collaboration with the EPA-SL, which has the national mandate to ensure compliance with environmental and social safeguard issues.

2.4 Biophysical Setting

The specific location of all Project related activities is not known at this time but it is expected to be in major urban centres where target beneficiaries are concentrated. This chapter describes the overall baseline condition of Sierra Leone in terms of biophysical environment, as well as the socio-economic context. Existing environmental and socio-economic conditions will, in many cases, provide a basis for predicting potential impacts of the project components and sub-components.

The total land area of the country is approximately 72,000 km². Sierra Leone is divided into arable agricultural land (60%), pastoral (18%), mangrove and inland swamps (8%), and forest under protection and management (4.5%) and others (9.75%). The country is divided into three distinct physiographic regions running from the north –east to the south west viz: the coastal plains, interior plains and the interior plateau. The coastal plains are low lying areas comprising mostly of swamps and extending 30 km inland from the coast (see Figure 2-1).

Sierra Leone has a wet tropical climate, marked by distinct wet and dry seasons. The wet or rainy season is from May to October and the dry season from November to April. Both seasons may have some variations in their commencement and duration. The wet season has an average rainfall of 3,000 mm, with coastal and southern areas receiving from 3,000 to 5,000 mm annually and inland areas between 2,000–2,500 mm in the drier areas of the north–west to the north–east (see Figure 2-2).

Air pollution is a major problem but no significant studies on air pollution have been carried out in urban centres in Sierra Leone. Major sources of air pollution in Freetown city are vehicular exhaust emissions, industrial activities, sand and quarry industries, road and building industries, all which produce enormous amounts of pollutants in their vicinity.

Major sources of noise pollution include traffic noise and road construction. With increased road traffic, noise will affect all those living along the roads. Due to power cuts in many urban centres, electric generators have now become significant sources of noise pollution. In many instances industrial generators are used in residential areas hence causing a lot of noise pollution.

Sierra Leone is not a water deficient country. About 4,837.8 km² of Sierra Leone is covered by wetlands with vegetation that is typically of freshwater swamp forests, riparian and mangroves. The forest ecosystems can be divided into closed forests and transition or secondary forests. The closed forests can further be sub-divided into evergreen and semi-deciduous forests. The area of forest in the country has been reduced considerably, with less than 5% of the original forest remaining in isolated reserves. Mangrove woodlands occupy 47% of the Sierra Leone coastline, covering a total area of approximately 200,000 ha (see Figure 2-3).

Although Sierra Leone is a tropical country and has ten rivers, much of the population do not have access to potable water supply. Agriculture is the largest water consumer. Despite the efforts to improve the situation, water shortages and quality degradation are common problems in Sierra Leone.

The soil resources of Sierra Leone can be categorised into five orders (and several series): Oxisols, Inceptisols, Entisols, Ultisols and Spodosols. Oxisols are the most widespread followed by Inceptisols and Entisols. Ultisols and Spodosols are also present but are rare.

Figure 2-1: Physical regions of Sierra Leone

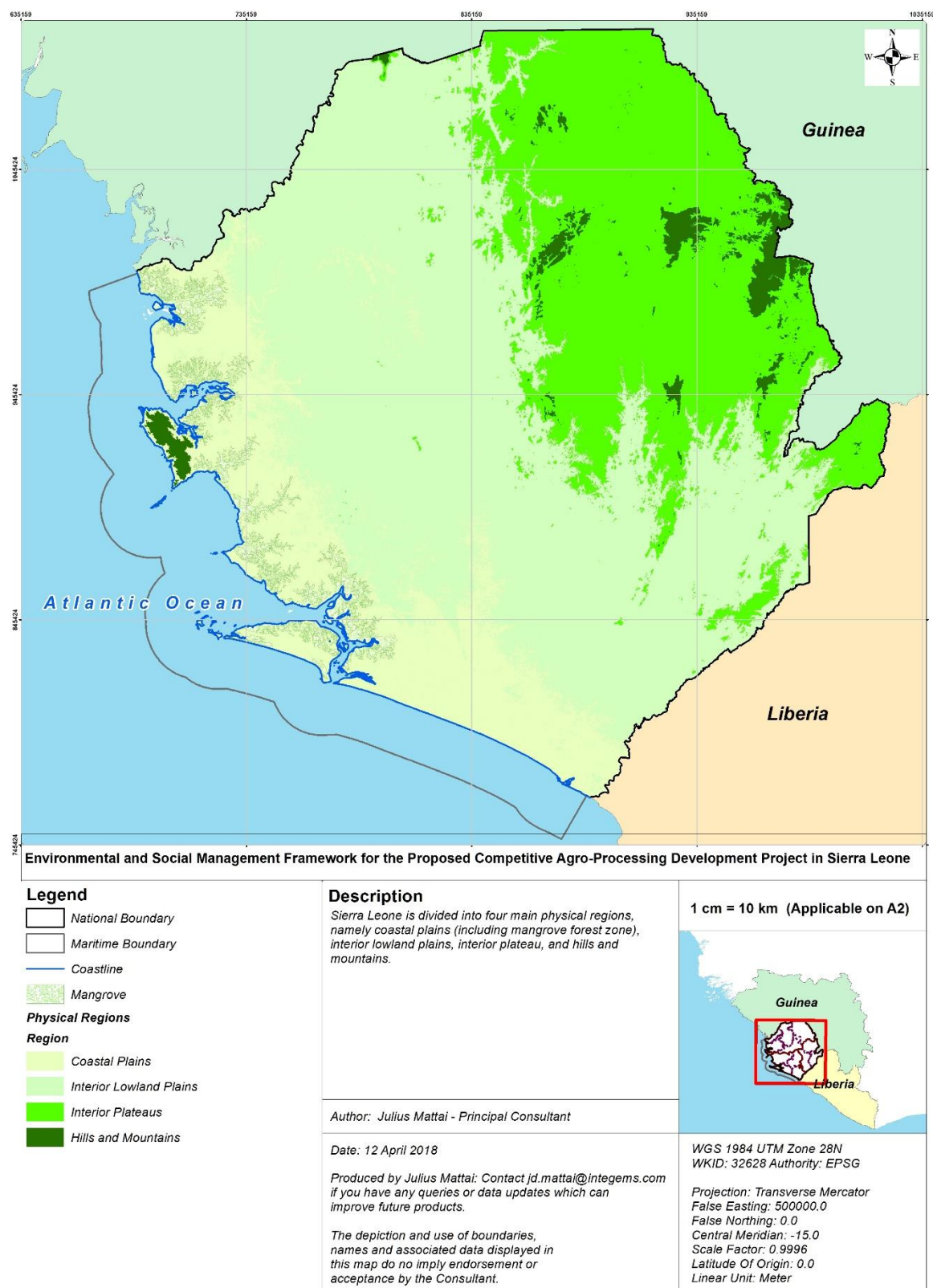


Figure 2-2: Rainfall distribution in Sierra Leone

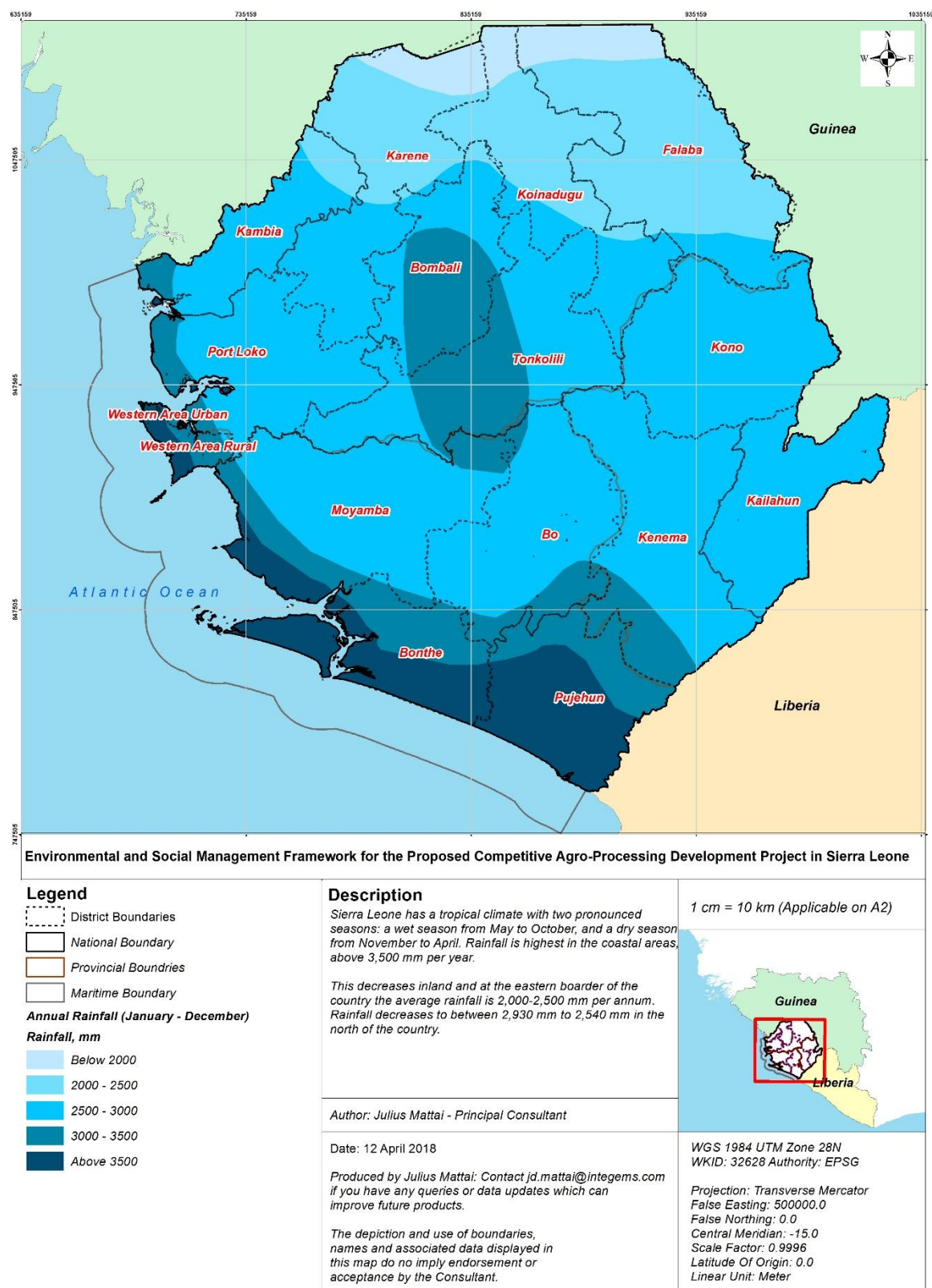
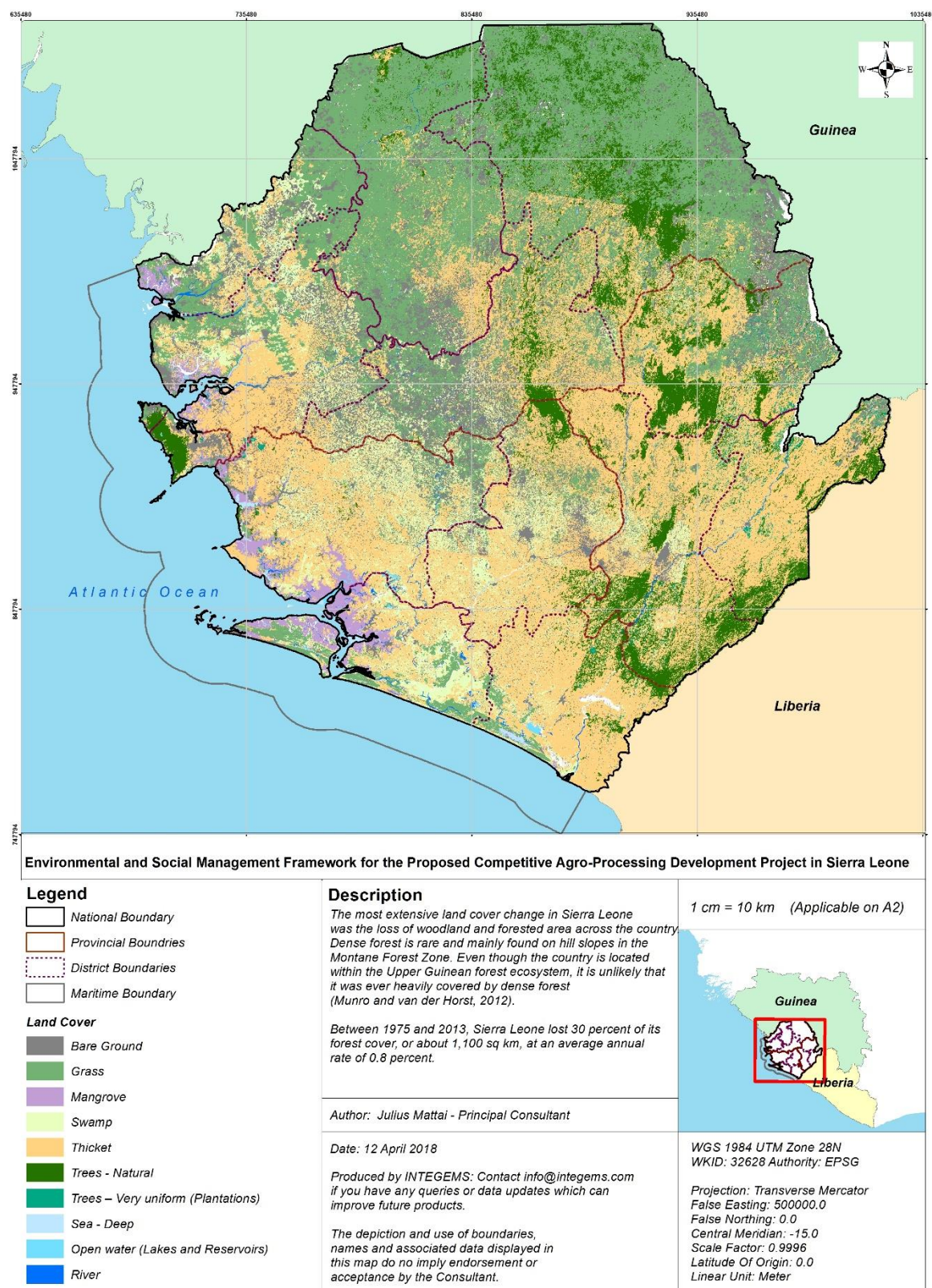


Figure 2-3: Land cover/vegetation of Sierra Leone



2.5 Socio-economic Setting

Administratively, Sierra Leone is divided into various administrative areas/units (see Figure 2-4). The administrative structure starting from the top to the bottom is: Country, Province/Area, District, Chiefdom, Section and Village/Town: Eastern Province, with its Headquarter in Kenema; Northern Province, with its Headquarter in Makeni; North-western Province, with its Headquarter in Port Loko; Southern Province, with its Headquarter in Bo; and Western Area, with the Capital City (Freetown).

Sierra Leone's civil war (1991-2002) eroded infrastructure and human capacity throughout the country. Efforts made in the post conflict phase to improve the health sector suffered a major blow in the Ebola crisis (2014-2015), which created an additional burden on the health sector and the country. The lack of domestic resources in Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest and least-developed countries, leaves the country dependent upon international support in terms of finance, technology and other forms of aid. Sierra Leone remains largely dependent upon its minerals economy, including iron, diamonds and rutile, which are major sources of foreign exchange.

Sierra Leone suffer from mass poverty (more than half of the population lives under conditions of "severe" poverty), widespread malnutrition, high infant and child mortality rates, low life expectancy, deficient infrastructure, a poor education system, and insufficient availability of basic medical services to cope with tropical diseases malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and EVD. While much of the population is poor, there is a high level of gender inequality, with women affected far more dramatically by the consequences of poverty than are men.

The Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census, conducted in December 2015, indicates that the population grew from 4,976,871 in 2004 to 7,092,113 in 2015, registering an average annual growth rate of 3.2 percent. Males represented 49.1% of the total population and females 50.9%. The 2015 PHC results reflect the demographic profile of a young population, where 40.9 percent are less than 15 years, and only 3.5 percent are 65 years and above. The working age population (15-64 years) represents 55.6 percent (see Table 2-3 and Figure 2-5).

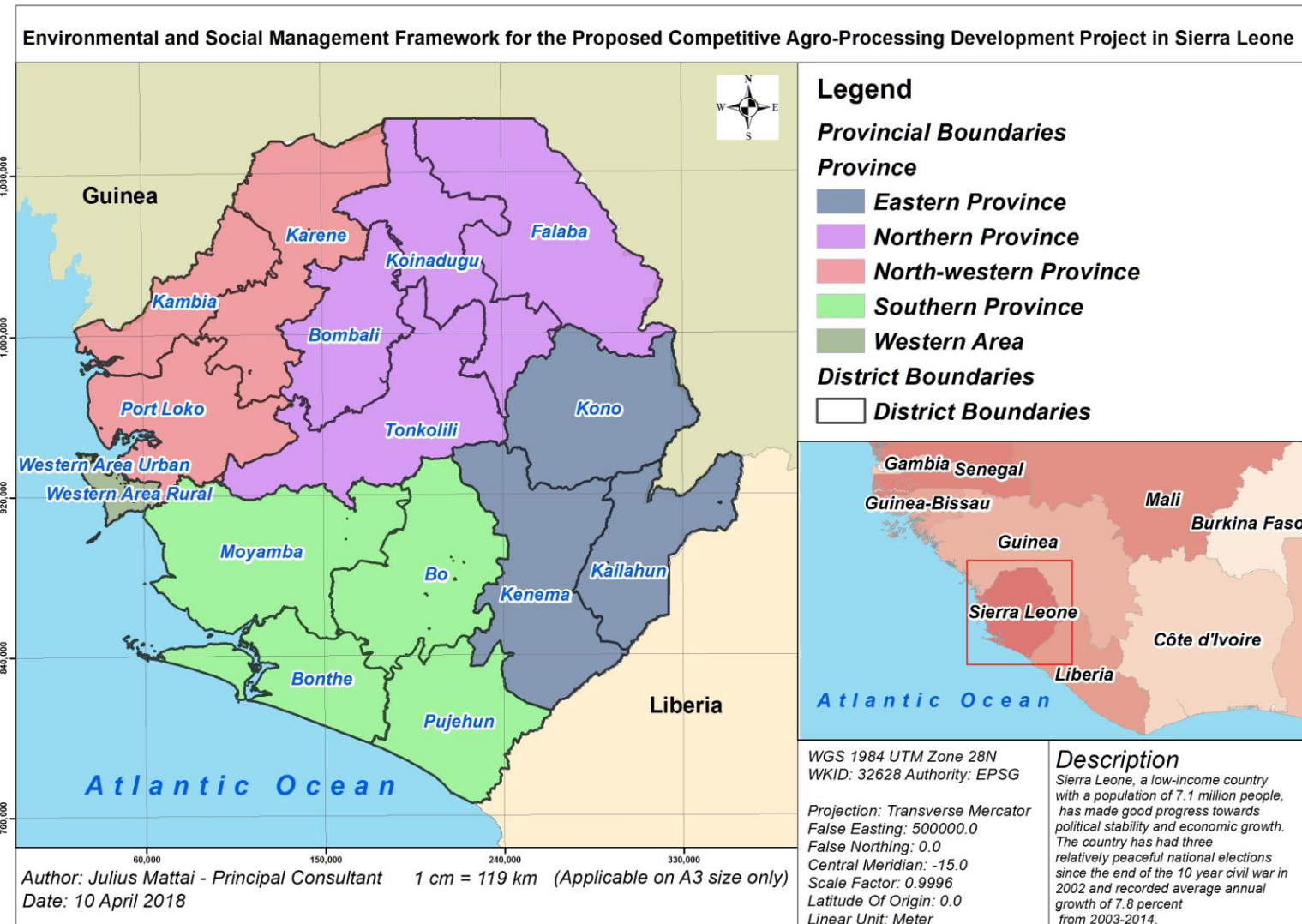
Agriculture has been the backbone of the Sierra Leone economy for several decades. It contributes 40 to 50% of GDP, about 10% of exports, and provides employment to approximately two-thirds of the population. Whilst agricultural growth has significant poverty reduction effects, the sector is characterized largely by smallholders, practicing mainly subsistence agriculture.

Sierra Leone has an extensive coastline with a sizeable continental shelf (covering an area of over 25,000 square kilometres and a width of up to 140 kilometres in the north) that is fed by substantial rivers and rainfall, providing the basic elements for extremely productive marine fisheries. Based on these resources, the fisheries sector provides direct employment to an estimated 100,000 persons and indirect employment to some 500,000 persons (almost 10 percent of the population).

Sierra Leone is reasonably well endowed with energy resources, particularly biomass energy (forestry), hydroelectricity and other renewable energy sources (e.g. solar energy). There is an extensive road network but most are poorly maintained and unsurfaced (see Figure 2-6). There is also an extensive network of rivers and tributaries that provide a large hydroelectric power potential conservatively estimated at 1,200 MW. Energy consumption in Sierra Leone is dominated by biomass, mainly in the form of fuel wood and charcoal which accounts for over 83% of energy used. Imported petroleum products are the next largest source of power at approximately 15.8%. Grid-generated electricity accounts for the remainder of the power supplied to the country's citizens. Currently, the electricity sub-sector in Sierra Leone faces challenges with less than 13% access.

In 1993 the government adopted a four-stage approach 6-3-3-4 education system and created the National Commission for Basic Education. The 6-3-3-4 education system is composed of 6 years of formal primary education, 3 years of junior secondary school(JSS), 3 years of senior secondary school (SSS) and 4 years of tertiary level education (colleges, universities, polytechnics and teacher training). There are four universities in Sierra Leone: The Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (1827); Njala University (1910 and became a university in 2005); University of Makeni (2005); and Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (2016).

Figure 2-4: Sierra Leone administrative boundaries



Land tenure in Sierra Leone is characterised by a dual ownership structure. In the Western Area including Freetown, private ownership of land also known as freehold tenure is recognised. Land in the rest of the country (i.e. the Provinces) is held in communal ownership under customary tenure and is controlled by traditional chiefs who administer it on behalf of their communities in accordance with customary principles and usage.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) is the major health care provider in Sierra Leone and operates all government health facilities in the country. The public delivery system starts from the peripheral health units (PHU) which are recognized and standardized. At the base, community health workers (CHWs) work out in the community providing a fixed package of health promotion and health care services, as well as conducting surveillance activities.

Table 2-2: Sierra Leone Country Profile

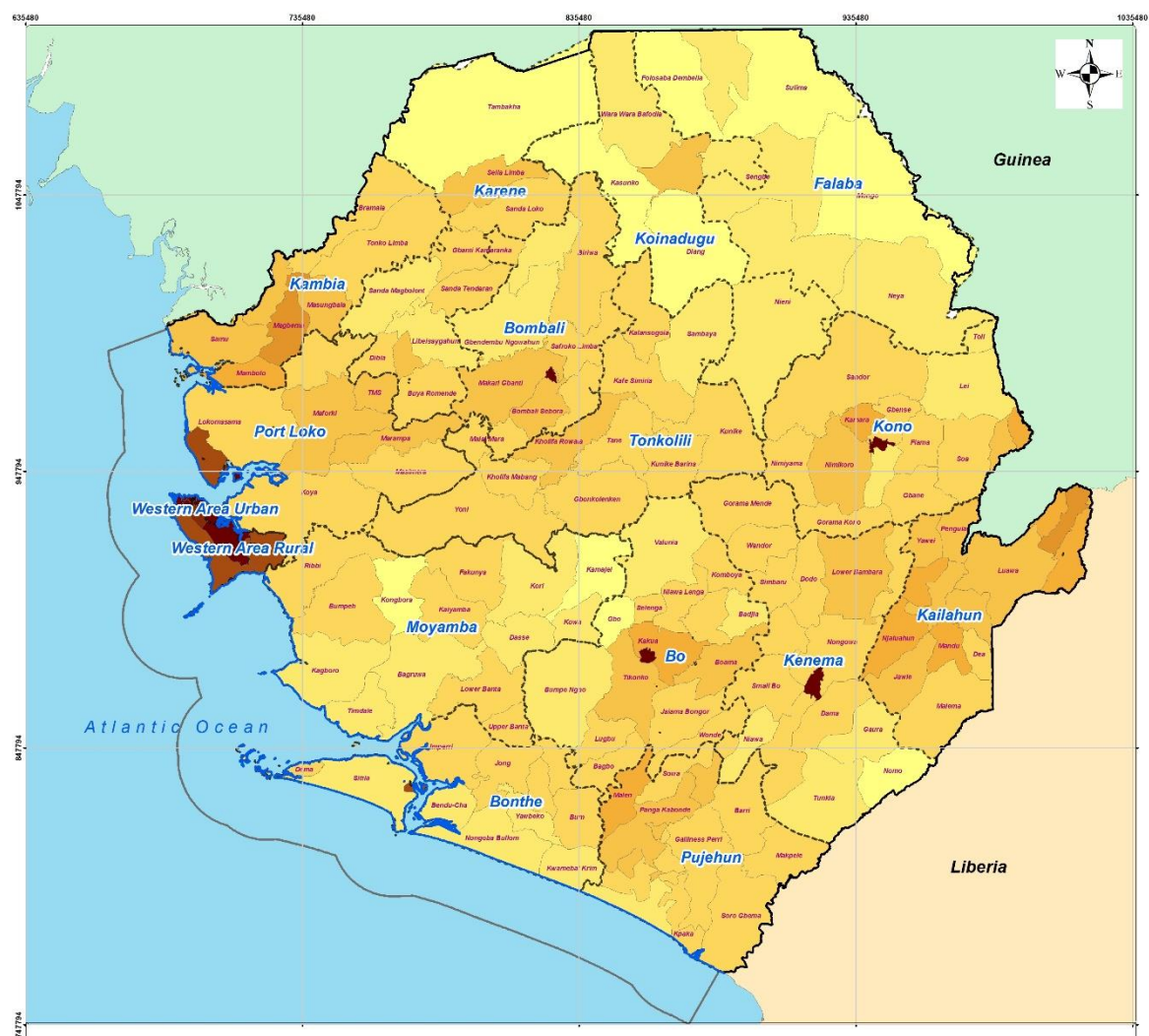
	1990	2000	2010	2016
World view				
Population, total (millions)	4.31	4.56	6.46	7.4
Population growth (annual %)	1.5	2.8	2.3	2.2
Surface area (sq. km) (thousands)	72.3	72.3	72.3	72.3
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)	59.7	63.2	89.5	103
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of population)	..	66.4	52.9	..
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)	65.5	58.5	52.3	..
GNI, Atlas method (current US\$) (billions)	0.8	0.66	2.73	3.61
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	190	140	420	490
GNI, PPP (current international \$) (billions)	3.11	3.2	7.79	9.75
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	720	700	1,210	1,320
People				
Income share held by lowest 20%	..	6.6	7.9	..
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	37	39	48	51
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	6.7	6.3	5.2	4.6
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	182	159	133	117
Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	3	4	11	17
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	..	37	61	60
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	264	236	160	120
Prevalence of underweight, weight for age (% of children under 5)	25.4	24.7	21.1	18.1
Immunisation, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)	..	37	81	83
Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	..	..	75	66
School enrolment, primary (% gross)	51.9	67.7	125	128
School enrolment, secondary (% gross)	18	27	44	43
School enrolment, primary and secondary, gender parity index (GPI)	1	1	1	1
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)	0.4	1	1.7	1.7
Environment				
Forest area (sq. km) (thousands)	31.2	29.2	27.3	30.4
Terrestrial and marine protected areas (% of total territorial area)	0.9	2.6	..	3.8
Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (% of internal resources)	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Improved water source (% of population with access)	37	47	57	63

	1990	2000	2010	2016
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	10	11	13	13
Urban population growth (annual %)	2.2	3.5	3.1	3.1
Energy use (kg of oil equivalent per capita)	..	..	..	..
CO ₂ emissions (metric tons per capita)	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.18
Electric power consumption (kWh per capita)	..	..	..	..
Economy				
GDP (current US\$) (billions)	0.65	0.64	2.62	3.67
GDP growth (annual %)	3.3	6.7	5.4	6.1
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	70.6	3.3	17.2	4.2
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	47	58	55	61
Industry, value added (% of GDP)	19	28	8	6
Services, etc., value added (% of GDP)	34	13	37	33
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	35	18	17	24
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	34	39	34	54
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	13	1	31	18
Revenue, excluding grants (% of GDP)	5.6	11.4	9.7	9.8
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (% of GDP)	..	..	-6.1	-3
States and markets				
Domestic credit provided by financial sector (% of GDP)	36.3	54.4	17.1	18.1
Tax revenue (% of GDP)	5.3	10.2	8.9	8.6
Military expenditure (% of GDP)	1.9	3.7	1	0.8
Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	0	0.3	34.8	97.6
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	0	0.1	0.6	11.8
High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)	..	28	..	0
Overall level of statistical capacity (scale 0 - 100)	..	..	52	63
Global links				
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	44	25	42	60
Net barter terms of trade index (2000 = 100)	..	100	71	44
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$) (millions)	1,197	1,248	931	1,378
Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and primary income)	10.1	76.4	2.7	2.3
Net migration (thousands)	-450	500	-21	..
Personal remittances, received (current US\$) (millions)	0	7	44	59
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$) (millions)	32	39	238	519
Net official development assistance received (current US\$) (millions)	59.3	181	458	946
<p>Source: World Development Indicators database, World Development Indicators: 09/18/2017 Figures in blue refer to periods other than those specified.</p>				

Table 2-3: Distribution of population by type, district and sex

District	Total Population			Household Population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Kailahun	526,379	260,586	265,793	525,674	260,060	265,614
Kenema	609,891	301,104	308,787	609,427	300,755	308,672
Kono	506,100	252,751	253,349	505,491	252,295	253,196
Bombali	606,544	296,683	309,861	605,741	296,123	309,618
Kambia	345,474	165,541	179,933	344,095	164,749	179,346
Koinadugu	409,372	204,498	204,874	408,687	203,951	204,736
Port Loko	615,376	294,954	320,422	612,920	293,456	319,464
Tonkolili	531,435	263,152	268,283	531,140	262,910	268,230
Bo	575,478	280,569	294,909	574,026	279,640	294,386
Bonthe	200,781	99,014	101,767	200,771	99,007	101,764
Moyamba	318,588	153,699	164,889	318,002	153,467	164,535
Pujehun	346,461	168,869	177,592	346,366	168,803	177,563
Western Area Rural	444,270	221,351	222,919	443,068	220,536	222,532
Western Area Urban	1,055,964	528,207	527,757	1,050,711	523,881	526,830
Total Country	7,092,113	3,490,978	3,601,135	7,076,119	3,479,633	3,596,486

Figure 2-5: Population density at Chiefdom level in Sierra Leone



Environmental and Social Management Framework for the Proposed Competitive Agro-Processing Development Project in Sierra Leone
















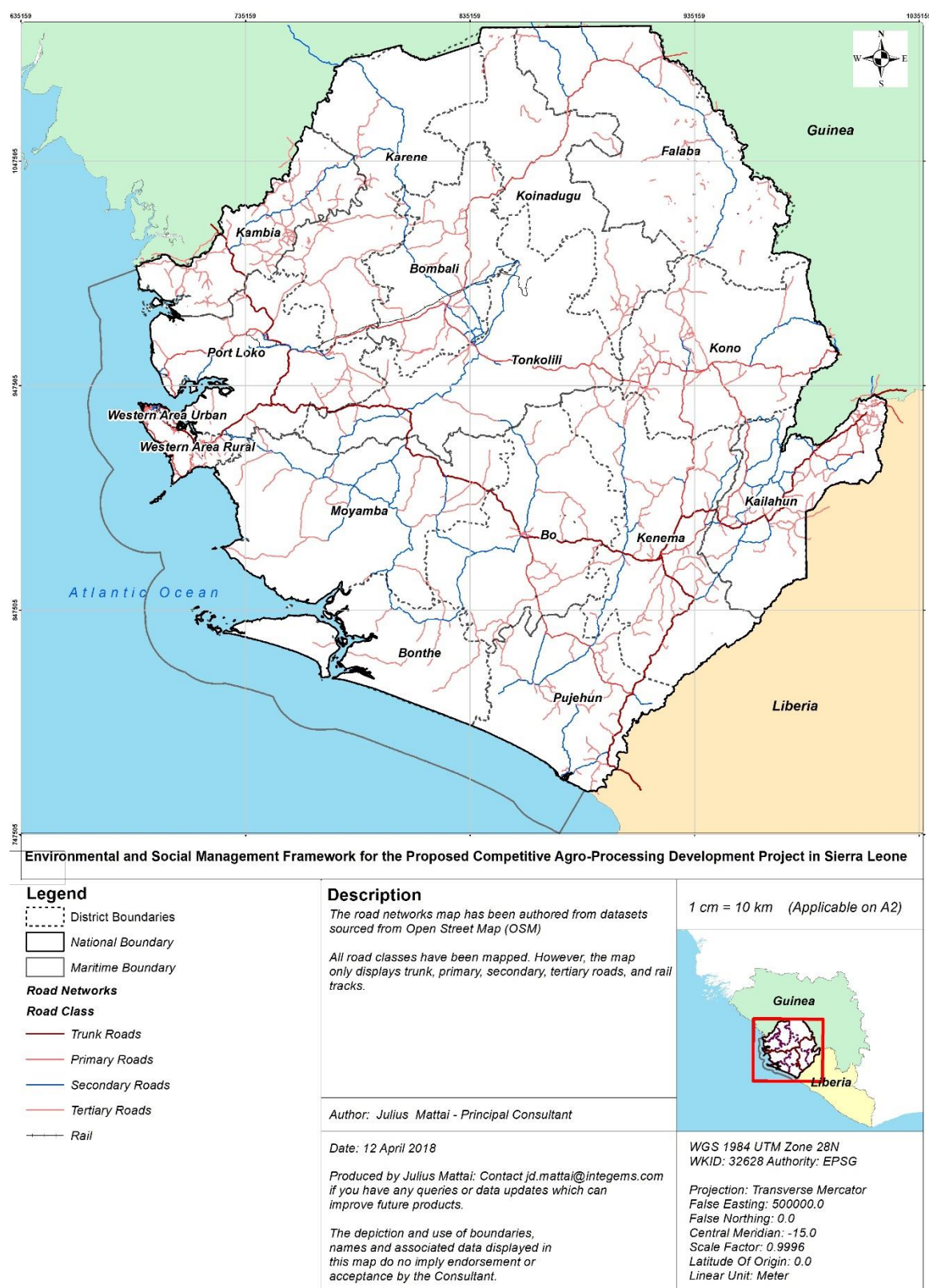
<h3>Legend</h3> <p>  National Boundary  District Boundaries  Coastline  Maritime Boundary </p> <h3>Population Density by Chiefdom</h3> <p>  16 - 30 persons per sq. km  31 - 50 persons per sq. km  51 - 100 persons per sq. km  101 - 150 persons per sq. km  151 - 200 persons per sq. km  201 - 300 persons per sq. km  301 - 400 persons per sq. km  401 - 700 persons per sq. km  701 - 1,300 persons per sq. km  1,301 - 48,283 persons per sq. km </p>	<h3>Description</h3> <p>The population densities for chiefdoms in Sierra Leone has been sourced and mapped from datasets reported in the 2015 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2015) conducted by Statistics Sierra Leone.</p> <p>The number of persons per square kilometre range from 16 in rural communities to 45,000 in cities and big towns.</p> <p>Author: Julius Mattai - Principal Consultant</p> <p>Date: 12 April 2018</p> <p>Produced by Julius Mattai: Contact jd.mattai@integems.com if you have any queries or data updates which can improve future products.</p> <p>The depiction and use of boundaries, names and associated data displayed in this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the Consultant.</p>	<p>1 cm = 10 km (Applicable on A2)</p>  <p>Guinea</p> <p>Liberia</p> <p>WGS 1984 UTM Zone 28N WKID: 32628 Authority: EPSG</p> <p>Projection: Transverse Mercator False Easting: 500000.0 False Northing: 0.0 Central Meridian: -15.0 Scale Factor: 0.9996 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0 Linear Unit: Meter</p>
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Figure 2-6: Road network in Sierra Leone



3 FRAMEWORK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 Objectives of the ESMF

The ESMF outlines the procedures that allow the SLAPCP to avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse environmental and social impacts of supported SMEs. The ESMF provides an environmental screening process and other tools such as ESMP to assess and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts of proposed activities where needed.

The general objective of this ESMF is to provide an overall framework for environmental and social management of the planned project activities under the SLAPCP, which is classified as Category B (Partial) according to World Bank Safeguard Policies (Environmental Assessment OP 4.01), and should be used as a practical tool during project implementation¹.

The ESMF ensures that the implementation of the SLAPCP will be carried out in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. It also ensures that the SLAPCP activities and subprojects are compliant with the relevant requirements of Sierra Leonean policies, regulations and legislations and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures. It explicitly sets out the principles and describes the steps to be undertaken in the selection and implementation of subprojects to be supported under the SLAPCP, so that any identified potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts can be properly managed.

The ESMF also provides a framework to enable screening of sub-projects and institutional mechanisms and responsibilities to address adverse environmental and social impacts. At this stage of the SLAPCP preparation, the exact subproject sites and activities are unknown; hence, this ESMF is being developed to guide the screening of SLAPCP subprojects as they become known during SLAPCP implementation. The screening result will determine the need for further environmental and social assessments to determine the extent of potential environmental and social impacts and the type of instrument(s) to use.

The specific objectives of the ESMF are to:

- Assess the potential environmental and social impacts and present mitigation measures for addressing any potential adverse environmental or social impacts;
- Give an overview of existing policies, legal and administrative frameworks to ensure that environmental and social management and monitoring comply with national environmental requirements and World Bank safeguard policies and procedures;
- To establish clear procedures and methodologies for taking into consideration environmental and social issues during the planning, review, approval, screening and implementation of subprojects to be financed under the SLAPCP;
- Provide guidance for public disclosure and stakeholder consultations, including a description of grievance redress mechanisms (both informal and formal channels) for resolving complaints;
- Give an overview of private investment issues focusing on the agro-processing sector to reflect ongoing and future changes;
- Assess the biophysical and socio-economic settings of the SLAPCP;
- Provide capacity building and training measures to ensure that both ESMF and subsequent ESIAs/ESMPs will be effectively implemented and gender sensitive; and
- Assign roles and responsibilities of the various actors in implementing the ESMF and provide an estimated budget for the implementation of the ESMF.

¹ Category B (Partial) projects are likely to have limited environmental and social impacts, and these impacts are moderate and in most cases manageable.

3.2 Risks and Potential Environmental Impacts of the SLAPCP

It is anticipated that most subproject investments supported in the SLAPCP will be in the services sphere, with low to medium associated environmental impacts (see Table 3-1). The activities of SLAPCP Component 2 (specifically, Sub-component 2.1) beneficiaries, related to the establishment and implementation of the SME Technical Assistance Facility (SME TA Facility), may result in negative environmental impacts, if environmental aspects are ignored or improperly managed, as they relate to the provision of support in areas such as product development, prototyping, market research, visual identity development, packaging and branding, financial management, internal controls, etc.

Other SLAPCP components (i.e., 1 and 3) do not pose such risks, since they are mainly technical assistance, focused on capacity building and training. However, some agro-processing firms and SMEs who receive support from the SLAPCP and improve agribusiness productivity and competitiveness may reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and competitiveness to include activities that may result in negative environmental impacts (e.g., the purchase of new or disposal of old agro processing equipment or technology can contribute to waste management problems).

Furthermore, the direct and indirect SLAPCP beneficiaries are many and diverse; i.e., agro processing actors/SMEs and related institutions and other private sector actors providing products and services to agro-processing, such as equipment supplies, packaging, distribution and logistics services, including the delivery of specific trainings to market chain actors, such as supermarkets, distributors, transport and logistics companies, wholesalers, and input suppliers.

The following potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into broad environmental categories such as air pollution; increased noise levels; poor solid and liquid waste management; occupational health and safety issues; and increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict.

Most of the developments or subprojects planned under the SLAPCP will vary from medium to small in scale. Consequently, the significance of the direct negative environmental and social impacts is likely to be relatively small and localized. However, some subprojects may entail negative impacts including:

- **Air Pollution:** Air quality can be affected by vehicles, generators and machinery with noxious fumes such as carbon monoxide, diesel fumes, as well as burnt oil fumes. Dust also arises from cleared land that has been exposed to the sun, is dried, and the wind carries this material to nearby residences or communities. Similarly, uncovered fines such as sands or even cement can be light enough to be blown by the wind, creating a nuisance to nearby facilities or communities. The mishandling of particularly noxious chemicals such as solvents or chemical washes, greases, as well as the burning of solid wastes on the SME TA Facility site, especially chemical containers, can lead to air pollution resulting in negative health impacts.
- **Increased Noise Levels:** The significant impact of the SLAPCP on the noise environment will be limited in time to the construction and transportation activities. The main sources are (i) noise related to the construction activities for the SME TA Facility (vehicles, machines), and (ii) heavy duty traffic noise along roads crossing inhabited areas, generated by transport of material from/to the TA Facility site. The use of the vibration and / or noise producing equipment can be a potential nuisance to the local community depending on location. It may also create an unacceptable disturbance to various species.
- **Poor Solid and Liquid Waste Management:** The improper management and disposal of both solid and liquid wastes, including instalment and operation of new or disposal of old IT equipment or technology, can be detrimental to both the terrestrial and aquatic environments. The mishandling of construction wastes such as chemicals, detergents, greases, oils, building materials, can lead to the poisoning of the terrestrial environment. The entry into water bodies of any waste or chemical, either through runoff, in drains, or are blown by the wind can also damage a fragile ecosystem. The management of human wastes on site is very critical to ensuring a healthy working environment and reduce the risk of faecal contamination. The management of food wastes is also critical to reducing the incidence of vector entry into an area causing infestation. Improper disposal of human wastes can lead to similar effects.
- **Occupational Health and Safety Issues:** Worker safety is critical to any operation, therefore, mishandling of equipment, the improper storage and usage of various chemicals and materials on site, poor and unsafe working conditions, high levels of continuous noise and fumes, as well as inadequate safety equipment can cause serious injury and down time to the workers and

project and should therefore be avoided. Fuel, oils and solvents from machinery and vehicles can be spilled on site or improperly disposed of, causing soil or water contamination. During construction, and with heavy traffic, there are likely to be increased risks of work accidents, occupational diseases (skin irritation, noise, etc.), including accidental spills of oils and fuels which can affect human health. Best management practices should always be implemented as labour laws hold the employer responsible for the workers safety. Proper facilities will need to be provided for workers in the interest of the workers and the environment.

- **Increased Traffic and Potential for Traffic Conflict:** Access to the SME TA Facility for vehicles can create the possibility of road hazards and community conflict if traffic management procedures are not well managed.

Table 3-1: Potential environmental impacts of the SLAPCP

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
<p>Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms</p> <p><i>The objective of this component is to help reduce burdensome agribusiness sector regulations that constrain productivity and weaken incentives of existing agribusiness firms and SMEs to reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and competitiveness. Project interventions also aim to improve the quantity and quality of existing agro-processing investments through enhanced focus on agribusiness investment retention and expansion and strengthening institutional capabilities that will facilitate investment and trade by agro processing firms and SMEs.</i></p>	<p><i>Sub-component 1.1: Enable business regulations for competitive agro-processing.</i> <i>This sub-component aims to strengthen the business environment for agribusiness investors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen service delivery for agribusiness investors and improve agribusiness sector productivity and competitiveness through reduction in policy inconsistencies, burdensome regulations, and weaknesses in institutional capabilities and coordination. • Enhance dialogue between the public and private sector on agribusiness sector reform priorities through the identification of business regulations that distort or create dis-incentives for agro-processing investments/operations. • Generate evidence and good practices on environmental impact assessment (EIA) for agribusiness to simplify EIA procedures, thereby reducing cost for obtaining environmental licenses and ensuring that the existing legal framework for EIA is adequate. • Strengthen public private dialogue mechanism to provide a structured platform for systematic engagement between the public sector and private investors in the agribusiness subsector. • Strengthen engagement among public and private sector stakeholders in selected agribusiness value chains, including the provision of technical assistance and funding of research and advocacy to set priorities for policy reform. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues • Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p><i>Sub-component 1.2: Target retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the SLIEPA. This sub-component will support SLIEPA to develop and implement an aftercare program for the retention and expansion for agribusiness investors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate solid evidence base from investor perception survey that would increase understanding of the factors that influence the investment decisions of foreign and domestic agribusiness investors and provide an analysis of current and future trends and prospects based on perception of the investment climate • Support agribusiness investor retention and after care, including development of a menu of relevant and high-quality investor aftercare services, capacity building, development of systems and tools (investment information system, investor relationship management system, standards operating procedures, etc.) • Establish effective investment grievance mechanisms to identify mechanisms to address investor grievances in the Sierra Leonean context, including host agency, and potentially establish a Systemic Investor Response Mechanism (SIRM) • Develop capacity building plans to strengthen the capacity of the technical staff to be able to advocate and advice on issues relating to agribusiness investment promotion, export development and policy advocacy. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>Sub-component 1.3: Build institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs. <i>This sub-component aims to strengthen institutional capacity at the SLSB to improve capabilities for enhanced compliance with standards and conformity assessments in Sierra Leone.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (g) Diagnostic assessment of the current status quo of Quality Infrastructure, (QI), institutions, verification of the demand for the QI services, identify essential QI services, and training needs; (h) Identification of key compliance challenges for agro processors, SMEs, and other actors in selected agro-processing value chain; (i) Initiatives to comply with regional and international market standards in selected agro-processing value chain; (j) Upgrade of institutional capacity at the SLSB to address key compliance challenges and solutions that will expand market opportunities for agro processors and SMEs in targeted value chain; (k) Information dissemination and publishing on the SLSB website; and (l) Stakeholder engagement and round table events and coordination of other stakeholders. 	<p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>Sub-component 1.4: Support to MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA for stronger SME coordination. <i>In addition to institutional support for SLIEPA and SLSB, the project will support specific capacity building efforts (functional capacity building) at MTI and SMEDA to strengthen their capacity to provide clearly defined services to support agro-processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for SMEs and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority setting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen capacity of MTI to provide clearly defined services that support agro processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for agro processing actors and related institutions and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority identification. Strengthen communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project, expected deliverables, and linkages with other project and support development of a cadre of senior and mid -level professionals on agribusiness through targeted training activities. Enhance support to MAFFS' "Just in Time Agrimarket Initiative" to create business linkages between producers of agricultural commodities, processors and consumers and provide timely information about the availability and demand for agricultural commodities to support agro processing and marketing. Improve institutional development at SMEDA with focus on review laws, policies and/or institutions to inform the formulation of reform 	<p>Related to work place environment at the MTI, MAFFS and SMEDA. The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Increased noise levels Poor solid and liquid waste management Occupational health and safety issues Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>proposals for a more conducive environment for sustainable enterprises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of the Country operational plan for market-driven BDS provision to MSMEs. 	
<p>Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains</p>	<p><i>Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level TA and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players.</i> <i>This sub-component aims to upgrade SME productivity and competitiveness through the establishment of an SME Technical Assistance Facility that is expected to reach a total of 150 SMEs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide activities around firm-level technical assistance to SMEs, and capacity-building of ecosystem players, including BDS providers. Establish dedicated SME TA facility and SME productivity and competitiveness as the main instrument for providing technical advice, implementation support, and business development service and provision of matching grants for capital investments and technical assistance to implement SME action plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high quality training and mentoring to business owners and managers in areas such as leadership, corporate governance, negotiation skills, and people management; serve as a market research facility to bridge information gaps; identify and connect businesses to market opportunities; support research to identify new market opportunities; and facilitate linkages between various players in the 	<p>Related to localized impacts at the SME TA Facility and agro processing sites.</p> <p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Increased noise levels Poor solid and liquid waste management Occupational health and safety issues Increased traffic and potential for traffic conflict <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>agro-processing sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate skills development initiatives with other World Bank Group, development partner, and GoSL to ensure that leading industry associations, such as the SLECAD and the Commercial Agriculture Producers and Processors Association (CAPPA), are involved in and get resources to develop and implement accredited training programs that address the shortage of skills sets demanded by the private sector as well as connects employers to trained personnel ○ Create a platform for the voice of the private sector on how local content can be strengthened as well as through aligning marketing strategies with the 'Made in Sierra Leone' initiative to increase consumer awareness and appreciation of goods produced in Sierra Leone. ● Provide innovative instrument for the provision of hands-on business advisory and technical assistance to SMEs, upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs, and investments in business innovations to companies at different stages of development within the agro-processing sub sector as well as to those providing goods and services to the agro-processing sub sector. ● Direct Implementation Support to SMEs: Provision of specialized deep dive diagnostic services and technical assistance to implement specific action plans, including coaching/handholding through the venture 	

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	<p>lifecycle, one-to-one personalized training and mentoring to growth-oriented enterprises, based on their specific demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to day-to-day services: Provision of access to a suite of “everyday” BDS, such as accounting, legal, financial, and technical services, along with access to shared physical workspace, housed in the PIU offices. • Market Linkages Facilitation: Facilitation of both upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs by contributing to the provision of market information to agro-processing SMEs and market chain actors; information such as regular spot prices of agricultural goods, market intelligence that forecasts information on a range of products; and updated quality and quantity demands from buyers will strengthen the entire market system for agro-processed products. The SME TA Facility will also play a key role in helping to foster commercial linkages between various market chain actors that will include corporate lead firms, supermarkets, distributors, and input suppliers. • Ecosystem Strengthening: Strengthened wider agribusiness market ecosystem by supporting existing initiatives that have proved successful, such as pitch nights, entrepreneur meet ups. • Strengthening and enhanced support to BDS providers on agribusiness-specific topics. Connecting SMEs to other market chain actors, by communicating the needs of wider market actors to the SMEs, including the delivery of specific trainings to market chain 	

Project Components	Project/Subproject Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts
	actors, such as supermarkets, distributors, transport and logistics companies, wholesalers, and input suppliers.	
	<p>Sub-component 2.2: Provide matching grants to SMEs. <i>The TA Facility will make available the use of matching grant funds for the following purposes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide matching grants (US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 50,000) for capital investment to the cohort of about 60 SMEs for specific business or operational needs that are identified in the action plans developed as part of sub-component 2.1. • Provide matching grants for technical assistance and expert advice to SMEs to fund advice by an outside expert consultant, advisor, or from a BDS provider. 	<p>Related to working environment at the SME TA Facility and about 60 SMEs.</p> <p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>
Component 3: Project implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the non-fiduciary aspects of the SLAPCP activities, including staff salaries, equipment and operating costs required to coordinate project implementation. • Fiduciary functions, including procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and internal audit, by the PFMU. • Recruitment and establishment of an M&E Officer and an effective monitoring and evaluation framework, respectively, to collect data to track performance on outcome, intermediate outcome, and output indicators. 	<p>Related to working environment at the PCU and PFMU.</p> <p>The potential negative/adverse environmental impacts are clustered into the following broad environmental categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Increased noise levels • Poor solid and liquid waste management • Occupational health and safety issues <p>These specific environmental issues are explained in detail in Section 3.2 of this ESMF Report</p>

3.3 Risks and Potential Social Impacts of the SLAPCP

There are both positive and negative social impacts associated with the SLAPCP and its subprojects.

3.3.1 Positive Social Impacts

Overall, the SLAPCP is likely to have positive impacts, both in the short, medium and long term (see Table 3-2). It is anticipated that the majority interventions and subprojects supported in the SLAPCP will be in the provision of hands-on business advisory and technical assistance to SMEs, upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs, and investments in business innovations to companies at different stages of development within the agro-processing sub sector as well as to those providing goods and services to the agro-processing sub sector.

According to evidence from other SME and entrepreneurial support programs in Sierra Leone (e.g., UKAID-funded Sierra Leone Opportunities for Business Action program, GIZ's Innovation Fund, and Cordia's business training and investment-readiness program) the SLAPCP will have positive socio-economic impacts in the form of:

- **Job opportunities for locals:** The SLAPCP subproject will require labour and new job opportunities could be accomplished if the SLAPCP and SMEs endeavour to offer employment to local citizens of these communities. The employment of locals at the SME TA Facility and in the agro processing sector will improve the standard of living of the locals and multiplying effect in the region. The creation of jobs will lead to increased income, expenditure and investment enhancement. The benefits of those who are employed will be obvious and this will lead to the ability to provide more for family members, which will have multiplying effect in the project area and within the region.
- **Improved social welfare:** The SLAPCP subprojects are likely to generate greater household cash incomes and promote social welfare in local communities. Economic development associated with agro processing will undoubtedly contribute to the development of a greater skills base amongst the local population. This will create opportunities for individual, household and community empowerment. There will also be opportunities to increase the level of organizational development within communities. Such processes and actions would contribute to the long-term development of local communities and promote social welfare. The sudden increase in population will also lead to increase in trade for petty traders in the communities.
- **Increased economic development:** SLAPCP will provide job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour. Those without prerequisite technical skills will be provided on the job trainings. The engagement of locals will have multiplying effect on the standard of living of the locals and their families and improve the regional economy by attracting other investors into the region.
- **Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness:** The SLAPCP will positively impact on growth-oriented SMEs through the promotion of linkages between multiple market actors, including processors, suppliers, wholesalers, distributors, and supermarkets. It will also positively impact on SME firms through the provision of updated and accurate market information, access to everyday services such as accounting and legal advice, and access to financing opportunities, including linkages with professional business support services, strong relationships with buyers and corporate lead firms.

Table 3-2: Positive social impacts of the SLAPCP

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
<p>Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms</p> <p><i>The objective of this component is to help reduce burdensome agribusiness sector regulations that constrain productivity and weaken incentives of existing agribusiness firms and SMEs to reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and competitiveness. Project interventions also aim to improve the quantity and quality of existing agro-processing investments through enhanced focus on agribusiness investment retention and expansion and strengthening institutional capabilities that will facilitate investment and trade by agro processing firms and SMEs.</i></p>	<p>Sub-component 1.1: Enabling business regulations for competitive agro-processing</p> <p><i>This sub-component aims to strengthen the business environment for agribusiness investors.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Strengthened service delivery for agribusiness investors and improved agribusiness sector productivity and competitiveness through reduction in policy inconsistencies, burdensome regulations, and weaknesses in institutional capabilities and coordination. • Enhanced dialogue between the public and private sector on agribusiness sector reform priorities through the identification of business regulations that distort or create dis-incentives for agro-processing investments and operations. • Improved generation of evidence and good practices on EIA for agribusiness to simplify EIA procedures, thereby reducing cost for obtaining environmental licenses and ensuring that the existing legal framework for EIA is adequate. • Improved and strengthened public private dialogue mechanism to provide a structured platform for systematic engagement between the public sector and private investors in the agribusiness subsector. • Strengthened engagement among public and private sector stakeholders in selected agribusiness value chains, including the provision of technical assistance and funding of research and advocacy to set priorities for policy reform.

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
	<p><i>Sub-component 1.2: Targeted retention and expansion of agribusiness investors by the SLIEPA</i></p> <p><i>This sub-component will support SLIEPA to develop and implement an aftercare program for the retention and expansion for agribusiness investors.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Improved and solid evidence base generated from investor perception survey that would increase understanding of the factors that influence the investment decisions of foreign and domestic agribusiness investors and provide an analysis of current and future trends and prospects based on perception of the investment climate • Increased support for agribusiness investor retention and after care, including development of a menu of relevant and high-quality investor aftercare services, capacity building, development of systems and tools (investment information system, investor relationship management system, standards operating procedures, etc.) • Establishment of effective investment grievance mechanisms to identify mechanisms to address investor grievances in the Sierra Leonean context, including host agency, and potentially establish a Systemic Investor Response Mechanism (SIRM) • Improved capacity building plans to strengthen the capacity of the technical staff to be able to advocate and advice on issues relating to agribusiness investment promotion, export development and policy advocacy.

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
	<p>Sub-component 1.3: Building institutional capabilities in the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to improve market access for SMEs</p> <p><i>This sub-component aims to strengthen institutional capacity at the SLSB to improve capabilities for enhanced compliance with standards and conformity assessments in Sierra Leone.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved provision of support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (g) Diagnostic assessment of the current status quo of Quality Infrastructure, (QI), institutions, verification of the demand for the QI services, identify essential QI services, and training needs; (h) Identification of key compliance challenges for agro processors, SMEs, and other actors in selected agro-processing value chain; (i) Initiatives to comply with regional and international market standards in selected agro-processing value chain; (j) Upgrade of institutional capacity at the SLSB to address key compliance challenges and solutions that will expand market opportunities for agro processors and SMEs in targeted value chain; (k) Information dissemination and publishing on the SLSB website; and (l) Stakeholder engagement and round table events and coordination of other stakeholders.
	<p>Sub-component 1.4: Support to MTI, MAFFS, and SMEDA for stronger SME coordination</p> <p><i>In addition to institutional support for SLIEPA and SLSB, the project will support specific capacity building efforts (functional capacity building) at MTI and SMEDA to strengthen their capacity to provide clearly defined services to support agro-processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for SMEs and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority setting.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened capacity of MTI to provide clearly defined services that support agro processing, including enhanced institutional coordination for agro processing actors and related institutions and other private sector actors, strategic planning, and priority identification. Strengthened communication activities to disseminate the significance of the project, expected deliverables, and linkages with other project and support development of a cadre of senior and mid -level professionals on agribusiness through targeted

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
		<p>training activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced support to MAFFS' "Just in Time Agrimarket Initiative" to create business linkages between producers of agricultural commodities, processors and consumers and provide timely information about the availability and demand for agricultural commodities to support agro processing and marketing. Improved institutional development at SMEDA with focus on review laws, policies and/or institutions to inform the formulation of reform proposals for a more conducive environment for sustainable enterprises. Better support for implementation of the Country operational plan for market-driven BDS provision to MSMEs.
<p>Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains</p>	<p><i>Sub-component 2.1 Firm-Level TA and Capacity Building of Ecosystem Players</i></p> <p><i>This sub-component aims to upgrade SME productivity and competitiveness through the establishment of an SME Technical Assistance Facility that is expected to reach a total of 150 SMEs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job opportunities Improved social welfare Increased economic development Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness Improved activities around firm-level technical assistance to SMEs, and capacity-building of ecosystem players, including BDS providers. Improved SME productivity and competitiveness through establishment of a dedicated SME TA facility as the main instrument for providing technical advice, implementation support, and business development service and provision of matching grants for capital investments and technical assistance to implement SME action plans. Provision of innovative instrument for the provision of

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
		<p>hands-on business advisory and technical assistance to SMEs, upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs, and investments in business innovations to companies at different stages of development within the agro-processing sub sector as well as to those providing goods and services to the agro-processing sub sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Implementation Support to SMEs: Provision of specialized deep dive diagnostic services and technical assistance to implement specific action plans, including coaching/handholding through the venture lifecycle, one-to-one personalized training and mentoring to growth-oriented enterprises, based on their specific demand. • Access to day-to-day services: Provision of access to a suite of “everyday” BDS, such as accounting, legal, financial, and technical services, along with access to shared physical workspace, housed in the PIU offices. • Market Linkages Facilitation: Facilitation of both upstream and downstream market linkages for SMEs by contributing to the provision of market information to agro-processing SMEs and market chain actors; information such as regular spot prices of agricultural goods, market intelligence that forecasts information on a range of products; and updated quality and quantity demands from buyers will strengthen the entire market system for agro-processed products. The SME TA Facility will also play a key role in helping to foster commercial linkages between various market chain actors that will include corporate lead firms, supermarkets, and distributors. • Ecosystem Strengthening: Strengthened wider agribusiness market ecosystem by supporting existing initiatives that have proved successful, such as pitch

SLAPCP Project Component	Project Sub-component	Positive Project Impacts
		<p>nights, entrepreneur meet-ups and coffee hours, farmers' markets, and hackathons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening and enhanced support to BDS providers on agribusiness-specific topics. Connecting SMEs to other market chain actors, by communicating the needs of wider market actors to the SMEs, including the delivery of specific trainings to market chain actors, such as supermarkets, distributors, transport and logistics companies, wholesalers, and input suppliers.
	<p>Sub-component 2.2: Provision of matching grants to SMEs</p> <p><i>The SME Technical Assistance Facility will make available the use of matching grant funds for the following purposes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities • Improved social welfare • Increased economic development • Enhanced access to markets for local agribusiness • Provision of matching grants (US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 50,000) for capital investment to the cohort of about 60 SMEs for specific business or operational needs that are identified in the action plans developed as part of the deep dive exercise conducted in sub-component 2.1. • Provision of matching grants for technical assistance and expert advice to SMEs to fund advice by an outside expert consultant, advisor, or from a BDS provider.
Component 3: Project implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened the local competencies and capacity within the PCU/PFMU to ensure retention. It is also expected to share SLAPCP learnings and build knowledge among a wider group of stakeholders in Sierra Leone and beyond through its communications activities.

3.3.2 Risks and Potential Negative Social Impacts

- **Population movement:** Attraction of immigrant populations to communities that have improved agro processing and production systems and social infrastructure. High influxes of people will result into poor air pollution, increased level of noise, poor waste management, public health issues and traffic-related accidents. Consequently, several environmental components may be affected in one way or another by such activities. Furthermore, intensive interactions of people could lead into social and health problems such as spread of communicable diseases creating a high pressure on social and health services especially accessing few available medical services. The project areas will tend to provide a much more attractive economic and social environment than surrounding areas and this will result in increased population movement into the subproject areas.
- **Potential conflict from issues related to labour:** Labour for the agro processing industry will be a sensitive issue, which could lead to vigorous competition for job opportunities. This has the potential to generate conflict and tension amongst local inhabitants, between the locals, the newcomers and/or expatriates, between communities, and amongst inhabitants within a community. Competition for jobs and/or the perception of unequal treatment of community by the subprojects in allocating employment opportunities may lead to some tension amongst the inhabitants of these communities and the SLAPCP subprojects. Any perception that people from outside the project area are receiving employment such as expatriates at the expense of locals is likely to result in friction. Where there is a potential for large influx of labour for any subproject activity a Land Influx Management Plan will be developed.
- **Potential tension from unrealistic expectations held by the communities regarding benefits created by the SLAPCP:** Expectations concerning what the SLAPCP will offer the local communities (especially the youth) as well as the region could be unrealistic. People may have the impression that once the SLAPCP is implemented, there will be an immediate increase in development in their communities and an increase in their standards of living. If these expectations are not realized conflict will most probably occur. Even though the communities may embrace the idea of the subprojects, their perceptions of the agro processing opportunities will largely depend on the degree to which their development needs and expectations are fulfilled. These perceptions need to be put into context by creating an understanding of the mechanisms, time frame and processes determining the potential distribution of developmental benefits as to what realistic expectations are.
- **Lack of labour for traditional livelihood strategies:** Agro processing industries may employ more locals; this may likely lead to loss of labour for agricultural and other traditional livelihoods of the local population. This circumstance may lead to decreased food security.

4 SCREENING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The activities envisaged under the SLAPCP are of low-risk type. However, each subproject activity will be subjected to formal screening to:

- Check if the proposed subprojects requires any further environmental assessments such as ESIA
- To identify the key environmental and social impacts
- Review the plan at early stage to ensure that it adopts environmental guidelines, criteria and good practices;
- Provide environmental guidance for preparing simple ESMP, if appropriate; and
- Review contract templates of potential beneficiary firms and ecosystem intermediaries to ensure that they are gender sensitive.

The environment and social screening procedure will include four steps to ensure that environmental and social impacts are identified, mitigation measures proposed and monitoring measures incorporated, as summarized below:

4.1 Step 1: Application Screening Using Project Screening Criteria Form

The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist at the PCU/PFMU will review the subproject against the Project Screening Form and the EPA-SL Environmental and Social Screening Forms to assess and determine if there are any relevant environmental and social concerns. Once a Project Brief has been received and reviewed by the MTI/Project, Steering Committee and/or the PCU/PFMU, a proposed subproject may be exempted from further compliance with the EPA-SL EIA requirements if all the following conditions in the initial screening using the Project Screening Criteria Form (see Annex 1 11.1 of this ESMF report) are satisfied.

4.2 Step 2: Application Screening Using the EPA-SL EIA Screening Form

Some subproject under the SLAPCP may require EIA Licence under the EPA Acts 2008/2010 and other national regulations if they are not exempted in the Project Screening Criteria Form and fall under the EPA Acts 2008/2010 prescribed categories. Annex 1 (11.2) contains the EPA-SL Environmental and Social Screening Form (ESSF) which will be used for the screening of subprojects for environmental and social impacts under the EPA Acts 2008/2010. The completed ESSF should be submitted to the PCU/PFMU Safeguard Expert(s) for checks before submission to the EPA-SL. Where required the PCU/PFMU should ensure it is adequately communicated to the beneficiaries/applicants that compliance and permits are obtained during the implementation of the subproject.

4.2.1 ESIA Study Using the EPA-SL Process

An ESIA enables both environmental, climate change and social issues to be considered during all stages of subproject design and implementation. It identifies, predicts, evaluates and communicates the potential environmental, climate, and social impacts and risks of projects in a systematic and objective way. It also recommends appropriate preventive actions and mitigating measures, and maximizes environmental opportunities where possible.

The ESIA Report must cover, among others:

- Administrative and institutional arrangements required for environmentally sound implementation of the environmental management, applicable national and international environmental legal and policy frameworks and their relevance to the project;
- A detailed description of the proposed project components, as well as all ancillary works including location, technologies to be used, materials and their quantities, construction period, etc.;
- A detailed description the biophysical and socio-economic baseline conditions, bearing in mind that these provide the basis for impact analysis and monitoring;

- A description of other ongoing or planned developments in the project area that could have cumulative or synergistic effects on the project outcome;
- Outcome of stakeholder consultations and public participation;
- Identification and analysis of potential adverse and beneficial impacts;
- Analysis of alternatives, including project sites, access options, technologies, construction methodologies, and a 'no project' alternative;
- Preventative, mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Environmental and social management plan (ESMP – which includes climate risk resilience proposals);
- Monitoring and auditing requirements and procedures;
- Costs for environmental and social management and monitoring.

As ESIA's and ESMPs are done in tandem with project design development, it is important that:

- Stakeholder concerns – particularly those of the communities and project affected persons - are addressed in the ESMPs, and if they are not, reasons for doing so should be explained;
- Stakeholder concerns should be communicated to the design team; and
- The project design should be presented to the communities.

The ESIA's are prepared by the project proponents, who may request assistance from consultants.

The section below illustrates the steps involved during an ESIA study and management process as per Sierra Leone EPA Acts that will lead to the review and approval of subprojects under the SLAPCP (see Figure 4-1).

4.2.1.1 Stage One – Registration

1. Project Proponent/Developer is required to register the project proposal through an application process. The letter is addressed to the EPA-SL Executive Chairperson and copied to the Director for the attention of the EIA Committee.
2. EIA Application and Screening Forms (see Annex 1) are issued to the Project Proponent/Developer after a payment of two hundred thousand Leones (Le 200,000) at an account designated for EIA's application fees.
3. The Project Proponent is required to return duly completed forms to the EPA-SL office.

4.2.1.2 Stage Two – Project Screening

1. Project proposal and Screening Forms are screened to determine if the development proposal should be subject to an EIA and, if so, the level of detail required.
2. This stage of the EIA licensing process is expected to be completed within two weeks.

4.2.1.3 Stage Three – Scoping

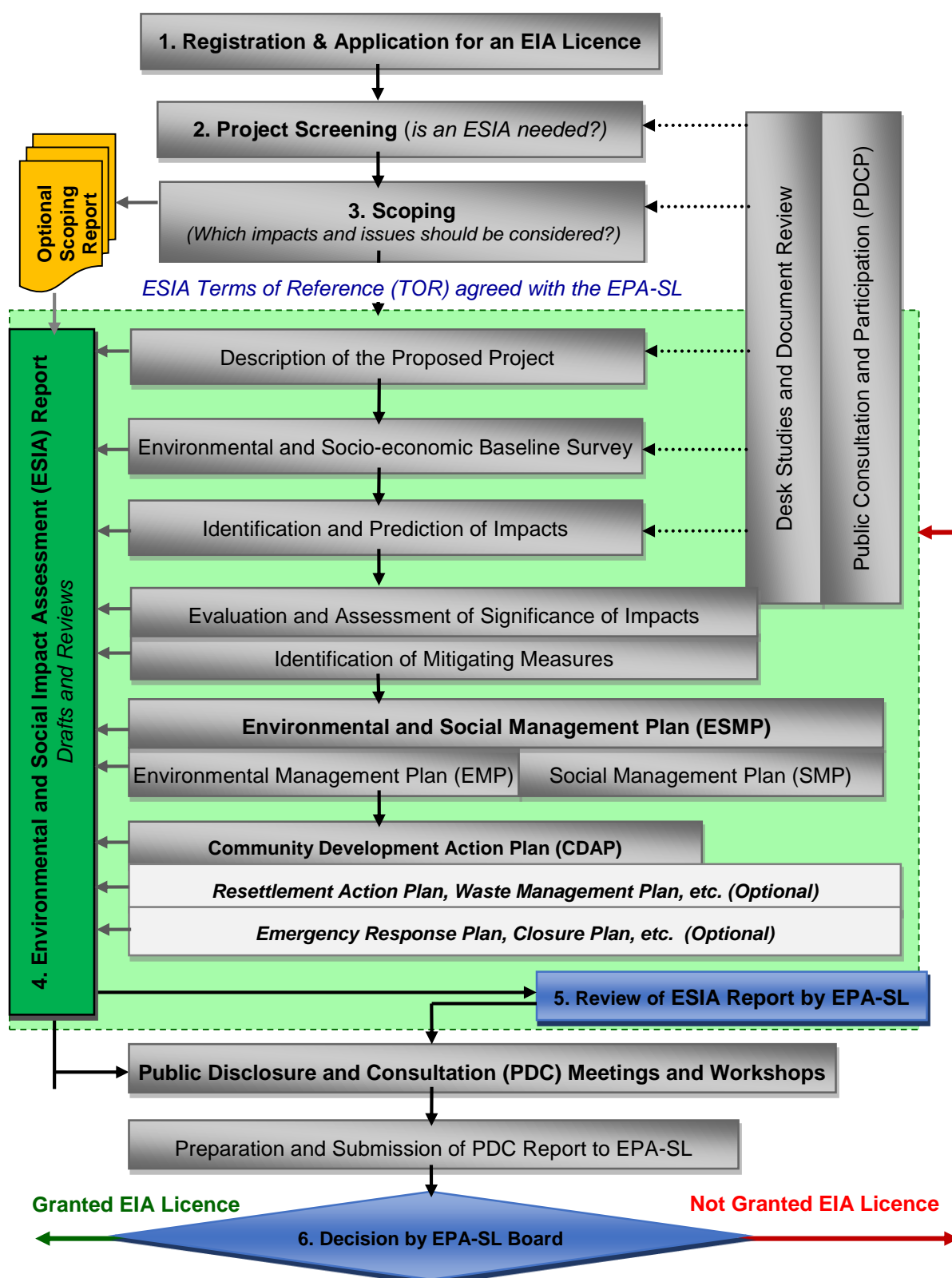
This is to determine the depth of the environmental assessment, i.e. the scope of factors to be considered, the parties involved and their interest and concerns, the appropriate level of efforts and analysis, and to prepare guidelines for the conduct of the EIA.

1. After the project has been classified and a determination is made that the activity requires an EIA Licence, the Proponent will be required to submit an ESIA Scoping Report on the project.
2. The EPA-SL and the Project Proponent will agree on the Terms of Reference (ToR) before the commencement of the ESIA studies.
3. Upon receipt of the EIA Scoping Report, the process for the determination of the ToR shall be within two weeks.
4. EPA-SL staff will visit the location of the project before approval of the ToR.

4.2.1.4 Stage Four – Environmental and Social Impact Studies and Preparation of the Report

1. Upon approval of the ToR the Proponent undertakes the ESIA studies.
2. The ESIA report must document clearly and impartially the project's impacts, the proposed measure for mitigation, the significance of effects and impacts on the environment, and the concerns of the interested public and the communities affected by the project. In this regard, management plans including the environmental and social management plan (ESMP), community development and action plan (CDAP), resettlement action plans (RAP), etc., must be clearly articulated in the document.
3. Upon completion of the ESIA studies, the Proponent should submit eighteen (18) hard and soft copies of the ESIA report to the EPA-SL for circulation to the EPA-SL's Board members and other relevant professional bodies.

Figure 4-1: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Processes



4.2.1.5 Stage Five – Review of the ESIA Report

1. The EPA-SL will determine whether the ESIA report meets the terms of reference and provides a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project and contains the information required for decision making. The ESIA report will be publicised in gazette and circulated to professional organisations by the EPA-SL for comments.
2. The Proponent will have to disclose the ESIA report through publication of dates for disclosure in newspapers, and hold two or more public hearing meetings for public participation in the decision-making process. The placement of the ESIA report in specific places will enable the affected or interested persons to make comments on the ESIA studies and submit to the EPA-SL for decision making. The EPA-SL staff will also visit the site or operational areas of the project to ascertain the component and content of the ESIA report in the review stage.
3. Depending on the location of the project the proponent will be required to make announcements over the media in the local languages.

4.2.1.6 Stage Six – Decision Making

1. This is the stage where the ESIA report is approved or rejected.
2. The EPA-SL Board is vested with the power to approve or reject an application for an EIA Licence. If an application for an EIA Licence is approved, it will be subjected to the terms and conditions, provided by the Board and is issued for twelve (12) months and subjected to renewal annually. Also licence fees must be paid as prescribed by the EPA-SL.
3. When an application has been rejected by the EPA-SL Board, the proponent has the right to seek legal redress.

4.2.1.7 Stage Seven – Compliance and Enforcement

This is the implementation stage; environmental monitoring and auditing of the project activities will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the EPA Act 2008 and 2010.

4.3 Step 3: SME Field Appraisal Checklist and Guidelines for ESMP Preparation

Verification of the beneficiary's/applicant's premises will be carried out before the subproject is submitted. The applicant will receive on site business advisors that will identify gaps and how to improve their productivity and innovation, and any environmental and social safeguards gaps.

If any potentially significant environmental or social issues are identified, the PCU/PFMU will provide recommendation for supplementary safeguards instruments i.e. the ESMPs/ESIAs. Where necessary, the PCU/PFMU safeguard persons, will also conduct a site visit to validate the information contained in the project document and to determine adequate measures are in place to manage environmental and social issues, or if additional mitigation measures are required to be implemented. For this purpose, the checklist given in Annex 3 will be applied. However, the SLAPCP subprojects that are likely to have no or minimal adverse environmental and social impacts will not need to conduct a site investigation beyond the initial environmental and social screening.

If environment and social impacts are identified during the screening process, a plan to correct them and improve management of the subproject may be appropriate. In such case an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) would be developed by the project beneficiaries for implementation and be monitored by the PCU/PFMU. An ESMP describes mitigation measures/good practices at activity level if required. Prior to submission of the ESIA report to the EPA-SL for EIA Licence, and after availing the necessary clearances, an ESMP should be prepared to include environment management and mitigation plans during pre-activity, activity implementation and closing phases. Hence, it should contain description of the detailed actions needed to achieve these objectives, including how they will be achieved, by whom, by when, with what resources, with what monitoring/verification, and to what target or performance level. Mechanisms should also be provided to address changes in the project implementation, emergencies or unexpected events, and the associated approval processes. It should include institutional structures, roles, communication and reporting processes required as part of the implementation.

The ESMP should also include link between the ESMP and reporting, review, auditing and updating of the ESMP. The ESMP structure should include:

- A concise introduction: Describing linkage with overall planning process of the project; project activity related environmental studies; the ESMF (if relevant) and objectives of the ESMP
- Project description: Objective and description of activities, nature and scope of the project (location with map, construction and/or operation processes, equipment to be used, site facilities and workers and their camps; bill of quantities if civil works are involved, activity schedule)
- Baseline data: Key environmental information or measurements such as topography, land use and water uses, soil types, flow of water, and water quality/pollution. Socioeconomic conditions
- Potential impacts and mitigation measures: Description of specific activity impacts and corresponding mitigation measures.
- Monitoring: Environmental and social compliance monitoring with responsibilities
- ESMP Implementation arrangements: Responsibilities for design, bidding and contracts where relevant, monitoring, reporting, recording and auditing.
- Capacity Need and Budget: Capacity needed for the implementation of the ESMP and cost estimates for implementation of the ESMP
- Consultation and Disclosure Mechanisms: Timeline and format of disclosure.

Guidelines for preparing an ESMP are provided in Annex 4 of this ESMF Report.

4.4 Step 4: Review and Clearance by the Safeguard Expert(s)

Environmental and Social Safeguard Expert(s) within the PCU /PFMU will review the beneficiary's/applicant's proposal and the ESIA/ESMP to ensure that adequate environmental and social mitigation measures are in place. As part of the implementation of this ESMF, the PCU/PFMU will maintain information on beneficiaries' environment and social performance in its portfolio. Follow-up on individual beneficiaries will be performed if deemed necessary. The PCU/PFMU will also require beneficiaries to provide accurate information and data on the ESSF and ESMPs, and the SLAPCP will utilize and evaluate this information to continually monitor the project beneficiaries' activities. As part of environmental reporting the PCU/PFMU will regularly update the MTI via the Project Steering Committee on ESMP implementation, project implementation, challenges and any additional support required.

4.5 Monitoring of Environmental and Social Safeguards

Monitoring and evaluation for compliance with environmental and social safeguards policies will be managed by the PCU/PFMU. Monitoring will be fundamental to ensure that the objectives set forth in the ESMF and the ESIA/ESMPs are being achieved satisfactorily and where there are nonconformities to the project scope and objectives will timely introduce changes. This will be a continuous process and will include compliance and outcome monitoring. The aim is to verify key concerns on compliance with the ESMF, implementation progress.

The objective of monitoring is:

- To alert project authorities by providing timely information about the success or otherwise of the environmental management process outlined in this ESMF in such a manner that changes can be made as required to ensure continuous improvement to environmental management process (even beyond the projects life).
- To make a final evaluation to determine whether the mitigation measures incorporated in the technical designs and the ESMF have been successful in such a way that the pre-project environmental and social condition has been restored, improved upon or is worse than before and to determine what further mitigation measures may be required.

The overall responsibility for implementing the ESMF and for monitoring the compliance of the SLAPCP's environmental safeguard activities lies with the PCU/PFMU, which will report to the Project

Steering Committee and inform the MTI and other major stakeholders as per the final SLAPCP institutional arrangements. The Environment and Social Safeguards Specialist stationed at the PCU/PFMU shall provide technical support to the subprojects and coordinate with the project proponents in the preparation of environment assessment comprising of screening (eligibility), scoping, EA and preparation of ESMP for specific subproject activities when required. The proposed Environment and Social Safeguard at the MTI, should collaborate with the PCU environmental and social expert to provide support to the subprojects in terms of environment assessment for subproject specific activities, preparation of ESMPs, monitoring of compliance and in reporting on overall safeguards to the Project Steering Committee and the key stakeholders.

Self-regulatory monitoring should be adopted by the SLAPCP subprojects for the implementation of field activities that require ESIA/ESMP to check that the terms and conditions included in the EIA Licence have been followed. Self-regulatory monitoring reports should be filed by subproject staff on a monthly basis and should be available for ad-hoc inspection by SLAPCP management, and the Project Steering Committee.

To facilitate compliance monitoring, the subproject teams should submit a semi-annual progress report, which will contain the number and name of the project activity for which EIA Licence has been issued; the terms and conditions mentioned in the EIA Licence and the status of implementation of these terms and conditions.

The EPA-SL may conduct ad-hoc compliance monitoring visits to SLAPCP subproject sites to monitor compliance of the conditions specified in the EIA Licence and whether the implementation is as per existing environmental regulations and the provisions included in the Environmental and social safeguards. Monitoring of compliance with the national EIA safeguard regulations will be done by the EPA-SL or Consultants. During such monitoring, the EPA-SL will issue recommendations or impose penalties as may be appropriate.

4.6 Monitoring of Potential Impacts

4.6.1 Objective of Monitoring Plan

The objective of monitoring is to make a final evaluation to determine whether the mitigation measures incorporated in the technical designs and the ESMP have been successful in such a way that the pre-project environmental and social condition has been restored, improved upon or is worse than before and to determine what further mitigation measures may be required.

Monitoring of environmental and social indicators will be mainstreamed into the overall monitoring and evaluation system for the SLAPCP. In addition, monitoring of the implementation of this ESMF will be carried out by the key implementing institutions of the SLAPCP, including support from the EPA-SL.

4.6.2 Monitoring of Environmental and Social indicators

The Environmental and Social Safeguards Officers should consider the environmental and social criteria that require measurement. A list of initial proposals is given below. Using this list of criteria, a set of indicators can be integrated into the screening forms used in the project approval process in each district; this will ensure flexibility at the project design stage, integration of monitoring considerations throughout the project cycle, as well as a participatory approach to environmental and social monitoring.

4.6.2.1 Initial Proposal

The key issues to be considered in the project include monitoring of air quality, noise levels; solid and liquid waste management; occupational health and safety issues; traffic movement; income generation and socio-economic issues; population influx; gender; and governance; and. The goals of monitoring are to measure the success rate of the project, determine whether interventions have resulted in dealing with negative impacts and whether further interventions are needed or monitoring is to be extended in some areas.

Monitoring indicators will be very much dependent on specific project contexts. Monitoring and surveillance of subprojects will take place on a "spot check" basis as it would be impossible to comprehensively monitor all the subprojects to be financed under the SLAPCP. The spot checks consist of confirming the establishment of mitigation measures. It is not recommended to collect large amounts

of data, but rather to base monitoring on observations by project technicians and stakeholders to determine the trends in indicators.

4.6.2.2 Monitoring of Participation Process

The following are indicators for monitoring of the participation process involved in the project activities.

- Number and percentage of SMEs/agro processing firms and stakeholders consulted during the planning stage;
- Level of participation of affected people in decision-making;
- Level of understanding of project impacts and mitigation;
- Effectiveness of local authorities to make decisions;
- Frequency and quality of public meetings; and
- Degree of involvement of women or disadvantaged groups in discussions.

The SLAPCP will also be monitored to ensure that it puts adequate safeguards in place to address the following social issues:

- **Gender:** Men and women differ in their access to resources and participation in agro processing segments of value chains. The SLAPCP therefore pay specific attention to gender-based differences and will incorporate gender into the design of project interventions to mitigate social and economic risks and improve project outcomes. The project will support a study on gender in SME landscape that will focus on identifying relevant gaps between women and men in agribusiness and agro processing segments of value chains. The output from this analysis will inform appropriate and meaningful gender focus and initiatives in all project activities and to monitor actions that are designed to reduce identified gender gaps.
- **Governance:** The MTI, PCU and PFMU will be required to consider as best practice, putting in place transparent and accessible selection criteria that will ensure that SMEs and agro processing owned by women, youth and people with disabilities, have equal chance for consideration for support under the project. In specific cases, youth entrepreneurs, or women-owned businesses with start-ups or microenterprises may be eligible for specialized training and funding, to address their targeted needs. Youth entrepreneurship will be encouraged through special events and streamlined application process for grant funding.
- **Labour Influx:** If any of the SLAPCP components will involve works that require labour (skilled and unskilled), priority will be given to the local people to avoid instances of labour influx that may have adverse socio-cultural impacts on the local community. A Labour Influx Management Plan (LIMP) will be created to address this social issue and monitored by the Safeguards Specialist.
- **Protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and cultural appropriateness of subproject activities:** Project beneficiaries will ensure that any contracts for SLAPCP activities have inbuilt safeguards clauses and arrangements to protect local community members in particular, the vulnerable and poor women and young girls, from gender based violence (GBV) and adverse impacts such as sexual exploitation and abuse, child labour, teen pregnancies, interferences with local culture, and unnecessary disruption of the community's livelihood strategies, including an increase in the prices of commodities and rental housing.

4.6.2.3 Evaluation of Results

The evaluation of results of environmental and social mitigation can be carried out by comparing baseline data collected in the planning phase with targets and post-project situations.

4.6.2.4 Monitoring of ESMF Implementation

In addition to the project reports required, an annual audit on ESMF implementation will be prepared by the PCU/PFMU and delivered to the MTI via the Project Steering Committee and EPA-SL. In addition, each large project that has been subject to an EIA study will also be required to produce an annual environmental and social audit report for delivery to the EPA-SL.

4.6.2.5 Monitoring Roles and Responsibilities

- **Environment Protection Agency-Sierra Leone:** The EPA-SL will play the leading oversight role of monitoring the activities of the SLAPCP. The EPA-SL will carry out this role by ensuring that the ESMP contained in the cleared design package is being implemented as specified therein. The EPA-SL will monitor the reports on a regular basis. They will rely on a bottom up feedback system to them from the ground by going through the monitoring reports and making regular site visits to inspect and verify for themselves the nature and extent of the impacts and the success or lack of the mitigation measures.
- **Project Coordination Unit (PCU):** The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will be primarily responsible for ensuring compliance to the monitoring framework. Jointly with the EPA-SL Officer(s), they will undertake review of the monitoring reports emanating from the implementing agencies and will then upon approval submit these monitoring reports to the EPA-SL and the MTI/World Bank. The PCU will also provide overall coordination in monitoring, including coordinating of training in collection and analysis of monitoring data for data collectors. Critical role of the PCU will include data analysis, as well as maintenance of management information systems and all baseline data. Lastly other than preparation of periodic reports the PCU will implement all the necessary modifications in the monitoring framework.
- **The SLAPCP Implementing Partner Institutions:** All the SLAPCP implementing MDAs identified under this project will monitor the specific components/subcomponents of the project that they are targeted to execute. They will be required to prepare periodic monitoring reports for submission to the PCU and specifically to the EPA-SL Officer(s) and the M&E Officer(s), respectively.
- **SMEs & Local Communities:** SMEs and local communities will be useful agents in collection of data that will be vital in monitoring and as such they will play a role in the monitoring framework. Local communities in the project intervention areas will receive training and build capacity on skills for data collection to be done by the implementing agencies to equip them with the ability to collect data.

5 CAPACITY BUILDING AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

5.1 Capacity Building

Effective implementation of this ESMF will require technical capacity in the human resource base of implementing institutions as well as logistical facilitation. Implementers need to understand inherent social and environmental issues and values and can clearly identify indicators of these.

Even with existence of policies and laws such as the EPA Acts (2008/2010), evidence from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop and consultative meetings still indicates that there is significant shortcoming in the abilities of various stakeholders to correctly monitor, mitigate and manage environmental performance of development projects.

The PCU and the MTI-SL will have an overall delegated key responsibility of ensuring that the SLAPCP complies with Sierra Leonean environmental and social laws, and that the project adheres to this ESMF. Sufficient understanding of the mechanisms for implementing the ESMF will need to be provided to the various stakeholders implementing the SLAPCP subprojects. This will be important to support the teams appreciate their role in providing supervision, monitoring and evaluation including environmental reporting on the projects activities.

5.1.1 Human Resource Capacity Requirements

Human capacity challenges for stakeholders involved in the implementation of the ESMF are of two types:

- Low technical capacity of current staff, and
- Inadequate (low) numbers of staff.

While adequacy in staffing requirements was found to be varied between the various stakeholders, there is very limited presence of directly trained and dedicated staff for environmental management purposes within institutions, at the MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA, SLSB, SLECAD and agro processors the local levels. Staffs from other MDAs are usually assigned duties related to environmental management. As a result, sufficient knowledge on environmental management principles, project screening, impact mitigation, monitoring and follow-up action was limited within most institutions.

In many institutions, staff have been retained for core activities leaving little if any human resources to directly oversee environmental management activities. As a result, this portfolio which in many cases is given little attention is handled by staff members not adequately conversant with it. In some cases, environment personnel are present but level of training and technical capacity on environmental principles and tools of management is not sufficient. Hence, training and awareness creation will be undertaken at different levels of implementation of the SLAPCP.

These levels will entail the relevant GoSL MDAs, local authorities, agro processors, NGOs, and grassroots stakeholders. The exercise will be customized according to each level's needs to ensure adequacy in implementation of the ESMF.

5.1.2 Technical Capacity Enhancement

To ensure that environmental and social safeguards requirements are meaningfully integrated into the implementation of the ESMF, it is proposed that various types of awareness creation, training and sensitization be conducted for relevant staff of the following institutions:

- MTI
- MAFFS
- SLIEPA
- SMEDA
- SLEDA
- SLSB

- PCU/PFMU
- Local Government Authorities
- SMEs/Agro processors
- NGO, CBO, Cooperatives and Associations
- Community Implementing Units, e.g., Women's Groups, Youth Groups, etc.
- Contractors Managers and Personnel
- Private Sector Environmental Compliance personnel

Awareness creation, training and sensitization be will conducted at various levels covering the following:

- Requirements of the national environmental, social and climate policies, legislation and administrative frameworks;
- An overview of the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies;
- ESMF processes, procedures and institutional arrangements to develop and implement required safeguards documents;
- Screening and rating as prescribed in the ESMF;
- Environmental, social and climate impact assessment, assessment approaches and requirements;
- Preparation, implementation and monitoring of ESMPs and ESIA's;
- Reporting and monitoring implementation of ESMPs and ESIA;
- Environmental and social best practices – including labour saving techniques; and
- Gender mainstreaming.

To reduce costs, minimize duplication of efforts and integrate existing technical expertise, officers with relevant knowledge and experience in particular fields will be used to train the others.

The training and capacity building exercises will take into consideration the subprojects during their development, the integration and fulfilment of the requirements of World Bank safeguards policies and guidelines, as well as those of the EPA Acts 2008/2010, including relevant policies, regulations and guidelines.

Where institutional capacity in terms of availability of human resource is inadequate, the SLAPCP will engrain support for this through hiring of qualified Consultant(s) to provide necessary expertise. Training directly linked to the implementation of the ESMF should be undertaken first and subsequently followed by training on aspects influencing success of ESMF with regular interval.

Inadequacy in institutional infrastructure, facility resources and equipment will be addressed through an initial needs assessment or the identified implementing institutions and a gap analysis generated. The SLAPCP will develop a priority list and thereafter provide financial support to purchase necessary equipment and facility strengthening items. The priority list will ensure that key necessities to successful implementation of the ESMF are addressed in order of their strategic importance.

The indicative budget for this form of training is given in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Budgetary provisions for capacity building per annum

Activity	Description	Unit Cost (USD)	Quantity	Total Cost (USD)
Capacity building of SLAPCP Project Steering Group and PCU/PFMU	<p>Training workshops on EPA-SL EIA procedures, implementation of the ESMF, conduct of environmental audits, and on the relevant World Bank safeguard policies.</p> <p>Community Engagement and Mobilization</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement, consultation and partnerships</p> <p>The training will entail introduction and understanding the role of ESMF in the SLAPCP as a decision-making tool. It will in addition expose them to concepts of impact identification, mitigation and ESMPs.</p> <p>Significant emphasis will be placed on understanding EIA procedures, environmental management policies and guidelines, WB Safe Guards, implementation and enforcement.</p> <p>The group will also be trained on use and application of ESMF tools (Screening checklists, EIA, EA)</p>	200	50	10,000
Awareness creation and capacity building of project beneficiaries, MTI, SLIEPA, SLSB, SLEDA, SMEDA, MAFFS and PCU/PFMU staff	Training workshops on the national EIA procedures, guidelines, Regulations, implementation of the ESMF, and monitoring and evaluation	200	50	10,000
	Study tours (local) for selected environmental and social personnel participating in SLAPCP drawn from the Project Steering Group, MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA, SLSB and SLECAD	200	50	10,000

Activity	Description	Unit Cost (USD)	Quantity	Total Cost (USD)
Capacity building for Agro-processors and SMEs, including local communities	<p>This training component will focus on understanding the ESMF and its use. Detail will consist on methods of identifying indicators and data collection. The program will also focus on identification and analysis of environmental and social impacts as well as determination of negative and positive projects and sub projects.</p> <p>Other components will entail development of mitigation measures and ESMPs, including institutional responsibility</p> <p>Framework and Budget.</p> <p>Thorough review of National EIA procedures, environmental management policies & guidelines and WB safeguards as well as their implementation and enforcement will be carried out.</p> <p>The group will also be trained on use and application of ESMF tools (Screening checklists, EM, EA), their review, implementation and enforcement.</p> <p>Participants will be trained on environmental reporting, monitoring and follow-up of ESMF</p>	300	50	15,000
Awareness creation and information dissemination workshops	Agro-processors, investors, consultants, general public on social and environmental issues and relevant World Bank policies relating to SLAPCP	100	100	5,000
Technical training workshop for PCU & PFMU	Implementation of the EMP (Contract clauses), Monitoring EMPs, and preparation of budgets	200	20	4,000
Total				54,000

5.2 Gender Mainstreaming

Gender is a critical component in SLAPCP as it underlies many inequalities of power over access to and decision-making around agricultural resources and activities, including agro processing. Women are marginalised and constrained in their access to production resources and extension services, which adversely affects their farming activities. Understanding who accesses and uses which agro processing resources and facilities, and how his/her life and livelihood may be impacted (positively or negatively) is critical to ensuring SLAPCP activities do not cause undue harm to anyone, and at the same time, allows women and their needs to be mainstreamed in the project activities. Thus, gender mainstreaming within the SLAPCP is addressed by undertaking Gender Analysis and developing a Gender Action Plan.

5.2.1 Gender Analysis

Project proponents should undertake Gender Analysis during the implementation of this ESMF by collecting gender-specific data that will lead to gaining knowledge on decision making processes among women and men at all levels; their differential control over the management of agro processing resources and the types of resources they use; access to land and agribusiness and agro-processing opportunities by women and men in the project areas. This can be achieved by:

- Collecting sex disaggregated data by age groups in at least five domains of the gender analysis – access to resources (revenues, employment, land, etc.); roles, responsibilities and utilization of time; norms, beliefs and perceptions; laws, policies, institutional practices; and decision-making processes.
- Identifying constraints and opportunities for the full participation of both women and men in the SLAPCP activities in an equitable manner.
- Reinforcing staff knowledge and capacity to ensure that the implementation of the SLAPCP are sensitive and responsive to gender issues.
- Bringing agro processing services physically closer to women and involving women in the formation and management of SLAPCP activities affecting them.
- Describing the socio-economic characteristics of women engaged in agro-processing and ensuring that information about the SLAPCP is provided to both men and women in ways they can access (e.g. radio, newspaper, community meeting, etc.) and in languages they understand.
- Establishing the status of agricultural extension education service provided to women in agro processing in Sierra Leone and identifying factors that constrain the productivity of women in participating in the agro processing industry.
- Developing a conceptual model for facilitating effective linkages between agricultural extension services and women engaged in agro processing in Sierra Leone.
- Considering that one main barrier to women's participation may be lack of permission from male family members; if this is the case, be sure to consult with men in the community so that they understand why women's participation is critical and engage them in supporting women's participation in the SLAPCP.

To mainstream gender into the ESMF and the SLAPCP, the project proponents should undertake a comprehensive gender analysis based on the following gender aspects that would enhance achievement of the SLAPCP objectives:

- Activity profile/division of labour;
- Socio-cultural gender perceptions;
- Decision making and public participation;
- Differential vulnerability to climate change;
- Access and ownership of resources;
- Laws, policies and institutional practices; and

- Strategic and practical gender needs.

The ESMF requires the MTI and PCU to design and implement subprojects in such a way that both women and men:

- Receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits;
- Do not suffer adverse effects during the development and implementation of subprojects;
- Fosters full respect for their dignity and human rights.

5.2.2 Gender Action Plan (GAP)

This ESMF recommends the development of a Gender Action Plan (GAP), which is a document that should be formulated during the development of the SLAPCP to ensure gender equality throughout the projects; identify the main gender-related issues that impact (or are impacted by) the SLAPCP; develops culturally-appropriate solutions to address those issues; and explains how those actions will be monitored. The GMP should be formulated to ensure that gender-related adverse impacts are avoided, minimized and/or mitigated appropriately.

The GMP should cover gender-sensitive activities while recognizing and respecting the different roles that women and men play in agro processing activities and resource management, along with a monitoring and evaluation plan using sex-disaggregated indicators. Furthermore, the GMP should include an assessment of gender roles, responsibilities, uses, and needs relating to agro-processing and agribusiness on which the subproject will be based (e.g. use patterns, participation in management, etc.) and both short-term and long-term costs and benefits of the subproject on men and women. The assessment should include potential roles, benefits, impacts and risks for women and men of different ages, ethnicities, and social structure and status.

The implementing partners and agencies should ensure that gender considerations outlined in the GMP are also fully embedded throughout the subproject documents as necessary/appropriate. Effective monitoring of progress towards gender equality in projects involves identifying the gender-based targets or goals, developing relevant gender-sensitive indicators to measure progress towards those goals, and collecting and strategically using sex-disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data. The implementing partners and agencies should also be responsible for collecting the baseline data and reporting on gender-related indicators periodically. The Project Steering Committee and MTI should review all GMPs and ensure that gender has been fully mainstreamed into the SLAPCP.

As mainstreaming focuses on gender equality as a goal rather than women as a target group, women's development is not viewed as a sector; but rather, equality issues are integrated into sectoral analysis and not confined to isolated programmes. The main components of an effective mainstreaming capacity in an ESMF include: clarity about and commitment to the goal of gender equality; incorporation of gender issues in the planning and decision-making process; and availability of gender-disaggregated data.

5.3 Climate Risk Analysis

A climate risk analysis should be undertaken prior to the full design of a SLAPCP subproject to inform the design and decision-making processes. The purpose of climate risk screening is to determine the exposure of the SLAPCP subproject to climate-related risks based on available information about historic climate change variability and occurrences, current climate trends and future climate change scenarios, as well as to assess the likelihood of the project increasing the vulnerability of the expected target populations to climate hazards. It provides an opportunity to integrate climate issues into project design and therefore increase project resilience and hence sustainability.

Key considerations in determining climate risk are:

- Is the target group of the SLAPCP subproject dependent on climate sensitive natural resources?
- Has the SLAPCP subproject area been subject to extreme weather events in the past?
- Could changes in temperature, rainfall or extreme weather affect the SLAPCP impact, sustainability or cost over its lifetime?

- Will climate variability likely affect agricultural productivity within the project?
- Would weather-related risk or climatic extremes adversely impact upon key stages of identified value chains in the SLAPCP (from production to markets)?
- Does the SLAPCP have potential to integrate climate resilience measures without extensive additional costs?
- Would the SLAPCP benefit from a more detailed climate risk and vulnerability analysis to identify the most vulnerable rural population improve targeting and identify additional complementary investment actions to manage climate risks?

The SLAPCP recognizes the need for developing climate resilient SMEs and entities through employing a combination of institutional and climate-smart technological interventions along with creating local capacity to identify adaptation strategies fitting into changing climates and market needs. It is also about enabling SMEs to employ the best available technology not entailing excessive cost for agro-processing to efficiently produce more products and income per unit of investments.

Climate change adaptation measures should be integrated into the SLAPCP activities to address the inherent risks resulting from a changing climate and the potential multiplication of effects, such as damage to landscapes and infrastructure, and recurrent floods and droughts. To this end the SLAPCP will focus on three key issues to improve climate resilience:

- Improve local knowledge: conduct scheme-based climate analysis and to develop targeted adaptation strategies, helping SMEs to understand climate change scenarios;
- Promote longer-term adaptive agro processing practices: supporting sustainable management activities, organizing and facilitating SMEs to experiment and innovate on various climate smart and profitable options, including more efficient and equitable use of agro-processing resources; and,
- Knowledge management: document evidence of profitable agro-processing strategies and climate-smart agriculture and facilitate knowledge exchanges between SMEs to scale-up adoption of these practices.

6 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

6.1 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

People adversely affected (or about to be affected) by a development project will raise their grievances and dissatisfactions about actual or perceived impacts to find a satisfactory solution. These grievances, influenced by their physical, situational (e.g., employment), and/or social losses, can surface at different stages of the project cycle. Some grievances may arise during the project design and planning stage, while others may come up during project implementation. Not only should affected persons (APs) be able to raise their grievances and be given an adequate hearing, but also satisfactory solutions should be found that mutually benefit both the APs and the project. It is equally important that APs have access to legitimate, reliable, transparent, and efficient institutional mechanisms that are responsive to their complaints. Thus, the management of grievances is therefore a vital element of stakeholder management and an important aspect of risk management for the SLAPCP.

Grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) are institutions, instruments, methods, and processes for receiving, evaluating and addressing project-related concerns of, and complaints by, project affected communities or persons. GRMs can be complex and diverse and they may include institutions specific (internal) to a project and set up from its inception or others that have emerged over time in response to needs identified while the project evolved. Other institutions may be already established within a judicial, administrative, and/or political systems and exist outside a project.

GRMs provide a way to provide an effective avenue for expressing concerns and achieving remedies for communities, promote a mutually constructive relationship and enhance the achievement of project development objectives. They are increasingly important for development projects like SLAPCP where ongoing risks or adverse impacts are anticipated. They serve to prevent and address stakeholder and community concerns, reduce risk, and assist larger processes that create positive social change. A GRM provides a predictable, transparent, and credible process to all parties, resulting in outcomes that are fair, effective, and lasting.

The management of grievances is therefore a vital element of stakeholder management and an important aspect of risk management for the SLAPCP. Thus, the SLAPCP subprojects will leverage the GRMs developed and implemented by the SCADeP.

6.2 Benefits of a Grievance Redress Mechanism

6.2.1 Benefits to Projects

- Provides information about project implementation;
- Provides an avenue to comply with government policies;
- Provides a forum for resolving grievances and disputes at the lowest level;
- Resolves disputes relatively quickly before they escalate to an unmanageable level;
- Facilitates effective communication between the project and affected persons;
- Helps win the trust and confidence of community members in the project and creates productive relationships between the parties;
- Ensures equitable and fair distribution of benefits, costs, and risks;
- Mitigates or prevents adverse impacts of the project on communities and produces appropriate corrective or preventive action; and
- Helps avoid project delays and cost increases, and improves quality of work.

6.2.2 Benefits to Affected Persons and Other Stakeholders

- Provides a cost-effective method to report their grievances and complaints;
- Establishes a forum and a structure to report their grievances with dignity, and access to a fair hearing and remedy;
- Provides access to negotiate and influence decisions and policies of the project that might adversely affect them; and
- Facilitates access to information.

In the absence of a project-specific GRM, APs will seek solutions to their grievances through GRMs that exist outside the project such as the country's judicial system, public administration, or political institutions. The lack of effective GRMs could lead to many adverse consequences for both the APs and the project implementers, for example:

- Not all APs have equal access and the capacity to approach external GRMs. Thus, they would be deprived of their rights to be heard and to find a fair and just solution. This could further push the APs into a state of high vulnerability, insecurity, and impoverishment.
- It would probably absorb a relatively longer time and substantial resources, which are generally unaffordable to many APs. People need relatively quick solutions or relief for their problems, particularly when projects are likely to cause property loss and displacement.
- Delays in project implementation will increase government expenditures such as compensation to contractors for loss of work, and staff maintenance. Delay can also affect the reputation of the national government.
- Depriving APs access to GRMs could induce them to develop hostility toward the project and sometimes to engage in violent behaviour that might hamper the smooth implementation of the project and its related activities, and delay its overall accomplishments.

6.3 Principles of GRM

The GRM in this ESMF has been proposed based on principles of fairness, objectiveness, independence, simplicity, accessibility, responsiveness and efficiency to:

- Protect beneficiaries/project affected persons and communities' rights to comment and complain;
- Ensure neutrality and equity while handling complaints;
- Ensure grievances are handled in a timely manner;
- Ensure transparency in the receiving and handling of grievances;
- Maintain confidentiality regarding complainants and their grievances;
- Ensure the GRM is accessible to all people within the project communities as well as other stakeholders;
- Establish mutual responsibility between the SLAPCP and complainants to ensure fair, accurate and responsible behaviour.

The key steps for grievance management are:

- Publicising grievance management procedures so that the mechanism is accessible to everyone;
- Receiving (i.e. collecting, recording and registering) and keeping track of grievances;
- Reviewing and investigating grievances to assess the nature of the grievance, its severity and legitimacy;

- Developing resolution options commensurate with the nature of grievances and preparing and communicating a clear response, and closing out cases when agreement with the complainants is reached;
- Monitoring grievances through tracking to ascertain effectiveness, adapting the mechanism to correct inefficiencies, using the results of monitoring for feedback and lessons learned.

6.4 Grievance Prevention

There are many ways to proactively solve issues before they even become grievances. The SLAPCP implementers should be aware and accept that grievances do occur, that dealing with them is part of the work, and that they should be considered in a work plan. Implementers should do the following:

- **Provide sufficient and timely information to communities.** Many grievances arise because of misunderstandings; lack of information; or delayed, inconsistent, or insufficient information. Accurate and adequate information about a project and its activities, plus an approximate implementation schedule, should be communicated to the communities, especially APs, regularly. Appropriate communication channels and means of communication should be used.
- **Conduct meaningful community consultations.** Project implementers should continue the process of consultation and dialogue throughout the implementation of the project. Sharing information, reporting on project progress, providing community members with an opportunity to express their concerns, clarifying and responding to their issues, eliciting communities' views, and receiving feedback on interventions will benefit the communities and the project management.
- **Build capacity for project staff, particularly community facilitators and other field-level staff.** The community-level facilitators and field-level staff of the implementing agencies should be provided with adequate information on the project such as project design, activities, implementing schedules, and institutional arrangements as well as enhanced skills in effective communication, understanding community dynamics and processes, negotiation and conflict resolution, and empathizing with communities and their needs. Building trust and maintaining good rapport with the communities by providing relevant information on the project and responding effectively to the needs and concerns of the community members will help solve issues before they even become grievances. It is also important that community facilitators and field-level staff provide regular feedback on their interactions with the communities to the higher levels of the implementing agencies.

Overall, good management of a project will also contribute to minimizing complaints.

6.5 Grievance Redress Procedure

The Grievance Redress Procedure will support the long-term goal of building strong and effective relationships with all those to be directly impacted by the SLAPCP activities. Individuals or any group of two or more people (such as an organization, association, society, or other grouping of individuals) can file a complaint, including anonymous complaints.

The PCU should be the first point of contact in the Grievance Mechanism. The PCU will be responsible for informing affected communities about the project commitments and ESMF provisions. Contact information of the PCU and the MTI will be made publicly available to all involved stakeholders. Complaints to the PCU can be made through many different channels including, but not limited to face-to-face meetings, written complaints, telephone conversations, or e-mail.

Complainants must submit the following information:

- a) Names, designations, addresses, and contact information of the complainants and their representative(s);
- b) If a complaint is made through a representative, identification of the project-affected people on whose behalf the complaint is made and evidence of the authority to represent them;
- c) Whether the complainants choose to keep their identities confidential;
- d) A brief description of the SLAPCP project with the project name and location;

- e) An explanation of the complainants' claim that the alleged direct and material harm is, or will be, caused by the SLAPCP subproject alleged failure to follow its operational policies and procedures during the formulating, processing, or implementing the SLAPCP funded project;
- f) A description of the operational policies and procedures that have not been complied with by the project during the formulating, processing, or implementing the SLAPCP funded subproject;
- g) A description of the complainants' good faith efforts to address the problems first with the operations department concerned, and the results of these efforts; and
- h) A description of the complainants' efforts to address the problems with the project-level grievance redress mechanisms concerned, and the results of these.

The procedures for GRM are described below:

- **Stage 1:** The grievance/complaints will be made by SME(s) or as a household community depending on the type of complaint that they are facing. First the complainant will go to the PCU to explain their problem. The PCU will then review the complaint and either redress it at the subproject level or refer it to a higher authority if a solution cannot be reached. The PCU will provide and assist in filling in a Project Complaint Register Form by making clear statement in describing the causes for the problem(s) and with a possible/preferable settlement proposal of the problems. The complaint and settlement proposal in writing will be signed by the complainant and the PCU.
- **Stage 2:** After completing the Project Complaint Register Form one copy each will be filed at the PCU Manager's Office, one copy for the individual complainant or representative of the complainants and each will be submitted to the PFMU, PSC and the MTI. Within 15 working days after receiving the official complaint, the PCU/PFMU, including the related field specialists, will visit the complainant to evaluate the severity of all grievances to determine the appropriate management response, and commences an investigation into the causes of the concern and agree up on the solution. This solution will be signed by all concerned parties.
- **Stage 3:** In cases where the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of the intervention of the officer in Stage 2, a further official complaint appeal will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee and MTI for settlement within 10 working days. If a solution is reached, it will then be signed by all concerned parties.
- **Stage 4:** In cases where the settlement or solution of the grievance/complaint is not acceptable to the complainant, the next step will be to take the matter to an appropriate court in the land for adjudication. This implies that the matter at this point is a judicial issue for which the applicable Sierra Leonean Laws will be applied. However, at this stage, the responsibility will be with the courts and not with the PCU.

When local people present a grievance, they generally expect to receive one or more of the following:

- Acknowledgment of their problem
- An honest response to questions about company activities
- An apology
- Compensation
- Modification of the conduct that caused the grievance
- Some other fair remedy.

In voicing their concerns, they also expect to be heard and taken seriously. Therefore, the project, contractors, or government officials must convince people that they can voice grievances and the project will work to resolve them without retaliation.

To address these challenges, the project is being called upon to lead and work with their host communities to find non-judicial, dialogue-based approaches for preventing and addressing community grievances.

6.6 Appointing Members of Grievance Redress Committees (GRC)

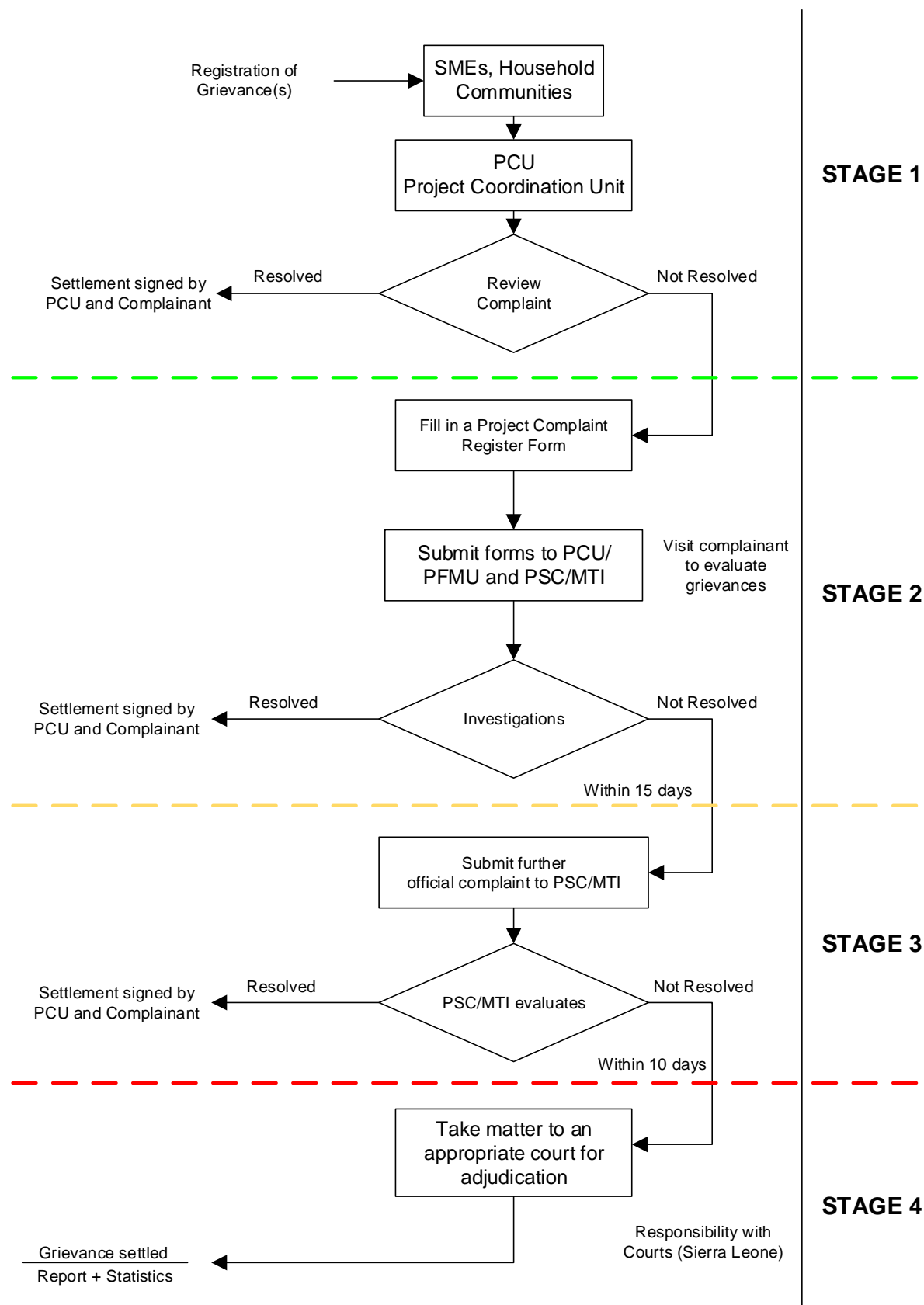
Generally, all project staff, management staff of agencies involved in the SLAPCP, and government administrators will take on grievance handling as a responsibility. The GRC members should be qualified, experienced, and competent personnel who can win the respect and confidence of the affected communities. It is also important to maintain a gender balance within the GRC. Criteria for selecting members of the GRC could include the following:

- Knowledge of the SLAPCP and subproject, its objectives, and outcomes;
- Technical knowledge and expertise to understand project design and requirements;
- Understanding of the social, economic, and cultural environments and the dynamics of the communities;
- Capacity to absorb the issues dealt with and to contribute actively to decision-making processes;
- Social recognition and standing; and
- An equitable representation of males and females.

The members of the GRC for the SLAPCP shall include the EPA-SL Environmental Officer (DEO) as chair, the SLAPC Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer(s) as Secretary, the Chair of the Village Development Committee (VDC), a member of a recognized NGO, and a community representative. The GRC has the right to request the project technical staff, and officers from relevant state or non-state institutions to attend the meetings and provide information. A complainant has the right to appear in person, to be accompanied by a community member, and/or to request to be represented by a village elder or VDC member.

GRCs should be established at the Administrative Chiefdom/Ward level to assure accessibility for APs. They are legitimized through a circular issued by the Permanent Secretary of the MTI.

Figure 6-1: Flow chart summarizing the grievance procedure



7 INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The management, coordination and implementation of the ESMF will involve various government institutions and partners as well as private entities that will play different roles at various levels for effective delivery of the SLAPCP to the intended beneficiaries.

7.1 Project Implementation Arrangements

The overall responsibility for steering SLAPCP's implementation will be with the MTI and MAFFS. Other GoSL MDAs and non-state institutions such as the EPA-SL; SLIEPA; SLSB; SMEDA; and SLECAD will have primary responsibilities as implementing partners for specific activities that are directly related to specific functional areas that they have been assigned responsibilities consistent with support for promoting agro processing competitiveness.

The PCU will implement all activities in Component 1. It will work closely with other development partners, industry association, MDAs and other stakeholders that are directly involved in those activities. The TA to support reform of environmental impact assessment for agribusiness will be implemented in collaboration with the EPA, EU, SLIEPA and MAFFS. It will also work closely with SCADeP and other development partners to avoid duplication and maximize complementarities and synergies. The PCU will provide overall coordination of the Component 2.

A TA Facility Manager will be recruited through competitive selection to manage and implement activities in the SME TA facility and provision of matching grants to SMEs. The SME TA facility will have resources to hire national and international business advisers with commercial and investment experience in the agro-processing sub-sector as well as in matching grants implementation. The TA Facility Manager will work with the Project Coordination and PFMU to develop and negotiate contracts with external service providers. In the case where a private sector firm may be contracted to implement certain elements of program activities (SME linkages, specific trainings delivered by BDS providers, market information provision, etc.), the Facility Manager will be responsible for ensuring that the TA Facility is equipped to handle procurement guidelines for WBG and donor implementation.

7.1.1 National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)

Whilst the overall responsibility of project oversight will be with the MTI as the lead implementation partner, the SLAPCP will establish the NPSC which will have policy and advisory functions. It will be comprised of high-level officials from key MDAs involved in the implementation of the project and chaired by the MTI. The lifespan of the NPSC will be five years consistent with that of the SLAPCP. The NPSC will be responsible for providing policy guidance and oversight during the implementation of the project. Its primary responsibilities are:

- Approval of annual work plan, budget and procurement plan;
- Review progress against milestones set out in the annual work plan and results framework;
- Perform fiduciary oversight according to World Bank procedures on financial management and procurement; and
- Ensure policy coherence and implementation coordination amongst project components and amongst project implementing institutions.

It is expected that the NPSC will meet twice a year. However, the PCU may convene a meeting with the NPSC if need arise.

7.1.2 Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

The SLAPCP will establish a PCU which will be responsible for the overall day to day coordination of the project. The PCU will operate under the supervision of the MTI but have sole responsibility for managing the technical aspects of the project and will perform all the non-fiduciary roles in project implementation. The PCU will be staffed with personnel with strong project management experience and the project will recruit technical specialists, including Project Coordinator, SME TA Facility Manager,

Implementation Officers, and support staff that will be solely dedicated to coordination and management of this project.

The main functions of the PCU would be to:

- Ensure overall coordination of the project, make sure project activities are implemented cohesively and in a timely manner;
- Prepare key documents such as the Project Operation Manual, Annual Work Plan and liaise with the PFMU, to prepare budgets, periodic progress reports, procurement plans and ensure that they are executed according to Bank policies;
- Provide technical advice and guidance to the implementing agencies or Ministries in implementing project activities;
- Work closely with the PFMU to identify potential implementing agencies/goods and service providers, organize their selection/hiring, negotiate and sign contracts with selected implementation partners/goods and oversee that all procurement work related to the project is executed according to the approved procurement plan;
- Ensure timely reporting to the Bank through preparation of quarterly, semi-annual and monitoring and evaluation report in collaboration with the PFMU;
- Ensure timely reporting to the MTI and other relevant government ministries and agencies of project implementation progress; and
- Ensure that all project activities are implemented per World Bank guidelines on environmental and social safeguards policies and procedures.

In performing the above functions, the PCU may form Technical Working Groups, which will provide technical advisory services around the implementation of specific project activities, particularly with those relating to policy reforms. It will be comprised of relevant technical specialists from key state and non-state institutions. Their role will be to provide technical advice to the PCU and ensure that proposed activities are technically coherent with government policies and strategies. The TWGs are to be formed and disbanded on a needs basis.

7.1.3 Project Fiduciary and Management Unit (PFMU)

The PFMU is a specialized unit under the Office of the Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). The PFMU will be responsible for all fiduciary functions for the project, including financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, and internal audit. It will also undertake all the fiduciary reporting functions and prepare internal audit reports. It is expected that the PFMU will assign specific officers, such as project accountant, internal auditor, procurement officer, and monitoring and evaluation specialists, to the project. The PFMU will submit periodic financial reports (audited and unaudited) to World Bank within and agreed timeline, will maintain financial management systems that are acceptable to IDA, and will use the proceeds of the IDA credit only for the intended purpose with economy and efficiency.

7.2 Roles and Responsibilities

7.2.1 Implementation of the ESMF

This ESMF has been prepared to guide the environmental and social due diligence when sub-projects become identified during project implementation. The ESMF includes training program, responsibilities for its implementation and monitoring, procedures and budgets for ensuring enhancement of the environmental and social performance of the project. The ESMF reflects clarified roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the implementation of the ESMF. Table 7-1 outlines the responsibilities of each cadre of the ESMF implementation team.

Table 7-1: Roles and responsibilities in implementing the ESMF

Monitoring Level	Roles	Responsibility
Selected Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure implementation of mitigation measures as entailed in the ESMP where necessary. Update the PCU/PFMU on ESMP implementation, challenges and any additional support required. Address all identified issues in the ESMP directly related to the implementation of project activities, as advised by the PCU/PFMU and report on the status of each, within agreed timeframes. 	Beneficiary
PCU/PFMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCU is responsible for the accuracy of all information and data provided during the preparation of the EPA-SL Screening Form and subsequent ESMPs Assign, as part of the project team, a competent Environmental and Social Staff to oversee beneficiaries' implementation of the ESMP as needed. Advise the proponents on the content and scope of EPA-SL Screening Form and the content and scope of ESMPs, as needed. Review and approval of ESMPs and of the monitoring reports to ensure compliance with the ESMP as it relates directly to the implementation of project activities. Performing on-site visits if necessary. Conduct Environmental and Social Screening once beneficiaries submit proposed investments. Regularly update the Project Steering Committee and MTI on relevant ESMP implementation, challenges and any additional support required. Review adequacy of proposed project budgets to cover for the management of the environmental and social risks and impacts during implementation. Ensure that the assigned consultant have competent Environmental and Social experts to support project implementation. Review consultant's reports on project ESMPs submitted by the supervising consultant. Conduct site visits as agreed with the management consultants and advice on identified issues. Ensure that identified non-compliances are adequately communicated to the beneficiary, and relevant Corrective Action Plans developed. 	PCU/PFMU's Safeguard Staff

7.2.2 Implementation of the Framework ESMP

- Project Coordinator (PC – PCU)
- Environmental Safeguards Specialist (ESS-PCU):
- Social Safeguards Specialist (SSS-PCU)
- Procurement Specialist (PS-PFMU)
- Technical Specialist (TS – PCU)
- Financial Management Specialist (FS – PFMU)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (M&E-PFMU)

Table 7-2 Role and responsibilities (focus on the PCU/PFMU)

No	Steps/Activities	Responsible	Collaboration	Service Provider
1.	Identification and/or siting of the subproject	PC-PCU ESS-PCU SSS-PCU	PFMU MTI MAFFS Beneficiaries	
2.	Screening, categorization and identification of the required instrument (use the EPA-SL ESIA procedure)	ESS-PCU, SSS-PCU	PFMU EPA-SL MTI MAFFS Beneficiaries	
3.	Approval of the classification and the selected instrument by the EPA-SL	PC-PCU	ESS-PCU SSS-PCU	EPA-SL The World Bank
4.	Preparation of the safeguard document/instrument (ESIA, Environmental Audit, simple ESMP, etc.) in accordance with the national legislation/procedure (considering the Bank policies' requirements)			
	Preparation and approval of the ToRs	ESS-PCU ESS-PCU		The World Bank
	Preparation of the report		ESS-PCU SSS-PCU PS-PFMU	Consultant
	Report validation and issuance of the permit (when required)		ESS-PCU SSS-PCU PS-PFMU	EPA-SL The World Bank
	Disclosure of the document		PC-PCU	Media; The World Bank
5.	(i) Integrating the construction phase mitigation measures and E&S clauses in the bidding document prior they're advertised; (ii) ensuring that the constructor prepares his ESMP (C-ESMP), gets it approved and integrates the relevant measures in the works breakdown	Technical staff in charge of the sub-project (TS-PCU)	ESS-PCU SSS-PCU PS-PFMU	SME (Supervisor)

No	Steps/Activities	Responsible	Collaboration	Service Provider
	structure (WBS) or execution plan.			
6.	Implementation of the other safeguards measures, including environmental monitoring (when relevant) and sensitization activities	ESS- PCU	PS- PFMU SSS- PCU TS- PCU FS-PFMU Beneficiaries	Consultant National specialized laboratories NGOs
7.	Oversight of safeguards implementation (internal)	SSS- PCU	M&E- PFMU FS- PFMU	SME (Supervisor)
	Reporting on project safeguards performance and disclosure	PC- PCU	M&E- PFMU ESS- PCU SSS- PCU	
	External oversight of the project safeguards compliance/performance	EPA-SL	M&E- PFMU ESS- PCU SSS- PCU PS- PFMU	
8.	Building stakeholders' capacity in safeguards management	ESS- PCU	SSS- PCU PS- PFMU	Consultant Other qualified public institutions
9.	Independent evaluation of the safeguards performance (Audit)	ESS- PCU	SSS-PCU PS- PFMU	Consultant

The PCU/PFMU), and any institution participating in the implementation, will not issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) of any activity subject to ESIA, without the construction phase's ESMP inserted in, and will not authorize the works to commence before the contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) has been approved and integrated into the overall planning of the works. The aforementioned roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the Framework ESMP, will be insert in the environmental and social safeguards management section the project implementation manual (PIM).

7.3 Implementation Budget

The total estimated budget for mainstreaming environmental and social concerns over an indicative period of five years into the SLAPCP is US \$ 556,000 (SLL 4,170,000,000).

The budget lines outlined below (see Table 7-3 and Table 7-4) relate to the preparation of specific ESIA; capacity building for participating institutions; implementation of specific ESMP; and did-term and completion audits of environmental and social performance to ensure that the ESMF has significant influence within the operations of the SLAPCP.

If screening reveal needs to conduct specific additional ESIA studies, the costs of conducting them will have to be found from within the budget for the subproject.

Table 7-3: Summary of ESMF implementation cost (USD, Thousand)

Activity	Indicative Cost (USD, Thousand)						Source of Financing
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total Budget	
Preparation of specific ESIA	60	40	40	20	20	180	SLAPCP
Capacity Building for participating institutions	20	16	10	10	10	66	SLAPCP
Implementation of specific ESMP	40	40	10	10	10	110	SLAPCP
Mid-term and completion audits of ES performance	60	40	20	20	60	200	SLAPCP
Total Cost	180	136	80	60	100	556	

Table 7-4: Summary of ESMF implementation cost (Leones, Million)

Activity	Indicative Cost (SLL, Million) ²						Source of Financing
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total Budget	
Preparation of specific ESIA	450	300	300	150	150	1,350	SLAPCP
Capacity Building for participating institutions	150	120	75	75	75	495	SLAPCP
Implementation of specific ESMP	300	300	75	75	75	825	SLAPCP
Mid-term and completion audits of ES performance	450	300	150	150	450	1,500	SLAPCP
Total Cost	1,350	1,020	600	450	750	4,170	

² Exchange Rate: USD 1=SLL 7,500

8 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The SLAPCP is intended to build on experience and lessons from previous World Bank programmes and projects, especially SCADeP, that are currently being implemented by MAFFS. It has been well established that inadequate beneficiary participation and community ownership, including inadequate stakeholder engagement during ESMF development and implementation, greatly diminishes the long-term sustainability of development initiatives like SLAPCP.

8.1 Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder consultation is considered an important part of developing this ESMF, as it provides valuable input to develop acceptable and sustainable project design and implementation plans. Most importantly, it allows various stakeholders to express their aspirations, concerns and preferences regarding the SLAPCP, including their stance to give or withhold their consent to the proposed initiatives, entirely or partly.

8.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Below is a list of key stakeholders identified for the SLAPCP ESMF Stakeholder Consultation Workshop:

1. Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
2. Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)
3. Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA)
4. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED)
5. Sierra Leone Chamber of Agribusiness Development (SLECAD)
6. Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA)
7. Environment Protection Agency-Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)
8. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
9. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
10. Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI)
11. Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)
12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
13. Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce (SLCC)
14. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
15. World Food Programme (WFP)
16. German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
17. Njala University of Sierra Leone (NUSL)
18. National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)
19. Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL)
20. Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLLCA)
21. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

22. Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)
23. Produce Marketing Board (PMB)
24. Sierra Leone Business Forum (SLBF)
25. Sierra Leone Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SLeFAAS)
26. Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC)
27. Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board (SLPMB)
28. World Food Programme (WFP)
29. ACIDI/VOCA
30. Plan International
31. Oxfam International
32. Save the Children International
33. CARE International
34. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
35. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
36. European Union (EU)
37. Goldtree (SL) Ltd
38. Socfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone Ltd
39. Natural Habitats (SL) Ltd
40. Sierra Coffee Mills Ltd
41. Sierra Akker Food Processing (SL) Ltd
42. Sierra Fishing Company (SFC)
43. Capitol Foods
44. National Federation of Farmers Sierra Leone (NAFFSL)
45. Sierra Leone Women Farmers Federation (SLeWOFF) -
46. Commercial Agriculture Producers and Processors Association (CAPPA)
47. SCADEP PCU
48. CORDAID
49. SLADF Fund Management (KMPG)
50. Sierra Leone Farmers Market

8.1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

To ensure that the issues of all stakeholders are taken on board in an inclusive manner, the planning process for the SLAPCP activities in general includes a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that defines the following:

Table 8-1: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholders identification:	Who are the stakeholders - Create a list of relevant stakeholders of the particular activity
Level of engagement:	Identify the level of engagement (e.g. inform, consult, collaborate, empower – Note that an inclusive engagement process be adopted to enable engagement of men, women, youth, elderly, vulnerable groups)
Method of engagement:	Method of engagement to be used (workshops, forums, meetings)
Timing and logistics:	Timing issues or requirements (At what stage of SLAPCP activity planning and implementation will such engagements be made)
Identify resources needed:	Resources needed to conduct the engagement process
Responsibility:	Who is responsible for engagement
Messages to communicate:	What are the key messages to be conveyed during the stakeholder consultations
Managing risk:	What are the risks associated with the engagement and how

8.1.3 Stakeholders Meetings

The objectives of the stakeholder meetings are to: (i) provide SLAPCP background information to various stakeholders; (ii) receive feedback from stakeholders on issues and perceived concerns; and (iii) discuss ESMF methodology and resources to maximize the SLAPCP's environmental and social performance. To develop this ESMF, consultations were held with stakeholders so that their perspectives and concerns could be incorporated in this ESMF. However, due to time constraints and the unavailability of key stakeholders during the Sierra Leone 2018 Presidential Elections, only two stakeholder consultation meetings were convened with the MTI and EPA-SL. Both consultation meetings were conducted on 10 April 2018 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The main points discussed in the consultative meetings with the MTI and EPA-SL are documented in Annex 2 of this Report.

A Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was held on 20 April 2018 in Freetown and it involved a wider range of stakeholders from relevant MDA, development partners, civil society organizations (CSO), non-government organizations (NGO) and private sector agro-processing organisations. The purpose of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was to discuss the ESMF Report (see Annex 2 for details of the proceedings from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop).

8.2 Public Consultation and Disclosure

The purpose of these consultations is to allow for the identification of the main issues and how the concerns of all parties should be considered in deciding if to issue a permit for the sub-project. Such consultations will be initiated as early as possible in the subproject elaboration stage. In addition, project implementers consult with such groups throughout project implementation as necessary to discuss the status of implementation and identify and address any pending EA-related issues that may affect them.

This ESMF Report will be disclosed to the public by presenting the findings and recommendations to the various beneficiaries and stakeholders and disclosing the document at the offices of the SLAPCP beneficiaries and concerned key stakeholders. The ESMF when approved will be publicly disclosed before project appraisal. The ESMF Report will be made available on the website of the MTI as well as the websites of the World Bank.

9 CONCLUSION

This ESMF has been prepared to guide the SLAPCP planners, implementers and other stakeholders to identify and mitigate environmental and social impacts in the SLAPCP. This ESMF will apply to any subproject activity within the SLAPCP. It is also to be appreciated that the subproject sites proposed for the SLAPCP are dynamic and prone to environmental and social impacts that may be generated from activities of other future development projects. These impacts may affect the subproject locations for the SLAPCP.

Successful implementation of this ESMF will depend to a large extent on the involvement and participation of the SLAPCP beneficiaries, particularly the implementing partners, SME agro processors, affected communities and key stakeholders. Specifically, it is recommended that environmental and social awareness and education for the SLAPCP beneficiaries, particularly the implementing partners, SME agro processors, affected communities and key stakeholders must be an integral part of the ESMF implementation.

The PCU should be assisted to develop appropriate information management systems to support the environmental and social management process. The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists and M&E Officers within the PCU, MTI and/or SMEs should be empowered to adequately administer the ESMF and should be given the necessary support and resources to ensure effective implementation.

In the future as subprojects are implemented, additional public consultation may also occur through the ESIA process and through the interaction with the beneficiary communities. Those additional public consultations will be part of the SLAPCP implementation process and will not be documented in this ESMF.

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11 ANNEX 1: PROJECT SCREENING FORMS AND REPORTING

11.1 Project Screening Criteria Form (PSCF)

Once a Project Brief has been received and reviewed by the MTI/Project Steering Committee/PCU/PFMU, a proposed subproject may be exempted from further compliance with the EPA-SL EIA requirements if all the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The project will not substantially use natural resources in a way that pre-empts use, or potential use of that resource for any other purpose.
2. Potential residual impacts on the environment are likely to be minor, of little significance and easily mitigated.
3. The type of project, its environmental impacts and mitigation measures are evident and well understood.
4. Reliable means exist for ensuring that impact management measures can and will be adequately planned and implemented.
5. The project will not displace significant number of people, families or communities.
6. The project is not located in, and will not affect, environmentally-sensitive areas such as:
 - (a) National parks
 - (b) Wetlands
 - (c) Productive agricultural land
 - (d) Important archaeological, historical and cultural sites
 - (e) Areas protected under legislation
 - (f) Areas containing rare or endangered flora or fauna
 - (g) Areas containing unique or outstanding scenery
 - (h) Mountains or developments on or near steep hillslopes
 - (i) Forests
 - (j) Lakes or their shores
 - (k) Areas important for vulnerable groups such as fishing communities
 - (l) Areas near high population concentrations or industrial activities where further development could create significant cumulative environmental problems
 - (m) Groundwater recharge areas or drainage basins
7. The project will not result in and/or:
 - (a) Policy initiatives which may affect the environment
 - (b) Major changes in land tenure
 - (c) Changes in water use through irrigation, drainage promotion or dams, changes in fishing practices.
8. The project will not cause:
 - (a) Adverse socioeconomic impact
 - (b) Land degradation
 - (c) Water pollution
 - (d) Air pollution
 - (e) Damage to wildlife and habitats
 - (f) Adverse impact on climate and hydrological cycle
 - (g) Creation of by-products, residual or waste materials, which require handling and disposal in a manner that is not regulated by existing authorities.

9. The project will not cause significant public concern because of potential environmental changes. The following are guiding principles:
 - (a) Is the impact positive, or harmful?
 - (b) What is the scale of the impact in terms of area, numbers of people or wildlife affected?
 - (c) What is the intensity of the impact?
 - (d) What will be the duration of the impact?
 - (e) Will there be cumulative effects from the impact?
 - (f) Are the effects politically controversial?
 - (g) Have the main economic, ecological and social costs been quantified?
 - (h) Will the impact vary by social group or gender?
 - (i) Is there any international impact due to the proposed projects?
10. The project will not necessitate further development activity, which is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

11.2 EPA-SL ESIA Screening Form (ESSF)

<u>APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) LICENCE</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAME OF INSTITUTION/COMPANY: • TYPE OF BUSINESS: • BUSINESS REGISTRATION NO: • CONTACT ADDRESS: • E-MAIL OR TEL NO: • NATIONALITY: • PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: • (ATTACH PROPOSAL) • PROPOSED LOCATION: • (INCLUDE RELEVANT MAP) • COST OF PROPOSAL: • ESTIMATED DURATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: • STATE THE IMPACT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE FOLLOWING: 		
TICK THE APPROPRIATE COLUMNS		
	Positive	Negative
SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEM OF THE LOCALITY		
SOCIAL		
AESTHETIC		
SCIENTIFIC		
HISTORICAL		
STATE OTHER IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS		

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING FORM

Serial No

Please type or print clearly, completing this form in its entirety. You may provide additional information on a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Kindly note that the information you are to provide is required by the National Environment Protection Act of 2008 for the insurance of an EIA License. (See Section 15 (2))

SECTION 1: INFORMATION ON THE CONTACT PERSON

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Business Title/position:

Business Address:

Telephone:

Email:

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING COMPANY/PROJECT

Name of Project:

Date expected to start construction:

Proposed location of project:

Land Area:

Current Land Use (Describe how the land is being used at present):

Describe any possible alternative Site (s):

Describe other types of industries or facilities (including health centres and school) which are located within 100 metres of the site, or the proposed to be located near the proposed facility. Indicate the proximity of the proposed industrial site to residential areas, national parks or areas of ecological, historical or cultural importance

Indicate whether adequate infrastructure exists at the proposed location, or whether new buildings, road, electricity and water lines, or drainage systems will need to be constructed as a part of the proposed project.

SECTION 3. EMPLOYEES AND LABOURERS

Number of people employed or to be employed:

Employees and Labourers	During Construction	During Routine Operation

Indicate whether you plan to construct housing/sanitation facilities for temporary or permanent workers.

SECTION 4: DESCRIPTION INDUSTRIAL PROCESS

Briefly describe the type and nature of industrial processes to be conducted at the installation

State the type and quantity of energy to be used (including the origin of the energy, i.e. public utility, on-site generator, wood, solar, wind, etc.)

Type(s)	Quantity	Period (per day & per week)

Estimate the quantities of water to be used for the following:

Use (s) of water	Quantity	Period	Source

List the type and quantity of raw materials to be used per year in the production process (including soil, Sand, cement, aggregates, wood, animals, etc). Identify the sources of all raw materials.

Type	Quantity	Source

List all the chemicals used or expected to be used for an aspect of the Production process (A separate list may be attached with more detailed information)

Name/Type	Description	Source

SECTION 5

PRODUCTS

Briefly state the nature of the produce (s) or output of the proposed facility, and the expected quantities on a quarterly or annual basis. Indicate the intended uses of the product (s).

Name of Product/Output	Description of Uses	Anticipated Output per Qtr./yr.

SECTION 6: BY PRODUCTS, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

Specify the nature of each waste or by-product and the quantity to be generated

Type	Description	Quantity in Kg per wk./month

Proposed method of disposal or management of wastes (e.g. burning, bury, etc.)

Type of Waste	Method of Disposal/Management

Indicate sources of noise pollution, the type/quantity of noise (i.e. machine/repetitive pounding, etc.)

Sources of Noise	Type of Noise

SECTION 7: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Please indicate environmental impacts that may occur because of the proposed project.

Nature of Impact	Y/N	Brief Description of the Anticipated Impacts

SECTION 8: PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Indicate whether measures are being considered to mitigate against damage likely to be caused by the proposed project to human and/or the environment. Briefly describe these measures.

No.	LIKELY DAMAGE TO	MITIGATION MEASURES
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

7		
	Others	

State all experience you have with implementing the above-mentioned mitigation measures. If you do not have prior experience, what skills do you possess to implement these mitigating measures?

What staff training will be provided to ensure compliance with health and environmental safety standards?

SECTION 9	TESTIMONY
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I confirm that the information provided herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will also endeavour to provide additional information and facilitate a site visit if required.

Signed: Developer

Date

For Official Use Only

Received by:

Date:

Classified

A

B

C

Reasons for the Classification

Endorsed By:

Date:

Approved by Director

Date:

11.3 Content of an ESIA Report

An ESIA report has the following objectives:

- To enable the developer to better plan, design and implement specific investment while avoiding, minimizing, mitigating or compensating adverse environmental and social impacts, and maximizing environmental and social benefits from the proposed investment or activity.
- For the decision-makers to objectively evaluate the proposed project.
- To provide information on environmental and social impacts, and respective mitigation measures, for local communities and any other stakeholders to be able to contribute their opinions.

The ESIA report should entail:

1. **Executive summary** of the ESIA report which should be brief and focus on following matters:
 - Name and location of the project;
 - Name of the developer
 - Name of the agency preparing ESIA report;
 - Main impacts identified;
 - Mitigation recommendations;
 - Environmental monitoring plan.
2. **Objectives** of the project, including ideas, intentions and objectives.
3. **Description of the proposal and its alternatives.** In this part, it is necessary to describe in detail the proposed project and its alternatives, including those not subjected to pre-feasibility study or feasibility study. Attention should be concentrated to the comparison of different alternatives. Following are the required contents of the section "Description of the proposal and its alternatives":
 - The stage of the project cycle where the project is being implemented (pre-feasibility study, feasibility study or design);
 - Outlines of the plan for impact prediction and mitigation measures;
 - Raw materials, supplies, energy, water and equipment to be used for implementing the project and its alternatives;
 - Operational parameters such as capacity and product output;
 - Tables, photographs, diagrams and maps;
 - Comparison of characteristics of alternatives (extent, location, technology, products, energy and raw materials demands) in the present socio-economic, technical and environmental situation;
 - A summary of project technical, economic and environmental characteristics.
4. **Discussion on the proposal and its relation to relevant policies, laws and programmes** (sectoral and regional). In this section, the proposal must be shown to be in line with policies, laws, institutional framework and development strategy of Sierra Leone.
5. **Description of present (baseline) environmental state** (analysis of initial state). In this section, the environment in the project area should be appropriately described. The following aspects should be presented:
 - Environmental baseline conditions (natural and socio-economic);
 - Sensitivity and values (cultural, aesthetic) of environment in the project area.

6. **Impact assessment:** In this section, the spatial and temporal scope of the impacts and characteristics of different impacts (whether positive or negative, direct or indirect, their intensity, extent and significance) should be presented for the project and for all alternatives considered. The following aspects should be presented:

- Assessment of all impacts to the local population;
- Environmental data base, study methods and assumptions;
- Limitations and reliability of the data and study results;
- Compliance with the environmental standards and license issuing procedures;
- Significance of impacts, criteria and standards used for assessment of impact significance;
- Measures to avoid and mitigate impacts.

In this section, methods of data collection, methods and criteria used for assessing degree of danger and significance of impacts must be indicated. Cumulative impacts must be emphasised. A summary table of impacts for each alternative should be provided.

7. **Evaluation and comparison of alternatives** and selection of one that is environmentally suitable. The main content of this section is the comparison of the main positive and negative impacts, impact mitigation and monitoring measures of alternatives. The environmentally suitable alternative is determined based on the following aspects:

- Impacts with largest effects, measures for avoiding, mitigating and managing them;
- Impacts for which the developer has committed to take prevention measures and unavoidable impacts;
- Allocation of cost and benefit between the levels, partners and population of the project area;
- Information on protection measures or resettlement, acquiring opinions of the public;
- Environmental improvement opportunities.

8. **Impact management and environmental monitoring plan (EMP).** In this section, tasks to ensure the implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring of impacts should be presented. This is a plan for monitoring and management of impacts during the implementation and operation of the project, where the responsibilities between the state and investor are differentiated. This plan includes the following contents:

- Description of mitigation measures;
- Implementation schedule including indicators, costs, etc;
- Assignment of responsibility for implementation;
- Monitoring of implementation;
- Report on evaluation of implementing such the plan.

9. **Annex** where tables, drawings, maps, documents and information used as reference should be presented.

12 ANNEX 2: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND WORKSHOP

12.1 Meetings with the MTI

Minutes of the Consultative Meeting on the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Date: 10 April 2018

Time: 10:15 – 10:45

Venue: Office of the Permanent Secretary, MTI, Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown

In Attendant:

1. Julius Mattai (JM), ESMF Consultant
2. Abdul R M Fofanah (AF), Permanent Secretary, MTI
3. Gilbert Cooper (GC), Deputy Permanent Secretary, MTI
4. Abdul Kamara (AK), Director of Programme Management, MTI

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report
3. AOB

Minutes

1. Introduction

The meeting was called to order by AK at 10.15 and all the Meeting Attendees present introduced themselves.

JM welcomed all the members present and thanked them for their attendance in the meeting on short notice. JM informed the meeting that he has been commissioned by the PFMU and the World Bank to undertake the ESMF of the SLAPCP to ensure that the proposed SLAPCP activities are compliant with the relevant national policies, regulations and legislations as well as the World Bank (WBG) Operational Policies and Bank Procedures.

The Consultant outlined the following key issues:

- World Bank Environmental Safeguards, under Operational policy and Bank Procedure (OP/BP) 4.01, the SLAPCP is categorized as B project where it may have potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas, which will be identified and managed using standard approaches;
- Request to the MTI to make available any relevant and existing documentation and information pertinent to the ESMF, especially the current management arrangement for working with the Consultant and convening consultation meetings.
- ESMF development and stakeholder identification and engagement to ensure that all the beneficiaries are consulted on the positive and potential adverse environmental and social impacts.

2. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report

- AF expressed his appreciation of the Consultant's introductory narrative and acknowledged the appointment of the Consultant by the PFMU/World Bank; although he expressed his disappointment and concerns that he was not informed prior by the World Bank that it had already recruited the Consultant.
- AF intimated the meeting that he would prefer the Minister of Trade and Industry in attendance, but he was out of office.

- PS informed the Consultant that his MTI Team developed the TOR for the ESMF but he did not see the advertisement in the media. Nonetheless, AF informed the Consultant that his staff are available to assist the Consultant and provide backstopping, if needed. Specifically, AK was asked to work closely with the Consultant to successfully deliver the ESMF Report.
- CG emphasized the need to comprehensively and speedily deliver the Draft ESMF Report because the MTI need to move quickly with the implementation of the SLAPCP.

3. AOB

- AK requested a separate meeting with the Consultant with regards the contextual background to the SLAPCP.
- There being no other business, the meeting was terminated.

Minutes of the Consultative Meeting on the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Date: 10 April 2018

Time: 11:00 – 11:30

Venue: Office of the Director of Programme Management, MTI, Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown

In Attendant:

1. Julius Mattai (JM), ESMF Consultant
2. Abdul Kamara (AK), Director of Programme Management, MTI

Agenda:

1. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report
2. AOB

Minutes

1. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report
 - The AK again welcomed the Consultant and thanked him for his turn up for the meeting. AK informed the Consultant that the ESMF was a requirement to ensure that the proposed project activities are compliant with the relevant national policies, regulations and legislations as well as the World Bank (WBG) Operational Policies and Bank Procedures.
 - He informed the Consultant that the objective of the SLAPCP is to focus on providing solutions to key market failures inhibiting competitiveness of the agro processing sector and limiting firm and SME productivity. AK went on to describe the SLAPCP in detail, emphasizing that the SLAPCP consists of three components:
 - Component 1: Promote enabling environment for agro processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms.
 - Component 2: Firm-level support to increase productivity in agro-processing companies and SMEs in selected value chains.
 - Component 3: Project implementation, coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation.
 - JM thanked AK for his detailed description of the SLAPCP and expressed his eagerness to professionally work with the MTI, especially in identifying and engaging the various stakeholders. JM stressed the purpose of the stakeholder consultations was to discuss and receive comments on the Draft ESMF Report, which was being prepared by the Consultant under a very tight deadline – the final ESMF Report must be ready by the end of April 2018 for submission to the World Bank and public disclosure.
 - JM clarified that the ESMF document being developed is a framework mainly because the specific location of projects/ activities that may arise is not known.

Other issues discussed by JM and AK include:

- The need to guide potential beneficiaries on the requirements to be met on social and environmental aspects expected of them;
 - The project coverage should be wide as possible covering all the stakeholders rather than only selecting stakeholders from the MTI and MAFFS;
 - Develop communication mechanisms to raise the public awareness on the ESMF development.
2. AOB
 - There being no other business, the meeting was terminated.

12.2 Meeting with EPA-SL

Minutes of the Consultative Meeting on the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Date: 10 April 2018

Time: 12:30 – 1:15

Venue: Office of the Executive Chairperson of EPA-SL, EPA-SL, Old Railway Line, Freetown

In Attendant:

1. Julius Mattai (JM), ESMF Consultant
2. Madam Jatou Jallow (JJ), Executive Chairperson of EPA-SL

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report

Minutes

1. Introduction

JM thanked JJ for her availability for the meeting at a very short notice. JM informed JJ that he has been hired by the PFMU and the World Bank to undertake the ESMF of the SLAPCP to ensure that the proposed SLAPCP activities are compliant with the relevant national policies, regulations and legislations, especially the EPA Acts and the EPA-SL requirement, as well as the World Bank (WBG) Operational Policies and Bank Procedures.

JM explained the following key issues:

- World Bank Environmental Safeguards, under Operational policy and Bank Procedure (OP/BP) 4.01, the SLAPCP is categorized as B project where it may have potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas, which will be identified and managed using standard approaches. Request to JJ to clarify and confirm the current requirements of the EPA-SL with regards the development and submission of the Draft ESMF Report to the EPA-SL.
2. Discussion on the Draft ESMF Report
 - JJ welcomed JM's introductory narrative and informed him that she is fully aware of the SLAPCP. JJ acknowledged the appointment of the Consultant by the PFMU/World Bank to ensure that the proposed SLAPCP activities are compliant with the relevant national policies, regulations and legislations as well as the World Bank (WBG) Operational Policies and Bank Procedures.
 - JJ informed JM that requirements of the EPA-SL with regards the development and submission of the Draft ESMF Report to the EPA-SL remained unchanged. Basically, the EPA-SL Board does not have to review or approve the Draft and/or Final ESMF Report. However, it would be nice for the EPA-SL to access a copy of the Draft ESMF for expert and regulatory inputs as a sign of good practice. Furthermore, no fees are charged for the ESMF and that the EPA-SL is now fully committed to reducing the EIA Licence fees for all those projects mandated to acquire an EIA Licence.
 - JM explained the need to comprehensively and speedily deliver the Draft ESMF Report because the MTI need to move quickly with the implementation of the SLAPCP.

12.3 Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Draft ESMF Report

Minutes of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Date: 20 April 2018

Time: 08:30 – 13:30

Venue: INTEGEMS Geo-innovations Centre, 8H Technical Institute Drive, Congo Cross, Freetown

Agenda: (see Section 12.3.5)

In Attendant (see Section 12.3.6)

12.3.1 Introduction

The Stakeholder Consultation and Workshop (hereafter, Workshop) on the Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 20 April 2017 at the INTEGEMS Geo-innovation Centre, Congo Cross. The ESMF Consultant (Julius Mattai) in collaboration with the MTI (Abdul Kamara, Director of Programme Management) organised and facilitated the Workshop. A total of 35 participants from various GoSL MDAs, research organisations, NGOs, CBOs, Development Partners, UN Family, private sector agribusiness and agro processing SMEs, and academia participated in the Workshop.

At the Workshop, statements were made by representatives from the MTI and EPA-SL. The Draft ESMF Report was presented (using Microsoft PowerPoint Slides) to the stakeholders by the ESMF Consultant, and feedbacks from the stakeholder were solicited and received.

The Workshop entailed the following:

1. Statements by the Representatives from the MTI and the EPA-SL.
2. Technical presentation on the Draft ESMF Report by the Consultant.
3. Discussions, questions & answer with recommendation for the Draft ESMF Report.

12.3.2 Objectives of the Workshop

The general objective of the Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop was to solicit inputs from relevant stakeholders on the Draft ESMF Report before submission by the Consultant to the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists and the MTI for review.

12.3.3 Workshop Proceedings

Welcome and Opening Statement by the MTI Representative: Abdul Kamara (AK), Director of Operations

“Ladies and gentlemen, we all know that this is an agribusiness forum where issues relating to the Sierra Leone Agribusiness Competitiveness Project is now being discussed. While we are here to look at the ESMF, I think it is most appropriate to give you an overview about what the Sierra Leone Agribusiness Competitiveness Project is all about or how did it come about. We as a Ministry have thought about the relevance of this sector and we believe this sector can grow the economy by providing jobs, generating income and alleviating poverty. But we also believe there are challenges within the sector that are hampering the growth of the sector. And against that background we believe that until and unless we create the right framework for the operationalization of the sector, we cannot get the desired result.

Within that framework we engaged with the World Bank to discuss issues and to see how best we can come up with a concise programme to address issues of agribusiness development in the economy. And our discussion was so fruitful that the World Bank decided to work with us as a Ministry together with the

Integrated Project Administration Unit within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), which is now under the PFMU. To think, rethink and redesign our focus in terms of agribusiness development, hence the need for us to come up with a project that is going to look at issues related to agribusiness and agro processing development. Thus, our work to develop the Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project.

Why this project? There are a lot of players around in the sector, but we believe this project will create the right environment to promote agro processing, to be able to make them competitive within the group of selected value chains, which we believe if thoroughly addressed, can provide the necessary competitiveness of the sector within the sub region and beyond. We have looked at this Project, we believe it is going to strengthen SMEs to make them much more attractive and encourage them to invest and reinvest in these agribusinesses to strengthen the economy. We also believe that this Project is going to create the right framework to support job creation. Within the framework of this Project we have various components. There have 3 components we are going to address, because we believe there are challenges first, in the environment, the agribusiness environment to promote agribusiness development.

Member of Sierra Leone ICAP seated here will agree with us that a lot of studies have been done and it has been very glaring that the environments within which the businesses operate is worrisome. True or False? You want to prove me wrong? I am asking true or false? Its true thank you. We all agree that from the policies, we all agree that from the frameworks put in place, we all agree that from the issues that are being flagged out are still holding up the growth of this sector. I do not want to open Pandora's Box but we know even within the framework of the environment there are challenges. I have had issues to discuss with regards to environmental protections issues, costs and the like which we can shed for another day. But I think some of these issues are affecting the agribusiness development. So, within the framework of this Project our first component will be to address some of those revelations which we believe are an impediment to the growth of the sector.

We also believe that the best way to keep investment is to keep what you have so that people see those who are there are thriving. I can join them because if they had found themselves in a worse situation they would not have been where they are now. But since they are there I'm sure business is doing well, we can join them. Create the environment where we retain investment within the Framework of the agribusiness sector. And in doing that we also must look at the players involved in supporting that structural mechanism. We believe the key area we want to look at will be the issues of because if you're talking about agro business competitiveness. Trust me if you are to compete with a market of 600 million people wherein you have 16 countries trying to attract that market. I'm just talking about West Africa, trying to attract that market. I'm just talking about ECOWAs; the ECOWAS market.

There is a need to meet the requisite standards to address the market demands and we know part of the market failures that are affecting our economy must do with the issues of standards. We cannot shy away from that fact, the capacity to deliver the right goods at the right time with the right standards is challenged and that is affecting our competitiveness at the international level. True or False? True, I like that. And so, we're saying if we want to empower our business development and agribusiness development projects we should be able to look at some of these issues. Address capacity, including the framework of those institutions, address capacity even within the MTI to be able to effectively communicate issues around the agribusiness sector. Because it is not just about promoting standards or promoting investment but if even the coordinating institute does not have the real resources to address the issues at the right time then we are doomed and risk the entire process of agribusiness development.

So, within that component we believe capacity issues around that must be addressed and it is a cross cutting issue. Agribusiness touches on agriculture, it touches on trade matter and even touches on matters of health. And so, we want to look at the players involved, how do we ensure that the capacity of agribusiness development is enhanced within the Ministry of Agriculture to support what we are doing in the Ministry of Trade and link up with what the competent authority in the Ministry of Health is doing. Is there a nexus, is there a networking is there a viable approach and these are some of the issues we want to look at within that component we are talking about building the environment to support agribusiness development? Beyond that we know that there is an institution established by law, SMEDA, which is the key pivot element to promote agribusiness and SME development. Are they in the right

frame of mind to address issues along that line? What are the issues? Are they fit for the purpose? How do they work with them to the development of the agribusiness sector?

Within that framework and within component 2. This brings us to component 2 where we want to support selected businesses in the agribusiness sector to be able to be much more productive. Productivity must be increased to be able to address issues relating to income, job creation and poverty alleviation. We want to look at institutions that have the potential to address this. How do we support them? How do we build capacities around them? What kind of technical facility provision do we have to put in place to ensure that they are able to carry out the functions? Kwaku sitting there is the agribusiness is the Fund Manager at KPMG. Your institution would like to see big business grow much more to create the right framework for employment. How do these business link up with your office? What are the issues? Do they have the capacity? If they lack the capacity can we look for an institution set up facility frame and technical assistance facility that will provide the requisite support to beef up that capacity to create the necessary structures? How do we support them in terms of financing? Do we have the resources so that we can give them matching grants? Are they qualified for the matching grant? What makes them, qualified for the matching grants? What make SMEs take advantage of those opportunities abound to promote the agribusiness sector?

We shall be looking at those issues within this framework of the project. We are cock sure that technical facility is being put in place to provide the requisite support to promote businesses along that line and within that framework. We also believe that we will have a young team, a very young team to support programme management and coordination. We know their other players around working in this sector like SCADEP - in there we must have a team that should be able to manage and coordinate with other institutions. Maybe JICA will want to come along and say you know we have a little purse to chip in so that we can support the process. Some organisations are already showing interest to promote SME development and one of their areas will be agribusiness and they too will be coming on board.

All these need to be co-ordinated thoroughly to ensure we do not get duplication of efforts and we get value for money and the right results. So that small team comprising of technical experts can look at the various components and the coordinator and a small team that will link up with the PFMU in the Ministry of Finance must be put together to support the process. So, for us in a nutshell, we believe when this is done. We have created the right environment for agribusiness development; we have created the resource centre to support agribusiness development; we have created the right coordination mechanism to promote agribusiness development so it is now left with players within the ecosystem to take advantage of all these opportunities we have outlined to promote agribusiness development. I want to thank you all for listening to me. Thank you very much”.

12.3.3.1 Statements by Workshop Participants

12.3.3.2 Statement by the Representative from MTI

Overview of the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP) by Abdul Kamara, Director of Programme Management, MTI

“Thank you very much Consultant and a very good morning to colleagues and we all believe it is time for us to move the agro-business development agenda faster. It has been moving at a very slow pace and I know government after government after government has always said it clearer that the agri-business sector is one key element that is there towards promoting employment, income generation and poverty alleviation. How much of that has happened over the years is a whole subject for research, it can even be a PhD research.

You will agree with me that several players have come to reform, to ensure that this sector takes it right position within the development agenda. Some have come with a view to ensuring that to strengthen capacities to promote the sector. Some have approached the sector from the purely technical point of view looking at issues and linkages within the landscape of the sector. Others have in their own little way created the right frameworks to support the growth of the sector, others have stood by to see how things unfold within the framework of the sector. But one thing is very clear, the fact is that the agri-business sector is a very potent element that can turn around lives of people within this economy and promote

economic development in Sierra Leone. We come to appreciate the fact that many countries within the sub-Sahara Africa, agri-business sectors have transformed economies in places like Senegal, in places like Kenya, in places like Ghana, I have seen the role in agri-business sector as played in the development of their economies and it's not magic. It is the will and determination to push in the right direction to create the necessary structures to support the growth of the sectors which in turn will boost the economic growth of the country.

For us as a Ministry, we believe the agri-business sector should be the link for the promotion of SMEs in the economy. We believe Sierra Leone is an agrarian economy, 70% of our population is in as the agriculture sector. But let us ask ourselves how much we have done to move the process one step forward to transform our agriculture to promoting agri-business. What are the challenges that we have? How do we want to handle them? Are we just primary producers and that is just what we want to be? Are we going to add values to ensure that we will be able to take advantage of the regional markets? Within the framework of the ECOWAS market, how much have we done to capture that 600 million people will have to promote our businesses. This and many more questions are now being asked by various players, be the private sectors, by the civil society organizations and even the press have raised these concerns. These are questions yet to be fully answered. We believe as a Ministry working together with our development partners: The World Bank, UNIDO, GIZ, FAO, IFC, JAICA, USAID, UNDP and a host of others, we are all now enthusiastic to search for the right answers to promote the agri-business sector.

Against this backdrop, us as a Ministry is to ensure we do proper linkages and coordination within the framework of our mandate to render the necessary support for us to push the agri-business sector forward. And this is where we want to express our appreciations and gratitude to the World Bank for the support they have given us to look at the agri-business sector and their view in developing the right programs to push the sector forward. We are appreciative of all the other players in this sector but we believe at this junction we are working with the World Bank and our doors are open to working with all other players to ensure that this venture of promoting the agri-business sector becomes a reality.

This morning we are here to look at issues that are going to affects the implementation of programmes in the sector from an environmental point of view. We have been working with the World Bank to develop a programme on agri-business competitiveness of the Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project. We are still at the design stage of the Project but we believe as we move along, environmental issues are very critical in the development sector and to the development of this program. So, the services of the Consultant were hired to develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework. We want to look at what has been done, how it has been done, what are the issues we have in the Framework of the project design so that once the Project is finally designed, we are assured that the environmental issues are addressed accordingly. We want to thank you all for being here and we look forward to a fruitful discussion. Once again thank you all for coming”.

12.3.3.3 Statement by the Representative from EPA-SL

Alfred T Jondie, Senior Environmental Officer, EPA-SL

“Statement on Behalf of the Executive Chairperson, Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) on Stakeholders Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop of the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report for the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP) in Sierra Leone

Mr Chairman, Chief Director of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies; Country Director UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Executive Chairperson of the Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone I feel extremely honoured and gratified to attend this Public Disclosure Ceremony on the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework report for Sierra Leone.

For us at the EPA, we think it is crucial to promote sustainable agriculture and thriving agro-business through research and technology development, effective extension and other support services to farmers, fishermen, processors and traders for improved human livelihood. Sierra Leone's agriculture is predominantly subsistence (about 90% of farms are less than 2 ha in size) with family operated farms

using rudimentary tools. Despite the low scale of technology, the small-scale or subsistence farmers produce over 80% of the agricultural output.

Mr Chairman it is worth noting that about 75% of the labour forces in Sierra Leone are directly engaged in agriculture. Sierra Leone's agriculture contributes enormously to the wide spread environmental degradation through poor management practices due to slash and burn practices.

Unfortunately, most farmers are not aware of the linkage between farming practices and environmental degradation.

On the other hand, large-scale agriculture carries out in Sierra Leone acquire huge hectares or parcels of lands for the growth and processing of the product using improved technology and inputs. This activity also poses threats to the environment. Cash crops such as oil palm, cocoa, coffee and cashew are produced.

Mr Chairman, the need for environmental management has become urgent due to the growing concern on the damage to the environment because of various developmental activities, including Agriculture. Notably, the degradation to the environment is most times in the form of deforestation, unsustainable land use practices and the effects on air and water pollution which in turn are affecting the quality of life. These threats can be averted, halted or reversed if effective management of the natural resources becomes our priority. This initiative in developing the ESMF is a good step in achieving this target.

Mr Chairman, the Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone has developed an EIA guideline to ensure sustainable development of the agricultural sector and contribute towards sound environmental management in the agriculture sector with financial assistance from European Union and inputs from stakeholders who made comments for the finalization of the document.

Mr Chairman, the guidelines are intended to help proponents of agricultural projects, planners and administrators, environmental specialists, and project managers to cover the following areas: Information on the statutory EIA process and procedure for detailed EIA studies.

It is recommended that all persons using pesticides for commercial agricultural purposes obtain a pesticide applicator's certificate from the EPA-SL.

In conclusions, let me congratulate you all that have made it to this meeting for such an outstanding endeavour in the interest of national development. Moreover, I urge all stakeholders including the authorities, MDAs, CSOs, and all other partners to apply the spirit of protecting our great environment and to guide our development in our times. Together, we can achieve the future we want".

12.3.3.4 Workshop Presentation

Presentation of the Draft ESMF Report of the SLAPCP by Julius Mattai, ESMF Consultant

The Consultant started his presentation with words of appreciations to Abdul Kamara of MTI for the SLAPCP overview, which he gave prior to the presentation of the Draft ESMF Report. However, to put the ESMF in context, the Consultant gave a brief review of the SLAPCP noting that the SLAPCP contributes directly to strengthening agro-processing competitiveness, which is the ability of agro-processing firms to generate new investments and increase market share in goods and services through improved productivity. He reiterated that although the Project is bound to have some environmental and social impacts, no matter how small they may be, the ESMF has not looked at all the impacts downstream of all the activities of SMEs who are beneficiaries of the Project. He pointed out that the ESMF is not a life-cycle analysis.

The Consultant highlighted the Project's components and subcomponents, from which the environmental and socio-economic footprints have been addressed in the ESMF, noting that the likely impacts of the activities to be undertaken depend on the nature and magnitude of the activities, amongst others. He gave a quick recap noting that the Project is funded by World Bank, through an IDA credit to the GoSL as an Investment Project Financing (IPF). The Consultant highlighted the project's beneficiaries and implementing partners, including agribusiness and agro processing firms in Sierra Leone, SMEs in targeted value chains, MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA, and SLSB.

Elaborating on the ESMF, the Consultant reckoned that no matter how small a project is, as long it is sponsored by the World Bank, it will be assessed in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures. He added that the SLAPCP has been categorized by the World Bank as an 'Environmental Assessment Category B' project with potential to cause some minimal localized negative environmental and social impacts, which can be identified and managed using standard approaches. The Consultant noted that at this stage of the SLAPDAC development, the exact locations and attributes of the subprojects which will emanate from the SLAPCP's components are unknown, adding that that is the main reason why an ESMF is being developed to enable screening of the subprojects when they become known.

JM stated that he has prepared the Draft ESMF Report on behalf of the GoSL and MTI with funding from the World Bank. He added that the key aim is to set out rules, principles, guidelines and procedures for assessment of environmental and social impacts of the development project.

The Consultant took the stakeholders through the objectives of the ESMF preparation assignment as defined by the TOR. Elaborating on the methodology, he noted that the development of the Draft ESMF Report is an iterative process that combines stakeholder consultations and a comprehensive review of the Project Appraisal Documents and Project Document Objectives, as well as policy and administrative frameworks within Sierra Leone and the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures. He added that the ESMF ensures that the SLAPCP activities are being implemented in accordance with the relevant Sierra Leonean policies as well as the recommendations of the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures.

The Consultant highlighted that the ESMF contains plans to prevent, reduce and mitigate adverse impacts and enhance positive impacts of the project, including an estimate of the cost of implementing these plans. He further presented a snapshot of some of the key legislation, policies and institutional frameworks within which the ESMF is being developed. He noted that given that the SLAPCP has been classified by the World Bank as 'Category B' the SLAPCP does not need an EIA license from the EPA-SL. However, he added that the consent of EPA-SL is needed to clarify whether the project is in conformance with the statutory national EPA Acts 2008/2010 requirements.

He noted that the only World Bank Safeguard Policy that is triggered by the SLAPCP is the Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP/BP 4.01) because the project is likely to have potential positive and negative social and environmental risks and impacts in its area of influence. He added that the OP/BP 4.01 covers impacts on the natural environment, human health and safety, and trans-boundary and global environment.

The Consultant took the stakeholders through the Project's component and subcomponent activities and their potential positive and negative environmental and socio-economic impacts as present in the Draft ESMF Report. He highlighted that if all the project's positive impacts, which are either to 'enhance', 'strengthen', 'increase' or 'improve' are realised, agro-processing business in Sierra Leone will be in a better place. He also noted that the social and environmental impacts in the Framework are generic and have considered health and safety, waste management, air quality and noise; adding that although some of the known project activities are service related, they still have some negative environmental and social impacts to some degree. He reiterated that at this stage the SLAPCP is a WB 'Category B' project, although subprojects which are unknown at this point might have impacts within the magnitude of Categories A or C according to the EPA-SL project screening criteria.

The Consultant highlighted that as part of SLAPCO's capacity building plan, various types of training will be conducted for relevant staff of the MTI, MAFFS, SLIEPA, SMEDA, SLSB, SLECAD and SME agro processors at various levels, covering requirements of the national environmental, social and climate policies, legislation and administrative frameworks. He added that the training will also cover ESMF processes, procedures and institutional arrangements to develop and implement required safeguards documents; screening and rating as prescribed in the ESMF.

Elaborating on the monitoring and mitigation of potential impacts, the Consultant noted that each subproject activity will be subjected to formal screening to check if the proposed subprojects requires any further assessments such as ESIA and/or ESMP. He added that the Project will also be monitored

to ensure that it puts adequate safeguards in place to address issues of gender; governance; labour influx; and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and cultural appropriateness of subproject activities. He highlighted that the PCUs will be capacitated with Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists who will provide advice to the project beneficiaries on the guidelines in the ESMF.

The Consultant noted that Gender Mainstreaming is a key component of the SLAPCP and a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan have been developed to collect gender-based information to inform decision making. He added that some of the experiences and lessons learnt from the MAFFS's SCADep has been leveraged to develop the ESMF, given that there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Elaborating on the institutional and implementation arrangements for the ESMF, JM stated that the overall responsibility for steering SLAPCP's ESMF implementation will be with the MTI and MAFFS.

The Consultant noted that the tentative approximate cost of implementing the ESMF over a course of five years (2018-2023) will be USD 128,000, adding that monitoring and evaluation for compliance with environmental and social safeguards policies will be managed by the PCU Safeguard Specialist(s) to measure the success rate of the project, determine whether interventions have resulted in mitigating negative impacts, whether further interventions are needed or monitoring is to be extended.

JM highlighted that climate change is a very significant variable in the agricultural sector. Therefore, Climate Risk Analysis should be undertaken prior to the full design of a SLAPCP subproject to determine the exposure of the SLAPCP subproject to climate-related risks based on available information about historic climate change variability and occurrences. He, however, noted that currently the SLAPCP is low in terms of climate risk - primarily as a precautionary measure, and therefore does not require an in-depth climate risk analysis. He highlighted that, Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) serve to prevent and address stakeholder and community concerns, reduce risk, and assist larger processes that create positive social change. He added that the GRM is an integral part of the ESMF and has been proposed based on principles of fairness, objectiveness, independence, simplicity, accessibility, responsiveness and efficiency.

Deliberating on the procedures for environmental and social impact screening, the Consultant noted that once the subprojects are defined and their parameters defined, screening will be required. He added, that the environment and social screening procedure will include three steps to ensure that environmental and social impacts are identified, mitigation measures proposed and monitoring measures incorporated. He noted that the EPA-SL ESIA process and screening form has been incorporated into the Annexes of the Draft ESMF Report.

In conclusion, the Consultant briefly took the stakeholder through the EPA-SL ESIA process, which starts with the project screening and ultimately will the issuance of an EIA license, which is charged depending on the environmental and social footprints of the project.

12.3.3.5 Questions and Answers Session

Question 1:

Brima Babo – National Coordinator, National Federation of Farmers of Sierra Leone (NaFFSL)

My interest is how we address agribusiness development in the Country and I believe the bedrock or foundation of such development starts with the productive digit which are the farmers directly. If we are addressing the issue of standards, we believe that the areas where production is taking place should be taken into consideration. We are looking at where the products are coming from and that is where standardization must start. Where the farmers will benefit from the project is not captured in the Draft ESMF Report. We cannot say it is an oversight or neglect but we want to see it in this document where the farmers will be interrelated in addressing the environmental issues which are pertinent to their areas of activities.

Question 2:

Mohamed Sheriff- Senior Project Manager, PFMU

How do we do disclosure of this document because this is a major requirement and we may want to know where and how can we get access to the Final Draft ESMF Report? People cannot ask lot of technical question now because they are not familiar with all the environmental and social issues in the Draft Report.

Question 3:

Mary Hawa Turay- Agro Business Expert, MAFFS

I want to coin what the Representative from the NaFFSL has just said. I think during the developmental stage of the SLAPCP, I intervened a lot and somehow succeeded to convince the MTI and MAFFS Teams to develop the project proposal. But I still feel uncomfortable and I must make a strong case that this is an agribusiness project but the MAFFS does not really stand out as it was shunned out of the SLAPCP completely until I had to make a case to bring in the idea of linking farmers to the market. An agribusiness project cannot be implemented without involving the farmers, we talked about the NaFFSL, even within the MAFFS.

My recommendation is that the MTI to facilitate a meeting with MAFFS to present the status of the SLAPCP so that we can get more information and understand better as they are the key implementing partner of the SLAPCP.

Answers to Questions 2 and 3:

ESMF Consultant

The issue about involving the product aspect of things, including the farmers, I mentioned during my presentation that this is not a life-cycle analysis in the sense that you might as well think about how the farmers cultivate their lands, how they get their equipment and machinery, etc., so you ask yourself “how far do you go back”? But within the remit of what was given to me and from the environmental perspective, we must get some definitive ecological and social boundaries and it is for that reason I highlighted that this is within the local context of the office environment and the immediate vicinity of the subprojects. Nevertheless, this is something I will take on board and discuss it with the MDAs and the World Bank when they are defining the scope of work. I do understand and it is for that reason when I started my presentation I made it clear that we are not doing a life-cycle analysis, which is from cradle-to-grave analysis.

In terms of public disclosure, this was highlighted in the Draft ESMF Report that the Draft and Final ESMF Reports will be available on the MTI website and other partners as well as the World Bank’s website. They will also make the hard copies available to the key beneficiaries, MDAs and the public by printing about 25 copies of the ESMF Report.

Answer to Question 1:

Abdul Kamara – MTI

The interaction between MAFFS and MTI is cordial. We have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MAFFS which clearly defines our level of collaboration and how that can help strengthen our relationship. We are always ready and willing to do a presentation to them based on this Project. When we started designing the SLAPCP, we approached the Agribusiness Experts of MAFFS who also advise the Minister through the office of the Strategic Advisory Unit as a vital player that should be on board of the project preparation committee. We appreciate the fact that we need to have farmers to produce their products since this is an agribusiness project and I can assure everybody that we are ready to do a presentation of the SLAPCP to the staffs of MAFFS and getting their response.

Question 4:

Kweku Fraser- Team Leader, SLADF/KPMG

The ESMF is part of the World Bank agro-processing project which is a development that has almost been finalised and there seems to be a whole project implementation report structure for the ESMF Steering Committee, would that be separated from the overall agro-processing project?

Answer to Question 4:

Abdul Kamara – MTI

Within the framework of the agribusiness project, a key requirement is to do an ESMF and what we get from it is going to fit into the SLAPCP design that will help to guide the process and finalization of the SLAPCP. It provides relevant information to support the project design.

Question 5:

Rakibul Bari Khan- Country Representative, BRAC

The implementation element that was shown during the presentation by the Consultant seems to be specific for the ESMF and not necessarily for the SLAPCP. Can this be clarified please?

Answer to Question 5:

ESMF Consultant

At the start of the presentation, when I gave an overview of the SLAPCP I mentioned the structure in terms of implementation of the SLAPCP and towards the ending I talked about the implementation of the ESMF. The MTI and MAFFS are the two implementing partners with the Project Steering Committee sitting between the MTI/MAFFS and the PCU/ PFMU. The PCU will be capacitated with Environmental and Social Safeguard Experts who will provide support to all beneficiaries, including the SMEs and all other stakeholders who will need information in terms of how to move the environmental and social discourse forward. That does not exclude the PCU for dealing with other SLAPCP-related issues that have no environmental component. But within the PCU, there will be various specialist to deal with various issues, including M&E officers to deal with the monitoring aspect as well.

Question 6:

Jesse Olu John- President, NAFFSL

As an advocacy group, I want to request that we include the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and the NaFFSL in the capacity building programme. If the capacity of fisheries is improved, most people will stop destroying the environment and go into fishing and we will be able to export our fish. And, if the capacities of the farmers are developed by providing fertilizers, tractors, rice harvesters, irrigation facilities, etc., this will attract the youths to involve in farming activities that will reduce rural-urban migration and let us also include existing facilities like Lion Mountain, Seed Tech etc.

Answer to Question 6:

Abdul Kamara – MTI

We want to assure everybody that the SLAPCP is a complementary project to SCADeP and some of these issues have already been addressed. SCADeP is currently working with farmers in terms of improving infrastructure and building their capacity, and supporting advocacy groups and promoting line MDAs, including MTI. We are working with SCADeP to take this process a step further by supporting agro-processing by means of production and it will be ongoing. We will look forward to working with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, as they are very important in agro-processing.

Question 7:

Alfred T Jondie - Senior Environmental Officer. EPA-SL

It was mentioned in the presentation that the World Bank categorised this agriculture project as “Category B”, and as an institution we are having interface with the World Bank because they give due consideration to the environment. From the EPA-SL point of view, there a procedure in terms of categorising projects and it is not fix or static. When you go through the screening form and submit your project proposal, it is based on the activities and the magnitude the project would be categorised.

We will like to know the specific MDAs that will be involved in the implementation of the project so that we will be able to determine their relevance in the Project Steering Committee.

When you were presenting on the impacts, you mention noise and other parameters that will be of importance to our Agency. I agreed with you entirely but it was a little bit soft in a sense that much as we are thinking that people are not aware about environmental programs, you were a little bit soft in presenting the issues looking at the magnitude. There are thresholds within our Agency that will warrant further penalty if a project is beyond these thresholds.

Answer to Question 7:

ESMF Principal Consultant

The World Bank has their own procedure of categorising project, one of the things we should make clear is that it does not mean because the ESMF has been given a categorization of “B”, any sub project addressed within this ESMF cannot be categorised as “A”. This depends on the magnitude of the impacts as you rightly said and the footprint. There could be a subproject that has massive footprint or does not have massive footprint but implemented in a protected area or very eco-sensitive area. It is EPA–SL’s prerogative to categorise such subproject; hence there is a justification. It is for that reason that the World Bank is very flexible and cognisant of the EPA–SL’s mandate. Therefore, it is only the SLAPCP that has been categorised as “B” not all the subprojects that will be eventually implemented under the SLAPCP.

In terms of specific names of the Project Steering Committee, the project proponent keeps referring to the MTI and MAFFS as the key implementing partners even though there seems to be some discord in terms of the level of involvement. But there is still some dialogue for Mr Abdul Kamara to move forward to other MDAs in terms of clarity but I firmly believe that the EPA – SL will be considered, there is no way you can go ahead with such project without bringing the EPA–SL in the Project Steering Committee, especially when environmental issues are involved. This is an opportunity for MTI and MAFFS to sit and determine the composition of the Project Steering Committee.

In terms of going soft on the environmental impacts, at this stage we can bring in generic issues regarding noise at work - not ambient environmental noise but occupational noise within the premises of the office environment. The reason I left it as air quality is because we are still not sure of the location of the SMEs Technical Assistance Facilities and they are currently not existing. Therefore, I am a little bit soft on it now but rather highlighted the activities that are likely to cause some of these impacts. Most of these will be fine-tuned when the subprojects are defined and categorised and whether it is category “A” or “B”; then we will come up with a full ESMP and/or ESIA that will address each activity and their impacts in detail, including who is going to be responsible to mitigate those impacts, who is going to monitor them and for how long.

Question 8:

Henry Fornah – Manager, SLEIPA

From our engagement with the World Bank, the conceptual design of the Project cannot be changed now because even when you look at the name of the project “agro-processing”, which implies that the major thrust of this Project is to promote value addition. There have been a lot of ongoing initiatives, when MTI, MAFFS and SLEIPA engage the World Bank to come up with this Project, they said they will help us to come up with a complementary project in line with the SCADeP intervention which means they are going to look at issues of value addition. MTI is the leading implementation partners because of the concept of the Project which is value addition and market access and MAFFS are the second implementing partner because they should address the issue of production. We want to encourage farmer’s organizations, agribusiness units and individual farmers to take advantage of the opportunity. This project will serve as an eye opener to encourage the agribusiness sector to consider the value addition initiative.

Questions 9 and 10:

Kweku Fraser- Team Leader, SLADF/KPMG

Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund is a component of SCADeP, and our project is to target farmers on the production stage, especially smallholder farmers and out growers. We provide financing for medium to large agribusinesses, but they must provide a matching element. We give a grant and we have no minimum amount but the maximum amount is USD 1,000,000. At least 60 – 70% of our grant must be spent directly on development of partnership with smallholder farmers and out growers. For example, when we give an agribusiness rice producer a grant, it must be spent on the development of the small-scale farmer working with the agribusiness unit. One of the major selection criteria is working with a medium to large amount of smallholder farmers. For example, in rice you need to have at least 2,000 smallholder farmers, the grant must be used to provide high quality of seeds and other extension services, including fertilizers and things that will improve production. In terms of the agro-processing stage, this is where the agribusiness will come in because it should be a win-win situation.

Question 11:

Ansumana Ngobeh- Secretary General, Drivers Union

Thank Julius for his presentation and said transporters are part of the value chain; but asked why noting was mentioned during the ESMF presentation about agro transporting?

Answer to Question 11:

ESMF Principal Consultant

The Consultant responded that since this is a Draft ESMF framework he cannot delve deeper into agro transport issue until the subproject activities are well defined. But rather he defined the activities of the impact of transport which are generic and includes: noise and air quality. The Consultant said he fully agrees with Henry Fornah's explanation on how this agro processing works and said the name of the project was "Competitiveness Agro Processing Development Project" but was recently changed by the World Bank to "Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project".

Answer to Questions 9 and 10:

Response from Abdul Kamara – MTI

Mr. Kamara added that since this Project is still in the design phase a lot of changes will have to be made along the line to fine tune the Project. He also said that the response from the stakeholders are very vital in finalizing this Project. In response to the Project preparation Committee, he said that for now, there is a Committee working with the World Bank that involves SLECAD, SLSB, MAFFS, MOFED and Bank of Sierra Leone, etc. He also added that as they move along if need be for another institution to be added to the Committee but it should be based on its relevance.

Question 12:

Sam Jacques- Head of PSD, GIZ

How will the businesses be able to cover the cost of implementing the highlighted social and environmental risk; other countries cater for these through various means such as soft loans from Central Banks; will that be put in place:

Question 13:

Diego Barreiro- Development Adviser, GIZ/EPP

I want to know when the Full Draft ESMF Report will be available.

Answer to Questions 12 and 13:

ESMF Consultant

The Consultant intimated that the MTI/Mr Kamara is the best entity to respond to the issues of cost implementation recovery and soft loans.

The Consultant stated that after his presentation, the Executive Summary of the Draft ESMF Report, which was circulated prior to the Workshop, will again be shared with all those who did not received the email attachment. The Full Draft ESMF report will be available for circulation again once the proceedings from the have been submitted to the World Bank for review, hopefully by mid next week. The Consultant requested that all participants ensure they leave their correct email addresses at the Reception so that they will be emailed the reviewed Draft ESMF Reports, including the PowerPoint presentations.

Question 14:

Henry Fornah – Manager, SLEIPA

Are there priority sectors in agriculture for this ESMF?

Answer to Question 14:

ESMF Consultant

For now, no, all sectors are a priority.

Question 15:

Julius Kandeh Kanu- Admin Officer, SMEDA

We are also here to support and collaborate with the MAFFS, farmers and food processors using platforms like farmers market, where we give farmers and all an opportunity to showcase fresh farm produce and thus allowing them to develop the value chain as well as allow for growth in agriculture, provide job opportunities and more.

Answer to Question 15:

Abdul Kamara – MTI

In terms of SME we are looking towards working with SMEDA as a big part of this project to uplift SMEs. SMEDA appreciates this opportunity and is looking forward to the partnership.

At the end of the Questions & Answers session, Henry Fornah – Manager, SLEIPA, suggested that the ESMF Consultant gives a summary as a take away from the Workshop from his notes. The Consultant in his closing remarks stated that the Workshop is not a validation workshop, as the initial model was to have a series of one-on-one stakeholder consultation meetings per stakeholder organisation but there was not time due to the Presidential Elections 2018. He expressed that there were some constraints with time, which led to the full Draft ESMF Report not been sent to stakeholders to thoroughly review before the Workshop.

The Consultant emphasized that to present the context from been slightly out of hands, each project impact must be localized. He highlighted that some of the contextual background of the project in terms of design, beneficiaries, and administrative makeup is an essential aspect of the ESMF Report. He went on to give a brief description of the EPA-SL Screening Form, and the steps involved in obtaining an EIA Licence from the EPA-SL.

The ESMF Consultant concluded by thanking everyone for leaving their busy schedules to contribute to the Workshop.

12.3.4 Invitation Letter to Stakeholders



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Programme Management Directorate
Ministry of Trade and Industry
6TH Floor Youyi Building
Freetown

16 April 2018

Addressed to see below

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Invitation to Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop of the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report for the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP) in Sierra Leone

You may wish to know that the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in collaboration with the World Bank is designing the **Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)**.

The main objective of the SLAPCP is to improve the business environment in the Agribusiness sector and increase productivity of targeted agro-processing firms in Sierra Leone. The Project also seeks to contribute directly to strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in selected value chains to attract new investments in agribusiness and encourage existing investors to expand and grow.

To further inform the Project design, the MTI in collaboration with the World Bank recruited a consultant to design an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The Draft ESMF provides a general option impact analysis with environmental and social criteria and an overall assessment on how to reduce, mitigate, and/or offset adverse risks and impacts. It also enhances positive impacts and monitor possible environmental and social effects associated with the SLAPCP subprojects

I wish to inform you that a Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report has been prepared by the Consultant and the Executive Summary of the Draft ESMF Report is attached for your perusal.

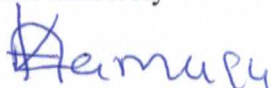
Against this backdrop, the MTI wish to cordially invite you to a Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop on the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report.

The Consultation and Disclosure is scheduled for Friday 20th April 2018, between 8: am – 1:30 pm at the INTEGEMS Geo-innovations Centre, 8G Technical Institute Drive, Congo Cross, Freetown.

An agenda for the Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop of the Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report is also attached for your attention.

Please confirm your attendance to Julius Mattai at jd.mattai@integems.com or by phone on +232 78 898260

Yours Sincerely



Abdul Kamara

Director

Cc: the Permanent Secretary –MTI

The Chief Director /Professional Head – MTI

List of invited stakeholders

1. Chief Director – Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
2. Agri Business Expert – Strategic Advisory Unit (SAU) Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)
3. Director of Export – Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA)
4. Coordinator – IPAU Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED)
5. Executive Secretary – Sierra Leone Chamber of Agribusiness Development (SLECAD)
6. CEO – Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA)
7. CEO – Environmental Protection Agency-Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)
8. Country Rep – Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
9. Country Rep – International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
10. Head – Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI)
11. Executive Director – Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)
12. Head – United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
13. Sierra Leone Chamber of Agri Business Development (SLeCaD)
14. Country Director – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
15. Country Rep – World Food Programme (WFP)
16. Head – German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
17. Dean – Environmental Sciences, Njala University of Sierra Leone (NUSL)
18. Director – National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)
19. Statistician General – Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL)
20. Head – Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLLCA)
21. Head – International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
22. Head – Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)
23. Executive Secretary – Produce Marketing Board (PMB)
24. Head – Sierra Leone Business Forum (SLBF)
25. Head – Sierra Leone Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SLeFAAS)
26. Managing Director – Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC)

27. Head – ACDI/VOCA
28. Country Director – Plan International
29. Country Director – Oxfam International
30. Country Director – Save the Children International
31. Country Director – CARE International
32. Country Director – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
33. Head of Delegation – European Union (EU)
34. General Manager – Goldtree (SL) Ltd
35. General Manager – Socfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone Ltd
36. General Manager – Natural Habitats (SL) Ltd
37. General Manager – Sierra Coffee Mills Ltd
38. General Manager – Sierra Akker Food Processing (SL) Ltd
39. General Manager – Sierra Fishing Company (SFC)
40. General Manager – Capitol Foods
41. President – National Federation of Farmers Sierra Leone (NAFFSL)
42. President – Sierra Leone Women Farmers Federation (SLeWOFF) -
43. President - Commercial Agriculture Producers and Processors Association (CAPPA)
44. Coordinator – Smallholder Commercial Agribusiness Development Programme (SCADEP)
45. Country Manager – CORDAID
46. Head – SLADF Fund Management (KMPG)
47. Head – Sierra Leone Farmers Market
48. Deputy Director – Programme Management Directorate – MTI
49. Head – Sierra Leone Market Women Association
50. Executive Secretary – Mano River Union
51. Executive Secretary – Sierra Leone Motor Drivers Union.

Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Date: Friday 20th April 2018

Time: 08:30 to 13:30

Venue: INTEGEMS Geo-innovations Centre, 8G Technical Institute Drive, Off Main Motor Road,
Congo Cross, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Time	Activity	Owner
08:00 to 8:30	1) Arrival and registration of participants/stakeholder	
8:30 to 9:00	BREAKFAST	
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENTS		
9:00: to 9 :30	2) Official Opening – Prayers and welcome 3) Statement by MTI Representative 4) Statement by EPA-SL Representative	Consultant MTI EPA-SL
PART 2 – PRESENTATIONS		
9:30 to 10:15	5) Overview of the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP) 6) Presentation of the Draft ESMF Report of the SLAPCP	MTI Consultant
PART 3 –DISCUSSIONS AND REVIEW		
10:15 to 11:15	7) Discussion of the Draft ESMF Report 8) Questions and Answers	Participants
11:15 to 12:00	9) Presentation of key recommendations to update the Draft ESMF Report	Participants
12:00 to 12:30	10) Next steps and closing remarks	Consultant & MTI
12:30 to 1 :30	Lunch	

12.3.5 Agenda for the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Time	Activity	Owner
08:00 to 8:30	Arrival and registration of participants/stakeholder	Participants
8:30 to 9:00	BREAKFAST	
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENTS		
9:00: to 9:30	Official Opening – Prayers and welcome	Consultant
	Statement by MTI Representative	MTI
	Statement by EPA-SL Representative	EPA-SL
PART 2 – PRESENTATIONS		
9:30 to 10:15	Overview of the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCD)	MTI
	Presentation of the Draft ESMF Report of the SLAPCP	Consultant
PART 3 –DISCUSSIONS AND REVIEW		
10:15 to 11:15	Discussion of the Draft ESMF Report	Participants
	Questions and Answers	
11:15 to 12:00	Presentation of key recommendations to update the Draft ESMF Report	Participants
12:00 to 12:30	Next steps and closing remarks	Consultant & MTI
12:30 to 1:30	LUNCH	
Close of Workshop		

12.3.6 List of Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Participants

Attendance List for the Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop Draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Report for the Sierra Leone Agro-Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP)

Friday 20 April 2018, INTEGEMS Geo-innovations Centre, 8G Technical Institute Drive, Congo Cross, Freetown, Sierra Leone

No	Name	Organisation	Designation	EMAIL
1.	Sorie Ibrahim Kamara	NPAA	Community Conservation Manager	ksorieibrahim@yahoo.com
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35	E.D Allie Williams	SL Fishing Company	Company Secretary	africastarfish@yahoo.com

Attendance list for Stakeholder Consultation and Public Disclosure Workshop
For
Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Proposed Agro-Processing Competitive Project
(SLAPCP) (CAPDP) in Sierra Leone

20th/04/2018

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25.	Jesse Olu John	NAFFSL	President	01076605894@gmail
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IF/A

AK

Sum.

H. Jalloh

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34.	Sam Jacques	GIZ	APC Head of PSD	jacques.sam@giz
35.	J.E.D. Ade Williams	Sierra Fish Co. Ltd	Company Secretary	aficastarfish@yahoo
36.				
37.				
38.				
39.				
40.				
41.				
42.				

12.3.7 Workshop Photo Plates

Workshop Photo Plates

Julius Mattai, ESMF Consultant



Abdul Kamara, Director of Programmes, MTI



National Coordinator, NAFFSL



Agro Business Expert, MAFFS



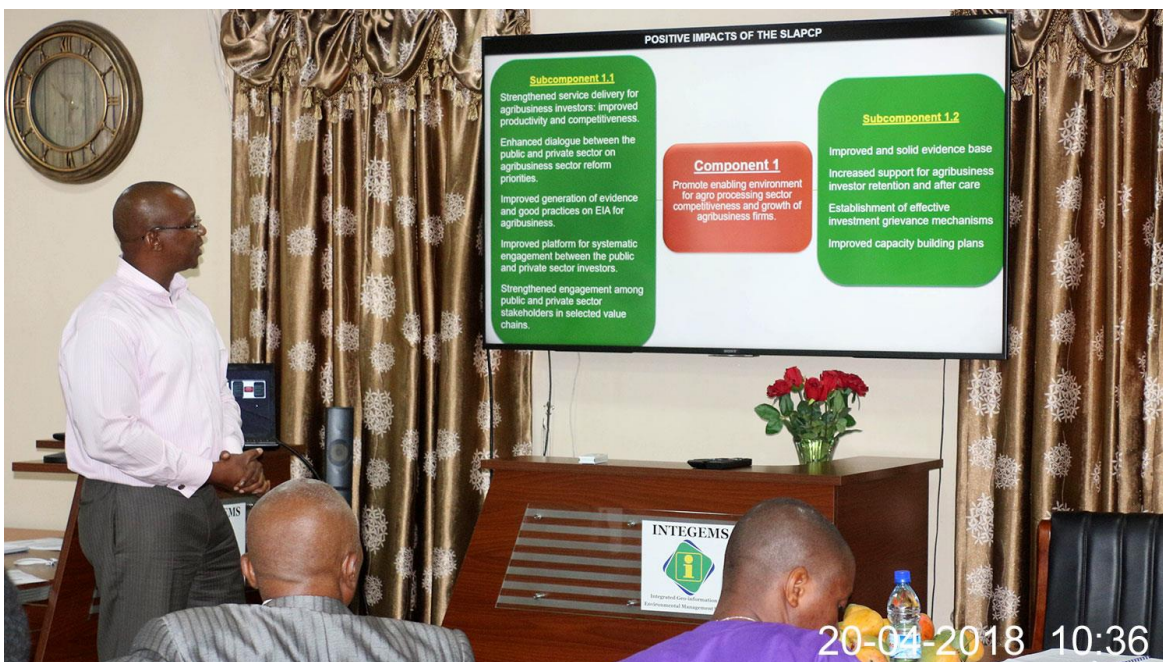
A cross-section of Stakeholders



A cross-section of Stakeholders



The ESMF Consultant during the presentation of the Draft ESMF Report



Stakeholders during the presentation of the Draft ESMF Report



Senior Environmental Officer, EPA-SL



Senior Project Manager, PFMU



Manager, SLIEPA



Representative, SLEWOFF



President, NAFFSL



Team Leader, SLADF/KPMG



Development Adviser, GIZ/EPP



Country Representative, BRAC



13 ANNEX 3: SME FIELD APPRAISAL (SITE VISIT) CHECKLIST

Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist will visit the subproject or SME beneficiary/applicants as required. During such visit, the Safeguard Specialist will examine the physical condition of the area where the subproject activities are taking place, to verify the information in Annex 1 (EPA-SL ESSF) and to ascertain if there are any issues, which may represent environmental or social risks.

The SME Field Appraisal Checklist below will assist the Safeguard Specialist in conducting the site visit, and in documenting and reporting the social, environmental and safety conditions at the site.

1. Key Processes

(List the key processes, physical activities, waste products, and emission from the project activities)

2. Environmental Risks

(List any potential environmental issues and discuss how the potential project beneficiary is managing and controlling these risks)

3. Environmental Opportunities

(List the key opportunities for improvement, and discuss these with the potential project beneficiary if appropriate)

4. Use this list as a check for indication of the existence or environmental issues of their good/poor management as you go around the site

- Noise level (high or low)
- Eye irritation (clean or dusty)
- Past use of land (could indicate contamination of ground)
- Storage of hazardous or polluting materials, by- products or waste (check method of disposal for environmental impact)
- Underground storage of liquids (difficult to see leakage but ask about how management control possibility of leaks).
- Proximity to residential areas (close or distant). Proximity to polluting source e.g. neighbouring industry (could contaminate beneficiary property) Proximity to water courses (indicates likelihood of contamination by accident/leakage).
- Health and safety record (good or bad).
- Level of housekeeping in general (good or bad)
- Nature of air emission from chimney or stacks (clean or dirty), and adequacy of emission control measures

5. Financial Issues

- What are the annual costs for user fees, past fines/penalties?
- What is the required capital or operational investment costs for environmental improvements in the short/long term?
- Are environmental costs incorporated into the business plan and other financial projections?

6 Legal Issues

- Have there been any environmental notices or orders served on the company which restrict business activities?
- Does the company have all the required environmental permits?

- Is the company aware of their legal obligations as far as permits or emission standards is concerned?

7. Reputational Issues

- Is the project exposed to reputational risk through the beneficiaries' activities (e.g. handling hazardous products, high local emissions, or disturbing the local community)?
- What steps has the beneficiary taken to control any reputational or environmental issues, if applicable?

8. Management Issues

- Is there someone with responsibility for environmental matters?
- Do they seem well informed and able to manage their environmental responsibilities?
- Do they produce documentation in a timely manner?

9. Social Issues

- Have any social issues been identified in the Annex 1 checklist?
- Are there any labour, health and safety, or other social issues apparent during the site visit?

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Add any conclusion and recommendation, including:
- Any further environmental appraisal required;

Because of the on-site visit, the Safeguard Specialist may recommend environmental management or reporting activities, which would apply throughout the life of the subproject. If irregularities, complexities, permit gaps, or any problems are found during the screening process, a plan to correct them and improve management of the beneficiary may be appropriate. In such case an ESMP would be developed and included in the subproject. Guidelines for preparing an ESMP are included in Annex 4 of this ESMF report. These recommendations may also be included in the site visit report and incorporated into the subproject.

14 ANNEX 4: GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING AN ESMP

When a SLAPCP subproject evaluation has included an SME Field Appraisal and it is determined that distinct mitigation measures are required, an ESMP needs to be included with the beneficiary/SME application. The SME Field Appraisal Checklist (Annex 3) and the ESSF (in Annex 1) will guide the requirements of the ESMP.

An ESMP usually includes the following components:

- Description of adverse effects: A description of the possible adverse effects that the ESMP is intended to deal with are identified and summarized.
- Description of feasible mitigation measures: A description of planned mitigation measures, and how and when they will be implemented. Each measure is described with reference to the effect(s) it is intended to deal with. As needed, detailed plans, designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures are described.
- Description of monitoring program: Monitoring provides information on the environmental effects of the subproject – both positive and negative. It helps identify how well mitigation measures are working, and where better mitigation may be needed.
- The monitoring program should identify what information will be collected, how, where and how often. It should also indicate at what level of effect there would be a need for further mitigation.
- Responsibilities: A description of who will be responsible for implementing the ESMP:
- The people, groups, or organizations that will carry out the mitigation and monitoring
- Activities are defined, as well as to whom they report. There may be a need to train people to carry out these responsibilities, and to provide them with equipment and supplies.
- Implementation schedule: The timing, frequency and duration of mitigation measures and monitoring are specified in an implementation schedule, and linked to the overall
- Cost estimates and sources of funds.
- Mitigation and monitoring activities as the subproject is implemented. Funds to implement the ESMP may form part of investment in the
- The scale of the subproject will determine the length of the ESMP. A small- scale activity ESMP can be elaborated in a few paragraphs or in tabular format, keeping it as simple as possible with concrete mitigation actions, timelines and responsible persons.

Table 14-1: ESMP Mitigation Plan

Subproject Activity	Potential Environmental or Social Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Responsibility (including enforcement and coordination)	Monitoring Requirements (including supervision)	Time Frame or Schedule	Cost Estimate
[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]
[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]	[type here]

The above matrix should be filled out for each subproject that will have the need for a separate ESMP (the screening process using the screening checklist and forms should determine this).

15 ANNEX 5: TERMS AND REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE ESMF

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF) FOR THE PROPOSED COMPETITIVE AGROPROCESSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN SIERRA LEONE.

1. Background

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is preparing the Competitive Agro processing Development Project with an estimated US\$ 10 million financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group.

The project objective is *to improve business environment in agribusiness sector and increase productivity of targeted agro-processing firms in Sierra Leone*. Achieving the project objective contributes directly to strengthening agro processing competitiveness, which is defined as the ability of agro-processing firms to generate new investments and increase market share in goods and services through improved productivity. Productivity depends on improving the quality of the business environment and capability of the economy, including skills and capacity of institutions that provide services to local and foreign investors. Boosting competitiveness of agro-processing will require targeted interventions at both sector and firm level.

The project has three components:

- **Component 1:** Promote Enabling Environment for retention, expansion, and growth of agribusiness firms, including SMEs. The objective of this component is to reduce policy barriers, burdensome sector regulations, and cumbersome trade (import and export) procedures and permitting processes that constrain productivity, and weaken incentives of existing agribusiness firms and SMEs to reinvest earnings or make new investments for sector growth and expansion. Project interventions will focus on generating evidence, good practices, and public-private dialogue on environmental impact assessment and rationalization of import and export procedures for agribusiness investors as well as strengthening institutional capabilities in targeted institutions to enhance market access and trade. Project interventions will strengthen sector productivity and competitiveness by reducing the policy and regulatory burden as well as enhanced service provision for agribusiness investors.
- **Component 2:** Firm-level support companies in selected value chains. The objective of this component is to strengthen linkages between local firms and foreign investors in the agro-processing sub-sector in ways that generate greater domestic value addition, foster economic diversification, increase industry productivity, and strengthen competitiveness in targeted value chains. Project interventions will foster linkages between foreign and local firms, facilitate technology transfer, industry upgrading, and develop stronger market linkages through a targeted Supplier Development Programs, access to finance, skills development focusing on agro processing companies and SMEs, and SME market linkages in domestic and export markets.
- **Component 3:** Project implementation/coordination/delivery support and M&E. The fiduciary aspects of the project will be implemented through the common pool of Financial Management, Procurement, Monitoring & Evaluation Staff, and Internal Audit that is being established for all World Bank supported projects in Sierra Leone. As such, the project will contribute to support operational costs required for fiduciary functions in this unit. In addition, a technical Project Coordination Unit, (PCU), will be established with oversight from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In addition to technical oversight, the PCU will be responsible for overall coordination, providing an institutional framework for coordinating local and FDI linkage activities across the public-sector agencies and other actors.

The Consulting Services (“the Services”) includes:

2. Brief Description of the Assignment

In line with its PDO, the project seeks to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agribusiness SMEs in selected value chains as part of the overall objective to attract new investments in agribusiness and encourage existing investors to expand and grow. The World Bank’s commitment to sustainable development, through a Bank Policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards are designed to support Borrowers’ projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

The specific sites and locations of project interventions have not yet been identified, therefore the project is required to prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which would give an overview of the likely risks and impacts associated with the project.

The objective of the consulting assignment is to develop an ESMF for the proposed Competitive Agro processing Project. The ESMF will set out the principles, rules, guidelines, and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks when more information on the specific locations and interventions become available. The consulting assignment will involve the following activities:

- Identify measures and plans to reduce, mitigate, and/or offset adverse risks and impacts and enhance positive impacts
- Establish provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of such measures identified above
- Provide information on agency or agencies responsible for addressing project risks and impacts, including on its capacity to manage environmental and social risks and impacts
- Provide adequate information on the areas in which project activities are expected to be sited, including any potential environmental and social vulnerabilities of the area and on the potential impacts that may occur and mitigation measures that might be expected to be used.

The consultant will work out of the World Bank Country Office in Freetown during the consulting assignment. A member nominated from GoSL Project Preparation Committee will monitor the consultant’s work and make appropriate arrangements for review of draft report by the Project Preparation Committee before submission to World Bank.

3. Scope of Services

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

In Preparing the ESMF, the Consultant shall

- Give an overview of existing Policies, Legal and Administrative Frameworks reflecting also the World Bank’s safeguards policies including the Performance Standards.
- Give an overview of private investment issues focusing on the agro processing sector to reflect ongoing and future changes.
- Assess the baseline conditions to include information on climate change and climate resilience, gender, education, health, livelihood patterns and vulnerable groups.
- Assess the potential environmental and social impacts, and highlight the World Bank procedure for project specific and cumulative impacts identification.
- Review Environmental and Social Mitigation Principles to capture lessons learnt from similar projects within the agriculture/agribusiness/agro processing sector. Include World Bank procedure for mitigating resettlement and compensation entitlements
- Propose the ESMF implementation and management strategy for the project
- Review and include a Chapter on Grievance Procedures during assessment and implementation phases.

Develop a simple diagram showing the steps required to develop and clear the required Safeguards Instruments, showing the timing and the responsibilities of the Client/Employer; Consultants; and Supervision/Monitoring Consultants.

4. Qualifications, Timeframes and Reporting

Qualifications

The Consultant should be an experienced Planner or Environmental Specialist and Social Scientist. He/she must possess at least a Master's degree and must have document demonstrated expertise in environmental and/or social scientific analysis and proven experience undertaking similar assignments in agriculture sector, environmental assessment, environmental management planning, ecology, sustainable management, socioeconomic and resettlement and rehabilitation programs in Sierra Leone. In-depth knowledge of environmental concerns relating to agriculture and, preferably, a good understanding of Sierra Leone is required. Knowledge of Bank's safeguard policies is mandatory. The Consultant is required to have proven capabilities in report writing, minimum of 15 years relevant working experience, and fluency in English.

In addition to reviewing other relevant materials, the consultant will carefully review the following to update the ESMF and the RPF:

- World Bank's Operational Policy on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) and the new Performance Standards,
- World Bank's Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12)
- Relevant Program documents

5. Timeframe

The target period for the start of the consultancy is September 2017. It is anticipated that the Consultant should complete the outputs of the work over a maximum duration of 40 working days from contract signature. Specific deliverables include:

- Inception report
- Draft ESMF for review and comments by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the World Bank
- Review and comments by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and World Bank
- Final ESMF report

6. Expected Outputs

- a) Inception report detailing appreciation of Terms of Reference (ToR), proposed methodology and implementation plan for the entire assignment;
- b) Draft Report on the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); and
- c) A Final Report on the Environmental and Social Management Framework, including feedback from World Bank Environmental and Social Specialists assigned to the project.

7. Submission of Reports

The Consultant will work in close collaboration and consultation with Ministry of Trade and Industry, the project safeguards focal person and the Word Bank task team before submitting the inception and final report.

Upon signing of the contract, the consultant will be required to present an inception report to the project preparation team which includes officials from the related government ministries, other stakeholders and the World Bank, outlining the methodology that will guide the process and framework for conducting the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

The Consultant is expected to provide 10 hard copies and four electronic copies of the ESMF (in pdf-format and ready for transmission by E-mail) on CD-ROM to the Ministry for distribution and documentation after clearance by the World Bank and disclosure both in-country and on the World Bank website.

8. Duration of the assignment

The duration of this assignment will be 40 days from the signing of the contract.

9. Duty Station:

The duty station for this assignment will be Freetown with travel to other regions in Sierra Leone.

10. Services and Facilities to be provided by the Client:

The following facilities and services will be made available to the consultants:

- Space for holding meetings and for making report presentations;
- Relevant project documents;
- Relevant project documents (ESMF, PMP, RPF, PAD, etc.) for the existing projects in the agricultural sector.

