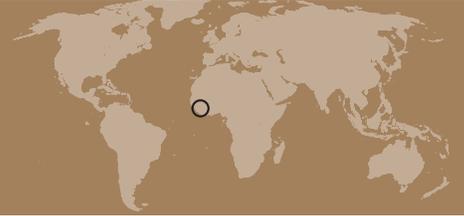


LIBERIA

Climate Change and Gender Action Plan



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Climate change is the most urgent and critical issue of our time. Ensuring equitable participation of women and men in developing solutions to this challenge is paramount to moving towards a sustainable future. Women's participation at all levels is integral to achieving the goals of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, as women and children are the ones greatly affected by the impact of climate change. (The) development of a gender sensitive climate change strategy...will lead to the women of Liberia taking ownership and deciding what they want as it relates to climate change.”

Julia Duncan Cassell, Minister of Gender and Development, Government

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Liberia is characterized by a tropical climate of tremendous biodiversity and heavy rainfall. IUCN declared the region one of the world’s twenty-five “hotspots for biodiversity,” and Liberia’s annual rainfall of 170 inches makes it one of the rainiest countries in the world. While the climate in Liberia is not inherently hostile to the population’s subsistence farming, reliance on forest products, and fishing, the country is highly vulnerable to environmental instability due to extreme poverty. Fourteen years of civil war and government mismanagement destroyed much of the economy, and the country is heavily reliant on foreign assistance for revenue. In October 2005, peaceful legislative and presidential elections lead to Africa’s first democratically elected female Head of State, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Faced with rebuilding state institutions, national infrastructure, service delivery, and economic growth, the country has made enormous strides since achieving peace in 2003.

In December 2011, the IUCN Global Gender Office received an official request from the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of Liberia to be engaged in the preparation of a National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change. The Action Plan falls within the broader framework of Liberia’s National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), Draft Initial National Communication, National Gender Policy, and National Development Agenda. Liberia’s ccGAP is unique in its positioning as part of the first 90 days deliverables of the second term of the current President. The development of the ccGAP in Liberia prompted the country’s Environmental Protection Agency to request IUCN’s support in integrating gender in the Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC.



Overall Objective:

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

Examples of Proposed Actions in Liberia

<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Action Involving Women</i>
 Agriculture	Update legislation at constituency level on women’s rights issues with regards to land tenure and ownership
 Coasts	Train and empower women coastal monitors
 Forestry/REDD+	Mainstream gender considerations into the current Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) and its implementation
 Health	Create awareness to de-stigmatize HIV and AIDS
 Water and Sanitation	Train women in plumbing, water plant treatment, community-based quality monitoring systems and service provision at county level
 Energy	Develop initiatives to encourage women and men to use renewable green energy