

## “Liberia, NDC Analysis, 2022”

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Highlights from Liberia 2022 NDC includes;

- Commitment to reducing its economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 64% below the projected business-as-usual level by 2030.
- Commitment to GHG mitigation targets across nine key sectors and adaptation targets across eight.
- The NDC outlines a national system for measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) for mitigation actions and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for adaptation actions to implement the NDC.
- Commitment to reforestation and protecting wetlands and oceans.
- Commitment to consultations on gender, Youth, Private sector ,and civil society engagement

#### Recommendations on NDC Enhancement & Implementation

- Inclusive participation of women, youth and people living disabilities in the NDC implementation process.
- Improve consultations with civil society organizations.
- Prioritize consultations with Indigenous Peoples on native forests.
- Amend the NDC to mention Loss and Damage.

#### Recommendations on Advocacy & Accountability

Liberian young feminist and civil society advocates have an important role to play in monitoring the state's performance in implementing the Paris Agreement, through the NDCs, including on gender justice and equity. Civil society should have an important consultative role in the design of public policies that seek to combat climate change and environmental degradation, especially in developing actions at the local level such as promoting clean energy, calling for climate education and creating green jobs. Advocates should continue local campaigns such as the One Million Tree Project Campaign, where young people are accelerating climate action and helping implement the NDCs, and the government should recognize and provide support to this work locally and nationally.

#### Quick Links

- [Liberia's Intended NDC](#) (September 2015)
- [Liberia's Updated NDC](#) (July 2021)

#### Outline

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## **Introduction**

***“Liberia, a small country with unique Biodiversity and third lung of the world.”*** Liberia covers 111,369 km<sup>2</sup> and has borders with Côte d’Ivoire to the east, Sierra Leone to the west, Guinea to the north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Liberia has a population of 4.5 million people, with youth constituting 60% of the total population. Interesting facts about Liberia, Liberia has the largest forest cover in West Africa, and Liberia’s spectacular national park is the Sapo national park, the country's largest protected reserve and home to 125 types of mammals and 590 types of birds.

## **Country Context**

Liberia is a coastal country that lies very close to the Atlantic ocean with a longitude of 7°30` and 11°30` west and latitude of 4°18` and 8°30` north, with an area of approximately 111,369km<sup>2</sup>. This explains how vulnerable the country is to lose and damage. In light of Liberia’s closeness to the Atlantic ocean, sea level rise has been attributed to flooding affecting more than 70 percent of the population living in coastal and swampy communities near Monrovia. Liberia’s population was 3.5 million in 2008 and increased to a 4.8million by 2018. In addition, the country's population is projected to increase to 10.3 million by 2050. With a low economy, lack of economic growth and development the country has been challenged with, the country’s GDP was expected to increase by 1.4 percent but the global pandemic and global warming and rapid increase in temperature more than 31c is currently affecting major sectors in the country such as agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. Moreover, the variation in the country’s seasonal pattern has affected crop production, making the projected population more than vulnerable to loss and damage, social factors, and other climate change-related catastrophe.

## **NDC Overview and Recommendations**

### **Emissions**

The revised NDC of Liberia commits to reducing its economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 64% below the projected business-as-usual level by 2030. This is a combination of the following: unconditional GHG reductions of 10% below BAU, resulting in an absolute emissions level of 11,187Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030, with an additional 54% reduction, conditional upon international support, which would result in an absolute emissions level of 4,537Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030.

Liberia’s commitment is constructed from GHG mitigation targets across nine key sectors – Agriculture, Forests, Coastal zones, Fisheries, Health, Transport, Industry, Energy, and Waste as well as cross-cutting targets for urban green corridors. The NDC also includes climate change adaptation targets for eight sectors – Agriculture, Forests, Coastal zones, Fisheries, Health, Transport, Energy, and Waste – as well as cross-cutting targets for urban green corridors. Liberia is committed to keeping emission within a 1.5-degree Celsius limit on global average temperature increase through its fair and ambitious contributions to a 64% reduction below its Business-As-Usual scenario by 2030.

Liberia has set forth short, medium, and long term targets in its NDC to achieve its targets. Furthermore, this revised NDC includes new mitigation targets for sectors that previously only had adaptation targets in the 2015 NDC, including forests, agriculture, fisheries, health, and coastal zones, thus raising its realistic ambitions and fairly contributing towards this great global effort of keeping the temperature within healthy planetary boundaries. These ambitious targets could be achieved through national and international support. Liberia remains committed to providing national support to address climate change and achieve the global goal of climate change mitigation targets. With a commitment to tackle climate change challenges, Liberia has formulated strategic national policies related to development priorities and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

Women and girls play a critical role in sectors affected by climate change and have used their knowledge to lead in adaptation and mitigation efforts. Politicians, leaders and others now appreciate that supporting the empowerment of women can spur productivity and economic growth. Compelling evidence is emerging that emphasizes the importance of gender equality and women's agency, not only to boost economic growth, but to contribute to broader development outcomes.

Liberia NDC mentions women and girls, and gender civil society groups promoting gender equality and women empowerment, and gender coordinators across Liberia's 15 political subdivisions, as well as the private sector and community-based groups supporting women's empowerment. The NDC place emphasis on championing the advancement of women's economic empowerment and participation in the revision process of Liberia's NDC; ensuring that women remain an integral part of Liberia's NDC revision process; and ensuring inclusiveness in environmental planning and decision-making through capacity building for women-owned enterprises to enable their integration into the mainstream economic activity, environmental and climate change discussion and decision-making.

### **Youth Inclusion**

Young people play a great frontier-generational equity and justice for future generations. Liberia's revised NDC amplified youth voices. During the revision process Youth from around the country convened youth from different parts of the country for a dialogue which was held on September 16, 2020, in Gompa City, Nimba County. This meeting brought together over thirty-five (35) Youth and Disabilities Organizations among others. The Youth Dialogue produced the "***Ganta Declaration*** " which commits the youth population of Liberia to remain engaged throughout the NDC development and implementation process. Since the signing of this Declaration, the Youth community of Liberia remained fully engaged throughout the NDC revision process through their representatives whose valuable participation and inputs contributed to the development of Liberia's revised NDC.

Despite the positive inclusion of young people, there is more Liberia can do to support young people. The youth should be prioritized more in the NDC by making Climate Education a subject in primary and secondary schools to build their capacity. Also, the youth must be prepared for the future impacts of the climate crisis. To combat this, they need to be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. They do not only need a seat at the table but must be listened to and get involved in the negotiation processes. Young people also need the transfer of knowledge from the older generations through capacity building and training at the local, national, regional, and international levels. The Government of Liberia accepted and agreed to implement the ***Ganta Youth Deceleration*** and it is incumbent upon them to do so. The youth of Liberia must use what they have to hold their government accountable.

### **Loss and Damage**

Liberia is faced with the destructive impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation or adaptation. Yet, loss and damage are not mentioned in the NDC.

Recommendation on anchoring loss and damage in the NDC;

- Define loss and damage in a national context.
- Describe current and potential projected loss and damage- the scale of the challenge.
- Highlight ongoing response to address loss and damage.
- Include specific contribution (Target) on loss and damage.

### **Climate Justice/ Civil Society Inclusion**

Liberia's NDC captured the participation of marginalized groups, from the planning to the implementation with the common goal of leaving no one behind, women and youth were involved, as well as civil society organizations as implementing partners in achieving the goal of reducing the global temperature and stabilizing it at 1.5°C.

Climate change is not only linked with the obvious human rights, like the right to a healthy environment or the right to life; but climate change has become synonymous with climate emergency, and if this emergency is not mitigated by climate justice it will turn into the end of human rights. It is not rocket science to understand that in a world without a healthy environment, drinkable water, and clean oxygen, no right to life or human right can be truly enjoyed.

Liberian young feminist and civil society advocates have an important role to play in monitoring the state's performance in implementing the Paris Agreement, through the NDCs, including on gender justice and equity. Civil society should have an important consultative role in the design of public policies that seek to combat climate change and environmental degradation, especially in developing actions at the local level such as promoting clean energy, calling for climate education and creating green jobs. Advocates should continue local campaigns such as the One Million Tree Project Campaign, where young people are accelerating climate action and helping

implement the NDCs, and the government should recognize and provide support to this work locally and nationally.

### **Recommendations**

As we work towards a further update of Liberia's NDC, these are relevant considerations for stakeholders;

- Develop policies to address loss and damage that recognize the gender-sensitive impact, provide women with access to resources and give them opportunities to participate in the mitigation and adaptation process.
- Provide available data from different sectors.
- Support youth and students to do more research.
- Promote climate education in primary and secondary school.
- Promote a gender responsive approach to climate financing.
- Adequate awareness of forest conservation and training more forest Rangers for forest monitoring.
- Invest in education, technologies, and initiatives to enhance sustainable and more renewable energy sources.

### **Conclusion**

Liberia NDC highlights nine (9) sectors that can address the climate crisis radically when implemented. There were local, regional, and national consultations that involved youths, women, and children. The country pledged to cut emissions by 64 percent by 2030. The NDC Costing and Cost-Benefit analysis estimated that a total investment of US\$490,590,000 through 2025 will be needed to achieve Liberia's NDC mitigation and adaptation targets. Of this amount, US\$400,645,000 will be required to achieve Liberia's mitigation targets, whilst US\$89,945,000 will be required to achieve its adaptation targets. The investment in achieving Liberia's NDC will yield direct and indirect economic benefits of approximately US\$3.2 billion, thus generating significant returns for the global climate, Liberia's economy, and the well-being of its citizens. Unfortunately, Liberia's NDC left out Loss and Damage.

### **References**

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