



MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY COASTAL ADD-ON PROJECT

**Project Inception Workshop Report for
“Enhancing Resilience of Liberia Montserrado County Vulnerable Coastal Areas to Climate
Change Risks” project.**



**NEW KRU TWN; MONSTERRADO COUNTY
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**SUBMITTED TO: UNPD
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POINT)**

Background

With funds from the Global Environmental Facility(GEF) Least Development Country Fund (LDCF), UNDP and the GoL through Ministry of Mines and Energy(MoME) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are implementing the “Enhancing Resilience of Liberia Montserrado County Vulnerable Coastal Areas to Climate Change Risks” project. This project which started in May 2017 is an add-on to the previous coastal project implemented in Buchanan in Grand Bassa County. The project is implemented in Montserrado County concentrating in the New Kru Town community.

This is due to the fact that nationally; Liberia’s Coastal Zones are highly vulnerable to climate change. According to the NAPA (2008), West Point and New Kru Town in Montserrado County are among areas along the coast where erosion is most severe. In these areas, the population is poor and all social indicators- e.g. access to health and education are very low. A large amount of the people in these areas live on very low land, as a result, when there is a climate change, induced sea level rise combined with increasing storms and sea-surges could have catastrophic impacts in terms of destroying livelihoods and lives.

The project has two outcomes:

Outcome 1: will contribute towards putting in place a county level enabling environment that is favorable to adaptation in coastal communities by focusing on developing key counties representative capacity, effective policy coordination and developing the country while and county level enabling framework for adaptation.

Outcome 2: will demonstrate climate change adaptation strategies at the sites of Hotel Africa and Kru Town, empowering and protecting the concerned communities against climate change.

With the LDCF funds meant to develop targeted capacity in the county that are suffering the effects of climate change and generating the support of county leaders and movers, the project will empower the County staff and units that are responsible for supporting communities in the fight against climate change. It will develop dedicated databases engineers and a private sector capable of designing and implementing

low-cost, low-tech adaptation measures. The project will also lead to revised county socio-economic development plans that fully address climate changed induced coastal erosion. Based upon this background, the Ministry of Mines and Energy in collaboration with Environment Protection Agency (EPA) the UNDP, carried out a one-day Inception Workshop (May 21, 2018) in the community of New Kru Town. A total of 117(77 males,40 female) participants were present comprising project teams (MoME, EPA, MoPW and UNDP) politicians, local and county leaders, civil society and the media.

Objective of the Inception Meeting was to

1. Explain the objectives of the project and coordination roles of the project stakeholders.
2. Outline institutional stakeholder roles and support.
3. Establish the joint project implementation and monitoring plan
4. Review and agree on project log frame and risk matrix
5. Review and generate stakeholder's inputs into the project AWP

Delegation of the Inception Meeting

In attendance was Hon. Dixon W. Seaboe, representative of district 16, Monsterrado County, Hon. Carlton S. Miller, Deputy Minister for Planning, Research and Development, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Hon. Randall M. Dobayou Deputy Executive Director, Environment protection Agency (EPA), Hon. Johnson S. Willabo, Assistant Minister for Planning, Research and Development, Ministry of Mines and Energy. Mr. Dorsla Farcarthy, Team Head, UNDP and the Madam Alice B. Weah, Governor of the Township of New Kru Town among others.

Participants

A total of 117(77 males,40 female) Participants were drawn from institutions including Government, non-government, media and the private sector. (See attached participants' listing)

Facilitators

Facilitators/presenters included the following: Johnson Willabo (Assistant Minister MoME, Planning, Research and Development), Jerimiah E Soka (EPA Coordinator, National Climate Change Secretariat) and Tenese Wilson (MoME, Engineering Geologist)

Nathaniel Chegbo served as rapporteur and moderator. The official launch of the project was done by the President of the Republic of Liberia George M Weah.

Activities

The Inception workshop took place at the Town Hall of New Town. It commenced at 8:00am with arrival and registration of participants. Welcoming remarks was done by Madam Alice B. Weah governor of the town of New Kru and Hon. Dixon W. Seboe, representative of district 16, Monsterrado County. Both the Governor and Honorable Seboe expressed their sincere appreciations to the Government of Liberia and its partners for the level of interest they have shown to the people of New Kru Town. They went further by saying that the sea erosion has been a serious problem for the residents of New Kru Town, most especially those living near the beach. Hon. Seboe said that the erosion has destroyed many homes and has caused so many families homeless. They assured the committee working on the Coastal Add-on project that they are willing and in readiness to contribute to whatever needed from them to make the project a successful one because the livelihood of their people depend greatly on the success of the project. Making remarks were Environment protection Agency (EPA) which was represented by the Deputy Executive Direct,

Randall M. Dobayou, the UNDP represented by Mr. Dorsla Farcarthy, Team Head, the Ministry of Mines and Energy represented by Deputy Minister Hon. Carlton S. Miller and Assistant Minister Hon. Johnson S. Willabo Jr. Minister Miller. Please see group photo below.

The felicitators presented on the following: Project Goal, Objectives, Outcome, Outputs and Activities done by Johnson Willabo and the stakeholder's roles and responsibilities was presented by Jerimiah Soka. Project risks, communication strategy, establishment of stakeholder's coordination strategies was presented by Tennessee Wilson. He also facilitated group exercises involving coordination on stakeholder roles, linkages and challenges

Please find the attached copy of the presentations.

Detailing of the roles & responsibilities, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP

After the brainstorming, group discussions and plenary sessions, it was agreed that the Ministry of Mines and Energy lead project implementation in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency as stated in the project document. Project activities were assigned to each institution as per the draft project work plan discussed and UNDP roles and responsibilities were clearly identified as per project document and session discussion. Monitoring, quality delivery and compliance were among the roles assigned to UNDP

CO and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)

As stated in the project document, participants were informed about the roles of the UNDP County Office and Regional Coordinating Unit roles that involves, provision of support to the implementing agencies, monitoring including joint monitoring, enhancing quality delivery and

compliance with the RCU playing an oversight coordination role and linkages with donor and UNDP headquarters.

Project staff TORs discussions

With the inception meeting taking place without the Project Manager on board due to recruitment delays, participants were informed of the ToRs of key project staff including the PM as per project document. However, the session also highlighted adjustment made to include some key staff that were added based on the agreements with the implementing partners to suit the activities of the project.

Review and agreement of project indicators, targets and their means of verification, and rechecking of assumptions and risks.

After a brief projection of the project log frame as per project document, comments were accepted and no major changes were made to the risks and assumptions. However, the project target of constructing 500 meter of defence wall at New Kru Town was unanimously revised to a 1,200 meters of defence wall to be constructed at New Kru Town and budget revision as per work plan draft was to be done to suit the new target.

Discussion and finalization of Annual Work Plan (AWP).

The project draft work plan as per the project document was presented. Due to the absence of the Project Manager, the discussions were to get the person on board soon and the Energy and Environment project focal point in UNDP was tasked to revise the work plan to suit the changes recommended on targets including the budget. The revised work plan was to be presented to the board for approval and signing.

Overview of reporting, M&E requirements and M&E work plan

The reporting and M&E requirements as clearly stipulated in the project document are to be respected accordingly including meeting UNDP and donor requirements.

Discussions on project financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit

This discussion highlighted the implementing partner's compliance with UNDP reporting and subsequently for UNDP to meet donor requirements for reporting, audit and other compliance related matters. As the IP's have worked with UNDP before the requirements are familiar and UNDP committed to capacity support and communicating any changes or specific requirements.

Clarification, plan and schedule of Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures

As per project document, the project management unit within UNDP and IPs will be the technical units working and sharing updates and seeking approvals from project board. The board is chaired by the government Ministry of Finance and Development Planning co-chaired by UNDP. The board meetings were explained to be held quarterly to approve work plans and take project decisions.

project communication strategy

The project does not have a specific communication strategy but will ensure compliance with the donor visibility and communication requirements through the UNDP communications units and IPs.

Wrap Up

The day was concluded by the technical team including the facilitators highlighting key outcomes and decisions during the inception workshop that included comments on work plan, reporting and roles of the different institutions.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The formal launch of the project by the president marks the importance placed on the project by the government and other stakeholders whose participation was critical to the opening of the day. Discussion and comments made by participants on work plans, budgeting, monitoring, visibility and quality delivery alongside the urgent nature of the key project output of the defense wall

construction remains important to all. The project team is therefore urged to be in control of project implementation and ensure delivery on time. Also continuous collaboration between the key institutions of the MME, EPA, UNDP and MPW remains key to the success of the project.