

## NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE (NCCSC)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

## 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

## BROAD STREET, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

**Wednesday, APRIL 24, 2019**

*NCCSC members & special invitees at the meeting*



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*NCCSC members & special invitees at the meeting carefully listening to highlights of last meeting by Mr. Jeremiah G. Soka, NCCS National Coordinator*

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

Over past decade and half, Liberia continues to make steady progress in economic, infrastructural, social and political development; since the end of the civil crisis in 2003. The Government undertook numerous institutional reforms, economic restructuring, infrastructural development, political inclusion and promotion of cultural cohesion and enhancement of the rule of law. These laudable efforts set the Country of the path of irreversible peace and stability in the post conflict era. However, Liberia remains in a fragile situation; confronted with severe poverty, inequality, high rate of unemployment and limited fiscal space, thus limiting access to basic services, including safe drinking water, sanitation, energy, and health.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are critical sectors to Liberia's inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction goal under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development (PAPD). These sectors rely highly on climate-sensitive activities which renders Liberia to be vulnerable to climate change variability, and expected to manifest in higher temperature, more extreme weather events such as heavy rains, rising sea levels, storms, and droughts. For example, Agricultural productivity which already suffers from Land degradation and extreme climatic events is even more vulnerable to the impact of climate Change given its reliance on climate-sensitive staple crops; such as rice and the rising incidence of pests and diseases. Saltwater and freshwater fisheries, a key economic and nutritional resource, are likely to suffer as sea temperature increase and coastal ecosystem (mangroves and wetlands) are damaged. Coastal zones, home to the majority of the population, infrastructure and economic activity, are at risk from flooding and erosion associated with sea level rise, which will lead to salinization of coastal agricultural fields.

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Global warming induced by Climate Change is a serious challenge for this generation. It poses threat to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Climate Change impacts; such as coastal erosion, flooding and drought, land degradation/deforestation etc., pose threats to Liberia national development goal. So, curtailing the effects of Climate Change at national and international levels requires “all hands on deck” through periodic high level meetings among technicians, decision-makers and policy makers.

In Liberia, the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) is the high level policy platform where issues relating to Climate Change are discussed. NCCSC’s operational arm, the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) ensures that Committee members meet quarterly.

Against this background, NCCSC held its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 in 10<sup>th</sup>- Floor Conference Room of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Broad Street, Monrovia, Liberia. The NCCSC meetings are actually scheduled quarterly, meaning one (1) meeting each quarter and four (4) meetings a year. However, emergency meetings can be called by the Steering Committee Chairman if the need arises or by the recommendation of the Secretariat. We were unable to hold the first quarter meeting due to some administrative reasons.

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## **MEETING AGENDA**

The meeting focus on the below listed items

<b>No</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Institutions/Responsible party</b>
1	Opening of the meeting and welcome remarks	Ministry of Finance – Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., Steering Committee Chairman
2	Adoption of the agenda	All members
3	Self-Introduction	Participants/Attendance Jeremiah G. Soka, Sr.
	Highlights from Last Meeting Minutes	National coordinator

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4 National Climate Change secretariat /EPA

**Presentation I:** Climate Jeremiah G. Soka, Sr.  
Change Impact & Associated National coordinator  
5 Benefits, NCCSC Structure &  
Role, and How to enhance National Climate Change secretariat/EPA  
Coordination

**Presentation II:** Updates on  
Redd+

Saah A. Davies, Redd+ Coordinator –REDD+

**Presentation III:** Carbon  
Credit Finance Market-the  
Prospects for Liberia

FDA  
Tom Morion

Director

Climate Care

6 Questions/Answers/Discussion Chair

7 Resolution Members

8 Adjournment/Refreshment Chair

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#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The primary objective of the meeting was to:

1. Present the structure & emphasize the role of the NCCSC to the new members and guests
2. Stress the impact and threats that climate change poses to national development, and emphasize the global climate finance opportunities available to address these challenges
3. Obtain a buy-in from the new members of the Committee on the Climate Information System and MMCRP projects being pursued with the Green Climate Fund

#### **EXPECTED RESULTS:**

1. New members understand the NCCSC role & structure
2. NCCSC members knowledge enhance on the global climate finance availability
3. Members re-emphasized their commitment to regularly attend NCCSC meetings personally or by their principal deputy
4. Obtained buy-in on the projects ideas for CIS and MMCRP from new members

#### **OPENING REMARKS, READING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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The meeting was called to order and chaired by Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr., Minister of Finance & Development Planning and Chairman of the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC). In his welcomed remarks, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr. congratulated the NCCSC members and other participants for the interest in attending the meeting. He explained and regret his inability to attend the first meeting due to other pressing national engagement by the same time. He pointed out that climate change has negative socio-economic impacts on national development. The Minister ended by promising more frequent meetings of the NCCSC because of the importance works it has to enhance sectoral efforts in mitigating Liberia's climate change and other environmental vulnerabilities.

Following the welcomed remarks was self-introduction. No special order was done, everyone introduced himself/herself, going across the room; stating name, position and institution. The meeting was commenced with the reading and adoption of the agenda. The agenda was distributed to all participants prior to the meeting. However, the Chair entertained and called for amendment or adoption of the agenda. There was no amendment to the agenda, so the agenda was unanimously adopted by the participants.

The first major agenda item was highlights from the last meeting minutes. This was done by Mr. Jeremiah G. Soka, Sr., National Coordinator of the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)



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and Secretary to the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC). The highlights was mainly on the decisions reached at the last meeting; which included:

1. That the NCCSC meeting should be attended by proper Ministers or head of Agencies; in case of absence, their principal deputy shall proxy
2. The confirmation and renewal of the terms and conditions of the NCCS staff contracts
3. NCCSC expressed commitments and agreed that the meeting shall be held quarterly, in the last week of the month following the end of each quarter

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION**

Two formal presentations were made by Mr. Jeremiah G. Soka, NCCS National Coordinator, and Mr. Saah A. David, REDD+ National Coordinator; while an informal presentation was done by Tom Morion, Director, Climate Care. Mr. Jeremiah G. Soka presented on the “History, Structure and Role of NCCSC, Climate Change Impacts and the Opportunities for Addressing Climate change challenges”; Mr. Saah A. David presented on “The Status of REDD+ in Liberia-REDD+ Strategy, a guide to facilitate REDD+ Implementation in Liberia”, and Tom Morion presented on “Carbon Credit Finance Market-the Prospects for Liberia”.

The presentation by Mr. Soka covered the followings:

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1. Climate Change & Its impact in Liberia
2. NCCSC Structure & role
3. Opportunities for Addressing Climate change challenges
4. Urgent need for National Climate Information System Structure in Liberia
5. Q&A/Discussion

#### **Climate Change & Its impact in Liberia**

During the presentation on climate change and its impact in Liberia, Hon. Sokan displayed the historicity of Climate Change and show photographs of its impacts in Liberia. The presentation pointed out way forward to mitigate climate impact in Liberia and Africa at large. The presentation showed an analytical assessment of Climate Change impacts on Liberia; revealed that some parts of the Country will be warmer while other will wetter between 2050 and 2080. Coastal erosion is going to be a serious challenge, as a result sea level rise (SLR) and will cause loss in infrastructure and land at a cost of about \$250 million per annum, apart from social and psychological stress on the population. It further noted that there be increase intensity of transmission of vector and waterborne diseases, and changes in the prevalence of diseases and Agriculture will suffer a Sharpe decline in productivity thus increasing food insecurity. Further, the 2015 Africa Adaptation Gap Report observes that for a below 2<sup>0</sup>C global warming scenario the agriculture sector will be hit by up to 40% yield declines.

#### **NCCSC Structure and Role**

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Presenting on the NCCSC Structure and role, Hon. Sokan pointed out that NCCSC is a high-level policy and Coordinating platform on all climate change policies and activities in Liberia. Its administrative/operational arm; the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) hosted at EPA serves as the Secretary to the Steering Committee. The statutory institutional members of the NCCSC include: Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministry of Transport (MOT), Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MGCSP), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), a civil Society member and the National Coordinator/head of the NCCS, a non-political appointee/technician serves as the Secretary.

In Compliance with Article 4, paragraph 9 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and decision 5/CP.7 of the Conference of the Parties (COP7), the Government of Liberia launched in 2010, the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) and the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) as the operational arm. Few years after been dormant due to lack of funding and leadership, NCCS was re-activated in 2014 by donor funding. Since its establishment, the Secretariat has being primarily supported by donors, with sporadic Government support on need basis.

In addition, an effective NCCSC is a paramount requirement to the bilateral agreement between Norway and the Government of Liberia under the Redd+ or Liberia Forest Sector Project managed by the World Bank Group. GoL gets direct budgetary support under this arrangement but with a functional NCCSC. Redd+ is key to the mitigation of the impact of Climate Change.

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The NCCS provides operational supports to the steering committee and ensures coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and serves as the link between the steering committee, working groups, sectoral ministries/agencies and development partners on climate change issues.

The key roles of the Committee include

1. To set the overall climate change policy & ensure its implementation
2. Create/Dissolve Working Groups in the organogram
3. Operationalize and provide oversight to the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)
4. Advice/brief the President of the Republic on all Climate Change related matters
5. Provide oversight/approval for activities of the Liberian Forest Sector Project funded by Norway and Manage by World Bank
6. Harness Resource mobilization in climate change across all relevant institutions in the sector

NCCSC is responsible to lead on policy direction and coordination on the following:

1. Low- Carbon emission economy/ Green Development
2. Vulnerability and Adaptation
3. Climate Smart Agriculture
4. Mitigation & Redd+ Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
5. Energy & Green Technologies

#### **Opportunities for Addressing Climate change challenges**

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Addressing the opportunities of climate change challenges, Mr. Soka emphasized the impact of climate change and termed it as a threat to national development particularly to Least Developed Countries (LDC). He said there are opportunities available to climate change challenges as well as other national development priorities, under the Paris Agreement which Liberia ratified in 2018. He outlined the opportunities available to include:

1. Support for capacity development in LDCs
2. Technology transfer
3. Renewable/energy efficiency, alternative sources of energy
4. Clean development mechanisms
5. Adaptation support
6. Support for smart agriculture
7. Conservation/REDD+/Forest support

Overall, he stated that developing countries can obtain financial resources from global platforms to address the impact of climate change as well as other development priorities. Climate change globally is a threat to successfully achieving the SDGs especially in least developed countries. Climate change impact poses severe threat to the PAPD (E.g. the recent Mozambique case). Most ODA to developing countries could be dependent on the extent to which climate change policies are mainstreamed in national development planning. Countries with strong institutional framework and coordination nationally access climate finance quickly from the GCF and other climate finance mechanisms. He encouraged NCCSC members to continue active engagement in NCCSC's activities as this will yield enormous benefits to Liberia.

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Also making presentation was Mr. Saah A. David Jr.; he presented on the status of REDD+ in Liberia-REDD+ Strategy, a guide to facilitate REDD+ implementation in Liberia. His presentation covered the following areas:

1. What is REDD+
2. The Five REDD+ Activities
3. Approach to REDD+ Implementation
4. The four REDD+ “design” elements
5. Where are we as a Country?
6. National REDD+ Strategy
7. Liberia’s Safeguard Information System (SIS)
8. MRV – National Forest Monitoring System
9. Institutional arrangements
10. National Forest Inventory
11. FREL-NFI (emission factor) X Activity data /10 yrs.
12. How does REDD+ work to reduce GHG?

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13. What countries can get from REDD+?
14. Main challenges associated with REDD+

Mr. David further explained that REDD+ is an innovative initiative that aims at tipping the economic balance in favor of sustainable management of forests under the UNFCCC, and that REDD+ seeks to reduced deforestation and degradation, forest carbon stock enhancement, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock conservation. He indicated that at

UNFCCC negotiations, countries collectively agreed on the importance of having an iterative, flexible and learning-by-doing approach to REDD+ implementation. He said that there are several multilateral initiatives support to countries in getting ready for REDD+ and starting to implement REDD+ policies and measures.

In his presentation, Mr. David averred that that GOL benefited 3.6m in budgetary support in 2012 thru REDD+. He also told the participants that Norway stills has 50m of the 150m promised under the REDD+ (Liberia Forest Sector Project) and wants the NCCSC/NCCS to develop strategy on how to access the balance money. He also made mentioned for the need of GOL to begin discussion with World Bank on the remaining 80M REDD+ fund with the request that the fund be manage by a government institution. He noted that Liberia now has an approved REDD+ strategy that was approved in 2016 by the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC). Mr. David also said that Liberia is taking a holistic forest inventory that is expected to be completed by the end of

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August 2019. He concluded by emphasizing on some required elements to enable Liberia access REDD+ funding. He named some of those as: the development of a climate change policy, mechanism to protect community that has conservation value, national forest monitoring system, among others.

Making the last informal presentation was Mr. Tom Morion, Director, Climate Care. He made a brief presentation on “Carbon Credit Finance Market-the Prospects for Liberia”. Before his brief, Mr. Morion was introduced to the gathering by the Executive Director of the EPA, Hon. Nathaniel T. Blama, to whom he was visiting. The ED explained that Mr. Morion was visiting the EPA for consultations to explore means on how his institution (Climate Care) can partner with the EPA to address the country environmental challenges and access climate financing opportunities.

When Mr. Tom Morion took the stage, he gave a background of Climate Care. ClimateCare is a profit for purpose environmental and social impact company known for its role providing carbon offset services, with a particular focus on using carbon and other results based finance to support its 'Climate+Care Projects'. It also provides businesses and governments with sustainable development programmes, environmental and social impact measurement and project development. The company was founded in 1997 with a focus on projects that cut carbon and fund social development. ClimateCare is a certified B Corporation and a founding member of the B Corporation movement in the UK. The company has offices in the UK, India, and Kenya.



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Mr. Morion stressed his presentation on carbon credit markets. He said Liberia has good prospects for carbon credit financing opportunities, and that his institution is willing to work with Liberia to accessing those opportunities. This point in the presentation, on carbon credit financing attracting the steering committee chair, Minister Tweh; especially highlighting the point that other climate financing mechanisms have business as usual policy (the procedures delay developing countries).

#### **Question & Answer/ Discussion**

This section of the meeting was highly participatory, where cross-sections of attendants were able to give updates of their involvement with Climate Change related activities, asked questions and recommend.

**Question:** The major issue characterized this section was the issue of how Liberia can develop carbon credit financing proposal and identify market opportunities. It was agreed that the EPA working along with FDA and Climate Care need to develop a roadmap.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Hon. Soka recommended to the body that NCCSC meeting should be attended by either Head of Institutions or Principle deputies
2. Hon. Soka also recommended that NCCSC members work with its Chair to arrange a meeting with the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E Dr. George M. Weah to introduce the NCCSC to him.

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3. Endorse the idea to establish Liberia Hydro-Met Service Center with funding being pursued from the Green Climate Fund.

#### **Resolution**

Following all of the cordial deliberations, the following decisions were reached:

1. That the NCCSC meeting will be attended by ministers or head of agencies; in case of absence, principal deputy shall proxy.
2. NCCS staff contracts renewed. The terms and conditions remained unchanged from the previous
3. That the NCCSC meeting shall be held quarterly, in the last week of the month following the end of a quarter.
4. Committee endorsed and mandated NCCS to engage with GCF to support the CIS Project. The office of President, through the Chair, Minister of Finance authorized the National Coordinator who is also Board Member GCF to bid hosting GCF informal Board meeting early 2020.

#### **Follow up Actions**

1. EPA to lead in developing a role map by the EPA in consultation with Climate Care on exploring opportunities to move to forest conservation thru Public Private Partnership (PPP)
2. Develop framework, role map for the composition or the completion of the NCCS

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structure/working groups

3. Create a WhatsApp group for the NCCSC
4. Chair to arrange NCCSC meeting with the President
5. National Coordinator accelerate Liberia- GCF engagement such that Liberia can access funding from the platform

#### **Announcement & Adjournment**

The meeting which was scheduled for 3:00pm began 3:35 ended by 5:15pm and the next meeting time and date is to be decided and announced by the NCCSC Chair.

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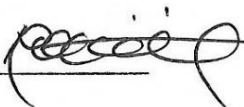



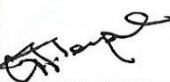
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BROAD STREET, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

April 24, 2019

## Attendance Log

No	NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr	Minister	Ministry of Finance & Development	0778674988	dtweah@mfdp.gov	
2	Hon. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr.	Executive Director	Environmental Protection Agency	0886518638	nblama@epa.gov.lr	
3	Hon. C. Mark Doryen	Managing Director	Forestry Development Authority			
4	Hon. Jeremiah G. Soka Sr	National Coordinator	National Climate Change Secretariat	0777-725 482	jsokansr@yahoo.com	
5	Hon. Samuel wlu	Minister	Ministry of Transport			
7	Hon. Willimetta Piso Saydee-Tarr WILLIAMETTA	Minister	Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection	088035524 0777000787	genderministryliberia@gmail.com	
8	Dr. Mogana S. Fagans Robert K. Fagans	Minister / Spokesman	Ministry of Agriculture	0776942920	rfagans@mra.gov.lr	
9	Hon. Gesler E. Murray	Minister	Ministry of Mines & Energy			
10	Hon. Nathaniel F. McGill	Minister	Ministry of States for Presidential Affairs			
11	Hon. Mobutu V. Nyenpan A. Samuka Dunnoh	Minister Director for Planning	Ministry of Public Works	0770517910	dunndhsamuka@gmail.com	
12	Hon. George T. Tengbeh	Chairman on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources &	Liberia House of Senate	0770151311	goltengbeh2001@yahoo	



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		Environment				
13	Hon. Vicent Willie	Chairman on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment	Liberia House of Representative	vstwillie@gmail.com	0888979247 0770438133	
14	Rev. Christopher Toe	Secretary	Liberia Council of Churches	teeSecretary@gmail.com	0886518724 0776497395	
15	Mr. D. Nyandeh Sieh, Sr.	Co-Chair	Civil Society Organization of Liberia	0886983574 0777207915	dnSieh@yahoo.com	Sieh
16	Larisa Leschenko <del>SEKOU KAMARA</del>	Country Manager	World Bank Liberia	0775574717	SKAMARA@worldbank.org	Seung
17	Madam Helene Cave	Ambassador/ Head of Delegation	European Union Liberia			
18	Mr. Yacoub El Hillo	Resident Coordinator	United Nations, Liberia			
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## NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE (NCCSC)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

## 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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