



NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT (NCCS) 2018 REPORT

Climate change is everybody's business.....



NDA team presenting on the need for Climate Information Service Project in Liberia at office of the President of Liberia, Meeting held on the 6th Floor of the Executive Mansion (Thursday, June 16, 2018)

12/31/2018

Climate change is a serious challenge and requires the committed efforts of all national institutions, especially high level policy makers. Building Liberia's resilience to the impacts of climate change is an imperative if we are to maintain the gains been made for the postwar recovery in the areas of the environment, human capacity development and infrastructure!

Background

National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS), is the operational arm of the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC), and is the outcome of the National Capacities Assessment of 2004 (Annex III). At numerous inter-ministerial deliberations, stakeholders' consultations, the need was raised to make Liberia compliant with requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). More than 190 nations including Liberia are signatories to the UNFCCC and almost all of its protocols.

To make Liberia compliant with Kyoto provisions to which it is party; in 2010, the President of the Republic of Liberia launched the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) and the NCCS is the operational arm. The NCCSC is a high-level policy and regulatory body of all climate change policies and activities in Liberia; it is comprised of the President and select line ministries, and the NCCS National Coordinator is its Secretary. The NCCS is the operational body that provides Coordination, monitoring, evaluation and serves as the link between the NCCSC, working groups, sectoral ministries/agencies and development partners on climate Change issues. The membership of NCCSC includes EPA, MLME, FDA, MGCSP, MoA, MFDP and Dr. Tokpa Nah-Tipoteh, as adviser. With the reconstitution of the NCCSC on November 11, 2016, efforts are now being made to hold her first meeting in March.

The process of mainstreaming climate change in the country's developmental agenda requires the determined efforts of all national stakeholders and a regulatory and coordination mechanism that synchronizes national policies and programs that seek to address the repercussion of climate change, and at the same time solve the issue of un-necessary duplications and conflict of functions among national institutions and other development partners involved. Dr. Christopher Neyor, then Advisor to the President on Energy & Environment served as the acting National Coordinator until the head of the Secretariat was recruited. The NCCSC and NCCS had been inactive since 2010 due to lack of staff and operational support (funding) until 2014, when a catalytic funding from the GEF/LDCF/UNDP projects was allotted to jumpstart the Secretariat. As a result, The Energy & Environment Board approved the recruitment of the National Coordinator, since it was one critical requirement/deliverable under the Early Warning System project located at the Ministry of Transportation and the REDD+ Initiative located at the Forestry Development Authority. In August, 2014, Hon. Jeremiah Garwo Sokan, Sr was recruited as the National Coordinator through a competitive process using the Labor Law of Liberia and procedures of the United Nations Development Programmes, with the Environment Protection Agency, the Focal Agency of Liberia at UNFCCC and GEF Board member, playing a leading role in the NCCS re-activation process. The NCCS has been re-activated and operational since October, 2014; and is currently housed at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In September of 2015, the NCCS through a competitive vetting recruited a Program & Operations Assistant to assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the Secretariat.

NCCS ensures synergies through meetings/workshops that are intended for coordination, knowledge sharing and awareness creation. Little is known about the impact of climate Change and the threats it poses to sustainable development, ecosystem, agricultural production and health of the people. The task to ensuring that climate change activities gain attention among policy makers and the Liberian populace, so that together we can begin building the country's resilience to the impacts of climate change remains imperative. The NCCS was initially established and hosted in the President's Office to raise Liberia's response, institutional capacity constraints and remedy, and to ensure her compliance to international protocols on climate change. It runs the daily affairs of the NCCSC, since 2014 to present. The NCCS is hosted at the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA). The majority of the NCCS activities are presently being financed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under various energy, environment and coastal defense projects, with grants coming from Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) over the past two and a half years. It is envisaged that before these grants recede, the GOL will be able to fully fund the NCCS by 2018.

Vision

The NCCS is a professional and technical think tank that coordinate, create awareness, advocate for and serve as a clearinghouse on climate change activities (adaption and mitigation) in Liberia.

Mission

Serve as national platform/premier clearance house on climate change enabling and coordination with responsibility to:

- i. Disseminate information that will enable action at ground level
- ii. Suggest policy framework to tackle impacts of global warming and climate change, the Secretariat may create knowledge platforms, organize seminars and network with scholars and public leadership specialists at the regional, national and international level in cooperation with government and non- government organizations
- iii. Enhanced coordination on sustainable development and natural resource management activities as it relate to climate change
- iv. Promote climate efficient agriculture through integrated mitigation and adaption to tackle adverse impacts of climate and promote agriculture considering its inherent ability to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere through photosynthesis aligned with the sustainable development goals of communities
- v. Redefine the significant role and potential of public leaders, educational leaders, youth & woman farmers who will be the leaders of the future generation to meet the challenges posed by climate change.
- vi. Promote appropriate and efficient use of “knowledge Economy” to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and mainstream such other resources like wasteland/wetland through major policy initiatives.
- vii. Position farmers and agriculture in the forefront of public policy to mitigate impacts of climate change, supported by immediate, medium term and long term based on real life correlates
- viii. Promote climate justice for farmers

NCCS Core Function

Liberia, as signatory to the UN Climate Change Convention has to join efforts with the community of nations to mitigate the causes and effects of climate change. To do this an institutional framework (NCCS) was put into place to compliment activities of the UNFCCC focal person for Liberia. The NCCS is headed by a National Coordinator who is the operational head and project liaison with the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC). The scope of work of the National Coordinator includes:

1. Coordinate all climate change enabling activities to prevent duplication of efforts and attended wastage
2. Coordinate programs that seek to build technical expertise on climate change adaptation and mitigation
3. Strengthen processes to develop infrastructure for climate monitoring, data collection, analyses and dissemination
4. Support to public awareness of the effects of climate change, including among policy makers;
5. Lead Government of Liberia efforts to promote multi-sectoral approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

NCCS Deliverables

The National coordinator of the Climate Change Secretariat responsibilities shall include primarily but not limited to;

1. Provide leadership for the National Climate Change Secretariat;
2. Provide operational support to the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC);
3. Regularly coordinate meetings and policy briefings for the NCCSC;
4. Provide the framework for coordination of all climate change activities in the Country;
5. Liaison between the office and the chair of the NCCSC, the EPA and all partners;
6. Mobilize resources to support the work of the Secretariat and the different climate change working groups ;
7. Ensure overall performance of staff to meet all targets, deadlines and project implementation;
8. Liaise with international partners and donors in soliciting both technical and financial support for the effective operation of the NCCS;
9. Assist the EPA in strengthen the functions of the Policy Council, EPA Board and National Climate Change Steering Committee, GEF Steering Committee, Green Climate
10. Facilitate a national consensus on climate change policy and activities through stakeholder engagement.
11. Ensure Liberia presence/participation in International/Regional enhanced
12. Disseminate information to national and international audiences on climate change policy and activities
13. Provide input into climate change mitigations or adaptation proposals that have fiscal consequences for the Government.

2018 Outcomes

The NCCS had two major outcomes for 2018, and these are: strengthening institutional capacity, public & private sectors and intra government coordination and representation, and increase awareness and facilitate actions for climate change mitigation and adaption, interlinking smart agriculture, sustainable development, rural development and landscape management.

2018 Outputs

The measurable indicators of the NCCS activities for 2018 include: strengthening of institutional capacity, improving intra-governmental, public & private sectors coordination on climate change activities, ensure representation at global, regional and sub-regional platforms, role and capacity of public leaders, educational leaders, youth & women, farmers redefined and enhanced to meet the challenges posed by climate change. To meet these outputs, the NCCS had several coordination meetings, consultations, workshops, travels, etc.

Most particularly, NCCS led numerous consultations and engagements with stakeholders both nationally and internationally that led to the approval of new projects ideas, continuous engagement on those in the pipeline. Key approval in 2018, that Steering Committee approved to project idea for Climate Information Services to replace the Early Warning System project which ended. The new direction should consider institutional reform to have a Liberia Hydro-Met Service Center. Going forward, NCCS will focus on the following climate portfolio:

No.	Portfolios	Amount	Source	Status
01	Cross Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD)	\$ 1.5 million	GCF	ongoing
	Coastal Defence- D-Tweh High School	\$ 2 Million	GEF	Ended
02	Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project (MMCRP) in formulation	\$ 50 million	GCF	Engagement continue GCF
03	Enhancing Climate information Services for Resilient Development (CIS- SAP)	\$10 million		Project idea approved- engagement with AE & GCF to commence
04	National Adaptation Plan (NAPs)	\$ 2.2 million	GCF	ongoing
05	GCF Readiness	\$ 300K	GCF	ended
06	GEF6	\$ 7.45 Million	GEF	Stakeholders just approved, PIF to be developed
	Total	\$ 72.8 Million		

Accounting & Reporting of NCCS coordination in climate change activities

99% of NCCS activities are funded using donor funding. As such institutions like UNDP, AFDB, World Bank are the custodian all funds and responsible for all disbursements and reporting. NCCS, as beneficiary triggers all disbursements. Though support from the Government of Liberia

to NCCS is inequivalent/insignificant it serves as minimum co-support to demonstrate the government commitment to the development projects/programmes being formulated and funded from donors' funding.

Also, for the year under review, NCCS had the following engagements:

- 55 meetings
- 25 workshops
- 10 international travels and compiled
- 5 comprehensive reports, among others

Impact of NCCS coordination in climate change activities

The presence of the National Climate Change Secretariat in Climate Change landscape in Liberia has reinvigorated the actors in the sector:

1. Climate Change meetings are held regularly
2. Participants at these meetings are enthusiastically involved in the discussions on climate change issues in the country
3. Meetings are attended by high level Government officials and policy makers
4. Participants are prompt at meetings and committed to attending periodic meetings
5. Overall, the trend of policy makers' involvement is very encouraging

Lessons Learned

1. It is noted that many stakeholders in climate change sector hail the NCCS and hope that funding availability will not hinder its existence
2. Funding partners need to start building NCCS capacity by using direct cash transfer modality for payment so the institution learned the reporting rules and intricacies of managing UN agencies and multilateral funding
3. NCCS needs to put in place a transition plan (exit strategy) from donor depended support to Government funding to avoid pitfall of donor funded programs

Conclusion

In Liberia, little is known about the impact of Climate Change and the threats it poses to sustainable development, ecosystem, agricultural production and health of the people. The NCCS has huge task of ensuring that Climate Change activities gain attention and desire among the policy makers, academic institutions and Liberian populace, so that together we can begin building the country's resilience to impacts of climate change.

Recommendations

Since its re-activation, NCCS's portfolio in term of promoting the visibility of climate change activities among the stakeholders continues to increase. The stakeholders' confidence and trust in institutional leadership is at all-time high. As such, we strongly feel if the following suggestions are given urgent attention, NCCS will consolidate the gains made and excel:

1. Increase the staff of NCCS by additional two persons as per the organogram of the institution
2. Procure and provide NCCS with vehicle to facilitate institution carry key functions, especially the Monitoring and Evaluation of the climate change intervention projects in Liberia
3. That direct cash transfer modality be used with NCCS so as to enhance its ability to manage multilateral funding and reporting.

Metrix of key activities conducted by NCCS during 2018, January-December

I	Meetings	Participants	Venue	Date	Purpose
1.	DED recruitment short-listing panel final meeting	EPA, MGSP, LIPA, UL, CI	EPA/NCCS office	Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2018, @ 2pm	To shortlist EPA/DED applicants
2.	GCF Consultative Meeting	NCCS/EPA, Land Coastal Mang./EPA, UNDP	NCCS/EPA Office	Wednesday, January 6, 2018 12:30 PM-1:15PM	To review GCF timeline & funding proposal & decision on hiring of GEF consultants
3.	Meeting with the ADB	N/A	ADB office	Friday, Jan. 8, 2018 @ 10am	Discuss support to Liberia energy & mine sectors
4.	National Capacity Strategy Assessment (NCSA)	NCCS/EPA, Land Coastal Mang./EPA, Climate Change focal point/EPA, Ramsar Conservation, Wetlands/EPA, Bio-diversity/EPA	NCCS/EPA Office	Friday, January 8, 2018, 12:00 PM	Review & make inputs on the draft NCSA PIF
5.	LBDI-GCF readiness support & adaptation	NCCS, LBDI	LBDI Head Office	Friday, Jan. 8, 2018 @ 1pm	Discussion on GCF readiness support to Liberia
6.	UNDP commonality back fund & coastal defense add-on	NCCS, UNDP, EPA	EPA/NCCS office	Friday, Jan. 8, 2018 @ 3pm	Discussion on the UNDP commonality back fund & coastal defense add-on
7.	Meeting FDA/RED+ office	NCCS, FDA/RED+ office	FDA/RED+ office	Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2018, @ 9am	Acquaintance
8.	Visit to CI on the Gaborone work plan	NCCS, CI	EPA/NCCS office	Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2018, @ 3pm	Coordination
9.	DED interview panel meeting	MoCI, MFDP, CBL, LNBA, CSA & NCCS/EPA	Bella Casa Hotel	Friday, February 12, 2018, 8:00 AM-3:30 PM	To conduct interview for the EPA/DED applicants

10.	GCF National Consultant Recruitment	NCCS, EPA UNDP/E&E	NCCS/EPA Office	March 7, 2018, 3PM	Interview on the hiring of the GCF project proposal national consultant
11.	Formulation of Climate Development Projects meeting	NCSS, EPA, FDA, MFDP, MLME, MoT, UNDP, MIA	EPA Conference Room	March 24, 2018 @ 4pm	Formulation of an integrated climate change investment portfolio
12.	NCCS, CI/GDSA delegation meeting	NCCS, CI/GDSA delegation	NCCS/EPA Office	Monday, April 25, 2018	Discussion on CI/GDSA support to Liberia
13.	NCCS & UNDP/GCF Follow-up Meeting	NCCS/EPA, UNDP/ESIA, UNPD Reg. Dir. & UNPD international consultant	NCCS/EPA Office	Monday, April 25, 2018	GCF project formulation workshop status review & other climate funding sources discussed
14.	Millennium Challenge Cooperation Follow-up Meeting	NCCS, EPA, NMCDP, MCC/ERM	EPA Main Building, ED Conference Room, 2 nd Floor	Wednesday, May, 4, 2018, 2 PM	To follow-up on MCC status in the Country
15.	Briefing and obtaining buy-in from President office on the MMCRP and CIS project with GCF	NCCS, EPA, MoPW, MLME, LBDI, UNDP, MoA, PDU, MFDP	6 th Floor, Cabinet Conference Room, Executive Mansion	Thursday, June 16, 2018 @ 11 AM	Discussion on the formulation of the GCF project team
16.	Stakeholder Meeting on EBAFOSA	MoA, EPA, MFDP, FDA, MIA, UL, MGCSP, CI, CSO, YES, FLY, LBDI, LCC, ECOWAS, NRDC, NCCS, MFA	EPA Annex, Conference Room	Friday, June 17, 2018	To set up a national structure
17.	Obtaining Stakeholders buy-in for Climate Information System Project	MoA, EPA, MFDP, FDA, MIA, UL, MGCSP, CI, CSO, YES, FLY, LBDI, LCC, ECOWAS, NRDC, NCCS, MFA	NCCS/EPA Office	Friday, July 8, 2018 @ 11:30 AM	Regional Consultation with participants in rural part of the Liberia on the relevance of the Climate Information System. How Could it benefit rural dwellers on disaster risks management in Agriculture, Forestry, aviation etc...
II	Workshops	Participants	Venue	Date	Purpose
1.	Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on the formulation of the Liberia Climate Development proposal	Sectoral ministries/agencies across the 15 counties, CSOs, etc.	Gbarnga, Bong County	April 27-28, 2018	To review the draft GCF project proposal
2.	Benefits & Projects of Natural Capitol Accounting (NCA) in Liberia, including Low Carbon Economy	EPA, NCCS, MoA, MIA, UNDP, WB, LMA, NIC, PDU, MLME, FDA, MGCSP,	Bella Cassa Hotel, 3 RD St., Tubman Boulevard	Tuesday, April 26, 2018	Sharing Information on NCA

2.		MFDP, CSO, UL, TCL, LBDI, FFI, EU, USAID, CI, MoT, NBC, LC, Legislature, LISGIS, MoFA			
3.	GCF -Project “Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilient Project” validation workshop	Sectoral ministries/agencies, CSOs, etc.	Bella Casa Hotel, 2nd Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard	November 24, 2018	To validate several stakeholders’ consultations and technical reports of the project
4.	Energy Inception Workshop	NCCS/EPA, MLME, EPA, MIA, FDA, MFDP, RREA, LEC, MGCSP, MoC, LBDI, AFDB, Access Bank, NCCSC	Boulevard Palace, 13 th Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard	December 1, 2018	The primary objective of the workshop was to identify baseline indicators that will inform the development of a GEF funded LEAP Project, for the promotion of energy efficient appliances in Liberia
5.	Awareness workshop on Environmental Governance in the context of Climate Change-SDGs perspectives	(RDOs/MFDP, EPA, NCCS/EPA, CU, EPA-RIU, Youth leaders, County Superintendent, PUL, FDA, UNDP, NIC, MOA, UL, MLME, Rural RREA, MGCSP, LINSU, FFI, HOR, the Senate, MOT, CI, Firestone, NUOD, LBDI, etc.)	Fair Ground, Buchannan City, Grand Bassa County	Sept. 23-25, 2018	The workshop primarily focused on explaining Environmental Governance in context of Climate Change-SDGs and its linkages to the effective management of natural resource, including climate change and extractive activities
III	Travels	Participants	Venue	Date	Purpose
1.	Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) workshop	N/A	Nairobi, Kenya	May 18-20, May	Launch the NCA work among the Gaborone signatory countries
2.	GCF Board of Directors Meeting	N/A	Songdo, South Korea	June 24-July 4, 2018	To represent Liberia at the GCF Board Meeting
3.	UNFCCC meeting	N/A	Bonn, Germany	April 26 – May 26, 2018	To negotiate funding
4.	Attended COP 22	N/A	Morocco	Dec. 2018	To participate and represent Liberia
5.	Attended Climate Finance Readiness Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa organized by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat	N/A	Rabat, Morocco	Sept. 2018	To participate and represent Liberia

IV	Reports	Participants	Venue	Date	Purpose
1.	Short listing panel report	N/A	N/A	Jan. 8, 2018	Shortlist panel report compiled & filed
2.	GCF Project Proposal Formulation Stakeholders' Consultation Workshop Report	N/A	N/A	Thursday, April 28, 2018	Report compiled & filed
3.	EPA/DED Recruitment Report	NCCS/EPA	NCCS/EPA office	Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2018	EPA/DED Recruitment Report compiled & filed
4.	Back to Office Report on 13 th GCF Board of Directors Meeting	GCF Board of Directors & others	Songdo, South Korea	May 2, 2018	To inform partners (EPA & UNDP) on the outcome of the 13 th GCF Board Meeting
5.	Energy Inception Workshop Report	N/A	N/A	Dec. 1, 2018	Report compiled & filed
6.	Awareness workshop on Environmental Governance in the context of Climate Change-SDGs perspectives	Cross-section of stakeholders with in the sector, CSOs, youths, etc.	N/A	Sept. 26, 2018	Report compiled & filed
IV	Staff Activities	Participants	Venue	Date	Purpose
1.	Ensure National Coordinator's office is always kept neat	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS
2.	Manage NCCS records properly by orderly filling & securing it	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS
3.	Ensure National Coordinator Schedule is well managed (meetings, travels, etc.)	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS
4.	Assist the Coordinator in writing concept notes and reports	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS
5.	Ensure meeting minutes, communications, both internal & external are drafted, transmitted & file properly	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS
6.	Perform other tasks as mandated by the National Coordinator, such as attending stakeholder's workshops & meetings	Staff	NCCS office	N/A	Assist the National Coordinator in administering the affairs of the NCCS

Some pictorial of major events held by the NCCS in 2018



Group photo of participants at the “Consultative meeting with private sector on the relevance and appropriateness of the Climate Information Services “How useful is the CIS to businesses?”



Cross-section of participants at the Consultative meeting on CIS & MMCRP Project Ideas to carry to Green Climate Fund for Support: Stakeholders'
Consultation Workshop

Gbarnga City Hall, Gbarnga City, Bong County, April 27, 2018

(in the front R-L are Dr. Vladimir Kalinski-International Consultant & Mr. Henry Rene Diouf-Regional Technical Specialist, Climate Change Adaptation of the



Participants at the stakeholders' training workshop "Awareness on urgent need for Climate Information Service to enhance climate resilient development in Context of Climate Change- SDGs Perspectives", listen while Mr. Sokan gave an overview of the training session
Fair Ground, Buchannan City, Grand Bassa County
Sept. 23-25, 2018



Briefing of sectors experts on the need for Climate Information Services in Liberia

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