

Licences and permits

Any licenses or permits that will be required for the implementation of the proposed project will adhere to the established policies and processes by the Government of Liberia. The Government signed a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) with UNDP on April 27, 1977. Consistent with the SBAA, the Government is expected to facilitate prompt issuance without cost of visas, licenses or permits, necessary for the speedy and efficient execution of UNDP assistance.

Specifically, the project is in line with the provision of the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia (Part III) and the Environmental Protection Agency Act of Liberia (Section 37). The two legal environmental documents provide for a balance in development and environment concerns. In keeping with these legal environmental provisions, the project has conducted an environmental and social assessment review (ESAR) and a detail Environmental and Social Impact Assessment is due before the construction of the coastal revetment.

Tax Considerations for UN-supported Projects

Section 7 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for utilities services, and is exempt from customs duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. Goods and services within the UN-supported projects are tax-exempt in Liberia according to the SBAA. This applies to the proposed project and its interventions.

In view of the SBAA, this project “shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Liberia and UNDP, signed on April 27, 1977. This project will be implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply”.

Foreign Exchange and Insurance

UNDP’s currency hedging policy is based on the use of natural hedges (matching cash flows (i.e. revenues and expenses) in non-USD currencies) to the extent possible. UNDP Country Office bank account balances are managed not to exceed approximately one month’s disbursement requirements to minimize risk. Consistent with the SBAA, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner (executing entity) and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in the Implementing Partner’s custody, rests with the Implementing Partner (executing entity). Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Public Works will be the main government entities implementing this proposed project.

Equipment and physical structures will be transferred to either local government or the beneficiary communities.

The only applicable insurance will be for staff that will be hired under the Project Management Unit that will be situated at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Executing Entity. The cost will be embedded in the salaries of the staff.