

NBSAP III

NATIONAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Government of Liberia

Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

A national framework for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, equitable benefit-sharing and effective implementation.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA 2026

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF LIBERIA

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN III

2026-2030

Safeguarding Liberia's biodiversity for a resilient, prosperous and sustainable future

Prepared by the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

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Foreword

Liberia's forests, wetlands, rivers, coastal waters, mangroves and wildlife sustain livelihoods, food systems, public health, cultural values and economic development. They also strengthen national resilience to climate change. Protecting this natural heritage is therefore a central development responsibility.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan III, 2026-2030, provides Liberia's strategic framework for fulfilling that responsibility. It responds to continuing pressures from land conversion, unsustainable agriculture and resource extraction, pollution, illegal wildlife and fisheries activities, invasive species, infrastructure development and climate change. It translates national priorities and commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into 21 targets and 140 priority actions.

This Strategy places implementation at the centre of national biodiversity governance. It calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Ministries and agencies must integrate biodiversity into policies, plans, budgets and regulatory decisions. County authorities, local communities, women, youth, civil society, academia and the private sector must participate in implementation, monitoring and learning. The rights, knowledge and livelihoods of biodiversity-dependent communities must remain integral to conservation decisions.

The Environmental Protection Agency will coordinate implementation with the Forestry Development Authority, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, other public institutions and national partners. Progress will depend on effective institutions, reliable data, transparent reporting, sustained financing and accountable partnerships. The Strategy therefore establishes governance, monitoring and resource-mobilization arrangements to support measurable delivery through 2030.

I commend the institutions, experts, communities and partners that contributed to the preparation and validation of this Strategy. I call on all stakeholders to use it as the common national framework for biodiversity action and to convert its priorities into funded programmes, enforceable measures and practical results for present and future generations.

_____

Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo
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Executive Summary

Liberia contains a substantial share of the remaining Upper Guinean rainforest and supports nationally and globally important forests, mountains, rivers, wetlands, mangroves, coastal habitats and marine ecosystems. These systems provide food, income, energy, water regulation, shoreline protection, carbon storage, cultural value and habitat for threatened and endemic species. Their condition is closely linked to poverty reduction, climate resilience, public health and sustainable development.

Biodiversity is under pressure from agricultural expansion, shifting cultivation, mining, logging, fuelwood and charcoal production, hunting and wildlife trade, overfishing, settlement growth, infrastructure, invasive species, pollution and climate change. Poverty, limited livelihood alternatives, population growth, market demand, weak governance, low awareness and inadequate institutional capacity intensify these threats. The Strategy therefore combines ecosystem protection and restoration with sustainable production, community rights, enforcement, knowledge, finance and institutional reform.

NBSAP III sets a national vision in which Liberia's biodiversity is better protected, restored and sustainably managed to support resilient ecosystems, local livelihoods and national development. Its goal is a society that lives in harmony with its natural environment. The Strategy is organised around four strategic objectives and 21 national targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

4	21	140	US$259.235 M
Strategic objectives	National targets	Priority actions	Indicative cost

Strategic Framework

Strategic objective	Targets	Actions	Indicative budget	Share
1. Maintain, Enhance and Restore Ecosystem Integrity, Connectivity and Resilience	7	46	US$154,550,000	59.6%
2. Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Biodiversity	5	36	US$52,435,000	20.2%
3. Ensure Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources	2	20	US$14,390,000	5.6%
4. Secure Adequate Means of Implementation	7	38	US$37,860,000	14.6%
Total	**21**	**140**	**US$259,235,000**	**100.0%**

Priority Results by 2030

- Restore 30 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems, with an interim restoration milestone of 15 percent by 2027.
- Halt human-induced extinction of known threatened species, conserve genetic diversity and reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- Achieve effective conservation of at least 30 percent of key terrestrial and inland-water areas and 20 percent of coastal and marine areas, with equitable governance and community participation.
- Reduce new invasive alien species introductions by 50 percent and strengthen surveillance, prevention, control and management.

- Reduce pollution risks and impacts, expand sustainable management across productive sectors and increase urban green space in major cities by 30 percent.
- Strengthen access and benefit-sharing, corporate biodiversity compliance, biodiversity finance, data access, participation, research, technology transfer and public education.

Implementation, Monitoring and Finance

The Environmental Protection Agency will coordinate implementation through a National Biodiversity Steering Committee, a National Biodiversity Secretariat, thematic Technical Working Groups, cross-cutting support units and county-level structures. Delivery will involve government institutions, communities, civil society, academia, development partners and the private sector.

A national Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Plan will define baselines, indicators, responsibilities, reporting schedules and data sources. Quarterly institutional reporting will feed into an annual State of Biodiversity Report. A mid-term evaluation is planned for 2027 and a terminal evaluation for 2030.

The indicative implementation budget is US$259.235 million. Financing will be mobilised through the national budget, the Liberia Conservation Fund, bilateral and multilateral partners, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Green Climate Fund, payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity credits, green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps and responsible private investment. Activities will require detailed costing, safeguards, transparent governance and integration into institutional plans and budgets.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Full meaning
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
AfT	Agenda for Transformation
ALDFG	Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear
ARREST	Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
CARI	Central Agricultural Research Institute
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBL	Central Bank of Liberia
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CoPan	Consolidation of Protected Areas Network
CRL	Community Rights Law
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CW	Conservation Works
DSI	Digital Sequence Information
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
ExPan	Expansion of Protected Areas Network
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIFES	Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMC	Forest Management Contract
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GII	Gender Inequality Index

Acronym	Full meaning
HCS	High Carbon Stock
HCV	High Conservation Value
HDI	Human Development Index
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LAA	Liberia Airport Authority
LACRA	Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority
LBS	Liberia Broadcasting System
LCF	Liberia Conservation Fund
LEC	Liberia Electricity Corporation
LEITI	Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
LFI	Liberia Forest Initiative
LFSP	Liberia Forest Sector Project
LiMA	Liberia Maritime Authority
LIPA	Liberia Institute of Public Administration
LIPO	Liberia Intellectual Property Office
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LRA	Liberia Revenue Authority
LRCFP	Land Rights and Community Forestry Program
LSWG	Land Sector Working Group
LWSC	Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation
MACs	Ministries, Agencies and Commissions
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MLG	Ministry of Local Government
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoT	Ministry of Transport
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MPW	Ministry of Public Works
NAFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority

Acronym	Full meaning
NBC	National Bureau of Concessions
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCSC	National Climate Change Steering Committee
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFRL	National Forestry Reform Law
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIC	National Investment Commission
NOCAL	National Oil Company of Liberia
NPA	National Port Authority
NPHIL	National Public Health Institute of Liberia
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NWASH	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PA	Protected Area
PAN	Protected Area Network
PAPD	Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PIP	Public Investment Program
PPA	Proposed Protected Areas
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
TSC	Timber Sales Contract
UL	University of Liberia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WD-OECM	World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas

1. Introduction

1.1 Background Information

Liberia is located on the west coast of Africa and is bordered by Sierra Leone to the west, Guinea to the north and Côte d'Ivoire to the east. Its population was estimated at approximately 5.5 million in 2022. The country has recorded modest real GDP growth, rising from 4.6 percent in 2023 to 4.8 percent in 2024 (CBL, 2024). Agriculture and fisheries were the main contributors, with further expansion projected in 2025. Average headline inflation declined by 1.8 percentage points to 8.3 percent, although end-period inflation increased slightly, reflecting changes in the health component of the consumer price index (CBL, 2024).

Liberia remains low on global development indices. Its Human Development Index was 0.487 in 2022, below the Sub-Saharan African average of 0.547. Poverty remains widespread, with 50.9 percent of the population living below the national poverty line and 27.6 percent living on less than US$2.15 per day. Multidimensional poverty affects 84.9 percent of rural residents and 60.5 percent of urban residents. Liberia's Multidimensional Poverty Index value of 0.374 reflects overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards.[1, 2]

Liberia's underdeveloped road network remains a major constraint on poverty reduction, market access and economic growth. Only 1,140 kilometres, or 8.7 percent, of the approximately 13,000-kilometre network are paved, and fewer than 25 percent of roads are classified as all-weather. Many rural areas become inaccessible during the rainy season. This isolates communities, raises transport costs, reduces agricultural competitiveness and limits access to health and education services. Current road rehabilitation and maintenance initiatives can improve market connectivity, reduce regional disparities and support sustainable development.

Gender disparities deepen inequality. Liberia's Gender Inequality Index was 0.648 in 2021, ranking the country 164th of 170 countries. Women remain underrepresented in education and economic activity. The national literacy rate increased from 42.94 percent in 2007 to 48.3 percent in 2017. In 2016, youth literacy was 64.66 percent for males and 43.97 percent for females.[3, 4]

Liberia's political history, including its founding in 1847 and the inequalities that developed during the First Republic, continues to shape national development. The military coup of 1980 and the civil wars of 1989–1997 and 1999–2003 caused extensive social, economic and environmental damage. Armed groups exploited timber and diamonds to finance conflict, contributing to deforestation, habitat destruction and pollution. Post-war reforms, including the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and the Community Rights Law of 2009, sought to improve resource governance with support from initiatives such as the Liberia Forest Initiative.[5–10]

Forests remain central to Liberia's economy and rural livelihoods. They contribute approximately 10 percent of GDP and support nearly 1.5 million people living within 2.5 kilometres of forest areas. Forest products provide an estimated 35–40 percent of household income for many rural residents. The formal forest sector employs approximately 39,880 full-time workers, 35 percent of whom are women, while chainsaw milling, charcoal production and other informal activities employ an estimated 52,000 people. Unsustainable agriculture, mining and logging continue to threaten biodiversity outside protected areas.[11–13]

Liberia's health system faces challenges exacerbated by the Ebola epidemic (2014) and the COVID-19 pandemic. These crises underscored the critical need for biodiversity conservation and strengthened public health systems. The One Health initiative addresses zoonotic disease risks, illegal wildlife trade, and bushmeat hunting.[14] Efforts include alternative income generation for bushmeat traders, enforcing wildlife conservation laws, and promoting sustainable protein sources. These measures aim to increase resilience and awareness, particularly among rural communities reliant on biodiversity for their livelihoods.

Systemic governance constraints, including weak institutional capacity, corruption and poor inter-agency coordination, undermine effective management of natural resources and biodiversity. Initiatives supported through the European Union-Liberia Voluntary Partnership Agreement, together with investments from[15] the World Bank's CoPan (Consolidation of Protected Areas Network)[16] and ExPan (Expansion of Protected Areas Network)[17] and Liberia Forest Sector (LFSP)[18] projects, have strengthened conservation, community and commercial forest management. These gains have been further advanced through investment from USAID/Liberia through the Land Rights and Community Forestry Programs (LRCFP)[19], the Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability (FIFES)[20] and the People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER) and, most recently, Conservation Works (CW)[21] Activity.

Liberia's development context reflects close links among socio-economic conditions, history and environmental change. Poverty, inequality, weak governance and unsustainable resource use constrain biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Stronger institutions, equitable resource governance and integrated health and environmental action are therefore essential to long-term biodiversity protection and national resilience.

1.2 Major Ecosystem Types and Status

Liberia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017–2025 identifies four broad ecosystem groups: terrestrial, marine and coastal, freshwater, and dryland and savanna ecosystems.[22]

1.2.1 Terrestrial Ecosystems

Liberia's terrestrial ecosystems include forests, mountains, drylands and savannas. Each supports distinct ecological processes, habitats and species.

1.2.1.1 Tropical Forests

Forests dominate Liberia's landscape and represented approximately 69 percent of land cover, or 6.6 million hectares, in 2018. High rainfall supports exceptional plant and animal diversity. Liberia has two main tropical forest types:[23]

- Lowland or wet evergreen forests occur mainly in southeastern Liberia, where annual rainfall exceeds 2,000 millimetres. They are characterized by dense vegetation and tall trees of varying heights.
- Moist semi-deciduous forests occur mainly in northwestern Liberia, where annual rainfall ranges from 1,600 to 2,000 millimetres.

1.2.1.2 Mountain Ecosystems

Mountain ecosystems include submontane and montane forests, generally at elevations above 800 to 1,000 metres. Major ranges include the Nimba, Wologisi, Bong, Gibi, Putu, Bomi, Wutivi, Mano, Bea, Kpo and Wenegissi mountains. Several have a history of iron ore exploration or extraction.

The Nimba Highlands, shared with Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, contain steep ridges, valleys and distinctive montane habitats. These areas support endemic plants and threatened wildlife, including the pygmy hippopotamus, western chimpanzee and other primates.

1.2.2 Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Liberia has a 560-kilometre coastline, along which an estimated 58 percent of the population lives. The continental shelf covers approximately 14,894 square kilometres, while territorial waters cover about 159,200 square kilometres. Annual coastal production includes an estimated 7,616 metric tonnes of fish and 126 metric tonnes of molluscs and crustaceans. Important species include sardinellas (Sardinella maderensis and Sardinella aurita), chub mackerel (Scomber japonicus), bonga (Ethmalosa fimbriata) and anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus).[24]

Liberia's coastline contains sandy beaches, estuaries, lagoons, mangrove swamps, rocky shores and erosion-prone zones. Coastal habitats include seashore grasslands, coastal woodland, wetlands and mangroves extending inland. These ecosystems support biodiversity, fish production, flood regulation and erosion control. Beaches also provide nesting habitat for sea turtles. Sand mining, settlement growth and pollution continue to degrade many coastal habitats.

1.2.2.1 Mangroves

Liberia's mangroves cover approximately 18,000 hectares. Six species are recorded: Acrostichum aureum, Avicennia germinans, Conocarpus erectus, Rhizophora mangle, Rhizophora harrisonii and Rhizophora racemosa. Rhizophora racemosa is the most common. Mangroves provide spawning and nursery habitat for marine and freshwater species and support shellfish such as crabs, oysters and periwinkles. Osei et al. (2021) reported extensive use of mangroves for fuelwood, charcoal, fish smoking and land reclamation. Priority mangrove areas include the Mesurado Wetlands, Marshall Wetlands, Cestos-Senkwehn River mouths, Cape Mount and Cape Palmas.

1.2.3 Freshwater Ecosystems

Liberia's freshwater ecosystems include six major rivers, wetlands, swamps, lakes and lagoons. These systems provide water, habitat and important spawning grounds that support inland and coastal fisheries.

Key freshwater features include:

- **Rivers**: The Cavalla, Cestos, Lofa, St. John, Mano, and Saint Paul Rivers, originating from the Fouta Djallon Mountains in Guinea.
- **Wetlands:** Liberia has approximately 600,000 hectares of freshwater swampland, of which about 3 percent is cultivated. Ramsar sites include the Mesurado Wetlands, Marshall Wetlands, Kpatawee Wetlands, Gbedin Wetlands and Lake Piso.
- **Lakes**: Notable examples are Lake Piso and Lake Shepherd.

Liberia also has 23 small coastal drainage areas and 15 principal basins, draining northeast to southwest into the Atlantic Ocean[25]. The Liberian Hydrological Service collaborates with neighboring countries through the Mano River Union Basin initiatives to promote integrated water resource management.

1.2.4 Drylands and Savannas

Savannas and grasslands occur mainly in northern Liberia and are important for agriculture and grazing. The main types are open savanna, which is seasonally waterlogged, and savanna woodland. Savanna woodland occurs in the northern highlands, particularly in Lofa and Nimba Counties, and contains forest patches within grassland dominated by elephant grass (Pennisetum purpureum) and other grasses, including Andropogon gayanus. Farming, settlement expansion and fire are the main pressures on these ecosystems.

1.3 Status of Tropical Forests

Since 2016, Liberia has defined forest as land of at least one hectare with a minimum canopy cover of 30 percent and trees capable of reaching five metres in height. The 2019 National Forest Inventory estimated that tropical forests covered approximately 6.5 million hectares, or 68 percent of the country. The Northwest Priority Landscape contains about 1.93 million hectares of forest, while the Southeast Priority Landscape contains about 2.56 million hectares. Gbarpolu and Sinoe Counties recorded the largest county-level forest areas, with approximately 794,390 and 891,806 hectares respectively.[26–28]

Liberia has not completed another field-based national forest inventory since 2019. To support comparison across recent years, this Strategy therefore draws on Global Forest Watch estimates using a 30 percent canopy-cover threshold. These estimates complement, but do not replace, official national forest monitoring.[29]

Global Forest Watch data indicate that Liberia lost approximately 2.3 million hectares of forest between 2000 and 2023, equivalent to a 25 percent reduction in forest cover. Forests accounted for approximately 73 percent of the country's land area in 2023. Between 2018 and 2023, total forest loss was estimated at 1,304,024 hectares, with shifting cultivation identified as the main driver. Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties together accounted for 599,743 hectares, or approximately 46 percent, of this loss. Agriculture, mining, illegal logging, logging concessions and plantation development also contributed to deforestation and degradation.

1.4 Status and Management of Protected Areas

In 2003, the Forestry Development Authority initiated the Protected Area Network and committed Liberia to establishing a biologically representative network covering at least 30 percent of existing forest area. This commitment supports national conservation priorities and Liberia's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Protected areas may include customary, public or private land that is set aside for the benefit of all Liberians. By 2017, Liberia had five designated protected areas: Sapo National Park, East Nimba Nature Reserve, Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve, Gola Forest National Park and Grebo-Krahn National Park. Together, they cover approximately 483,593 hectares, including about 403,000 hectares of tree cover in 2023. At least eight additional areas, covering approximately 824,271 hectares, are proposed for protection and are at different stages of pre-gazettement. Existing and proposed protected areas therefore cover approximately 1.308 million hectares. Existing protected areas represent about 5 percent of Liberia's land area. Full gazettement of the proposed areas would increase coverage to almost 14 percent.[30]

Between 2018 and 2023, existing and proposed protected areas lost an estimated 30,000 hectares of forest. Approximately 60 percent of this loss occurred within proposed protected areas. Since 2000, estimated forest loss across the protected-area system has reached 65,585 hectares, with about 46 percent occurring during the most recent five-year period. This trend shows increasing pressure and the particular vulnerability of areas that do not yet have formal designation.

Liberia's protected area system remains heavily dependent on conservation partners. Key constraints include inadequate financing, limited field presence, weak enforcement capacity, community concerns over land and resource access, and competing pressures from agriculture, logging and mining. The Community Ecoguards Program can strengthen local monitoring and protection, but sustained institutional capacity, financing and community partnership are still required.

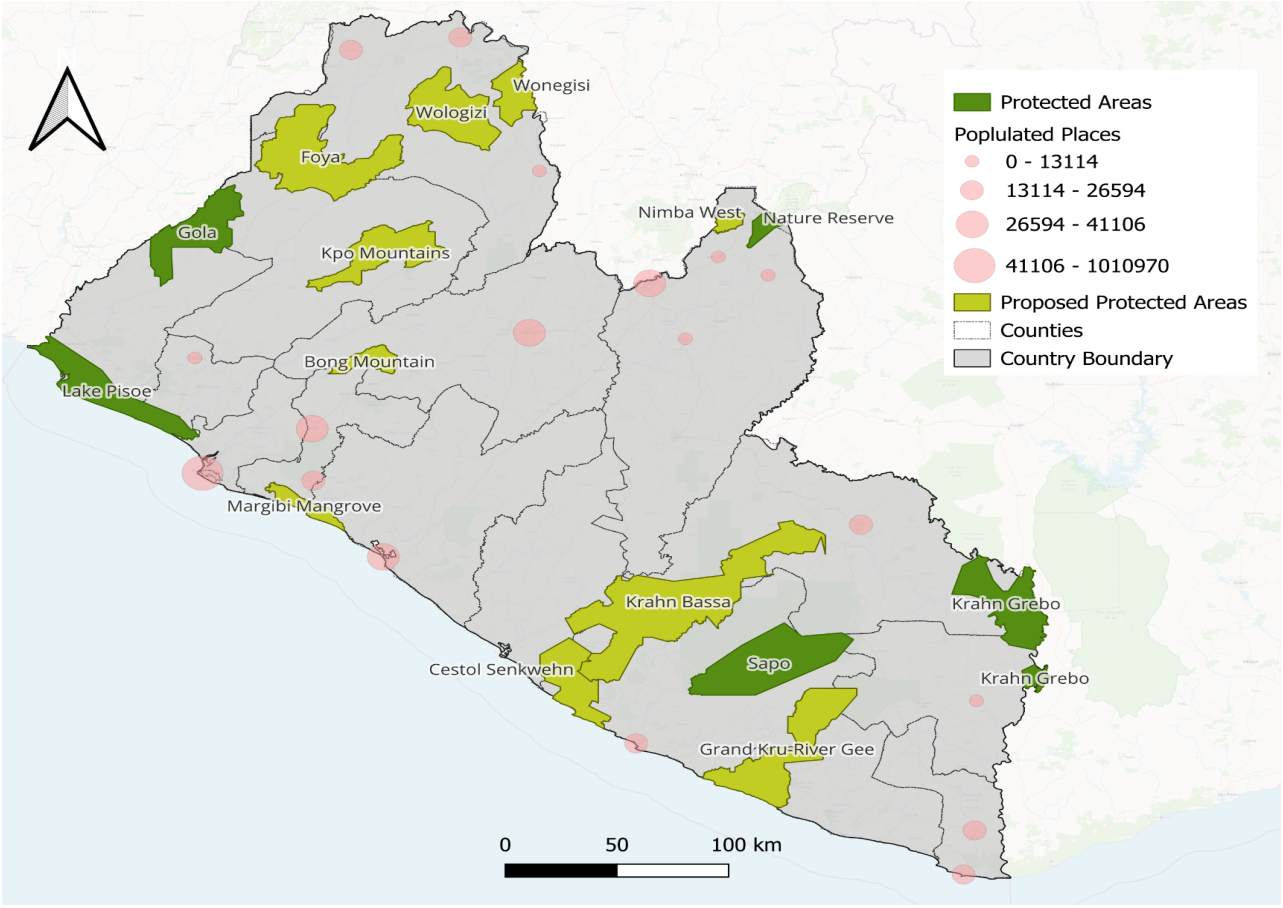


Figure 1. Protected and proposed protected areas in Liberia.

Source: UNEP-WCMC (2025).

The National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 requires protected areas and proposed protected areas to have management plans developed through applicable legal and participatory processes. The FDA promotes co-management so that neighbouring communities can participate in decisions, conservation and benefit-sharing. Sapo National Park and Grebo-Krahn National Park have management plans, while the East Nimba Nature Reserve management plan is implemented through a co-management committee. Continued review, financing and implementation of these plans are essential to achieving conservation targets.

1.5 Status and Management of Key Natural Resources Outside Protected Areas

More than 86.4 percent of Liberia's land lies outside designated protected areas. These landscapes include community forests, farms, mining and forestry concessions, settlements and infrastructure. Forests outside protected areas provide employment and generate an estimated 50 percent of national export revenue. They also account for approximately 97 percent of forest loss. Several deforestation hotspots occur close to proposed protected areas, including Wologizi and Wonegisi near the border with Guinea.[31]

Under the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, commercial forest management outside protected areas operates through Forest Management Contracts and Timber Sales Contracts. Community forest management is governed by the Community Rights Law of 2009 and implemented through Community Forest Management Agreements. At the time of preparation, 32 approved agreements covered approximately 576,937 hectares, while more than 100 applications were under review. Commercial logging was the main objective of more than half of approved agreements, while fewer than 3 percent primarily pursued conservation.[32]

Agricultural concessions, a major land use outside protected areas, cover nearly 1 million hectares. These concessions have undergone renegotiation and resizing due to increasing awareness of land rights under the Land Rights Act (2018) and compliance with standards such as High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) under the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Concession areas are subject to continuous evaluation under Liberia's environmental and social regulations through inter-agency collaboration led by the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC).

Authority over land outside protected areas is fragmented among county administrations and national institutions, including the ministries responsible for agriculture, mining and energy. Weak coordination and limited access to spatial data constrain sustainable land-use planning. Degraded areas are also frequently converted to agriculture, which can lock landscapes into further ecological decline.

Liberia has advanced community forest management and concession regulation, but fragmented governance, weak coordination and limited emphasis on conservation remain major constraints. Stronger institutional capacity, equitable land-use decisions and a better balance between commercial and conservation objectives are required to protect biodiversity outside protected areas.

1.6 Species Diversity and Status

Liberia contains a substantial share of the remaining Upper Guinean Forest and is therefore a biodiversity hotspot with high endemism. The country supports more than 2,000 plant species, an estimated 140–160 mammal species, 600–700 bird species and more than 160 freshwater fish species. Knowledge remains incomplete because systematic surveys are limited and past conflict interrupted research and monitoring.[33]

1.6.1 Reliability and Completeness of Data

The Forestry Development Authority, Environmental Protection Agency and partners have improved biodiversity information through platforms such as the Environmental Knowledge Management System, Liberia Forest Atlas, World Rainforest Database, Elephant Database and Chimpanzee Database. Important gaps remain because surveys are underfunded and data repositories are fragmented. Expanded biodiversity assessments, research stations and coordinated data management can strengthen national inventories and reporting.[34–39]

1.6.2 Terrestrial and Aquatic Diversity, Endemism and High-Risk Species

Liberia supports several threatened and endemic species. The western chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes verus) is Critically Endangered, while the pygmy hippopotamus (Choeropsis liberiensis) is strongly associated with Liberia's lowland forests and wetlands. Other threatened mammals include Jentink's duiker, the Nimba otter shrew, Diana monkey and forest elephant. The Nimba toad is a Critically Endangered endemic amphibian restricted to the Nimba Mountains. Aquatic biodiversity includes Enteromius trispiloides, a freshwater fish endemic to Liberia, and marine species affected by overfishing, bycatch and pollution. Habitat loss, hunting, wildlife trade, mining and climate change remain the principal pressures on these species.

Table 1. Approximate overview of Liberia's biodiversity.

Taxonomic group	Estimated number of described species	Notable threatened species or examples
Mammals	140–160	Approximately 25–30 threatened species, including western chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes verus), pygmy hippopotamus (Choeropsis liberiensis) and forest elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis).

Taxonomic group	Estimated number of described species	Notable threatened species or examples
Birds	600–700	Approximately 20–35 threatened species, including the Liberian greenbul (Phyllastrephus leucolepis).
Reptiles	65–80	Data are limited. Approximately 5–10 species may be threatened, including the West African dwarf crocodile (Osteolaemus tetraspis).
Amphibians	45–60	Approximately 5–10 threatened species, including the Nimba toad (Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis).
Freshwater Fish	160–300+	Data are incomplete. Several species may be at risk, including Enteromius trispiloides.
Marine Fish	467–900+	Data are incomplete. Threatened groups include sharks, sawfishes and seahorses.
Flowering Plants	2,200+	Data are incomplete. Examples include mahogany (Khaya spp.), iroko (Milicia excelsa), ebony (Diospyros spp.), ceiba (Ceiba pentandra) and sapele (Entandrophragma cylindricum).
Invertebrates	Several thousand	Several thousand species, including pollinators and forest-floor decomposers.

1.7 Genetic Diversity

Liberia's genetic diversity supports agriculture, forestry, medicine, livelihoods and ecological resilience. NBSAP II committed the country to safeguarding ecosystems and genetic resources. Deforestation, climate change, habitat loss and unsustainable use continue to erode this national asset.

Priority genetic resources include timber species such as mahogany (Khaya spp.), iroko (Milicia excelsa) and African teak (Pericopsis elata); non-timber forest products such as kola nuts, medicinal plants and fruits; and wildlife such as the western chimpanzee, Diana monkey, pygmy hippopotamus, forest elephant, white-necked rockfowl and endemic amphibians and reptiles.

Current work has focused mainly on agrobiodiversity, including domesticated plants and animals and their wild relatives. Earlier commitments included establishing germplasm collections and gene banks, strengthening biosafety risk assessment, and documenting traditional knowledge associated with agricultural biodiversity. These priorities remain relevant to conserving adaptive capacity and food-system resilience.

2. Threats and Drivers of Biodiversity Loss and Tropical Forest Degradation

Biodiversity threats can be grouped into direct threats and underlying drivers. Direct threats are human activities or processes that immediately affect species, habitats or ecosystems. Drivers are the social, economic, institutional and environmental conditions that create or intensify those threats.[40]

This section uses the Unified CMP-IUCN Red List Threats Classification Scheme, Version 3.3, to organise the analysis. It considers the relative importance of direct threats, the factors that drive them and the practical entry points for intervention.

2.1 Direct Threats to Biodiversity

2.1.1 Agriculture and Aquaculture

2.1.1.1 Unsustainable Crop Agriculture

Agricultural expansion is a major driver of deforestation in Liberia. The conversion of forests into agricultural land often involves slash-and-burn techniques that further degrade soil quality and reduce biodiversity. Additionally, monoculture practices reduce habitat complexity and resilience against pests and diseases (FAO, 2020)[41].

Stakeholder consultations in Grand Cape Mount County indicated that agricultural expansion has cleared important forest habitat and affected wildlife populations. Stakeholders in Nimba County also reported agricultural encroachment around the East Nimba Nature Reserve, linked partly to low-productivity farming practices.

Smallholder agriculture, including shifting cultivation and slash-and-burn farming, remains the main source of food production for many households. Population growth and shortened fallow periods, now often no more than two years, reduce forest regeneration and degrade habitat for mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Forest clearing can also increase access for bushmeat hunting and the live-animal trade. Key informants identified subsistence farming as a major driver of forest loss in River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties.

Liberia has identified agriculture as a major driver of economic growth in successive national development frameworks, including the Agenda for Transformation, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, and the ARREST Agenda. Large-scale rubber and oil palm plantations can, however, replace diverse natural forests with monocultures. This model began with the establishment of the Firestone rubber plantation in Harbel in 1926 and later expanded to other parts of the country.

2.1.1.2 Subsistence and Artisanal Aquaculture

Aquaculture can support food security and livelihoods, but poorly planned expansion may damage coastal and freshwater habitats. Mangrove clearing for ponds removes nursery grounds, alters hydrology and reduces ecosystem resilience.

Subsistence or artisanal aquaculture has led to habitat destruction, particularly in coastal areas where mangroves are cleared for fish farms. This results in the loss of critical ecosystems that serve as nurseries for many marine species. Stakeholders in coastal regions reported that the expansion of urbanization, transport infrastructure and mining have led to significant mangrove deforestation[42], disrupting local fisheries and diminishing biodiversity along the coast.

2.1.2 Energy Production and Mining

Mining provides public revenue, foreign investment, employment and infrastructure. It is also a major driver of deforestation and forest degradation. Liberia therefore requires a balanced approach that secures economic and community benefits while enforcing responsible mining, environmental safeguards and rehabilitation obligations.

Environmental and social impact assessments show that mining can cause deforestation, habitat loss, soil erosion and ecosystem degradation, particularly in forested iron ore landscapes such as the Nimba and Bea mountains.

Artisanal and small-scale mining, particularly for gold and diamonds, can cause forest clearing, soil erosion and contamination of rivers and streams. Mercury and other hazardous substances threaten aquatic ecosystems, wildlife and communities that depend on surface water.

Stakeholders reported that mining has degraded forests near Sapo and Grebo-Krahn National Parks in Grand Gedeh County. Artisanal and small-scale mining in Gbarpolu, River Gee and other biodiversity-rich areas also creates pressure on forests, soils and waterways.

Industrial mineral extraction, including iron ore and gold mining, can cause habitat loss, erosion, water pollution and forest fragmentation. These risks require effective licensing, environmental assessment, compliance monitoring, reclamation and enforcement.

Quarrying can require extensive land clearing and can increase erosion and sedimentation. Stakeholders in Gbarpolu County reported river pollution, declining fish populations and effects on fishing livelihoods near quarry sites.

2.1.3 Biological Resource Use

2.1.3.1 Logging and Wood Harvesting

Legal and illegal logging contribute to forest degradation. Unsustainable harvesting removes ecologically important trees, fragments habitat, increases erosion and can intensify flooding. Logging roads also open previously remote areas to settlement, farming, hunting and further extraction.

Stakeholders in several counties reported deforestation linked to logging within or near Grebo-Krahn and Sapo National Parks. These landscapes provide essential habitat for threatened and endemic species.

High dependence on charcoal and firewood is driving the loss of mature trees, particularly in rapidly growing counties such as Nimba and Bong. Limited access to affordable energy alternatives reinforces this pressure.

Unsustainable pit-sawing and timber harvesting fragment forests and reduce habitat quality. Illegal pit-sawing is widely reported in Nimba, River Cess and other forested counties.

2.1.3.2 Hunting and Collection of Terrestrial Animals

Illegal wildlife trade threatens biodiversity through the capture and sale of animals and wildlife products. Forest elephants, chimpanzees, pangolins and other species are affected, with consequences for population viability and ecosystem function.

Bushmeat hunting directly reduces wildlife populations, particularly where endangered species are targeted. Stakeholders around Sapo National Park and the East Nimba Nature Reserve reported substantial hunting pressure on primates, antelopes and other wildlife.

Commercial hunting and trafficking for meat, skins, bones, scales and live animals can push already vulnerable populations towards extinction. Demand from domestic and international markets increases poaching incentives and weakens conservation outcomes.

2.1.3.3 Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Unsustainable fishing practices, including overfishing and the use of destructive fishing gear, deplete fish stocks and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. This not only threatens marine biodiversity but also affects the livelihoods of communities dependent on fishing.

Illegal and destructive fishing practices include blast fishing, chemical fishing, monofilament nets and beach seines. Combined with increasing fishing effort, these methods reduce fish stocks, damage habitat and increase bycatch. Artisanal fisheries can be sustainable when effectively managed, but weak oversight raises ecological risks.

Consultations in Maryland County indicated that competition among fishers has encouraged unsustainable practices. Stakeholders linked part of this pressure to the movement of fishers from Côte d'Ivoire following closed seasons and declining fish stocks.

Large-scale commercial fishing and trawling can deplete fish stocks, capture juvenile fish and damage seabed habitats. Coastal communities reported declining catches and concern over industrial vessels operating close to artisanal fishing grounds.

Stakeholder site visits in River Cess and Grand Bassa Counties identified illegal practices, including dynamite and chemical fishing.

Blast fishing, chemical fishing, beach seines and other non-selective methods also increase bycatch and mortality among non-target species.

Limited cold-storage, ice production and post-harvest facilities increase fish losses. Fish processors therefore depend heavily on fuelwood, including mangrove wood, for smoke drying. Improved preservation infrastructure can reduce both food loss and pressure on coastal forests.

2.1.4 Residential and Commercial Development

Urban and settlement expansion converts forests and wetlands to housing, roads and commercial uses. It also increases waste generation, pollution and demand for natural resources. Encroachment into the Mesurado Wetlands and other sensitive areas reduces biodiversity and ecosystem function.

2.1.5 Transportation and Service Corridors

Roads and other infrastructure can fragment habitat and increase access to previously undisturbed areas. This often facilitates logging, poaching, settlement growth, mining and the spread of invasive species.

Linear infrastructure has cumulative effects on forest integrity. Logging and service roads can become corridors for settlement, agricultural expansion, timber extraction, hunting and mining.

Stakeholders reported that road construction and other infrastructure in Grand Gedeh County have fragmented forest habitat and disrupted wildlife corridors.

2.1.6 Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

Invasive alien species can outcompete native plants and animals, alter soil and water processes, and reduce ecosystem resilience. Priority examples identified in Liberia include Acacia mangium and Chromolaena odorata.

Acacia mangium was introduced for reforestation and agroforestry but can spread aggressively in disturbed forest ecosystems.

Chromolaena odorata, commonly known as Siam weed, rapidly colonizes forest edges, farms and other disturbed areas. Stakeholders in northwestern Liberia reported that it forms dense stands, suppresses native vegetation and alters forest regeneration.

2.1.7 Climate Change and Severe Weather

Climate change alters rainfall, temperature and seasonal patterns. These changes can shift habitats, disrupt ecological interactions and make some areas unsuitable for sensitive species.

Flooding, coastal erosion and other extreme events can accelerate habitat loss. Stakeholders in River Cess, Grand Bassa and other coastal counties reported increasing flood and erosion impacts on farms, settlements, landing sites and aquatic ecosystems. Changes in river flow and salinity can also affect species distribution, migration and fish catches.

2.1.8 Pollution

2.1.8.1 Industrial Effluents

Stakeholders in Gbarpolu and Bong Counties reported that artisanal mining has polluted rivers and affected aquatic life and communities that depend on these waters for drinking and fishing.

Mining can release heavy metals, acids and sediments into rivers and streams. Mercury used in gold processing and other contaminants can disrupt food chains, reduce water quality and create risks to wildlife and human health.

2.1.8.2 Marine and Aquatic Litter

Liberia generates substantial municipal waste, much of which is inadequately managed and enters waterways. Single-use plastics, abandoned or lost fishing gear, beverage containers, water sachets and expanded polystyrene are common forms of marine litter. These materials can entangle, suffocate or be ingested by fish, sea turtles and other wildlife. Better waste collection, enforcement, recycling and fishing-gear management are required, particularly in coastal cities and fishing communities.

2.2 Drivers of Threats

Biodiversity and tropical forests form interconnected ecological systems that are influenced by both natural processes and human activity. Drivers are the underlying social, economic, institutional and environmental factors that increase or reduce direct threats.

In conservation planning, drivers include constraints, opportunities and other variables that influence direct threats. They often provide practical entry points for policy, investment and behaviour change. Addressing drivers can therefore reduce pressure on biodiversity while strengthening livelihoods and development outcomes.

Links between drivers and threats are rarely linear. Poverty, governance, markets, infrastructure, population change and climate impacts can interact and reinforce one another. The analysis therefore considers networks of causes and identifies intervention opportunities within the limits of the available evidence.

2.2.1 Poverty and Limited Alternative Livelihoods

Poverty and limited livelihood options increase dependence on forests, wildlife, fisheries and land. Shifting cultivation, bushmeat hunting, charcoal production and artisanal mining often provide food or income where affordable alternatives are limited. Conservation responses must therefore combine regulation with livelihood diversification, social protection, access to energy and sustainable production support.[43]

In rural areas, short fallow periods and low agricultural productivity can push farming into new forest areas. Limited access to markets, finance, extension services and alternative employment reinforces this cycle.

Associated threats:

- **Shifting Cultivation:** Repeated slash-and-burn clearing and shorter fallow periods reduce soil fertility, fragment habitats and encourage the expansion of farms into new forest areas. Pressure is particularly serious around biodiversity-rich landscapes and protected areas. Sustainable intensification, agroforestry, land-use planning and agricultural extension can reduce the need for further clearing.
- **Bushmeat Hunting:** Hunting supplies food and income, especially where affordable protein and livelihood alternatives are scarce. Unsustainable hunting reduces wildlife populations, threatens species such as chimpanzees and weakens ecological functions such as seed dispersal and nutrient cycling. Effective responses require enforcement, alternative protein sources, livelihood support and demand reduction in urban markets.
- **Charcoal Production and Fuelwood Harvesting:** Household dependence on charcoal and fuelwood drives tree loss in forest and mangrove areas. High urban demand and limited access to

affordable energy encourage unsustainable harvesting around Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Lofa and other supply areas. Cleaner energy, efficient stoves, sustainable woodlots, producer regulation and alternative livelihoods are needed to reduce pressure.

- **Mining:** Artisanal and industrial mining create income and public revenue, but can also cause deforestation, habitat fragmentation, erosion and water pollution. Risks are reported in Nimba, Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Maryland and River Gee Counties, including areas close to Sapo National Park and other biodiversity hotspots. Stronger licensing, environmental compliance, reclamation and livelihood alternatives are required.

- **Illegal Fishing:** High operating costs, weak surveillance and limited livelihood alternatives can encourage illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. These practices deplete fish stocks, increase bycatch and damage mangroves, seabed habitats and other nursery areas. Liberia also loses public revenue and livelihood opportunities when fishing activity is not effectively monitored and regulated.

2.2.2 Population Growth

Liberia's population is growing by an estimated 2.1–2.2 percent annually. Population growth increases demand for land, food, housing, energy and fisheries resources. Without integrated land-use planning and sustainable service delivery, this demand can accelerate agricultural expansion, settlement encroachment, forest loss and overfishing.[44]

Associated threats:

- **Agricultural Expansion:** Rising demand for food and cash crops converts forests and other natural ecosystems to farms and plantations. Slash-and-burn farming, shortened fallows and monocultures of rubber, oil palm and other commodities reduce habitat diversity and can increase erosion and agrochemical pollution. Reported pressure is significant in Grand Bassa, Margibi, Sinoe, Nimba and Lofa Counties. Sustainable intensification, agroecology, deforestation-free value chains and stronger land-use safeguards are needed.

- **Settlement Expansion:** Urban and rural settlement growth converts forests, wetlands and riparian areas to housing, roads and commercial uses. It also increases demand for fuelwood, water and construction materials and adds pressure from solid waste and wastewater. Impacts are particularly visible in Montserrado and in growing settlements in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, River Gee and Maryland Counties. Urban planning, zoning, tenure security and protection of wetlands and green spaces are essential.

- **Overfishing:** Increasing fishing effort and destructive gear can reduce marine and freshwater fish populations faster than they recover. Bycatch, capture of juvenile fish and damage to nursery habitats weaken ecosystem resilience and reduce future catches. Fishing-dependent counties, including Grand Cape Mount, face growing livelihood risks as stocks decline. Effective management requires surveillance, co-management, appropriate gear, closed seasons where needed and improved post-harvest infrastructure.

2.2.3 Weak Governance and Enforcement

Weak enforcement allows illegal logging, unregulated mining, wildlife crime and destructive fishing to continue. Overlapping institutional mandates, limited field presence, inadequate equipment and poorly coordinated land-use decisions further reduce compliance. Clear responsibilities, joint operations, transparent licensing and adequate financing are required.

Associated threats:

- **Illegal Logging: Weak monitoring and enforcement enable unauthorised harvesting, processing and trade in timber and non-timber forest products. Illegal logging fragments habitat, increases erosion, reduces public revenue and undermines legitimate forest enterprises. Stakeholders identified pressure in Nimba, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh and other forested counties, including areas near international borders.**

Artisanal Mining: Limited licensing, monitoring and enforcement allow informal mining to cause deforestation, soil erosion, sedimentation and contamination of rivers and streams. Mercury and cyanide use can harm fish, other aquatic species and community water supplies. Responses require formalisation, safer processing methods, environmental compliance, site rehabilitation and alternative livelihoods.

- **Illegal Wildlife Trade:** Poaching and trafficking for bushmeat, ivory, scales, skins and live animals threaten chimpanzees, forest elephants, pangolins, pygmy hippopotamuses and other species. Wildlife loss reduces genetic diversity and weakens ecosystem services. Enforcement must be combined with market monitoring, public awareness, cross-border cooperation and livelihood alternatives for affected communities.

- **Illegal Fishing: Limited surveillance enables illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including destructive practices and unauthorised transhipment. These activities reduce fish stocks, increase bycatch and undermine the livelihoods of artisanal fishers. Stronger vessel monitoring, port controls, transparency, enforcement and regional cooperation are required.**

2.2.4 Market Demand

Demand for timber, minerals, agricultural commodities and wildlife products drives unsustainable resource extraction and habitat loss. These activities also provide income for many unemployed and underemployed young people. Effective responses must therefore combine enforcement with decent livelihood alternatives, skills development and sustainable enterprise.

Associated threats:

- **Unsustainable Logging for Timber:** Domestic and international demand for timber encourages extraction beyond sustainable limits where governance and monitoring are weak. The resulting forest loss and fragmentation damage habitat, expose soils to erosion and increase sedimentation of waterways. Legal supply chains, reduced-impact logging, transparent monitoring and enforcement are central responses.

- **Unsustainable Cash-Crop Expansion:** Demand for cocoa, oil palm, rubber and other commodities can drive forest conversion where land-use safeguards and deforestation-free production standards are weak.

- **Unsustainable Bushmeat Hunting:** Urban demand creates commercial incentives for hunting and trade beyond sustainable levels, increasing pressure on threatened species.

2.2.5 Climate Change

Liberia is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, coastal flooding, erosion and changing rainfall patterns. Poverty, limited infrastructure, settlement in exposed areas and dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources increase this vulnerability.

Associated threats:

- **Coastal Erosion:** Sea-level rise, storm surges and erosion are damaging coastal habitats, settlements and fish landing sites. In some locations, public landing areas have been lost and fishers must use private land, increasing operating costs. These impacts affect all nine coastal counties.

- **Species Range Shifts:** Changes in temperature, rainfall, river flow and ocean conditions can alter the distribution, breeding cycles and migration of terrestrial and aquatic species.

- **Flooding:** More intense rainfall and reduced natural drainage can increase erosion, damage habitats and alter freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

2.2.6 Lack of Awareness and Education

Limited understanding of biodiversity values and environmental responsibilities contributes to destructive fishing, poor waste management, unsustainable farming and the spread of invasive species. Environmental education, extension services, community learning and sustained public communication are therefore essential.

Associated threats:

- **Invasive Species Spread:** Limited detection, identification and management capacity allows invasive alien species to establish and displace native species.
- **Unsustainable Farming Practices:** Limited access to soil conservation knowledge, extension services and appropriate technology perpetuates shifting cultivation and land degradation.
- **Unsustainable Fishing and Hunting:** Limited awareness of long-term ecological and livelihood impacts can contribute to dynamite fishing, illegal gear use and unsustainable hunting.

2.2.7 Infrastructure Development

Roads and other infrastructure may proceed without adequate environmental assessment, strategic planning or inter-agency coordination. Habitat fragmentation and new access routes can then enable logging, mining, hunting, settlement growth and the spread of invasive species.

Associated threats:

- **Habitat Fragmentation:** Roads and utility corridors divide habitats, isolate wildlife populations and create access routes for additional land-use pressures.
- **Water Pollution:** Construction, earthworks and poorly managed drainage can increase sedimentation and contamination of rivers, wetlands and coastal waters.

2.2.8 Industrial Activities

Mining, large-scale agriculture and other industrial activities can cause deforestation, habitat loss, pollution, noise and disturbance. Weak compliance monitoring increases risks to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and to human health.

Associated threats:

- **Mining Pollution:** Mercury, cyanide, sediment and other effluents can contaminate rivers, wetlands and soils.
- **Air and Noise Pollution:** Heavy machinery, blasting, dust and emissions can disturb wildlife and affect nearby communities.
- **Deforestation:** Industrial facilities, access roads and production areas can clear or fragment natural forests.

3. Legal and Institutional Framework for Biodiversity Conservation

3.1 National Laws, Policies and Strategies

Liberia's biodiversity governance framework includes laws, regulations, policies and strategies covering forests, wildlife, land, fisheries, mining, agriculture, environmental assessment, renewable energy and climate change. The following instruments provide the principal national basis for conservation, sustainable use and enforcement.

Table 2. Major national laws, policies and strategies relevant to biodiversity.

Policy or law	Year	Key provisions	Relevance to forestry and biodiversity
National Forestry Reform Law (NFRL)	2006	Establishes the Forestry Development Authority as the lead forest agency. Regulates logging concessions and sustainable forest management. Protects biodiversity and community rights. Supports timber-legality and FLEGT objectives.	Legal foundation for sustainable forest management, enforcement against illegal logging, and biodiversity protection.
Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management Law	2016	Provides for wildlife protection and the creation and management of protected areas. Prohibits illegal hunting, poaching and trade in protected species. Supports community-managed conservation areas and wildlife corridors.	Central to safeguarding threatened and endangered species and establishing protected areas.
Environmental Protection and Management Law	2002	Establishes the Environmental Protection Agency. Requires environmental impact assessment for major projects. Applies the polluter-pays principle. Provides environmental standards across key sectors.	Broad environmental framework mandating EIAs, crucial to protecting forests, wildlife habitats, and water resources.
Land Rights Act	2018	Recognises and formalises customary land rights. Protects community interests in customary land. Supports equitable and sustainable land use.	Critical for community-based forest management and long-term biodiversity conservation on customary lands.

Policy or law	Year	Key provisions	Relevance to forestry and biodiversity
Community Rights Law and Regulations	2009; Regulations: 2017	Grants communities rights to manage and benefit from forest resources. Establishes community-forestry and benefit-sharing procedures. Promotes sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products.	Gives local communities a direct stake in forest conservation, which is essential for maintaining biodiversity.
Act Establishing the Protected Forest Areas Network	2003	Provides the legal basis for a national network of protected forests, national parks and related conservation areas.	Provides the legislative backbone for designated protected areas critical to biodiversity conservation.
Wildlife Law and Acts Establishing National Parks	2010 and various years	Provides for protected-area management and wildlife conservation. Establishes specific protected areas, including Sapo, Gola Forest and Grebo-Krahn National Parks and East Nimba Nature Reserve. Prohibits hunting of protected species.	Sets legal grounds for habitat protection, endangered species conservation, and protected area governance.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II	2017–2025	Sets national priorities under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Identifies actions for forests, wetlands, species and ecosystems. Promotes integration of biodiversity into national development planning.	Key policy instrument guiding Liberia's biodiversity goals, including protected area expansion and species protection.
Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU	2011	Aligns timber exports with the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade initiative. Establishes a timber legality-assurance system. Supports measures to reduce illegal logging.	Reinforces sustainable forestry practices and strengthens regulatory oversight in the timber sector.
Guidelines for the Gazettement of Protected Areas in Liberia	2022	Provides procedures for identifying, consulting on, declaring and managing protected areas. Requires stakeholder participation and scientific assessment.	Streamlines expansion and formal recognition of new protected areas, crucial for biodiversity protection.

3.2 International Agreements

Liberia is party to international agreements that support biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, wetlands protection, climate action and the regulation of wildlife and timber trade. The table below summarizes the most relevant agreements and key implementation considerations.

Table 3. International agreements relevant to biodiversity.

Treaty or convention	Year	Key objective	Implementation considerations
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	1982	Regulates trade in endangered species to prevent over-exploitation.	Limited enforcement capacity due to weak monitoring infrastructure, insufficient technical expertise, and inadequate funding.
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1992	Promotes biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of resources, and equitable benefit sharing.	Progress in legal reforms like the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2017–2025)*, but gaps in community engagement and financing remain.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)	2005	Aims to protect migratory species and their habitats through regional and global collaboration.	Limited capacity to establish wildlife corridors and enforce protections, compounded by weak cross-sectoral coordination.
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	2003	Conserves wetlands of international importance, especially for biodiversity and water management.	Challenges in wetlands monitoring and enforcement due to lack of technical expertise and institutional collaboration.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement	1994, 2015	Focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting climate resilience.	Some alignment through REDD+ initiatives and adaptation strategies, but efforts hindered by fragmented governance and limited technical resources.
International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)	2006	Encourages sustainable management and trade of tropical timber.	Improved transparency through the *VPA-FLEGT*, though illegal logging persists due to weak enforcement mechanisms.

3.3 Government Institutions

Liberia has a broad institutional framework for natural resource and biodiversity management. The Environmental Protection Agency and Forestry Development Authority play central roles, supported by institutions responsible for land, fisheries, mining, agriculture, justice, local government, finance, statistics and transparency. Resource constraints, limited technical capacity, overlapping mandates and weak enforcement continue to reduce institutional effectiveness.

Table 4. Government institutions supporting biodiversity governance.

Institution	Mandate	Analysis
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Leads environmental management and enforces laws; oversees EIAs; coordinates international agreements.	Limited enforcement capacity due to resource constraints; strong legal framework but struggles with compliance monitoring.
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)	Manages forests, promotes sustainable forestry, monitors concessions, and oversees protected areas.	Effective in community forestry and REDD+ initiatives; lacks resources for nationwide enforcement and management.
Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)	Regulates mineral/energy exploration; enforces EIAs and mitigates environmental impacts of mining.	Weak monitoring of mining compliance; overlaps with FDA and EPA in resource management responsibilities.
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Promotes sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and climate-smart farming practices.	Coordination with FDA and EPA is improving, but enforcement of sustainable practices remains inconsistent.
Liberia Land Authority (LLA)	Manages land rights and disputes, promotes sustainable land use practices.	Land tenure conflicts and unclear ownership hinder conservation; recent reforms show potential for improved governance.
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA)	Regulates fisheries and marine resources; combats illegal fishing.	Strong legal framework but enforcement against illegal fishing is challenged by resource limitations.
Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI)	Promotes transparency in natural resource revenue management.	Effective in highlighting governance issues; struggles with enforcement due to limited oversight capacity.
Ministry of Local Government (MLG)	Facilitates community engagement and supports local governance in conservation initiatives.	Community participation remains low; needs stronger mechanisms for integrating traditional knowledge into policy.
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Enforces environmental laws and prosecutes violations.	Limited capacity to prosecute cases; weak coordination with enforcement agencies like FDA and EPA.
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)	Provides data and mapping for conservation planning.	Advances in spatial data infrastructure; needs stronger integration with other agencies for effective data sharing.

Institution	Mandate	Analysis
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)	Allocates funding for conservation and coordinates with international donors.	Funding allocation for conservation remains inadequate, limiting implementation of international commitments.

Overlapping mandates among the EPA, FDA, Ministry of Mines and Energy and other institutions can create inefficiency in land-use and natural-resource governance. Unclear responsibilities complicate the balance between mining, infrastructure, agriculture and conservation. Stronger leadership, formal coordination mechanisms and clear institutional roles are required.

Chronic underfunding, limited technical capacity and corruption further constrain enforcement. Data-sharing initiatives led by LISGIS and targeted capacity-development programmes provide a basis for improvement. Effective conservation governance will require adequate resources, clear mandates, transparent decisions and sustained inter-agency collaboration.

4. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan III, 2026-2030

4.1 Overarching Principles for Implementation

Implementation of NBSAP III will be guided by the following principles:

- Promote inclusive and participatory biodiversity planning by engaging government, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, women, and youth.
- Implement the NBSAP through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensure shared responsibility across sectors and institutions.
- Ensure continuous monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of biodiversity status, trends, threats, and implementation progress.
- Strengthen biodiversity governance by improving legal, institutional, and financial mechanisms for effective conservation and sustainable use.
- Ensure equitable access to and sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity resources, including genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- Subject development initiatives with potential adverse impacts on biodiversity to environmental safeguards, including strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment.
- Balance economic development with environmental protection to support sustainable use of natural resources.
- Promote public awareness, education, and communication to increase understanding of biodiversity values and responsibilities.
- Recognise, protect, and promote traditional and indigenous knowledge, practices, and innovations that support biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.
- Apply a people-centred approach to biodiversity management, ensuring that local communities benefit from and participate in conservation decisions.
- Recognise the ecological, economic, cultural, and aesthetic values of biodiversity in planning and decision-making.

Give special attention to species conservation, ecosystem restoration, habitat protection and sustainable landscape and seascape management.

4.2 Vision, Goal and Strategic Objectives

4.2.1 Vision

Liberia's biodiversity is better protected, restored and sustainably managed to support resilient ecosystems, local livelihoods and national development.

4.2.2 Goal

A society that lives in harmony with its natural environment.

4.2.3 Strategic Objectives

- Maintain, enhance and restore ecosystem integrity, connectivity and resilience
- Promote sustainable use and management of biodiversity
- Ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources
- Secure adequate means of implementation

4.3 National Strategies and Action Plans

The action plan translates the four strategic objectives into 21 national targets, 140 priority actions, institutional responsibilities, indicators and indicative budgets. The landscape tables that follow should guide annual work planning, investment design, inter-agency coordination and performance reporting.

Implementation period: 2026-2030 | Indicative budget: US$259,235,000

Strategic Objective 1

Maintain, Enhance and Restore Ecosystem Integrity, Connectivity and Resilience

Table 5. Strategic Objective 1: targets, priority actions and indicative budget.

7	46	US$154,550,000	59.6%
Targets	Priority actions	Indicative budget	Share of total

Targets under this strategic objective

Target	National priority
1.1	Restore degraded ecosystems
1.2	Conserve threatened species and genetic diversity
1.3	Reduce human-wildlife conflict
1.4	Prevent loss of high-biodiversity areas through spatial planning
1.5	Integrate the One Health approach
1.6	Conserve key terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine areas
1.7	Build biodiversity resilience to climate change

Target 1.1: Restore 15 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine ecosystems by 2027 and 30 percent by 2030, prioritising areas that provide essential ecosystem services. Apply nature-based and ecosystem-based approaches to improve biodiversity, ecological integrity, connectivity and ecosystem functions.

GBF alignment: Target 2, restore 30 percent of degraded ecosystems.	Target budget US$42,340,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Total area of degraded terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine ecosystems restored. Number of restoration policies and strategies developed. Change in ecosystem services following restoration.
Headline Indicators	Area under restoration.
Component Indicators	Connectivity of natural ecosystems maintained or restored. Extent of natural ecosystems by type.
Complementary Indicators	Habitat disturbance range.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.1.1 Conduct nationwide assessments to identify and prioritise degraded terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine ecosystems for restoration, using ecosystem mapping, natural capital accounting and related tools.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	LLA, MME, MoA, MFDP, academic and research institutions, LISGIS, community management associations, Liberia National Tourism Authority, NOCAL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.2 Develop a national natural capital accounting framework and identify priority ecosystems for initial accounts.	LISGIS, MFDP	EPA, FDA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.3 Develop inclusive restoration plans for priority degraded areas with government, communities, research institutions, civil society and the private sector, incorporating relevant traditional ecological knowledge.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	LLA, MME, MoA, MFDP, academic and research institutions, MoI, MLG, MoGCSP, LISGIS, community management associations, Liberia National Tourism Authority, NOCAL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.1.4 Rehabilitate or restore identified and prioritised degraded ecosystems, applying an ecosystem-based adaptation approach to enhance ecosystem services.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	LLA, MME, MoA, MFDP, academic and research institutions, MoI, MLG, MoGCSP, LISGIS, community management associations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.5 Promote agroforestry practices in the five agroecological zones to improve biodiversity and provide economic benefits to local communities.	MoA, FDA	LACRA, EPA, MoCI, CARI, MoGCSP, NAFAA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.6 Promote sustainable mining practices for all classes of mining licences and reduce illegal practices through enforcement of ESIA processes and other relevant laws.	MME, EPA	FDA, NAFAA, NOCAL, MoJ, LBS, NBC	Private-sector associations, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.1.7 Conduct a capacity-needs assessment to identify institutional, technical, community and financing gaps for ecosystem restoration.	EPA	NAFAA, MME, FDA, MoI, MLG, LLA, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.8 Build the capacity of communities, government institutions and other stakeholders in sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration and the value of ecosystem services.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA, LLA	MoI, MLG, academic and research institutions, MoGCSP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.9 Establish a national mechanism to monitor restoration activities, evaluate results and assess ecosystem health.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	LLA, MME, MoA, MFDP, academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MoD, LiMA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.1.10 Develop a national policy framework for sustainable landscape restoration.	FDA, EPA	NAFAA, LLA, MME, MoA, MFDP, academic and research institutions, LISGIS	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 1.2: By 2030, halt human-induced extinction of threatened species and significantly reduce extinction risk. Maintain and restore the genetic diversity of native and domesticated species through in situ and ex situ conservation.

GBF alignment: Target 4, halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity and manage human-wildlife conflict.	Target budget US$36,170,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Genetic diversity index for key species.
Headline Indicators	Red List Index.
Component Indicators	Conservation status of species listed in the CITES Appendices.
Complementary Indicators	Percentage of threatened species with improving status. Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.2.1 Conduct surveys to identify and document threatened species, assessing their population status, distribution, and ecological conditions.	FDA, NAFAA	LISGIS, MLG, EPA, MFDP, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.2 Support genetic studies to assess variability within and between populations of native and domesticated species and develop a national genetic-resources atlas.	CARI, academic and research institutions	LISGIS, MoA, NAFAA, FDA, EPA, NPHIL, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.3 Strengthen management of existing protected areas and establish new conservation areas in critical habitats, including Ramsar sites, to protect threatened species and ecologically significant ecosystems.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	LLA, MME, academic and research institutions, LISGIS, LiMA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.2.4 Engage local communities in conservation, promote sustainable practices and provide incentives for protecting ecosystem services.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA, MLG	MoGCSP, academic and research institutions, MoI, media organisations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.5 Strengthen enforcement against illegal hunting and trade in threatened species by training and equipping rangers and establishing an effective national coordination and monitoring mechanism.	FDA, NAFAA	MoJ, MoD, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.6 Develop and implement scientifically sound breeding and recovery programmes for critically endangered flora and fauna, including reintroduction where appropriate.	CARI, academic and research institutions	NAFAA, MFDP, MoA, FDA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.7 Establish facilities to conserve genetic material from native plants and domesticated crops.	FDA, MoA	EPA, CARI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.2.8 Establish at least two botanical or related conservation facilities for native flora, education and research.	academic and research institutions	MoA, EPA, CARI, NAFAA, FDA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 1.3: By 2030, significantly reduce human-wildlife conflict to promote coexistence.

GBF alignment: Target 4, halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity and manage human-wildlife conflict.	Target budget US$12,730,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Incidence of human-wildlife conflict. Number of awareness and capacity-development initiatives on human-wildlife interactions.
Component Indicators	Trends in effective and sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.3.1 Establish at least five community-based monitoring and citizen-science programmes to track human-wildlife conflict and evaluate mitigation measures.	FDA	EPA, MoA, MLG, MoJ	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.3.2 Develop a national human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy through full consultation with affected communities and integration of relevant traditional ecological knowledge.	FDA	EPA, MoA, MoH, MFDP, MLG, MoI, media organisations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.3.3 Develop or enforce at least three land-use plans that include buffer zones and wildlife corridors to reduce encroachment and support safe wildlife movement.	FDA, LLA	EPA, MoA, NAFAA, MFDP, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.3.4 Review, strengthen or introduce enforceable policies, laws and regulations on wildlife conservation and conflict mitigation.	FDA, NAFAA	MoA, MFDP, MLG, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.3.5 Raise awareness among legal practitioners and the Liberia National Bar Association about laws, regulations and policies on wildlife conservation and conflict mitigation.	FDA, MoJ	academic and research institutions, EPA, INTERPOL, Liberia National Bar Association, LRA, LAA, NAFAA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.3.6 Establish fair compensation mechanisms for wildlife-related losses and incentives for communities that actively support conservation.	FDA	MoA, MFDP, MLG, NAFAA, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.3.7 Strengthen transboundary cooperation on wildlife movement, monitoring and conflict mitigation.	FDA, MoJ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	EPA, MoA, NAFAA, MFDP, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 1.4: By 2030, achieve near-zero loss of areas with high biodiversity value and ecosystems of high ecological integrity. Use participatory and integrated land and marine spatial planning to address land- and sea-use change while respecting the rights of local communities.

GBF alignment: Target 1, plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss.	Target budget US$5,950,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Area of high-biodiversity ecosystems conserved.
Headline Indicators	Percentage of land and sea covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans.
Component Indicators	Proportion of adults with legally recognised and perceived secure tenure rights, disaggregated by sex and tenure type.
Complementary Indicators	Trends in land-use change and land tenure within the traditional territories of local communities.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.4.1 Develop detailed maps of current land and sea uses to identify areas of conflict between development and conservation objectives.	LLA, FDA, NAFAA	LiMA, MLG, MFDP, EPA, MME, LISGIS	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.4.2 Strengthen enforcement against illegal logging, illegal mining, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and unplanned land conversion.	FDA, MME, NAFAA	LiMA, LLA, MLG, MFDP, MoJ, MoD, EPA, MoA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
1.4.3 Ensure and formalize the land and resource rights of local communities, promoting their active participation in conservation and spatial planning initiatives.	LLA, FDA, NAFAA	LiMA, MLG, MFDP, EPA, MoA, MoJ	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 1.5: By 2030, integrate the One Health approach into biodiversity assessment and management. Establish and implement a national programme to monitor, control and reduce chemical hazards and the risk of pathogen spillover to human and animal health.

GBF alignment: Target 5, ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species are sustainable, safe and legal.	Target budget US$7,960,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Coverage of monitoring programmes. Public awareness and education index on biodiversity-health links. Number of assessors and rangers trained in One Health approaches. Number of site-management plans incorporating One Health.
Complementary Indicators	Red List Index for used species.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.5.1 Strengthen the national One Health strategic framework by defining objectives, roles and responsibilities across human, animal and environmental health and aligning it with relevant national policies.	MoH, MoA, EPA	LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, NPHIL, FDA, NWASH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.5.2 Conduct at least five interdisciplinary training programmes for human-health, veterinary, environmental and wildlife professionals on disease surveillance and response.	MoH, MoA, EPA	LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, NPHIL, FDA, NWASH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.5.3 Integrate One Health concepts into university and technical-institute curricula to build a qualified national workforce.	Academic and research institutions, MoH, MoA, EPA	LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, NPHIL, NWASH, FDA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.5.4 Develop and implement at least one cross-sectoral system for sharing data on zoonotic diseases, chemical hazards and environmental-health indicators.	NPHIL, MoH, MoA	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, FDA, EPA, NWASH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.5.5 Assess risks of pathogen spillover and chemical exposure across ecosystems and identify high-risk locations and practices.	EPA, NPHIL	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, MoA, FDA, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.5.6 Review and update at least two regulations or guidelines on the import, handling, transport and storage of chemicals.	EPA	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, MoH, MoA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.5.7 Implement national public-awareness campaigns on the links among human, animal and environmental health and on behaviours that reduce risk.	MoH	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, NAFAA, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, MoA, EPA, media organisations, MoI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Target 1.6: By 2030, effectively conserve at least 30 percent of key terrestrial and inland-water areas and 20 percent of coastal and marine areas. Prioritise biodiversity hotspots and areas that provide essential ecosystem services through well-connected, ecologically representative and equitably governed conservation systems that respect community rights.

GBF alignment: Target 3, conserve 30 percent of land, waters and seas.	Target budget US$39,725,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Percentage of terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine areas under effective conservation. Area of high biodiversity and carbon value under effective management. Number of high-biodiversity areas under active conservation. Number of ecological corridors established and maintained. Number and diversity of local communities, including women's groups, involved in conservation governance.
Headline Indicators	Coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Services provided by ecosystems.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.6.1 Assess and improve ecological corridors to ensure protected areas are well-connected, facilitating species movement and genetic flow.	FDA	academic and research institutions, EPA, NAFAA, LISGIS, MLG, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.6.2 Establish new terrestrial and marine conservation areas and strengthen management of existing areas in line with Liberia's 30x30 Action Plan.	FDA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.6.3 Build the capacity of community leaders and local institutions to manage protected areas and marine protected areas effectively and equitably.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.6.4 Support sustainable livelihoods, including ecotourism, sustainable fisheries and sustainable agriculture, to reduce dependence on extractive activities.	NAFAA, Liberia National Tourism Authority, MoA	academic and research institutions, LISGIS, MLG, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, FDA, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.6.5 Train community members to participate in biodiversity monitoring, ensuring local involvement in data collection and management.	FDA, NAFAA	LISGIS, MLG, academic and research institutions, CARI, LiMA, MFDP, LLA, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.6.6 Establish a National Oceanographic and Coastal Research Institute to strengthen Liberia's capacity for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation by providing scientific data, monitoring systems, and technical expertise to guide the effective management of coastal and marine ecosystems.	EPA, UL, NAFAA	MFDP, LiMA, MoA, NPA, MME, MoD, academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 1.7: By 2030, minimise the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and strengthen resilience through mitigation, adaptation, disaster-risk reduction, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, with emphasis on high-carbon ecosystems.

GBF alignment: Target 8, minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience.	Target budget US$9,675,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Changes in key biodiversity indicators associated with climate change and ocean acidification. Rate of ocean acidification and effects on marine biodiversity. Completion of ecosystem vulnerability assessments. Identification and mapping of vulnerable ecosystems.
Component Indicators	Climate-regulation services provided by ecosystems and ecosystem type under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.
Complementary Indicators	Above-ground forest biomass stock, tonnes per hectare. National greenhouse gas inventories for land use and land-use change.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.7.1 Align the National Climate Change Response Strategy, Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan with biodiversity conservation priorities.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME, NWASH, NPHIL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.7.2 Support the NCCSC to facilitate collaboration between environmental, agricultural, and economic sectors, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are integrated into climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME, NWASH, NPHIL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
1.7.3 Support communities in developing and implementing localised climate adaptation plans that incorporate traditional knowledge and prioritise ecosystem health.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.7.4 Facilitate the diversification of livelihoods to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive resources, thereby decreasing vulnerability to climate change.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.
1.7.5 Develop and submit bankable proposals to international funds and cooperation mechanisms that support NBSAP III priorities.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs and CSOs.

Strategic Objective 2

Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Biodiversity

Table 6. Strategic Objective 2: targets, priority actions and indicative budget.

5	36	US$52,435,000	20.2%
Targets	Priority actions	Indicative budget	Share of total

Targets under this strategic objective

Target	National priority
2.1	Prevent and manage invasive alien species
2.2	Reduce pollution risks and impacts
2.3	Expand sustainable management in productive sectors
2.4	Increase biodiversity-friendly urban green space
2.5	Manage wild species sustainably for people and nature

Target 2.1: By 2030, identify and manage the main pathways for invasive alien species and reduce new introductions by 50 percent. Establish surveillance, early-detection, prevention, control and management measures for priority invasive species that threaten biodiversity, agriculture and ecosystem health.

GBF alignment: Target 6, reduce invasive alien species introductions by 50 percent and minimise their impacts.	Target budget US$8,295,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Operational status of invasive-species surveillance and monitoring systems. Number of invasive alien species under effective control. Number of legal instruments regulating invasive alien species. Reduction in priority introduction pathways.
Headline Indicators	Rate of establishment of invasive alien species.
Component Indicators	Number of invasive alien species introduction events.
Complementary Indicators	Trends in abundance, occurrence and distribution of non-indigenous species, especially invasive species in high-risk areas.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.1.1 Conduct a national assessment of invasive alien plants, animals and aquatic species and identify their main introduction pathways.	NAFAA, academic and research institutions	MME, MLG, EPA, LiMA, LLA, LRA, MoCI, MFDP, MoA, FDA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.2 Develop and implement a standardised framework to assess the risk associated with each identified introduction pathway, prioritising those that pose the greatest threat to biodiversity, agriculture, and ecosystem health.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MME, LLA, MLG, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.1.3 Strengthen customs, forestry and agricultural inspection services at ports of entry through specialised training in invasive alien species detection and management.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	LLA, MLG, Liberia Immigration Service, LRA, MoCI, MFDP, INTERPOL, NPA, MoA, MoJ	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.4 Establish and enforce quarantine protocols for high-risk goods and materials, including thorough inspections and, when necessary, treatment or rejection of contaminated shipments.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MLG, Liberia Immigration Service, LAA, MFDP, MoCI, NPHIL, MoH, MoJ	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.5 Establish a multi-stakeholder surveillance network that combines scientific methods and relevant traditional ecological knowledge to detect invasive alien species.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, NPA, MLG, Liberia Immigration Service, LAA, MoCI, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.6 Develop and implement protocols for the eradication or containment of newly detected invasive species populations to prevent their establishment and spread.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, NPA, MLG, Liberia Immigration Service, LAA, MoCI, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.7 Support research to understand the ecological and economic impacts of existing invasive species in Liberia, providing data to inform management strategies.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, MLG, LISGIS, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.8 Engage with regional organisations and neighbouring countries to share information, harmonise policies, and coordinate actions against transboundary invasive species threats.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MLG, MoCI, MFDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.1.9 Develop a comprehensive national strategy that outlines clear objectives, roles, and responsibilities for IAS management, integrating it into broader environmental and agricultural policies.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MLG, MoA, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 2.2: By 2030, significantly reduce pollution risks and harmful impacts from all sources on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and human and animal health.

GBF alignment: Target 7, reduce pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity.	Target budget US$9,420,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Ecosystem health index. Number of pollution incidents causing biodiversity loss. Number of pollution standards and guidelines adopted by industries and key sectors. Number of compliance notices and fines issued. Vulnerability of ecologically sensitive areas.
Complementary Indicators	Hazardous waste generation.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.2.1 Strengthen regulatory capacity to monitor compliance and enforce pollution-control measures across sectors.	EPA	LWSC, NWASH, NAFAA, MoH, Liberian Hydrological Service	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.2.2 Enforce policies that hold polluters financially responsible for the environmental damage they cause, incentivizing industries to adopt cleaner technologies and practices.	EPA	LWSC, NWASH, NAFAA, MoH, Liberian Hydrological Service	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.2.3 Require and support industries to adopt cleaner production methods that minimise waste, emissions and ecological impacts.	EPA	LWSC, NWASH, NAFAA, MoH, Municipal Authorities, MoCI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.2.4 Support local communities in developing and managing waste collection and recycling programmes, fostering local ownership and sustainability.	MLG, Municipal Authorities	LWSC, NWASH, NAFAA, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.2.5 Enforce measures to prevent water pollution from industrial, mining, agricultural, and domestic sources, ensuring the protection of aquatic ecosystems and public health.	EPA	LWSC, NWASH, NAFAA, MoH, NPHIL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.2.6 Set up at least 5 monitoring stations to track air pollutant levels, providing data to inform policy decisions and public health advisories.	EPA	MoT, NWASH, NPHIL, Municipal Authorities, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.2.7 Source and mobilise domestic funds for research to assess the effects of various pollutants on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human health, providing a scientific basis for policy interventions.	EPA, MFDP	MoT, Municipal Authorities, LWSC, NWASH, LiMA, NPHIL, MoH, Liberian Hydrological Service	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 2.3: By 2030, apply sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management practices across at least 30 percent of areas used for agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry. Promote sustainable intensification and agroecology to improve ecosystem services, food security and biodiversity conservation.

GBF alignment: Target 10, enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.	Target budget US$13,600,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Percentage of production areas under sustainable management. Biodiversity index in managed areas.
Complementary Indicators	Proportion of local breeds at risk of extinction. Agrobiodiversity Index.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.3.1 Develop and operationalize a comprehensive policy framework that promotes agroecological practices, ensuring alignment with existing agricultural and environmental policies.	MoA	FDA, MLG, CARI, UL, LISGIS, NAFAA, academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.3.2 Establish regional training centres for farmers, extension officers and agribusinesses on agroecology and sustainable, forest-friendly production.	MoA, NAFAA, LACRA, CDA	FDA, MLG, CARI, UL, academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.3.3 Promote innovation and technologies for sustainable intensification, including improved seed varieties and integrated pest management.	MoA, NAFAA	MLG, CARI, EPA, academia	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.3.4 Develop accessible credit facilities for farmers and fishers who adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.	MoA, NAFAA	CBL, MLG, CDA, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.3.5 Support the development of agro-processing industries that add value to sustainably produced goods, increasing profitability for producers.	MoA, NAFAA, MoCI	EPA, MFDP, MLG, CBL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 2.4: By 2030, increase urban green space by 30 percent in major cities through native-species planting, biodiversity-sensitive urban planning, community engagement and a One Health approach.

GBF alignment: Target 12, enhance green and blue spaces and biodiversity-sensitive urban planning.	Target budget US$7,475,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Percentage increase in urban green space. Diversity and abundance of native species. Integration of biodiversity-sensitive practices into urban planning. Number of community engagement initiatives supporting urban green space. Number of productive native-species nurseries.
Headline Indicators	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is public green or blue space.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.4.1 Collaborate with city authorities to create comprehensive plans that identify areas for green space expansion, emphasizing native species and ecological connectivity.	MPW, Municipal Authorities, MLG, LLA	FDA, CARI, UL, MFDP, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.4.2 Amend urban zoning laws to mandate the inclusion of green spaces in new developments and prioritise the preservation of existing natural areas.	MPW, Municipal Authorities, MLG	LLA, MFDP, EPA, Ministry of State, Law Reform Commission	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.4.3 Develop at least five interconnected networks of parks, gardens and natural areas to improve ecological connectivity and urban biodiversity.	MPW, Municipal Authorities, MLG	LLA, FDA, MFDP, EPA, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.4.4 Assess existing urban green spaces and establish monitoring systems to track progress towards the 30 percent increase target.	FDA, LISGIS, EPA	LLA, MLG, UL, MFDP, MPW, Municipal Authorities	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.4.5 Monitor the diversity, abundance and condition of native species in urban areas to evaluate ecological outcomes.	FDA, EPA	LLA, MLG, UL, LISGIS, MFDP, MPW, Municipal Authority	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.4.6 Incentivise businesses to invest in urban green space through corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships.	EPA, LRA, MoCI, NIC	FDA, MLG, UL, MFDP, Municipal Authorities	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 2.5: By 2030, sustainably manage the use of wild species to provide social, economic and environmental benefits, particularly for vulnerable and biodiversity-dependent communities.

GBF alignment: Target 9, manage wild species sustainably to benefit people.	Target budget US$13,645,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of compliance measures developed. Community participation and benefit-sharing index.
Headline Indicators	Benefits derived from the sustainable use of wild species.
Component Indicators	Red List Index for species used for food and medicine.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.5.1 Assess and update existing legislation to ensure it effectively addresses current challenges in sustainable use and management of wild species.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MLG, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.2 Strengthen community capacity, governance and logistics for sustainable management of designated forest and natural-resource areas.	FDA, EPA, LLA, MLG	UL, LISGIS, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.3 Strengthen existing mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of benefits derived from sustainable wild species use, incentivizing conservation efforts among local populations.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MLG, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.4 Enhance the sustainable harvesting and commercialization of NTFPs, such as medicinal plants and nuts, to diversify income sources for forest-dependent communities.	FDA	MLG, MFDP, EPA, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
2.5.5 Develop community-led ecotourism initiatives that support alternative livelihoods and biodiversity awareness.	FDA, Liberia National Tourism Authority, NAFAA	LLA, MLG, MFDP, EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.6 Train local community members to monitor wildlife populations and resource use, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific methods.	FDA, EPA	MLG, MFDP, UL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.7 Establish certification pathways for sustainably harvested products to improve market access and fair compensation.	FDA, EPA, NAFAA	MLG, UL, MoCI, MFDP	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.8 Provide training and resources for processing raw materials into higher-value products, enhancing income opportunities.	MoCI, NIC	MLG, UL, MFDP, EPA, CBL	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
2.5.9 Implement clear procedures for addressing grievances and disputes over wild species use, ensuring fair and timely resolutions.	FDA, NAFAA	MFDP, EPA MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Strategic Objective 3

Ensure Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources

Table 7. Strategic Objective 3: targets, priority actions and indicative budget.

2	20	US$14,390,000	5.6%
Targets	Priority actions	Indicative budget	Share of total

Targets under this strategic objective

Target	National priority
3.1	Establish effective access and benefit-sharing systems
3.2	Improve corporate biodiversity compliance and disclosure

Target 3.1: By 2030, develop, implement and enforce legal, policy and administrative measures for fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Strengthen capacity to manage access to genetic resources and digital sequence information.

GBF alignment: Target 13, increase benefit-sharing from genetic resources and digital sequence information.	Target budget US$11,680,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of legal and policy frameworks developed or strengthened. Number of capacity-development programmes on genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Number and value of benefit-sharing agreements and diversity of beneficiaries. Number and diversity of stakeholders consulted. Catalogue of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
3.1.1 Develop policies and guidelines for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in line with the Nagoya Protocol.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA, MLG	MFDP, LiMA, CARI, MoA, NPHIL, MoH, academic and research institutions, LRA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.2 Mainstream access and benefit-sharing and protection of traditional knowledge into national and sectoral policies and development planning.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA, MLG	MFDP, UL, CARI, MoA, academic and research institutions, LRA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.3 Establish a unit within the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and monitor access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and to support compliance with access and benefit-sharing agreements.	EPA	MFDP, UL, LiMA, CARI, MoA, academic and research institutions, FDA, NAFAA, MLG, NPHIL, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
3.1.4 Conduct at least 20 workshops and training sessions to strengthen stakeholder understanding of access and benefit-sharing, legal rights, responsibilities and compliance requirements.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MACs academic and research institutions, local Communities, LRA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.5 Prepare and distribute accessible, multilingual materials on access and benefit-sharing concepts, rights and responsibilities.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, MLG, MoA, MoI, media organisations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.6 Work with local communities to document traditional knowledge, subject to their free, prior and informed consent, and to support fair access and benefit-sharing agreements.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MoJ, MFDP, LLA, UL, MLG, MoA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.7 Support communities to develop protocols that define their conditions for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA, MLG	MFDP, LLA, UL, MoA, LEITI and other academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.8 Develop standard templates for access and benefit-sharing agreements that specify monetary and non-monetary benefits.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, LLA, UL, MLG, MoA, academic LEITI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.9 Establish a designated access and benefit-sharing window within the Liberia Conservation Fund or another suitable trust fund to manage and distribute benefits equitably.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MoJ, MFDP, LLA, UL, MLG, MoA, LEITI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.10 Strengthen policies and procedures that protect traditional knowledge from unauthorised use, including appropriate documentation and registration mechanisms.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, LLA, UL, MLG, CARI, MoA, LIPO	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.11 Develop policy measures for access to and use of digital sequence information and for fair sharing of resulting benefits.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MoJ, MFDP, UL, MLG, MoA, MoI, LIPO	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
3.1.12 Integrate controlled data on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge into the national environmental knowledge management system.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, UL, MLG, MoA, MoI, LEITI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.13 Develop indicators and reporting tools to track access and benefit-sharing activities, compliance and benefit distribution.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, UL, MLG, CARI, MoA, LIPO, MoI, LEITI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.1.14 Fund research to address priority knowledge gaps concerning Liberia's genetic resources.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	UL, CARI, NPHIL, other academia and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 3.2: By 2030, ensure that at least 75 percent of registered corporations, particularly those operating in mining, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, comply with biodiversity conservation standards and sustainable production practices.

GBF alignment: Target 15, businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts.	Target budget US$2,710,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Reduction in negative biodiversity impacts. Adoption of sustainable production practices.
Headline Indicators	Number of companies disclosing biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts.
Complementary Indicators	Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
3.2.1 Organise at least 15 workshops and training sessions for corporate entities to educate them on legal requirements, corporate social responsibility, sustainable practices, and the importance of biodiversity conservation.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	MFDP, LLA, UL, MLG, CARI, MoA, MME, LRA, NBC, NIC, LEITI	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.2.2 Provide resources and training to institutions with biodiversity-related mandates to strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	MFDP, LLA, UL, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LEITI, LRA, NBC, MoJ, MoCI, NPA, LBS, MME, MPW	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.2.3 Establish a public platform for corporate compliance reports and environmental-performance information.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	MFDP, LLA, UL, LiMA, ML, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, LEITI, LBS, MME, MPW	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.2.4 Apply fines, operational suspensions, or other penalties to corporations that fail to meet established environmental standards, ensuring accountability.	EPA	FDA, MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, NAFAA, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME, LRA, CBL, MoJ, Judiciary, NPA, MoCI, NPHIL, MoH	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
3.2.5 Strengthen the Environmental Sector Working Group, Land Sector Working Group, REDD+ Working Group and related platforms for dialogue among government, business, civil society and communities.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	MoT, MPW, MFDP, LLA, UL, LiMA, MLG, CARI, MoA, LISGIS, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
3.2.6 Align national biodiversity standards with relevant international agreements and good practice.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	MACs	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Strategic Objective 4

Secure Adequate Means of Implementation

Table 8. Strategic Objective 4: targets, priority actions and indicative budget.

7	38	US$37,860,000	14.6%
Targets	Priority actions	Indicative budget	Share of total

Targets under this strategic objective

Target	National priority
4.1	Increase biodiversity finance
4.2	Improve access to biodiversity data and knowledge
4.3	Mainstream biodiversity values in decision-making
4.4	Reform incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity
4.5	Ensure equitable participation, rights and access to justice
4.6	Strengthen cooperation, research and technology transfer
4.7	Advance communication, education and traditional knowledge

Target 4.1: By 2030, increase biodiversity conservation finance by at least 40 percent through domestic and international sources, partnerships, responsible private investment, green bonds, payment for ecosystem services and other innovative mechanisms.

GBF alignment: Target 19, mobilise biodiversity finance from all sources.	Target budget US$5,265,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of partnerships established with global environmental organisations and other stakeholders. Performance of innovative financing mechanisms. Number and value of public-private partnerships supporting conservation.
Headline Indicators	Domestic public finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Domestic and international private finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
Complementary Indicators	Amount of biodiversity-related philanthropic funding.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.1.1 Provide national-budget financing, complemented by bilateral and multilateral resources, to capitalise the Liberia Conservation Fund as a long-term national conservation-finance mechanism beyond East Nimba Nature Reserve.	Legislature, MFDP, Ministry of State	LRA, FDA, LLA, NAFAA, CBL, MLG EPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.1.2 Develop and implement payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes that incentivize local communities and private landowners to engage in conservation activities by compensating them for maintaining ecosystem services.	MFDP, NIC	LRA, FDA, LLA, NAFAA, CBL, MLG, EPA, community management associations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.1.3 Collaborate with financial institutions to issue green bonds dedicated to funding biodiversity conservation initiatives, such as reforestation and habitat restoration.	MFDP, CBL	LRA, FDA, LLA, NAFAA, MLG, community management associations	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.1.4 Establish formal partnerships with international NGOs, conservation organisations, and private companies to co-finance biodiversity projects.	EPA, MFDP	LRA, LLA, CBL, MLG, NAFAA, FDA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.1.5 Develop a regulatory and financial framework for high-integrity biodiversity credits and related nature-finance instruments.	MFDP, EPA, NAFAA, FDA	LRA, LLA, CBL, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.1.6 Provide research funding to conduct baseline studies for biodiversity conservation.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, LISGIS, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.2: By 2028, ensure that decision-makers, practitioners and the public can access the best available biodiversity data, information and appropriate traditional knowledge to support effective and equitable governance.

GBF alignment: Target 21, ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action.	Target budget US$12,875,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Operational status of the national biodiversity data repository. Number of traditional knowledge practices documented and appropriately accessible. Number of policies supporting biodiversity-data and traditional-knowledge sharing. Use of digital platforms providing biodiversity information. Growth in records and species represented in relevant biodiversity databases.
Complementary Indicators	Growth in species-occurrence records accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.2.1 Establish and manage an online data repository that consolidates biodiversity data, research findings, and traditional knowledge, making it accessible to all stakeholders.	LISGIS, FDA, NAFAA, EPA	UL, LLA, other academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.2.2 Work with local communities to document and appropriately incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into national biodiversity information systems.	MLG	FDA, UL, LLA, NAFAA, MoE	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.2.3 Establish a National Natural History Museum and Herbarium to enhance biodiversity education and preservation of national heritage.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA, UL	MFDP, MoI, MoE, MoA, CARI, other research and academic institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.2.4 Provide annual training for technicians, public officials, civil society and community leaders on biodiversity data collection, management and use in decision-making.	LISGIS, LIPA	MACs	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.2.5 Engage communities in biodiversity monitoring and ensure that agreed data are incorporated into national databases.	FDA, NAFAA	UL, LLA, MoE, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.2.6 Implement biodiversity data-sharing agreements that improve access to national and global biodiversity information.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	UL, LLA, MoE, LISGIS, MoA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.3: By 2030, integrate biodiversity values and priority ecosystem services into national and sectoral policy, planning, budgeting and development processes.

GBF alignment: Target 14, integrate biodiversity into decision-making at every level.	Target budget US$3,585,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of policies and development plans that incorporate biodiversity values. Number of sector policies aligned with GBF goals. Implementation of ecosystem-services valuation.
Component Indicators	Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.3.1 Conduct a national assessment of the economic, social and environmental values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, using natural capital accounting and other appropriate methods.	FDA, NAFAA, EPA	LLA, MFDP, MoA, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.3.2 Systematically evaluate existing policies in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, and infrastructure to identify gaps and integrate biodiversity values and ecosystem services.	MoA, FDA, NAFAA, MME, MPW, EPA	LLA, academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.3.3 Create comprehensive guidelines to assist policymakers and planners to mainstream biodiversity considerations into development projects and programmes.	EPA	LLA, FDA, NAFAA, academic and research institutions, MoA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.3.4 Launch nationwide campaigns and workshops to raise awareness among the public, private sector, and civil society about the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into development processes.	EPA	LLA, FDA, NAFAA, MoI, media organisations, MoA, MFDP, MPW, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.4: By 2030, identify and begin eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives and subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity.

GBF alignment: Target 18, reform harmful incentives and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity.	Target budget US$3,285,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Percentage reduction in harmful incentives.
Headline Indicators	Positive incentives established for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Value of harmful subsidies and incentives eliminated, phased out or reformed.
Complementary Indicators	Trends in potentially harmful government support to agriculture.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.4.1 Perform a comprehensive review of current subsidies and incentives across various sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and energy, to identify those that negatively impact biodiversity.	EPA	MFDP, CBL, FDA, MME, MoA, MoCI, LRA, NAFAA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.4.2 Formulate a strategic plan outlining steps to eliminate, phase out, or reform identified harmful subsidies, incorporating timelines, responsible agencies, and monitoring mechanisms.	MoCI, EPA	MFDP, CBL, FDA, MME, MoA, LRA, NAFAA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.4.3 Create a task force comprising representatives from key ministries, including finance, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and environment, to oversee and coordinate subsidy reform initiatives.	MoCI, EPA, FDA, NAFAA, MFDP, MoA	MME, MoJ, MLG, NPA, LRA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.4.4 Organise at least 10 stakeholder workshops with industry, civil society and local communities to review proposed subsidy reforms.	MoCI, EPA	MFDP, CBL, FDA, MME, MoA, NAFAA, NPA, MLG, LRA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.4.5 Launch pilot projects that redirect harmful subsidies towards activities promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, serving as models for broader application.	MoCI, FDA, NAFAA, EPA	MFDP, MME, MoA, NPA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.4.6 Establish a monitoring framework to track progress in subsidy reform, including indicators such as the number of subsidies reformed, financial amounts redirected, and biodiversity impacts observed.	MoCI, EPA	MFDP, CBL, FDA, MME, MoA, NAFAA, NPA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.5: By 2030, ensure full and equitable participation of women, local communities and other stakeholder groups in biodiversity decision-making. Implement policies that recognise and protect their rights, knowledge and contributions.

GBF alignment: Target 22, ensure participation, access to information and access to justice for all.	Target budget US$2,735,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number and diversity of stakeholders, including women, represented in decision-making bodies. Number of policies and legal frameworks recognising stakeholder rights and knowledge. Number of awareness and capacity-development programmes supporting equitable participation.
Complementary Indicators	Number of protected areas completing a Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.5.1 Use regional and county environmental and climate-change committees to strengthen inclusive biodiversity decision-making, with significant participation by women and local communities.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	UL, MoGCSP, MLG, academic and research institutions, MoE, MoA, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.5.2 Review and revise existing biodiversity policies to incorporate gender considerations, ensuring that women's rights and contributions are recognised and protected.	MoGCSP, EPA	NAFAA, UL, MME, FDA, MoE	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.5.3 Conduct at least 10 training sessions to strengthen the participation of women and local communities in biodiversity management and policy development.	MoGCSP, EPA, FDA, NAFAA	UL, MoA, MME, MoE, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.5.4 Document and incorporate traditional ecological knowledge from local communities into national biodiversity conservation strategies and action plans.	MLG, EPA, FDA, NAFAA	UL, MoGCSP, MME, MoA, academic and research institutions and research insitutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.5.5 Enact and enforce laws that recognise and protect community land and resource rights and support active participation in conservation.	LLA, MLG	NAFAA, UL, MoGCSP, FDA, EPA, academic and research institutions, Legislature	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.6: By 2030, strengthen national capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through international cooperation, technology transfer, joint scientific research and the development of a national centre for biodiversity research and monitoring.

GBF alignment: Target 20, strengthen capacity, technology transfer and scientific cooperation for biodiversity.	Target budget US$6,960,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of international cooperation partnerships established. Number of technology transfers completed. Number of joint research initiatives. Number of national biodiversity research centres established.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.6.1 Establish international cooperation agreements for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies relevant to biodiversity conservation.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA, UL	academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.6.2 Establish a national centre for biodiversity and conservation research with appropriate facilities, monitoring tools and data-management capacity.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.6.3 Undertake joint research with international institutions on species conservation, ecosystem-service valuation, climate impacts and other national priorities.	academic and research institutions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EPA, FDA, NAFAA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.6.4 Provide regular training for scientists, policymakers and conservation practitioners in modern conservation methods, data analysis and advanced technologies.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	academic and research institutions, MACs	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.6.5 Establish an online platform for secure exchange and collaborative analysis of biodiversity data among national and international institutions.	LISGIS	FDA, LLA, EPA, academic and research institutions, NAFAA, MME	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.6.6 Review, quality-assure, consolidate, digitise and publish biodiversity data generated through environmental and social impact assessments, subject to applicable safeguards.	EPA	FDA, academic and research institutions, NAFAA, LISGIS, NOCAL, LEC	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.6.7 Engage international funds, philanthropic organisations and responsible private investors to finance biodiversity research, technology and capacity development.	EPA, FDA	MFDP, academic and research institutions, NAFAA, MoA, LISGIS, LIPA	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

Target 4.7: By 2030, implement communication, education and research initiatives that recognise the traditional knowledge and practices of local communities and comply with free, prior and informed consent.

GBF alignment: Target 21, ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action.	Target budget US$3,155,000

National and Global Indicators

Indicator group	Indicators
National Indicators	Number of initiatives incorporating traditional knowledge. Number of initiatives complying with free, prior and informed consent.
Complementary Indicators	Extent to which education for sustainable development, gender equality and human rights are mainstreamed in national education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessment.

Priority Actions and Institutional Responsibilities

Action	Lead institution(s)	Supporting institution(s)	Partners
4.7.1 Support community education initiatives to document, preserve and promote traditional knowledge and practices related to biodiversity conservation.	MoI, LBS, MoE	UL, EPA, FDA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.7.2 Encourage research institutions to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into research, subject to appropriate consent, acknowledgement and safeguards.	EPA, NAFAA, FDA	academic and research institutions, MoE, MoA, MME, LLA, MLG	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.7.3 Enact and enforce laws that protect community intellectual-property rights in traditional knowledge and practices.	MLG	LIPO, EPA, FDA, NAFAA, MoJ, Judiciary, Legislature	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.
4.7.4 Train public officials, civil society and community leaders to apply free, prior and informed consent and integrate traditional knowledge appropriately into development projects.	EPA, FDA, NAFAA	MACs, academic and research institutions, Legislature	Development partners, national and international NGOs, CBOs, CSOs and the private sector.

5. Implementation of NBSAP III

5.1 Implementation Arrangements

NBSAP III will be implemented through a coordinated governance structure that promotes national leadership, technical coordination, inclusive participation, resource mobilization, monitoring, reporting and accountability. The structure supports a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach by assigning roles to ministries, agencies, local government, communities, civil society, academia, the private sector and development partners.

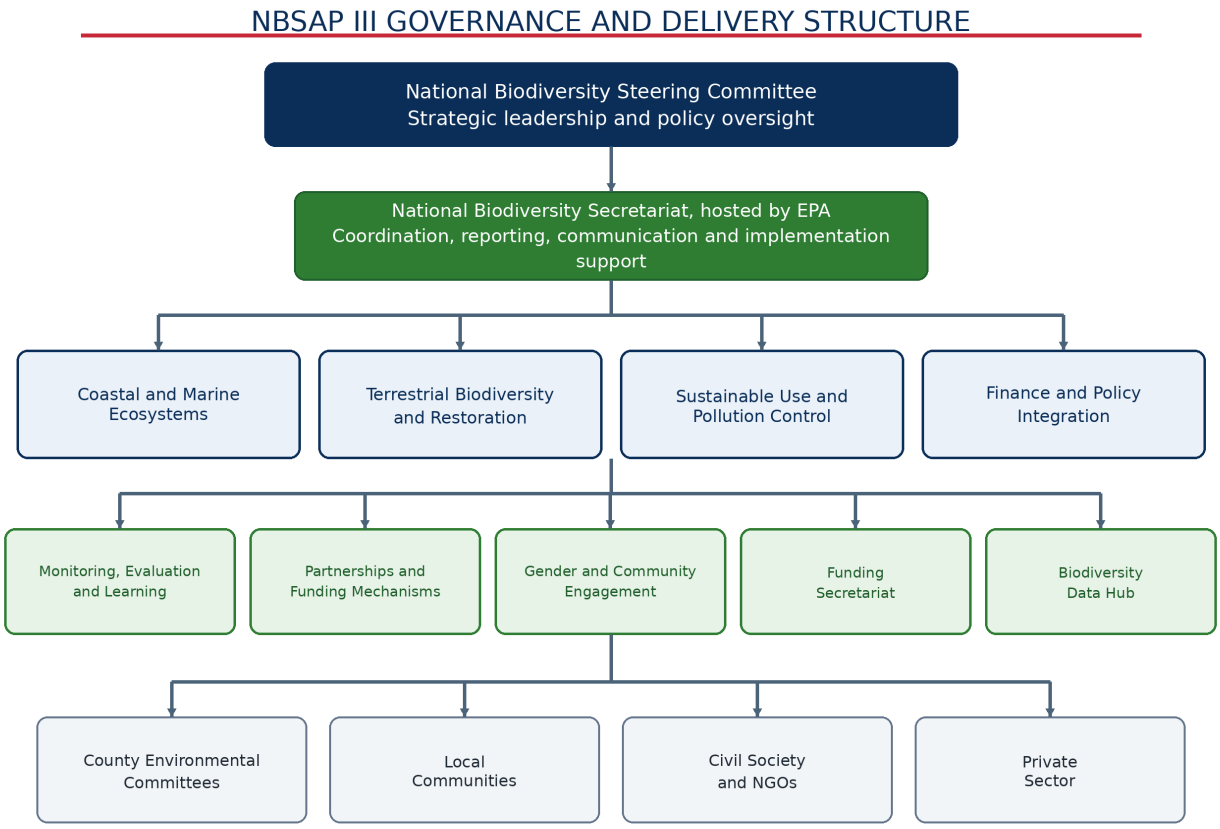


Figure 2. Governance structure for NBSAP III implementation.

5.1.1 National Biodiversity Steering Committee

The National Biodiversity Steering Committee will provide strategic leadership and policy oversight. Chaired by the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, it will serve as the principal national decision-making and coordination platform for biodiversity programmes. The Committee will review progress, address implementation bottlenecks and align biodiversity priorities with national development plans, climate commitments and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and related agreements.

5.1.2 National Biodiversity Secretariat

The National Biodiversity Secretariat, hosted by the EPA, will coordinate day-to-day implementation. It will convene meetings, coordinate reports from lead institutions, track progress, maintain records, support stakeholder communication and prepare technical updates for the Steering Committee. The Secretariat will work with the CBD Focal Point, thematic focal points, line ministries, county structures and partner institutions to maintain coherent and evidence-based implementation.

5.1.3 Technical Working Groups

Four Technical Working Groups will support implementation: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems; Terrestrial Biodiversity and Restoration; Sustainable Use and Pollution Control; and Finance and Policy Integration. Each group will bring together government, academia, civil society, the private sector and technical partners to provide advice, review progress, identify capacity gaps and recommend practical actions.

5.1.4 Cross-Cutting Subcommittees and Support Units

Cross-cutting bodies will support monitoring, learning, financing, participation and data management. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Subcommittee will track indicators and document lessons. The Partnerships and Funding Mechanisms Subcommittee will coordinate resource mobilization and partner engagement. The Gender and Community Engagement Unit will strengthen the participation of women, youth, local communities, traditional knowledge holders and biodiversity-dependent groups. The Funding Secretariat will identify and track domestic, international, private and innovative finance.

A Biodiversity Data Hub will consolidate biodiversity data, spatial information, monitoring reports and appropriate traditional knowledge generated by government, research institutions, communities and partners. The Hub will improve transparency, access to information and national reporting.

Resource mobilization will draw on domestic, international and private sources. Domestic financing will include the national budget and the Liberia Conservation Fund. Development partners and international institutions will support priority programmes, while the private sector will be encouraged to invest through corporate responsibility, sustainable production and innovative financing mechanisms.

5.1.5 County Environmental Committees

- Coordinating the implementation of NBSAP III at the county level.
- Developing and enforcing local policies and by-laws that promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- Supporting the documentation of traditional and local knowledge, technologies and practices relevant to biodiversity conservation.
- Monitoring biodiversity conservation activities, maintaining accurate records, and disseminating relevant information.
- Integrating biodiversity priorities into County Environment Action Plans and incorporating them into County Development Plans.
- Mobilizing financial and community resources and allocating them to support implementation of NBSAP III.
- Engaging local communities, resource user groups, NGOs, and CBOs in biodiversity conservation initiatives.
- Identifying critical ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots, and priority species requiring protection, and ensuring compliance with Liberia's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and related international agreements.
- Preparing and submitting annual progress reports on NBSAP III implementation to the EPA.

5.1.6 Local Communities

- Participating in local planning processes to identify and prioritise biodiversity issues and actions under NBSAP III.
- Implementing community-led measures that promote land restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Engaging in training and capacity-building programmes to strengthen knowledge and skills in conservation and sustainable resource management.
- Sharing traditional knowledge, technologies, and conservation practices with community members and other stakeholders to support biodiversity protection.

5.1.7 Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society

- Conducting public awareness and outreach activities on NBSAP III.
- Supporting the capacity development of community-based organisations to effectively implement NBSAP III.
- Facilitating access to appropriate technologies and innovations at the community level.
- Strengthening collaboration and networking among NGOs and other civil society organisations.
- Documenting traditional and local knowledge, technologies and conservation practices related to biodiversity.
- Supporting CBOs and local communities in designing and implementing biodiversity conservation projects.
- Conducting research and generating evidence to support policy, planning and implementation.

5.1.8 Private Sector

- Supporting and expanding alternative income-generating activities that promote sustainable livelihoods.
- Providing financial and material resources to strengthen land management and biodiversity conservation programmes.
- Supporting and participating in innovative financing mechanisms proposed under NBSAP III.
- Adopting and financing sustainable, environmentally sound technologies that minimise negative impacts on biodiversity.

5.2 Other Key Implementation Approaches

5.2.1 Gender Equality

Implementation will promote gender equality by recognising the distinct roles and contributions of women, men, youth and elders in biodiversity management. Women's participation in decision-making will be strengthened, and gender-responsive planning will be integrated across biodiversity programmes and policies.

5.2.2 Ecosystem Approach

NBSAP III adopts an ecosystem-based approach that recognises the interdependence of species, habitats, landscapes and ecosystem services. Implementation will consider ecological linkages and cumulative impacts to support integrated and sustainable biodiversity management.

5.2.3 Integration with National Development Plans

The Strategy will align with national development frameworks, poverty reduction priorities and sectoral policies. Institutions will integrate biodiversity priorities into wider economic and social development planning.

5.2.4 Capacity Building and Training

Institutional and technical capacity development will remain central to implementation. Training will strengthen skills in conservation practice, biodiversity monitoring, research, ecosystem valuation, data management and evaluation.

5.2.5 Public Awareness and Education

Public awareness and education will support citizen participation and behavioural change. Government will promote partnerships with the private sector, media, schools, universities and civil society to expand biodiversity communication and learning.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia will lead coordination, monitoring and evaluation of NBSAP III. Working with the CBD Focal Point and thematic focal points, the EPA will oversee implementation and ensure alignment with national and international reporting requirements.

A validated National Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Plan will provide indicators, baselines, milestones, data sources, reporting templates, timelines and institutional responsibilities. It will serve as the operational reference for all implementing institutions and partners.

The National Biodiversity Steering Committee will provide policy direction and oversight. Line ministries, government agencies, conservation organisations, community-based organisations, local authorities, research institutions and community structures will implement and report on actions within their mandates.

The Biodiversity Section within the EPA's Division of Multilateral Environmental Agreements will coordinate monitoring, supported by national specialists and technical experts as required. Monitoring will track targets, actions and indicators, identify implementation gaps and recommend corrective measures.

A Technical Committee on Biodiversity Conservation and a Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group will support data quality and technical review. Lead institutions and partners will submit quarterly reports to the EPA. The EPA will consolidate these inputs into an annual State of Biodiversity Report to assess progress, update baselines and guide strategic adjustments.

Monitoring will apply a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework. Standardised reporting formats will support consistency across sectors. National and global indicators aligned with relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be used to assess progress, supported by the National Biodiversity Databank and other data systems.

A mid-term evaluation will be completed by 2027 to assess progress and refine implementation. A terminal evaluation will be conducted in 2030 to measure performance and inform the next national biodiversity planning cycle.

The Biodiversity Focal Point will communicate regular progress updates and recommendations to the National Biodiversity Steering Committee. Decisions and corrective actions will be tracked to strengthen accountability and timely implementation.

7. Financial and Resource Mobilization Mechanisms

7.1 Introduction

Indicative Budget by Strategic Objective

Table 9. Indicative budget by strategic objective.

Strategic objective	Targets	Actions	Budget	Share
1. Maintain, Enhance and Restore Ecosystem Integrity, Connectivity and Resilience	7	46	US$154,550,000	59.6%
2. Promote Sustainable Use and Management of Biodiversity	5	36	US$52,435,000	20.2%
3. Ensure Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources	2	20	US$14,390,000	5.6%
4. Secure Adequate Means of Implementation	7	38	US$37,860,000	14.6%
Total	**21**	**140**	**US$259,235,000**	**100.0%**

Note: Budget figures are indicative and should be refined through activity-level design, annual work planning and public investment processes.

The indicative cost of implementing 140 priority actions across 21 national targets during 2026–2030 is US$259,235,000. Financing will be mobilised from public, private, bilateral, multilateral and innovative sources. Budgets will require periodic review as activities are designed, costed and incorporated into institutional work plans and national development financing.

7.2 Domestic Funding Mechanism

Domestic financing will be mobilised through national budget allocations, including the environmental programme within the Public Investment Program, complemented by support from development partners. Ministries and agencies should integrate NBSAP priorities into annual plans, medium-term expenditure frameworks and sector investment programmes.

7.3 Global Environment Facility

Global Environment Facility resources will be pursued as an international financing source for activities that advance the national targets and priority actions identified in NBSAP III.

7.4 Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund offers a dedicated channel for supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Liberia will prioritise proposals that advance

conservation, restoration, sustainable use, spatial planning, community participation and institutional capacity.

7.5 Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund can support large-scale nature-based solutions that deliver both climate and biodiversity benefits. Priority opportunities include forest protection, mangrove restoration, climate-resilient agriculture and ecosystem-based adaptation.

7.6 Liberia Conservation Fund

The Liberia Conservation Fund provides a national mechanism for mobilising and managing long-term conservation finance. Its scope can support protected area management and other national biodiversity priorities, subject to governance, capitalization and investment arrangements.

7.7 Payment for Ecosystem Services

Payment for ecosystem services provides incentives to landholders and communities that maintain forests, watersheds and other ecosystems. Well-designed schemes can reward conservation, support livelihoods and complement regulatory and protected-area approaches.

7.8 Biodiversity Offsets

Biodiversity offsets may be used only after impacts have been avoided, minimised and restored as far as possible. Where residual impacts remain, offsets should pursue measurable no-net-loss or net-gain outcomes, apply transparent standards and include long-term monitoring and accountability.

7.9 Biodiversity Credits

Biodiversity credits are measurable units linked to verified conservation or restoration outcomes. They may attract private investment when supported by credible baselines, safeguards, transparent benefit-sharing, independent verification and strong national regulation.

7.10 Green Bonds

Green bonds are debt instruments that raise capital for eligible environmental investments. Biodiversity-focused bonds may finance habitat restoration, reforestation, protected-area management, sustainable land use and climate-smart agriculture, subject to clear use-of-proceeds and reporting standards.

7.11 Debt-for-Nature Swaps

Debt-for-nature swaps may link agreed debt relief or restructuring to domestic commitments for conservation finance. Any future transaction should be supported by fiscal analysis, transparent governance, measurable biodiversity outcomes and safeguards for communities and public interests.

Liberia's biodiversity can support livelihoods, resilience and sustainable development when it is protected and managed responsibly. Effective resource mobilization must reduce unsustainable pressure, expand positive incentives and direct finance towards measurable national biodiversity outcomes.

Source Notes and References

The numbered source notes below correspond to superscript references in the text. They consolidate and standardise the source information supplied in the validated NBSAP draft.

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2026-2030

Safeguarding Liberia's biodiversity for a resilient, prosperous and sustainable future

Government of Liberia
Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

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