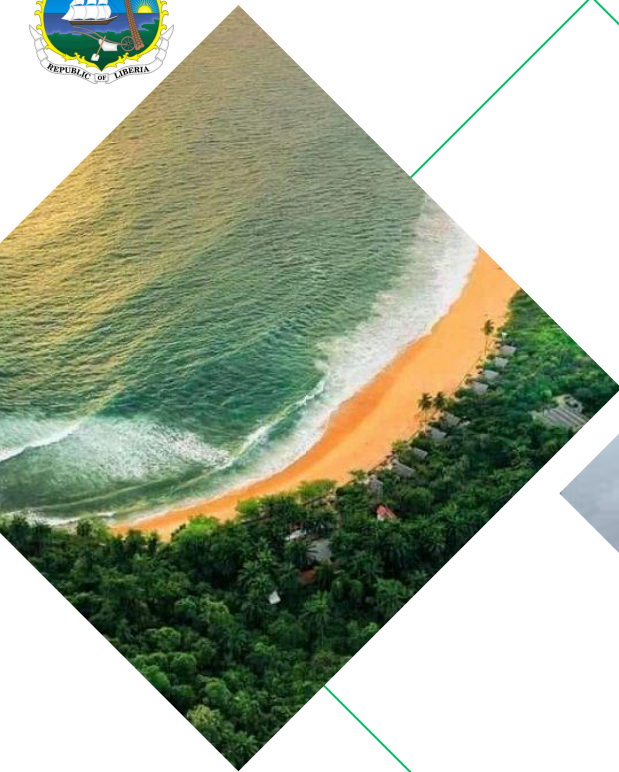




REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



ABRIDGED EPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia introduces its five-year Strategic Plan for 2025–2029 as a commitment to environmental governance, sustainable resource management, and community engagement. With a total budget of \$32,078,000 (seeking \$16,890,000 from partners and \$15,188,000 from internal resources), the plan outlines a framework to address Liberia’s pressing environmental challenges. Rooted in its core values—stewardship, professionalism, transparency, accountability, partnership, and respect—the EPA aims to strengthen governance, build capacity, and enhance public awareness.

Budget Overview

- **Internal resources: \$15,188,000**
- **External funding: \$16,890,000**
- **Total estimated cost: \$32,078,000**

Strategic Vision and Approach

The EPA Strategic Plan 2025–2029 outlines actions aligned with Liberia’s national development framework, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID). ARREST stands for Agriculture, Road, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism. This alignment ensures the plan contributes to Liberia’s Vision 2030, African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through its five strategic pillars, the EPA seeks to address environmental degradation, climate change, resource management, and biodiversity loss, while fostering community engagement, compliance, and international partnerships.

Strategic Pillars and Objectives

1. Governance & Management

Objective 1.1: Decentralize EPA Operations

- Establish EPA offices in all 15 counties, powered by clean energy, equipped with vehicles, computers, and monitoring tools.
- Form Environmental Committees to promote local governance and community-driven environmental solutions.
- Train committee members on environmental policy, advocacy, and dispute resolution.

Objective 1.2: Strengthen Leadership and Legal Frameworks

- Enhance board functionality, accountability, and inter-departmental collaboration.
- Build the Legal Unit to address disputes, enforce regulations, and advocate for stronger environmental laws.
- Develop and operationalize an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism for resolving environmental conflicts efficiently.

Objective 1.3: Centralize Environmental Data Management

- Launch a National Environmental Registry to consolidate data from field reports, labs, and community inputs.
- Develop a user-friendly digital platform for public access to environmental data, ensuring transparency.

Objective 1.4: Safeguard Information System (SIS)

- Implement the SIS for monitoring environmental and social safeguards, integrating it with existing databases.

2. Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building

Objective 2.1: Construct a Modern Headquarters

- Build an EPA headquarters with integrated offices, laboratories, and renewable energy systems to meet modern operational needs.

Objective 2.2: Expand Regional Laboratories

- Establish four regional and one central laboratory for environmental monitoring and radiation safety.
- Recruit and train scientists and technicians in advanced testing techniques.

Objective 2.3: Enhance Human Resource Capacity

- Implement a comprehensive personnel classification and appraisal system aligned with the EPA's semi-scientific functions.
- Train staff in technical, policy, and research areas.
- Retain talent through mentorship programs, equitable salaries, and clear career progression.

Objective 2.4: Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- Establish a dedicated M&E unit to assess the impact of EPA programs and projects, ensuring accountability

3. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Services

Objective 3.1: Enhance Public Awareness

- Partner with schools and local governments to integrate environmental education into curricula.
- Use mass media campaigns to promote awareness about waste management, climate adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.

Objective 3.2: Collaborate with Academic and Research Institutions

- Form partnerships with universities for research, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Objective 3.3: Operationalize the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)

- **Develop a centralized platform to store, visualize, and analyze environmental data, ensuring accessibility for stakeholders.**

4. Compliance & Enforcement

Objective 4.1: Strengthen Compliance Mechanisms

- **Update and enforce environmental laws, standards, and regulations.**
- **Deploy field officers and logistics to monitor compliance in sectors like mining, agriculture, and urban development.**

Objective 4.2: Expand Field Operations

- **Equip regional teams with the necessary tools and training to enforce compliance effectively.**
- **Modernize environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) processes to ensure transparency and efficiency.**

Objective 4.3: Promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

- **Establish mechanisms for resolving disputes related to resource use and land ownership outside formal courts.**

5. International and National Environmental Commitments

Objective 5.1: Align with International Standards

- Strengthen Liberia's adherence to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the Paris Agreement.
- Participate actively in global environmental forums to enhance knowledge exchange and secure international funding.

Objective 5.2: Mobilize Resources

- Establish a National Climate Change Trust Fund to attract international and domestic financing.
- Advocate for increased government budgetary allocations and innovative funding mechanisms like green taxes.

Objective 5.3: Leverage International Partnerships

- Collaborate with organizations such as the UNDP, World Bank, and GEF to address environmental challenges and fund initiatives.

Implementation Framework

- **Annual Work Plans:** Break down strategic goals into actionable tasks.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Use performance indicators to track progress.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate with communities, private sector, academia, and NGOs.
- **Accountability Mechanisms:** Regular reporting and audits.

Expected Outcomes by 2029

- Fully operational EPA offices and laboratories in all counties.
- Transparent and accessible environmental data systems.

Stronger Compliance:

- Nationwide enforcement of environmental standards across sectors.
- Modernized ESIA processes ensuring sustainable practices.

Increased Public Awareness:

- Active community participation in environmental decision-making.
- Integration of environmental education into school programs.

Improved Resource Management:

- **Effective implementation of multilateral agreements.**
- **Adequate funding for environmental initiatives through diverse sources.**

Institutional Modernization:

- **Construction of a modern, energy-efficient headquarters.**
- **Enhanced capacity and skills of EPA staff.**

The EPA Strategic Plan 2025–2029 is a roadmap for transforming Liberia’s environmental governance. It balances local action with international commitments, leveraging partnerships and modernizing processes to promote sustainable development. By 2029, the EPA aims to become a leading institution in safeguarding Liberia’s rich biodiversity and natural resources for future generations.

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