



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**  
**Bright Building 302-A Old CID Road, Mamba Point**  
**1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia**  
**P.O. Box 4024**



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**Consultancy Services**  
**Request for Expression of Interest**

<b>Job Title</b>		<b>National Consultant</b>	
<b>Division/Department</b>		Project: Enabling Activities to Support the ratification and early implementation of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction of (EA-BBNJ)	
<b>Program/Project Number/ GEF Project ID number</b>		<b>GEF ID:1656</b>	
<b>Activity Result</b>		National Assessment and support for Implementation Readiness for the BBNJ Agreement	
<b>Assignment</b>		To conduct National Assessment and support for Implementation Readiness for the BBNJ Agreement	
<b>Location</b>		Across Liberia	
<b>Reports to</b>	<b>BBNJ Focal Point at the EPA</b>	<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	180 days over a period of Two (2) years

**1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982, sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. It was then supplemented by two implementing agreements. Although UNCLOS contains provisions for the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the sustainable management of ocean resources, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly recognized that there was a need for the comprehensive legal regime under UNCLOS to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Ultimately, this recognition culminated in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” (the BBNJ Agreement) on 19 June 2023, after nearly two decades of negotiations under various format.

The BBNJ Agreement is the outcome of a long, iterative process that was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2004. This process was completed with the adoption of the Agreement at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in June 2023. The BBNJ Agreement is the third implementing agreement to the UNCLOS. The Agreement opened for signature in September 2023, sixty instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession are required for the Agreement to enter into force. The UNGA, in its resolution emphasized the importance of the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Agreement. To this end, timely



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support to national processes towards becoming parties to the Agreement and implementation readiness is critical.

The African region is now united behind the urgent need to ratify the BBNJ treaty “at the earliest possible date,” as reiterated by the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted at the 19th ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-19, 17-18 August 2023).

The Government of Liberia, having actively participated in the regional meeting of ECOWAS member States planned on 20-22 November 2023 proceeded to sign the agreement in September 2024 and later ratified in June 2025. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty stands as a pivotal instrument in this endeavor, reflecting Liberia's commitment to international cooperation and environmental stewardship.

To further address national processes that led to the ratification and Liberia becoming a party to the Agreement and implementation readiness, the EPA through the Government of Liberia, with funding from the the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and support of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is leading a National Assessment and support for Implementation Readiness for the BBNJ Agreement and development of a national implementation readiness strategy to address identified gaps. This nationwide initiative is funded by the GEF through the UNEP and scheduled to be implemented for 180 days over a two (2) years period and will inform national planning and readiness for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement in Liberia. This initiative aims to contribute to global efforts in conserving and sustainably managing marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions. The activity will include consultation involving various stakeholders, including government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), youth groups, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), etc.

### **Objective of the Assignment and Responsibilities**

The main objective of this assignment is to conduct a comprehensive situation, institutional and legislative regulatory framework assessment and analysis as input to the BBNJ initial assessment to support the implementation of the agreement. The Consultant will play a critical role in ensuring the National Assessment and Implementation Readiness strategy for the BBNJ Agreement serves as a working document to guide Liberia's toward the implementation of the BBNJ agreement.

Specifically, the assignment seeks to:

- Assess the extent to which Liberia's current legal, policy and institutional framework allows for not only becoming a party to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) but to enable implementation of the Agreement;
- Carry out and document the preparatory work that led to the ratification, approval, acceptance or accession process towards becoming party to the BBNJ Agreement; and



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- Support Liberia's readiness to implement the BBNJ Agreement

### **Scope of Work and Tasks**

The Consultant will play a lead role in undertaking and reporting on an initial assessment which will inform national planning and readiness for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and facilitating the trainings and awareness workshops.

The consultant will be responsible for developing a Implementation Readiness strategy The scope of work is organized into three (3) key areas:

#### **Initial National Assessment**

- Conduct a situational overview of the country's engagement with BBNJ-related conservation and sustainable use, including potential impacts;
- Conduct a review of existing institutional, legislative, and regulatory frameworks relevant to the BBNJ Agreement;
- Conduct an analysis of progress toward ratification, approval, acceptance, or accession to the Agreement, including identification of legal or regulatory gaps;
- Identify key challenges to ratification and implementation, including priority capacity-building needs.

#### **National Support for Ratification and Implementation Readiness**

- Document national assessment of BBNJ-related conservation and sustainable use, including:
  - Mapping of relevant stakeholders and activities under national jurisdiction;
  - Identification of traditional knowledge held by local communities;
  - Inventory of repositories, databases, and national capacities related to marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

#### **Gap assessments in the following areas:**

- Legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks;
- Governance, institutional, and administrative capacities;
- Scientific, technical, and infrastructure capacities.
- Support for obligations under the BBNJ Agreement, including:
  - Fair and equitable benefit-sharing, with attention to gender equality;
  - Development of national implementation readiness strategies to address identified gaps;
  - Other gender-responsive national-level activities deemed necessary to support implementation readiness.



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**Key Expected Output**

- A comprehensive situation assessment as input to the BBNJ initial assessment
- A comprehensive institutional and legislative and regulatory framework analysis as input to the BBNJ assessment.
- A comprehensive overview of the ratification process as input to the BBNJ assessment
- A comprehensive overview of ratification challenges as input to the BBNJ assessment
- A comprehensive BBNJ initial assessment report
- Documented national Endorsement and submission to DOALOS.
- Documented awareness raising for addressing identified needs and gaps for BBNJ implementation.
- Documented best practices shared with the Global BBNJ project.

**DELIVERABLES and PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

No.	Output/ Deliverable	Payment Plan
<b>Year One (1)</b>		
1.	Submission and clearance of Inception Report (10 days after signing of contract)	20%
2.	Submission of a comprehensive situation assessment as input to the BBNJ initial assessment and a comprehensive institutional and legislative and regulatory framework analysis as input to the BBNJ assessment.	40%
3.	Submission of a comprehensive report on the overview of the ratification process and challenges as input to the BBNJ assessment	40%
<b>Year Two (2)</b>		
4	Submission of a draft comprehensive BBNJ initial assessment report, documenting national endorsement and submission to DOALOS, awareness raising for addressing identified needs and gaps for BBNJ implementation, and documented best practices shared with the Global BBNJ project.	50%
5	Submission of a final report covering the entire consultancy including comprehensive BBNJ initial assessment report, documenting national endorsement and submission to DOALOS, awareness raising for addressing identified needs and gaps for BBNJ implementation, documented best practices shared with the Global BBNJ project, report on the ratification process and challenges as input to the BBNJ assessment and institutional and legislative and regulatory framework analysis	50%



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## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Relevant academic and Professional /Work Experience**

- Academic qualification and Experience in conducting similar work, with at least 5 years **(20 points)**
- Knowledge or evidence in Liberia Biodiversity Landscape and producing reports **(20 points)**
- Knowledge of Liberia's participation in multilateral agreements, biodiversity negotiations, and strong analytical skills **(10 points)**
- Previous experience working with the Government entities, international partners, CSOs, multiple stakeholders and local communities **(10 points)**

#### **Technical Proposal**

- Demonstration of clear methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment, and implementation work plan with timelines for carrying out the assignment. **(25 points)**
- Description of previous similar assignments **(15 points)**

The financial proposal should detail the daily fee and any relevant cost. Payment will be based on the key deliverables mentioned and payment modality.

## **Desired Qualifications and Experience**

The selected Candidate must demonstrate a strong background in conservation, community engagement, climate action, sustainable development, strong analytical, writing and reporting skills.

### **Qualifications**

- A minimum of master's degree or higher in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Biology, Marine Biology/Science or a related field.
- Additional certifications in related field is an advantage.

### **Professional Experience**

- At least 7 years working experience with at least 2 years in the environment and climate change; natural resources management sector in a development context.
- Experience in working with various partners, working with international and national experts to implement similar activities



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- Very good research ability including internet skills.
- Good experience in writing success stories, lessons learned and implementation of best practices.
- Good experience in working with NGOs and CSOs.
- Excellent language skills (reading, writing, comprehension) in English

**Competencies and skills**

- Excellent interpersonal communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to detail and to work under tight timelines.
- Excellent skills in negotiating and lobbying.
- Ability to work under minimum supervision.
- Commitment and drive to achieve challenging goals, and problem-solving attitude.
- A team player with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with teams located in multiple institutions with demonstrated ability in team management and collaboration.

**CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

The consultant shall report directly to the BBNJ Focal Point under the supervision of the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency. Regular updates and meetings shall be held for effective collaboration and supervision.

The consultant shall be recruited for a two (2) years period under a Service Contractual Agreement. The EPA reserves the right to rescind the contract during that period should the performance of the consultant not meet its requirements.

**ALL APPLICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESS TO:**

**ATTENTION:**

Mr. Pescee T. Doe  
Assistant Director/Procurement  
Environment Protection Agency (EPA)  
Bright Building 302-A Old CID Road, Mamba Point  
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or through emails ([ptdoe@epa.gov.lr](mailto:ptdoe@epa.gov.lr); [info@epa.gov.lr](mailto:info@epa.gov.lr)), indicating in the subject area **“To conduct National Assessment and support for Implementation Readiness for the BBNJ Agreement”**. Closing date for submission of Expression of Interests (EOIs) is **4PM, August 22, 2025**. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in the Request for Expression of Interest will be considered for evaluation. The application



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package must include CVs, Technical and Financial Proposal.

**NOTE: This information is also posted on these websites: [www.emansion.gov.lr](http://www.emansion.gov.lr),  
[www.ekmsliberia.info](http://www.ekmsliberia.info), [www.epa.gov.lr](http://www.epa.gov.lr) and local dailies.**