

# SIERRA LEONE

## and the Paris Agreement



### Sectors

Energy, agriculture, water resources, fisheries, marine, mining and tourism



### National Implementing Agency

Environment Protection Agency  
Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)



### Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted

April 22, 2016

### Paris Agreement signed

April 22, 2016

### Paris Agreement ratified

September 14, 2016

## Background

At present, Sierra Leone is making important efforts to achieve sustainable development taking as priority environmental issues, including climate change. The country has adopted its National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCS&AP) around which the country's NDC revolves, detailed in separate components for mitigation, one related to adaptation and other for loss and damage. The government, with UNDP as a supporting partner, has achieved important milestones for climate action.



### About the INDC Project

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. In the run up to the historic Paris Agreement, the European Commission and others provided financial and technical support specifically to advance the preparation of countries' INDCs. This support, in the context of the larger global LECB Programme called the INDC Project, continued post-Paris and has enabled advances in implementation and country-driven action.



# ACTIONS & IMPACTS

## Enhanced instruments to reach out key stakeholders within the government and civil society

The Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), with the support of the INDC Project, has actively lead over 180 diverse consultation and awareness events and processes directed towards two target audiences:

- » Government agencies at the national and local **level to** fire up their engagement with the INDC process and the post-Paris implications, through working groups, meetings, workshops, debriefs, among others;
- » Civil society directly impacted by climate change, through different media (TV, radio) and educational and training activities, on the national implications of the Paris Agreement for mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and transparency.

## A well-structured road map in place to guide the NDC implementation

A five-pillar roadmap was formulated with support of the INDC project, covering: 1) political momentum and governance; 2) cost-effective long-term mitigation strategies; 3) adaptation planning; 4) climate finance framework and portfolio; and 5) a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system to track implementation. Additional studies were conducted to generate supplementary inputs for NDC implementation, such as loss and damage implications, and disaster response measures.



## A low emission and resilient development policy framework is being built

The different development challenges, along with several climate change effects (such as droughts) that the country is facing influenced the current government to place climate change and environmental affairs in its top priorities. The new development plan being formulated will advise a NDC upgrade, as well as other national and local policy instruments (such as the NCCP and the NCCS&AP) to ensure that the development priorities address climate change risks. Inputs generated from the NDC road map and consultation processes are contributing to mainstream climate change in a robust policy framework.



## Institutional appropriation and paradigm-shift vision regarding NDC implementation

Sierra Leone has acknowledged the necessity of political decisions to procure effective implementation of its NDC, which highlights the commitment of the country towards implementation. For example, the NDC climate finance framework considers the imperative of domestic and international resource mobilization by building a climate change project portfolio as well as elaborating funding proposals for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Government agencies reached out for and attracted international support, such as from UNDP, with clear priorities and necessities. In addition, consultations with government agencies led by the EPA-SL, continue the work beyond the INDC formulation process, including providing technical inputs for implementation of the prioritized actions, and ensuring alignment with other existing policy instruments, such as the NCCP and the NCCS&AP.



## Reinforcement of institutional arrangements for better governance

The government is making major efforts to create by-law mandates to enforce climate change management architecture and enactment, after recognizing that existing policies are not adequate. UNDP has helped to identify the gaps and needs for framework strengthening. The government is working on the Climate Change Act to clarify the mandates and responsibilities for implementation among government agencies, and using by-law instruments to reinforce the work done with committees and other national and local stakeholders, including civil society.

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### LAST UPDATED:

May 2019

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