



# ICAT-Liberia Project Closure and Validation Workshop Report

## Initiative for Climate Action Transparency – ICAT Project Closure and Validation Workshop Report

Deliverable R

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### PREPARED UNDER

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>EPA</b>   | <b>: Environment Protection Agency of Liberia</b>           |
| <b>GHGMI</b> | <b>: Greenhouse Gas Management Institute</b>                |
| <b>ICAT</b>  | <b>: Initiative for Climate Action Transparency</b>         |
| <b>MACs</b>  | <b>: Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions</b>              |
| <b>MCC</b>   | <b>: Monrovia City Corporation</b>                          |
| <b>MME</b>   | <b>: Ministry of Mines and Energy</b>                       |
| <b>MoT</b>   | <b>: Ministry of Transport</b>                              |
| <b>NDC</b>   | <b>: Nationally Determined Contribution</b>                 |
| <b>NEP</b>   | <b>: National Environmental Policy</b>                      |
| <b>NEPL</b>  | <b>: National Energy Policy of Liberia</b>                  |
| <b>NGO</b>   | <b>: Non-Governmental Organization</b>                      |
| <b>NTMP</b>  | <b>: National Transport Master Plan</b>                     |
| <b>SDGs</b>  | <b>: Sustainable Development Goals</b>                      |
| <b>UNOPS</b> | <b>: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)</b> |
| <b>WET</b>   | <b>: Waste, Energy, and Transport</b>                       |

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The Government of Liberia (GoL) through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received funding from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) via the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to strengthen Liberia's capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on development objectives, and to track progress towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

This project was implemented by the GoL through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia from February 2020 through September 30, 2022. The project specifically focused on building the capacities of technicians and experts in the Environmental Protection Agency, relevant sector ministries, and other stakeholders to be able to assess the impact of mitigation policies, measures, actions, and plans; and to track and monitor progress in NDC implementation.

The project focused on three (3) priority sectors: **waste, energy, and transport** with the specific objectives to:

1. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to build a national transparency framework that meets international standards and is tailored to domestic needs.
2. Strengthen the EPA's and relevant stakeholders' capacities to apply methodologies and tools to assess GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies, measures, actions and plans included in Liberia's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC on 4th August 2021.
3. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to improve the availability and quality of data required for measuring GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies and measures included in, and achieved by actions as set out in Liberia's updated NDC.
4. Support the tracking of NDC targets and actions in a manner that allows consistent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of progress towards achieving those NDC targets and actions (in collaboration with relevant existing initiatives that support the NDC implementation in the framework of the NDC roadmap).
5. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to develop frameworks that facilitate tracking of progress on NDC implementation and strengthen capacities to construct and apply indicators towards that end.

Based on the activities and outputs that were defined in the country work plan under this project, the Government of Liberia, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with funding secured from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), hired two (2) teams of 3-national consultants each. One team (Policy Assessment Team) was tasked with the responsibility to carefully assess three policies within the waste, energy, and transport (WET) sectors and provide policy directions that will lead to the updating and revision of the existing policies; and the other team (NDC Tracking Tool Team) was charged with the responsibility to develop NDC tracking tools and indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving the revised targets and actions set out in Liberia's updated NDCs in the WET sectors.

## 2. Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the closing and validation workshop were to present the outcomes of the ICAT-Liberia Project focusing on the activities and outputs, and to validate this through discussion with stakeholders from various line Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs).

## 3. Workshop proceedings and Participation

The workshop was conducted over a day period - September 28, 2022, with the participation of the project's partners (ICAT Secretariat and the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute) as well as representatives from the relevant sector ministries, and agencies, national experts, academia, NGOs, civil society, press, and the private sector (See stakeholder lists in [Annex 2](#)).

The workshop was piloted in two (2) sessions: 1. Opening remarks and contributions from the EPA of Liberia and the ICAT/UNOPS Management; 2. Technical session on project results and validation (See Workshop Agenda in [Annex 1](#)).

### 3.1. First session

The first session began with a welcome and introductory remarks which were done by Mr. Jefferson F. Nyandibo, Coordinator of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) and National Focal Point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Liberia. Mr. Nyandibo lauded the ICAT family and all those who funded the project and added that the project served as an eye-opener for Liberia in driving climate policy implementation to meet NDC-SDG targets.

He also disclosed that Liberia is considering raising additional resources that will enable the country graduate from shortfalls that were identified by various consultants in the project implementation phase.

The UNFCCC National Focal Point mentioned that critical among those shortfalls was the development of an accurate NDC tracking tool to monitor, report and verify sectoral progress, considering the country's ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) goal of reducing national GHG emissions by 64% below business-as-usual level by 2030.

He pleaded with ICAT to further support transparency elements in Liberia's efforts to achieve the country's NDC targets.

Mr. Nyandibo ended his remarks by thanking everyone including Mr. Mike Bess and Mr. Matej Gasperic from the GHGMI, Mr. Felix Fallasch from the Oeko Institut, and all of the local and international stakeholders and experts who contributed to making the project implementation a resounding success.

In opening remarks, Hon. Randall Massaquoi Dobayou, II- Deputy Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia express gratitude to the Initiative for Climate Action

Transparency (ICAT) for their support to the Government of Liberia through the EPA in helping to assess critical national policies in the Waste, Energy, and Transport sectors with mitigation potentials as well as helping the country develop NDC tracking tools for 3 major NDC mitigation sectors in the country. He further maintained that the support to Liberia has greatly assisted the country in taking steps towards the successful implementation of its NDC commitments.

The Deputy Executive Director of the EPA thanked the technical staff from line Ministries and Agencies including national consultants and project staff who assisted the country to achieve this milestone success. He finally concluded by declaring the validation meeting officially opened.



Figure 1: (L-R): Mr. Jefferson Nyandibo- UNFCCC Focal Point and Mr. Randall Massaquoi Dobayou, II - Deputy Executive Director of the EPA- making their remarks.

In separate remarks, Randa Ahmed- Programme Management Officer at the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) highlighted the importance of climate transparency and indicated that it should not be seen primarily as an obligation but as an opportunity for evidence-based policy making. She lauded the efforts of the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for successfully implementing the ICAT Liberia project and for achieving the deliverables outlined in the PCA signed between UNOPs/ICAT and the Government of Liberia.

She also expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the leadership of the EPA, consultants, and project team for their immense contribution to the overall success of the project. She admonished the Government to advance efforts on the achievements made by the project to implement Liberia's NDC.

Remarks were also made by officials from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Monrovia City Cooperation.

### 3.2. Second session

The second session of the workshop centered on the technical presentations made by the consultants.

The objectives, outcomes and lessons learnt during the project cycle were presented by all the activity teams in this technical session, which was concluded by plenary discussion.

The national consultants hired to do two respective assignments on 1. NDC Policy Impact Assessments of the **National Transport Master Plan of Liberia (NTMP 2012)**, the **National Energy Policy of Liberia (NEPL 2009)**, and the **National Environmental Policy (NEP 2002)** with a particular focus on the **Waste sector**; and 2. Development of the **NDC Tracking Tool** for the Waste, Energy, and Transport sectors made separate presentations.

The first presentation was made by Mr. Molley V. Paasewe, Team Lead of the Policy Assessment Team. He provided a general “Overview of key results from the three (3) mitigating policies assessed gauging the waste, energy, and transport sectors as well as proposition of possible policy recommendations.”

The principal objectives of assessing the 3 NDC mitigation policies (NTMP 2012, NEPL 2009, and NEP 2002) were to basically reveal and understand the sustainable development impacts of these policies and how they could be strengthened on delivering additional Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions co-benefits.

Distinct presentations were made by the Policy Assessment Team members who respectively assessed the 3 NDC mitigation policies including: Mr. Spencer S. Taylor, Jr. - tasked with responsibility to assess the NTMP (2012); Ms. Princess Mary Tarpeh - assessed NEPL (2009); and Mr. Molley V. Paasewe who assessed the NEP (2002). Their presentations gave a clear synopsis of the assigned task of the consultancy, the methodology and tools used during the assessment as well as key results, findings, and recommendations gathered from stakeholders in the three (3) sectors.

Their presentations generically answered the questions “to what degree the current policies environment are supportive of the implementation of the targets, measures, actions, and plans communicated in Liberia’s updated NDC;” and “to what degree the implementation of the actions and measures in the updated NDC would bring additional SDG benefits above those that already have been delivered by these policies in their present forms.” The reports also highlighted gaps where government can improve, what needs to be reinforced, and where external assistance is required.

Subsequent presentation was made by the NDC Tracking tool Team led by Mr. David Mulbah who provided an overview of the NDC tracking framework recommendations for developing indicator sets for the waste, energy, and transport sectors. The presentations fundamentally focused on the synopsis of the assigned task of the consultancy, the methodology used during the assessment as well as key results, findings, and recommendations.



*Figure 2: (At the front table): Consultants of the Policy Assessment and NDC Tracking Tool Teams.*

### 3.3. Participation

The workshop had forty-five (45) physical participants, 10 of which were from the Environment Protection Agency of Liberia. There were officials / representatives from relevant departments of various line ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), The Monrovia City Cooperation (MCC), Ministry of Finance, Academia (University of Liberia, African Methodist Episcopal University, United Methodist University), National youth group (Action for Climate Empowerment), National experts, Media and other private institutions.

There were five (5) online participants from the project counterparts Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), ICAT and UNOPS as well as from the EPA of Liberia (See [Annex 2](#) for list of physical and online participants).



*Figure SEQ Figure \\* ARABIC 3: Physical participants at the ICAT-Liberia Closing and Validation Workshop*

## 4. Workshop outcome

The workshop produced a validated:

- Assessment report of the National Environmental Policy of Liberia with focus on the Waste sector (2002)
- Assessment report of the National Energy Policy of Liberia (2009)
- Assessment report of the National Transport Master Plan (2012)
- Diagnostic report
- Recommendations for developing indicator sets for the waste, energy, and transport (WET) sectors.

## 5. Remarks by Implementing Partners

Mr. Felix Fallasch (Virtual) from Oeko Institute, who provide technical guidance to the ICAT-Liberia Project, lauded the Policy Assessment Team for the high level of professionalism demonstrated in ensuring that their project deliverables were achieved. “I want to congratulate you on the result you have achieved,” Felix said. He also appreciated the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for being steadfast in successfully implementing the project.

Felix Fallasch added that while policy assessment is a positive tool, it helps countries take stock of where they are in terms of policy implementation and NDC tracking. He ended by stating that the NDC policy impact assessments that were done by Liberia for the three (3) national policies are of high quality.

Mr. Matej Gasperic (Virtual), Senior Programme Officer at the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute disclosed that the presentation done by the NDC Tracking Team and the discussions that followed show that Liberia is on the right trajectory to climate transparency. He asserted that NDCs are vital instruments to the development of tools for tracking, monitoring and reporting NDC progress.

He further recommended that Liberia should consider all of the recommendations made by the consultants when revising its NDC reporting framework. In his closing remarks, he mentioned that the exercise regarding NDC tracking is a complex issue that requires full sectoral coordination.

## 6. Plenary discussion

Mr. Arthur Becker, Project Officer and Transport Sector Lead at the EPA intimated that institutional arrangement and sectoral coordination need to be reinforced; and that similar presentations be made at the level of various lines ministries and agencies in order resound the results/deliverables of the project and to implement the recommendations made therein. He further expounded that GoL through the Ministry of Transport must ensure that the transport sector assessment report be used to link transport priorities with the broader climate change policy process which places emphasis on sustainable mobility.

Mr. Christopher Kabbah, Manager of the Department of Planning and policy, Energy/NDC Lead at the EPA responded to a question posed by one of the participants pertaining to the collection of data and tracking of GHG emissions within the Energy Sector of Liberia. He indicated that improved data collection templates and accurate calculations of GHG emission need skilled and technical staff as well as quality data. However, Liberia is challenged in these areas especially in obtaining information to quantitatively measure the GHG impacts of the sector against NDC and SDG targets. He concluded that the recommendations made in the assessment report be used as guide for the update of the National Energy Policy and the setup of the National GHG inventory.

Mr. Sam Doe, Assistant Director of Research, Statistics and Information Management at Ministry of Transport, lauded the project for its high quality outputs. He mentioned that these reports will help

Liberia enhance transparency and improve NDC measures, actions and policies in the future of the transport sector.

## 7. Closing Remarks

Mr. Jefferson F. Nyandibo acknowledged the ICAT Secretariat, the Leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, sector line Ministries and Agencies, consultants, and project staff for their tireless effort in ensuring the successful implementation of the ICAT–Liberia project. He noted that it was now time that the EPA and sector Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) take seriously the recommendations made by the consultants in the various reports to inform policies and implement NDC processes in Liberia. With this, the country will be able to effectively integrate and advance climate action in different sectors.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Closing Workshop ICAT Liberia Project

Venue: EPA with virtual participation via Zoom / MS Teams

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Time</b>  | Date: 28 September 9.00am   |
| <b>Session 1 – Participant arrival and workshop opening</b>            |   |
| 09:00 –<br>09:30   | <b>Registration of participants</b>   |
| 09:30 –<br>09:40   | <b>Welcome and round of introductions</b><br><i>Moderator: Jeff Nyandibo</i>  |
| 09:40 –<br>09:50   | <b>Opening remarks</b><br><i>Hon. Randall Dobayou-Deputy Executive Director- Environmental Protection Agency Liberia</i>  |
| 09:50 –<br>10:00   | <b>Contributions from ICAT management</b><br><i>Randa Ahmed or Oleg Bulanyi (tbc), ICAT Secretariat, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency</i>   |
| <b>Session 2 – Technical session on project results and validation</b> |   |
| 10:00 –<br>10:10   | <b>Overview and report on the ICAT Liberia project</b><br><br><i>Overview of the ICAT Project and key outcomes achieved</i><br><br><i>Jeff Nyandibo</i>   |
| 10:10 –<br>11:00   | <b>Presentation of the results of the policy assessments</b><br><br><i>Overview of the results from the assessments of key policies in the waste, energy, and transport sectors and presentation of key policy recommendations.</i><br><br><i>Molley V. Paasewe, Spencer Taylor, Princess M. Tarpeh</i><br><br>Question & Answers   |
| 11:00 – 11:20  | <b>Presentation on NDC tracking framework development: Recommendations for NDC tracking indicators</b><br><br><i>Overview on NDC tracking framework recommendations for developing indicator sets for the waste, energy, and transport sectors.</i><br><br><i>David Mulbah, John Kannah, Isaac Kannah</i><br><br>Question & Answers |
| 11:20 – 11:30  | <b>Remarks by the implementing partners</b><br><i>Matej Gasperic (GHGMI) / Felix Fallasch (Oeko Institut)</i>   |
| 11:30 – 11:40  | <b>Closing remarks</b><br><i>Jeff Nyandibo</i>  |

### **Annex 3: References**

Draft of the NDC tracking framework: with recommendations for NDC tracking Indicator [Approved by IP-\(EPA\) Deliverable N-P.pdf](#)

Diagnostic Report: Methodological and Data Challenges Encountered in Conducting the Waste, Energy, & Transport Impact Assessments & Recommendations [Diagnostic Report on the Waste, Energy, and Transport Sectors Impact Assessment.docx.pdf](#)