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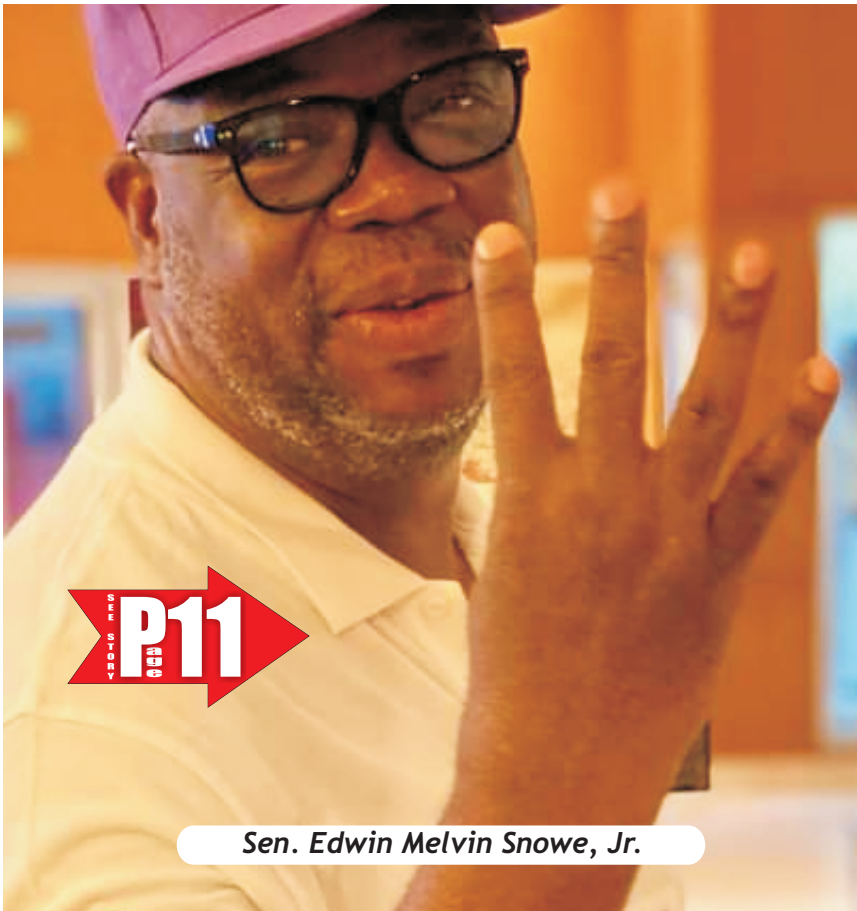
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Sen. Edwin Melvin Snowe, Jr.

# "...Bomi will make you happy come 2023"

**-Sen. Snowe tells Weah**

# Transport Minister bows to CDC



Min. Edwin Melvin Snowe

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# Continental News

## Children die in stampede as Tanzania mourns leader

A woman and four children have died after a stampede as Tanzanians mourn former President John Magufuli, police have told the BBC.

Some reports say the death toll could be high as 40 but officials have not confirmed this.

Tens of thousands of people had turned up at a stadium in Dar es Salaam to view the body of the former president. Nicknamed the bulldozer, Mr Magufuli was popular with many Tanzanians for his no-nonsense governance style. Critics, however, accused him of being an autocrat and of clamping down on dissent.

He also downplayed the effects of coronavirus and stopped the publication of the country's case numbers and deaths. Opposition politicians say that Mr Magufuli died from Covid-19, but this has not been confirmed. Dennis Mtuwa's wife, two of his children, a nephew and a niece have been confirmed among the dead after Sunday's stampede, reports the BBC's

Salim Kikeke from Dar es Salaam.

"These last 24 hours have been really difficult for me. I feel relieved when I'm surrounded by people, but when I'm alone the amount of grief becomes overwhelming," Mr Mtuwa told the BBC.

The city's Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa said he would give further details on Tuesday.

On Monday, thousands of Tanzanians attended Mr

Magufuli's state funeral in the capital, Dodoma, attended by several African leaders who gave glowing tributes.

The continent was "saddened by the death of a revolutionary," said Democratic Republic of Congo's Felix Tshisekedi of Mr Magufuli who died last week following heart complications at the age of 61.

Tanzania's new President Samia Suluhu Hassan

remembered her predecessor as a champion of the poor and a religious man. "He wasn't just our leader but also a guardian and parent to many... and an honest man," President Samia said. Tanzanian leaders attending the funeral and the majority of the thousands of people at the stadium in Dodoma did not wear face masks or observe social distancing - health measures that the late president often mocked. However, visiting leaders and other delegations did wear masks.

He will be buried in his north-western hometown of Chato on Friday. Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi said the former Tanzanian president "will stay in the hearts" of many.

In his tribute, Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera referred to Mr Magufuli as "Africa's finest son" whose "life

of service" would be remembered.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa described him as a "true pan-Africanist" who was unapologetic about being an African. Mr Ramaphosa remembered the former president for being a "warrior" against corruption, and who worked for his people. He also said the Tanzanian president was a champion for African culture and traditions, especially the use of Swahili, East Africa's lingua franca, throughout the continent.

"Swahili has been introduced in South African schools as a honour to the late President John Magufuli who insisted on its use," Mr Ramaphosa said.

This was echoed by Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Maseke, who said that Mr Magufuli was a "great teacher", like Tanzania's founding President Julius Nyerere. BBC



Hundreds of Mr Magufuli's supporters entered the airport in Dar es Salaam to try to catch a glimpse of his casket

## Presidential candidate dies from Covid on poll day

The leading opposition presidential candidate in Congo-Brazzaville, who was seriously ill with Covid-19, has died hours after polls closed. Guy-Brice Parfait Kolélas died on a plane taking him to France for treatment, his campaign director said.

Hours earlier the 61-year-

old had appeared in a video shared on social media, where he removed his oxygen mask and told his supporters that he was "fighting death".

He urged them to vote in Sunday's poll.

The electoral law doesn't annul the election if one of the candidates dies.

Mr Kolélas, who was diabetic, was one of six

candidates running against President Denis Sassou Nguesso, 77, who has been in power since 1979, except for a five-year period after losing elections in 1992.

Congo-Brazzaville has officially recorded more than 9,000 cases of Covid-19 and 130 deaths.

The country has imposed a night-time curfew in the two main cities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire and closed its borders due to the pandemic.

However, campaign rallies were allowed, with not much sign of people respecting social distancing or wearing masks. Mr Kolélas had missed his final campaign event on Friday after saying a day earlier that he feared he had malaria, the Associated Press news agency reports.

He was admitted to a private hospital in the capital, Brazzaville, and it was later confirmed that he had Covid-19. Speaking in French from his hospital bed, Mr Kolélas said: "My dear compatriots, I am in trouble. I am fighting death. However, I ask you to stand up and vote for change. I would not have fought for nothing."



Guy Brice Parfait Kolélas was one of six opposition candidates

## British aristocrat's death: Kenya police to be tried



Alexander Monson was living in Kenya at the time of his death

Four Kenyan policemen are to stand trial for murder after a judge ruled they had a case to answer in the death of British aristocrat Alexander Monson.

The 28-year-old died on the Kenyan coast whilst in police custody in 2012 after being arrested for smoking cannabis.

"Rise up as one person... I'm fighting on my deathbed, you too fight for your change," he urged his supporters, saying the election was "about the future of your children." The head of the government's Covid-19 response team, Elira Dookias, said that Mr Kolélas' condition had been serious on Saturday, the Associated Press

The police have in the past said Mr Monson died of an overdose, but his family have disputed this.

Two reports by government pathologists said that he had died after suffering a traumatic blow to the head.

An inquest found there had been attempts to cover up the incident, and threats against witnesses. BBC

reports.

After casting his ballot in the capital, Mr Sassou Nguesso had wished the former fisheries minister and son of former Prime Minister Benard Kolélas, a swift recovery. A large crowd gathered on Sunday to catch a glimpse of the president, with many people not wearing masks and failing to adhere to social distancing rules. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## The Liberian media need institutional capacity building, not just training

**FOR THE PAST** two decades or more foreign partners have spent millions of dollars in Liberia to train reporters and editors without considering institutional capacity building, which is a very key component in having a vibrant media. From UNMIL to various international development partners including IREX and Internews, millions of United States Dollars have been directed at training and training, but if measured against such pouring in of funds administered by local and international organizations the impact leaves much to be desired.

**JUST TRAINING ALONE** has not really helped in strengthening the media because professionally trained personnel are leaving media houses to seek greener pasture.

**THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA** as a business does not operate in a vacuum. It relies on the economy in order to attract, maintain and increase advertisements for its survivability. But with a devastating economy such as the one we have in Liberia coupled with poor readership and dwindling circulations, the media is unable to pay professional staff and maintain them.

**AS IF THAT** was not enough, the impact of the COVID-19 on media institutions here has left many to a near collapse.

**WITH AN APPALLING** economic environment, the media is left alone to thrive, which is one of the key reasons why professional journalism is being relegated, giving way to mediocrity.

**SUCH A CONDITION** brings in the compelling need for a paradigm shift in the way funds intended to assist the Liberian media should be utilized. We suggest that rather than conducting two weeks, one week, or three days' training for journalists, grants should be provided to enable media houses to build their operational capacity.

**SUCH GRANTS SHOULD** come along with set benchmarks that media managers, including publishers, would have to meet in order to qualify for future engagements. This is a fact: for instance, some media institutions just can't afford to buy newsprint and other operational costs on a daily basis, let alone to regularly pay staff.

**THIS IS EVEN** compounded by delays in payment of services rendered to clients, including the government, which remains the major advertiser in the country. The woes get deepened by international non-government organizations and others directing their advertisement to the Executive Mansion's website-the President of the Republic of Liberia website depriving media institutions of much-needed advertisement revenues. Yet still, such payment, particularly in the public sector whenever ready, a requirement to disbursement is tax clearance. Where does a struggling media entity in such an economy like ours get money to be current with taxes? This argument is for another day.

**BUT THE TRUTH** of the matter is the media in Liberia need serious help. They lack the operational capacity to provide the kind of services the public needs. A soft grant from international partners would go a long way in strengthening the media independence to enable play its critical role in our democratic dispensation.

**THIS IS AN** ideal that media development partners need to consider as we work together in strengthening the press in Liberia. We have had series of professional training programs. But in the absence of vibrant institutions journalists are turning their backs on the newsroom to seek a better life.

**IF THE MEDIA** should return to the right trajectory with appropriate standards to provide the kind of services the public deserves it needs help beyond training. The operational strength of media houses needs boosting thru grants.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Anuj Tanna

## Investing in Kenya's Young Micro-Entrepreneurs

**N**AIROBI - The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout have hit everyone in Kenya hard. But at the height of lockdown measures, while the formal sector of the economy ground to a halt, the informal sector demonstrated its resilience. For young people in particular, whose schools were closed and whose parents may have lost their jobs, the informal sector has been a lifeline.

Since the start of the pandemic, an increasing number of young Kenyans have established informal micro-businesses, or "hustles." In an April 2020 SMS survey by the Shujaaz Inc. network, 5% of young people said they had set up a hustle for the first time since the pandemic began. By May, 16% of them had, and in August, an additional 10% reported starting a new business.

Kenya's young micro-entrepreneurs have shown remarkable resilience. True, like almost all Kenyan businesses, many had to scale back or close at the height of the lockdown earlier last year. But polling and interviews with our network show that micro-entrepreneurs have adapted rapidly. Faced with a crisis, they started up again, adapted their business models, or profited from new opportunities by producing face masks, growing vegetables, or delivering food to their communities.

Crucially, this has enabled young micro-entrepreneurs to maintain at least some level of income, and therefore gain a sense of control over their future. By contrast, many young people who had lost formal or public-sector jobs as a result of the coronavirus told us that they were still looking for a job and struggling to secure an income, even four months later.

The informal sector is not just a "lifeline" during crises like these. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the informal sector was responsible for more than 90% of the demand for employment, even before the pandemic.

Despite the dominance of the informal sector, international development efforts and national government policies have historically been geared toward supporting the formal sector. In Kenya, that trend looks set to continue: only \$3 million of the government's \$503 million COVID-19 economic stimulus reportedly will go directly to the informal sector.

But some commentators have begun to question the conventional view of informal employment as a stopgap, and have called for more ambitious interventions to support the informal sector. Experts like economist David Ndihi have argued that the informal sector will in fact play an essential role in Kenya's post-pandemic recovery.

That conclusion is not surprising, given the dependence of Kenya's young, fast-growing population on the informal sector. With one million people entering the job market annually, the number of young Kenyans running informal micro-businesses - currently estimated at three million - is expected to rise.

About a third of young micro-entrepreneurs work full-time. They earn slightly less than the

state minimum wage - but earned double the average income for their age group in 2019 - and create work opportunities for at least one other person in their community, adding \$290 million to the economy each month.

Moreover, Shujaaz Inc's 2019 national survey showed that Kenyan micro-entrepreneurs were 79% more likely than their peers to use financial services, more likely to vote, and 15% more likely to have used modern contraception the last time they had sex. But, despite their vital economic and social contributions, most young entrepreneurs won't benefit from any of the formal-sector investment planned for the coming years.

Our recent research highlights a range of low-cost interventions to support young entrepreneurs as they seek to establish their hustles as full-time micro-businesses, which would provide them with urgently needed protection against the pandemic's economic impact while helping to drive Kenya's recovery. We estimate that supporting two million young "start-up" entrepreneurs could yield an additional \$110 million per month for Kenya's economy and create work for more than a million people.

Most young entrepreneurs remain largely excluded from the formal financial sector, unable to access the capital they need to grow, because they lack a formal credit history. In a digital world, that should not be a barrier to accessing finance. Millions of high-potential entrepreneurs have the necessary skills and a rich history of informal activity proving their ability to run a successful business. It is time for banks and financial-service providers to embrace new digital tools that will enable them to recognize these informal-sector entrepreneurs and introduce targeted products to serve them.

Policy and regulatory changes - for example, simplifying and digitizing the application processes for obtaining business licenses - would also help micro-entrepreneurs bounce back and flourish. Improved access to networks and skills through affordable training and peer mentoring also is vital - and frequently requested by those in our network.

Finally, despite the social and economic value that micro-entrepreneurs create - and their potential to produce much more - many young people still view setting up a micro-business as a sign of failure. If they got through school or college, they were told, full-time jobs would await them in the formal sector. When 90% of graduates discover that these jobs simply don't exist, they often feel deceived and paralyzed by disappointment. The University of Chicago's Lauren Berlant calls this phenomenon "cruel optimism": an inability to let go of an unachievable dream and create a plan B.

It's time to tell a new story about the opportunities available in the informal sector. In the next two decades, 20 million young people will enter Kenya's labor market. Formalizing the economy may remain the long-term goal, but in the meantime, most young Kenyans will have a career in the informal sector. Celebrating, supporting, and investing in young informal-sector micro-entrepreneurs can give the economy a huge boost, and will be essential in navigating the challenging road ahead.



# OPINION

By Carl Bildt

## Humanity's Historic Test

**S**TOCKHOLM - With "vaccine nationalism" intensifying by the day, the global effort to end the COVID-19 pandemic is at risk of faltering. As of mid-March, the coronavirus has infected approximately 120 million people globally, causing around 2.6 million deaths. Though these are huge figures, they represent merely a fraction of the global population, which means that the pandemic still has a very long way to go.

The good news is the historically unprecedented effort to tackle the crisis. Although bringing a new vaccine through the stages of development and approval normally takes up to a decade, pharmaceutical companies have completed the process in under a year. The World Health Organization has already approved four COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use, and others are likely to follow soon. Moreover, ambitious new global mechanisms have been created in short order to facilitate the rapid and equitable distribution of vaccines around the world.

For example, since April 2020, the WHO's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which includes all aspects of fighting the pandemic, has aided the fight against the virus by facilitating one of the fastest coordinated global public-health efforts in history. And now, the COVAX facility has started deliveries of vaccines to at least 50 low- and medium-income countries around the world (though initial supplies have been limited in the early stages of vaccine production).

But aside from these initiatives, most countries are fixated on their own circumstances, neglecting the global connectedness that leaves all of us vulnerable until the virus has been stamped out everywhere. As the WHO has been emphasizing, no one is safe until everyone is safe.

As we are now witnessing firsthand, there is a high risk that new variants of the virus will frustrate or even derail the entire vaccination effort. We are currently dealing with the new British (B.1.1.7), South African (B.1.351), and Brazilian (P.1) variants, and there is no telling where the next one will emerge. The longer the pandemic continues, the more opportunities the virus will have to acquire dangerous new mutations that would allow it to evade the current vaccines. The question is not if but when.

Moreover, when new variants do emerge, we should anticipate that they will spread around the world sooner or later. We should know by now that national borders and physical distance offer only limited protection.

Apart from protecting us against a biological threat, a comprehensive, coordinated global response also has a clear economic justification. In our highly integrated global economy, the plight of one region will necessarily be felt elsewhere. A startling recent study commissioned by the International Chamber of Commerce warns that, "the global economy stands to lose as much as \$9.2 trillion if governments fail to ensure developing economy access to COVID-19 vaccines, as much as half of which would fall on advanced economies." And reports by RAND Europe and the Eurasia Group offer similar conclusions.

The cost of fighting the pandemic should be seen in this perspective. The ACT Accelerator initially needed \$38 billion for 2020-21. An unprecedented mobilization of resources by governments and the private sector, as well as philanthropic and multilateral contributions, has now reduced the funding gap to \$22 billion. That is peanuts compared to the potential losses estimated above, not to mention the trillions of dollars that have already been spent to support households and businesses over the past year.

And yet, the threat of vaccine nationalism looms large. Governments are under intense domestic political pressure to secure vaccines for their populations before allowing doses to be sent elsewhere. And some, like China, India, and Russia, have begun to use vaccine supplies and deliveries as an instrument in their foreign policy.

Yet, as tempting as vaccine nationalism may be for policymakers, it is ultimately self-defeating. Every new restriction ineluctably curtails the overall rollout and makes it more likely that vaccines will not reach the places where they are most urgently needed. More than ever, we need an open, transparent, well-functioning global economy. And, more than ever, we need political leaders who behave like statesmen, not tacticians.

Make no mistake: we are facing a historic test of our ability to unite against a common threat. All of our usual conflicts, rivalries, and sources of geopolitical tension of course remain; the question now is whether we can look past them when the situation demands it.

It is now us versus them - humankind against the virus and its many mutations. We will stand or fall together.

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# O-P-E-D

By Patrick Drury Byrne,  
Sylvain Broyer

## Central Banks' Taper Dilemma

**D**UBLIN - Central banks' unconventional policies undoubtedly rescued financial markets in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its height. But those actions now leave central banks joined at the hip with credit markets, and market participants more reliant than ever on their support.

From a credit-market perspective, this represents a Catch-22 for both central banks and investors. How can central banks continue to support the economic recovery while developing an exit strategy that doesn't undermine market stability? And how will investors, who prize stability but also seek higher yields, react if and when monetary policymakers step back from providing direct market support?

With low interest rates for most of the past decade, it was clear from the start of the COVID-19 crisis that central banks had little room for maneuver with conventional policy tools. They would have to lean even more heavily on unconventional measures, including initiating or extending corporate asset-purchase programs. In the case of the US Federal Reserve, the announcement of these measures during 2020 coincided with investment-grade corporate bonds' peak spread.

"Coincided" is the key word here. It is not clear whether these actions mean that conventional tools are now less effective in restoring market confidence in times of stress, or whether the pandemic's idiosyncratic nature required a precision strike of support to the particularly vulnerable corporate sector.

The widespread use of asset-purchase programs could simply have been the last in a long line of measures that finally brought market stress under control. Or it could represent a recalibration of how active and forceful central banks need to be in a crisis. At the very least, the new precedent in terms of market expectations that their extreme actions have set will be difficult to ignore in periods of stress in the future.

Central banks' actions, alongside governments' unprecedented fiscal support, restored financial stability in 2020. They also indirectly fueled record corporate bond issuance and a 60% drop in investment-grade corporate bond spreads from their March highs.

This restoration of stability was hard won, requiring extensive quantitative easing (QE) and new or extended interventions, particularly in corporate credit markets. Through a combination of rate setting, financing, and widespread QE, central banks now play a more pivotal role than in the past.

But what is their long-term plan? Central banks could maintain QE, as the Fed has suggested and the European Central Bank has done in the past, but protracted QE can be difficult to unwind and could keep interest rates lower than they might otherwise be. Alternatively, they can seek to dial back QE, which would require a delicate balance and clear communication to avoid unnerving market participants still mindful of the 2013 "taper tantrum," a selloff triggered by signals from the Fed that it would reduce monthly asset purchases.

The task facing monetary policymakers is further complicated by the continued need to support the economic recovery. Global debt was forecast to peak at 267% of GDP at the end of 2020 and is set to remain elevated as governments continue issuing debt to fund critical recovery measures. Central banks have been a cornerstone investor in many transactions, providing governments and (to a lesser degree) corporate firms with the certainty of low-cost financing.

Because central banks' sovereign-debt purchases are unlikely to change in the medium term, their holdings will increase further. In Europe, the stock of long-term government bonds outstanding has increased by about 25% since 2015 but the free float, or publicly tradable portion, has fallen, owing to the sharp increase in the ECB's bond holdings.

Although the ECB will not suddenly start to divest its substantial portfolio and send prices downward, concentrated bond ownership could negatively affect market structure and liquidity. This is already evident in the European covered bond market, where the ECB now holds about one-third of all eligible bonds outstanding. A lower market free float could reduce the number of active investors, increase volatility, and reduce price discovery in future periods of stress. Consequently, a true picture of liquidity and financing conditions in certain markets will probably emerge only if and when central banks start to scale back their portfolios.

Global investors have benefited from central banks' stabilization of credit markets, and there have been fewer pandemic-related defaults to date than many participants initially feared. But low interest rates and sustained monetary stimulus have made it difficult for fixed-income investors to generate target returns, with approximately 90% of global bonds trading at a yield below 2% at the end of 2020. Recent yield-curve steepening has provided some respite, but central banks' support remains critical to the global economic recovery - and the longer it remains in place, the more it may imperil fixed-income returns.

Lower fixed-income returns have obvious consequences for pension funds and future retirees, while investors are also chasing higher yields by taking on new and longer-duration risks, or increased credit risks, which ultimately could destabilize the system that central banks worked so hard to bolster. Leveraged loan issuance by B-minus rated borrowers has risen to a record high, according to a February report by S&P Global Market Intelligence, while borrowing costs have fallen to their lowest point since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Central banks are clearly not responsible for today's investment decisions, but the longer their market support continues, the riskier the search for yield may become. Monetary policymakers and credit investors alike are facing an unenviable dilemma.

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# President Weah in Bomi County on the start of a 3 county tour in the Western Region







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Consultancy Service to Review and Provide Harmonization Proposals for  
Amendment of the EPA Act by the Legislature

**Project Title:** Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)
<b>Activity Result</b>	Strengthened policy and regulatory framework through improved operational interpretation, enforcement tools, and by-laws
<b>Assignment</b>	Undertake a review of the SWOT and Gap Analysis Institutions and recommend appropriate amendments in the overlaps and gaps in the environmental governance and legal instruments for presentation to the National Legislature for action (Amendment).
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Reports to</b>	<b>Energy &amp; Environment Coordinator/EPA-UNDP</b>
<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	2 Months (March 24-May 24, 2021)

**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) obtained funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project is supporting the Government of Liberia to Strengthen National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project intends to support the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency to harmonize the overlaps and gaps and strengthen the EPA Act for amendment by the Legislature.

The current EPA Act was created and approved on November 26, 2002 and published by the Authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, Liberia April 30, 2003. The Act has Seven (VII) Parts and fifty eight (58) sections. Section 4 of the EPA Act states: there is hereby established under the Executive Branch of Government, an autonomous body to be known as the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia in this Act to be referred to as "the Agency"; that the Agency shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and that the Agency shall, in its own name be capable of suing and being sued, suffering all acts, things as bodies corporate may lawfully do or suffer. Section 5 provides that the EPA shall be the principal authority in Liberia for the management of the environment and shall co-ordinate, monitor, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

The Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project implemented by the EPA in collaboration with the UNDP with funding from the Global Environment Facility conducted an in-depth SWOT and gap analysis of existing environmental policies and legislation and regulatory framework of Natural Resource Management Institutions: EPA, FDA, MME, MOT, MOA, NAFAA, LLA, MPW, LMA and the effectiveness of their enforcement. That in-depth analysis identified gaps, overlaps, conflicting mandates and weaknesses in Liberia's policy, legislative and regulatory framework on environmental governance with particular reference to the EPA, which supposed to be the main regulatory body to manage, monitor and supervise Liberia's environment and the sustainable use of its natural resources.

Considering all the changing global trends in dealing with the environment and climate developments and after 17 years since the current EPA Act was created, it has become imperative for review and amendment. The review follows a SWOT and Gap Analysis undertaken by the Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project that identified the gaps, overlaps, conflicting mandates and the omnibus duties of the EPA under the Act. The SWOT and Gap Analysis Report recommended the review and harmonization of sector laws in order to reconcile weaknesses and gaps in key environmental policies and legal instruments.

Pursuant to this, the EPA through the CCCD Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) intends to hire a National Consultant to harmonize and strengthen the EPA Act for amendment by the Legislature. Considering the above, the EPA through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Project requests the services of a National Consultant to work with the CCCD Project in collaboration with the EPA in achieving this objective.

The CCCD Project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities the establishment of an integrated environmental management system, enhancement of institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming the Rio Conventions, and improving awareness of global environmental values.

**Contract and Reporting Requirements**

The Consultant will be hired against a performance-based contract for Two (2) Months. He/she will report to National Project Director through the Project Manager of the CCCD Project. The Consultant shall submit the reports summarized below, for the respective period(s). All documents/reports should be issued in English, submitted in both hard and electronic copies.

- Monthly Progress Reports: The Consultant shall prepare weekly concise reports with the relevant information on progress, highlighting achievements, emerging issues that need to be clarified with the client and recommendations.
- Final Report: Before the end of the assignment: The Consultant shall submit a final report detailing all the activities undertaken. The report should outline achievements and issues and lessons learnt.

**Scope of Work and Tasks**

The Consultant will have the following responsibilities:

- Review the current EPA Act and its complementary documents, and proffer necessary recommendations, amendments and edits.
- Conduct stakeholders' inception and validation meetings on the revised draft Act
- Develop final draft Act for legislative action

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Review EPA current Act
- Review other sectoral Acts/Laws and policies
- Advance new draft EPA Act addresses sectoral over links functions
- Develop final draft revised EPA inclusive best practices and harmonized with sector Agencies national policies
- Arrange stakeholders' meeting to validate the final/revised
- Present final copies

**Functional Competencies:**

- Excellent and effective communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
- Have a considerable knowledge of proposal development

**Key Expected Results**

Draft amendment EPA Act developed for legislative action

**Output**

The Consultancy will achieve the following deliverables:

- Develop final draft revised EPA inclusive best practices and harmonized with sector Agencies national policies.

**QUALIFICATION**

**Education:**

- Master's Degree in Environmental Management, Urban Planning, Regional Development, Public Policy Development Studies, Economics, Business Administration, related Social Science disciplines or Bachelor's degree in Law

**Experience**

- More than two (5) years of documented experience of working in related field of study;
- Knowledge and experience in various jurisdiction of Policy especially in Environmental Management, Regional Planning and Public Policy;
- Experience performing similar services requested;
- Knowledge of capacity development, and Policy Analysis
- Documented social skills and networking capabilities is an advantage;
- Experience in management and organizational development;

**OTHER SKILLS**

- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Oral communication/presentation skills
- Proactive mindset
- Experience in working with the EPA or UNDP funded activities/projects

1. **Payment Modalities Fees and payments**  
Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Inception report	20%
Draft revised EPA Act Report	40%
Final draft revised EPA Act	40%

2. **Application Procedure**

Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to apply. The application should contain the following:

- A technical and financial proposals with brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, with a detailed clear methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; a duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest
- The technical proposal should also contain personal CV, indicating education background/professional qualifications, all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate;
- Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs

**ATTENTION:**  
Rebecca E. Doo  
Assistant Manager, Procurement  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
4th Street, Sinkor  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
P.O. Box 4024

or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), indicating in subject area "Consultancy service to harmonize and strengthen the EPA Act for amendment by the Legislature". Closing date for submission of TORs is 4PM, April 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirements as contained in the Request for Expression of Interest will be considered for evaluation. The application package must include CV, credentials and Technical and Financial Proposal. Submission must be made in both soft and hard copies.

NOTE: This information is also posted on these websites: www.emansion.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, www.unpdand local dailies.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

P. O. Box 4024  
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CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT

Terms of Reference  
REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2021-003

**Project Title:** Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)
<b>Activity Result</b>	Learning-by-doing training on improved methodologies and analytical skills for interpreting global environmental trends and understanding their relevance to sectoral development
<b>Assignment</b>	Prepare a training Programme and curriculum for the use of the EKMS post project trainings
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Report to</b>	<b>National Project Director Executive Director, EPA</b>
<b>Consultancy Duration:</b>	(Seven Weeks)

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) obtained funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project will support the Government of Liberia to Strengthen National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project has four components:

- Integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)
  - Enhanced institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming
  - Improving awareness of global environmental values
  - Updating the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)
- The EPA and the UNDP through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project intends to recruit the service of a National Consultant, to: Prepare a training Programme and curriculum for the use of the EKMS. This project is in line with the GEF-6 CCCD Strategy objective 1, 3, and 5 which call for countries to: a) integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring, b) integrate MEA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks, and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. This requires the country to have the capacity to coordinate efforts, as well as best practices for integrating global environmental priorities into planning, decision-making, and reporting processes. To this end, the objective of this project is to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. The project will be carried out via four linked components. Component 1: calls for the establishment of an integrated Environmental Knowledge Management System to meet global environmental and sustainable development priorities. Component 2: focuses on enhanced institutional and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for implementation of the three Rio Conventions. Component 3: works to improve environmental attitudes and values for the global environment, and Component 4: is the updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery. As a National Implementation Modality (NIM) project, its management team will be seated at the EPA.

**Activity Summary**

This first component of the project focuses on the establishment of an environmental knowledge management system by integrating and reconciling relevant existing systems. A key feature of this system is that it seeks to use the latest tools and innovations, including technological, to access and create new knowledge that would allow for better decisions to be made to protect the global environment. Not only will this component seek to develop this institutional mechanism, its objective will also provide for a comprehensive assessment of training needs to manage data and information is undertaken to ensure a good design of a long-term training programme and curriculum. Particular attention will be given to training on the use of the EKMS and environmental data, information, and knowledge for integrating as a result of lessons learned through its early implementation (i.e., trainings) and is intended to be applied for post-project trainings.

**2.0 Job Responsibilities:**

- The national consultant's duties and responsibilities shall be to:
  - Assess the training needs of natural resource management institutions;
    - Liberia Land Authority
    - National Fish and Aquaculture Authority
    - Forestry Development Authority
    - Ministry of Agriculture
    - Ministry of Transport
    - Mines and Energy
    - Ministry of Finance Development Planning
    - Ministry of Internal Affairs
    - Environmental Protection Agency
    - Ministry of Public Works
  - Prepare a training Programme and curriculum for the use of the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)

**SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT**

The Environmental Knowledge Management System Training programs for environmental data, information and knowledge collection, storing and sharing programs must consist of:

- Six key training modules centered around the Knowledge Management Road Map— a five-step systematic process for generating, collecting, analyzing, synthesizing, and sharing knowledge generated by the natural resource management institutions. The first module provides an introduction to knowledge management (KM) and the others correspond to each of the five steps in the KM Road Map
- Training modules for specific types of KM approaches—that is, for KM tools and techniques that can be used to collect, synthesize, and share knowledge, such as communities of practice, share fairs, eLearning courses, and information architecture principles and processes to organize content

Three types of core materials are included in each training module:

- Trainer's Guide:** Each guide includes the module's purpose, objectives, instructions for the Trainer, sample agenda for that module, and expected time needed to deliver the training module in a workshop.
- Presentations:** Each module contains one to three PowerPoint slide decks—with detailed presenter notes in the notes section of the slides—that the trainer can use or adapt to explain the content of the training module to workshop participants.
- Exercises:** Exercises are included throughout the training modules (at least one in each module) to promote interactivity during the workshop, allow participants to practice putting the theory from the didactic presentations into action, and demonstrate selected KM tools and techniques in the process

Each training module also includes supplementary materials to provide additional insight or extra options for the trainer to include in the workshop or in the work setting. These supplements include tools, templates, sample outputs, guidebooks, and additional readings.

**KEY DELIVERABLES:**

- Inception Report
- Draft copy of EKMS training program
- Final copy of the training programme for the use of the EKMS

One week after contract signing, the national consultant will produce an inception report clarifying the objectives, methodology and timing of the preparation of the EKMS Training Programme report on the use of the EKMS. The inception report will be discussed and agreed with the implementing agency before the national consultant proceed with the preparation of the task as in the TOR.

The draft study report will be shared by the national consultant to the EPA through the CCCD Project Office, who will circulate the draft to stakeholders. The EPA will share the report with stakeholders for their comments and inputs. Feedback received from these stakeholders should be considered when preparing the final report

**FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCIES:**

- Excellent and effective research skills, communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating positions on issues, articulating options concisely conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public.
- Good understanding and knowledge of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments
- Have a considerable knowledge of the value of Rio Conventions to sustainable development and considerable knowledge of Liberia's environmental governance infrastructure.
- Good computer skills.

**QUALIFICATION**

Candidate must have at least five (5) years of progressive work experience and good understanding and knowledge of training programmes and content development. Most have information technology knowledge, system development. History of performing similar task. The candidate must have a minimum BSc's Degree in information technology, education with experience in curriculum development. Most be a Liberian.

1. **PAYMENT MODALITIES Fees and payments**

Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Inception report	20%
Draft Methodology Report	40%
Final Methodology Report	40%

2. **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to apply. The application should contain the following:

- A technical and financial proposals with brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, with a detailed clear methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; a duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest
- The technical proposal should also contain personal CV, indicating education background/professional qualifications, all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate;
- Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs

**OTHER SKILLS**

- Excellent team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage workload with minimum supervision
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines
- Ability to accommodate additional demands at short notice
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Oral communication/presentation skills
- Proactive mindset

3. **Evaluation Criteria**

The applicants will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria (combined scoring method). Maximum score is 100% out of which technical criteria equals 75% and financial criteria equals 25%. The technical evaluation will include the following:

- Educational Background as requested: 15%;
- Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field of institutional review, capacity development initiatives, notably at the systemic, institutional and individual levels: 10%
- Extensive conceptual and practical knowledge of training programme development: 10%
- Demonstrated experience and practical knowledge in working and collaborating with stakeholders including governments, civil society and communities in Liberia: 10%;
- Fluency in English and a working knowledge of English: 5%. EPA/UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, and culture.
- Methodology: 25%
- Financial Proposal: 25%

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy:

**Rebecca E. Doo**  
Assistant Manager, Procurement  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
4th Street, Sinkor  
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
P.O. Box 4024

Or through email (rdoo@epa.gov.lr), Closing date for submission of application is 4PM, April 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only submissions that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in TOR will be considered for evaluation. NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: www.emansion.gov.lr, www.ekmsliberia.info, www.epa.gov.lr, and local dailies.



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**CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT**  
**REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2021-001**

**Project Title:** Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)
<b>Activity Result</b>	Updated assessment of capacity challenges to meet and sustain Rio Convention obligations, utilizing upon GEF grant area enabling activities
<b>Assignment</b>	Prepare and validate the methodology to update the NCSA and integrate the post-2015 SDGs.
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Report to</b>	National Director Executive Director, Project Director, Consultancy Duration: 30 Working-Days

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is assisting the Green Environmental Entity (GEE) to support the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Project for Liberia. The project is supporting the Government of Liberia to Strengthen National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities. The project has four components:

1. Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS)
2. Enhanced institutional and technical capacities for mainstreaming
3. Improving awareness of global environmental values
4. Update National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)

The EPA as implementing entity (IE) in collaboration with the UNDP intends to recruit the services of a National Consultant to update the methodology to update the NCSA and integrate the post-2015 SDGs. This project is in line with the GEF/CCCD enabling activities for capacity development, which include: a) integrate GEF/CCCD enabling activities into management systems for monitoring, b) integrate ME/EA provisions into national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks, and c) update NCSAs, respectively. The goal of this project is for Liberia to make better technical and institutional environmental obligations.

Liberia has undertaken numerous initiatives to address environmental issues. Despite the achievements Liberia made, Liberia continues to face important challenges to meeting its global environmental obligations. The proposed project, the proposed strategy sets out to meet barriers identified in Liberia's 2006 National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), which was undertaken through a consultative process and participatory approach. The project will involve numerous stakeholders from various sectors through the inclusive and consultative process of the NCSA, stakeholders identified a number of barriers that are difficult in fulfilling the obligations of the Rio Conventions. The NCSA identified the following barriers that cut across the three Rio Conventions:

Component four of the project is to update the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) of 2006. The result of the 2006 NCSA led to the development of the four year CCCD Project with the objective to strengthen a targeted set of national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities.

Since the NCSA was undertaken, there have been a number of important policy and institutional changes that have emerged as a basis of the change in political leadership. The updating of the NCSA will serve as an opportunity to re-evaluate the current state of the country's capacity to support the government's pursuit of sustainable development in tandem with the fulfillment of Rio Convention obligations.

**2. Scope of Work for this Consultancy Services**

During stocktaking phase, the consultant will be responsible for:

- Definition of information needed in support of:
  - Biodiversity conservation through;
  - Land Degradation conservation through sustainable use;
  - Climate Change;
- A concise analysis on the quality of information and on the existing data and metadata base (where they are, who holds these data, how are the data structured, how they are accessed, how many are of public interest and how many not);
- Identify and describe the present programs operating in the area of biodiversity conservation, Land Degradation;

1. The consultant shall describe the context
  - General Overview - The National Framework
  - Sustainable Development Goals
  - The political landscape
  - Liberia's institutional framework
  - cross-cutting/general
  - Biodiversity - Institutional framework
  - climate change - Institutional framework
  - Land Degradation - Institutional framework
2. The consultant shall identify the roles of the following institutions in the implementation of the Rio Conventions
  - Liberia Land Authority (LLA)
  - Ministry of Energy
  - Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
  - National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA)
  - Ministry of Agriculture
  - Ministry of Internal Affairs
  - Ministry of Labor and Community Empowerment (LACE)
  - Environmental Protection Agency;
3. The consultant will describe the following Rio Conventions as Global Environmental Agreements in the context of Liberia
  - Biodiversity - UNCBD
  - Climate Change - UNFCCC
  - Degradation & Desertification - UNCCD
  - Governance Proposals to mainstream the Rio Conventions into national development
  - Integrating the Conventions into Mainstream Planning Processes
4. Describe Liberia's aspirations as contained in adaptation and mitigation policies for:
  - Climate Change namely
    - The National Adaptation Programme of Action
    - National Action Plan (NAP)
    - The National Climate Change and Response Strategy
    - Liberia Initial Communication to the UNFCCC
    - Liberia on-going Sectoral Communication
    - Liberia NDC and other policies
  - Biodiversity
  - Land Degradation - Sustainable Land Management
  - Justification for Revision of the NCSA
  - The need for National Capacity Self-Assessment
  - Objectives and Linkages to Ongoing Activities
  - Expected end of NCSA Revision Situation
5. The consultant will prepare Terms of References for Local experts to undertake the following Assignments
  - 1) Public awareness survey
  - 2) Capacity self-assessment for additional information
  - 3) Capacity self-assessment within thematic areas
  - 4) Identification of cross cutting capacity issues
  - 5) Thematic assessment of the UNFCCC implementation in Liberia
  - 6) Thematic assessment of the UNCCD implementation in Liberia
  - 7) Thematic assessment of the UNCCD implementation in Liberia
  - 8) Facilitate validation workshop for the methodology to update the NCSA and integrate the post-2015 SDGs with stakeholders.
  - 9) During the methodology development, the consultant will be responsible for:
    - The Definition of all tasks during the NCSA working in close coordination with the GEE, UNDP and guidance of the CCCD Project. The manager will have a coordination role.

6. Key Expert Tasks will be:
  - The Librarian of the team, to identify the key priority actions and respective activities to be undertaken by the consultants during the following:
    - Facilitation Activities and Reports
    - Stocktaking Exercises
    - Thematic Assessments
    - Preparation of reports
    - Preparation of national action plans for each thematic area
7. In consultation with key stakeholders, provide detailed activity descriptions of specific Short-Term. These activity descriptions will include:
  - Title
  - Timeframe
  - Justification within the context of the National Capacity Self-Assessment
  - Activity or NCSA objectives and outcomes
  - Detailed Budget
  - In consultation with relevant stakeholders, prepare the draft plan of activities to be undertaken during NCSA exercises
8. Capacity Assessment should include:
  - Assessment of the NCSA data, and along with the in-puts to the National Strategy parts of the thematic areas, elaboration and the proposals for the Action Plan designing, the consultant should also provide recommendations in terms of training, information, and the key issues identified in the NCSA final report.
  - Working on the Institutional and Human Resources capacity needs should be taken into consideration.

9. General Obligations and Deliverables:
    - The following reports and deliverables are required from the national consultant:
      - Inception report
      - Draft methodology Report
      - Facilitation workshop with key stakeholders, (partners and beneficiaries)
      - Final NCSA Updating Methodology report
- One week after contract signing, the national consultant will produce an **inception report** clarifying the objectives, methodology and timing of the preparation of the methodology. The inception report will be discussed and agreed with the implementing agency. The national consultant will prepare the methodology for the task as in the TOR.
- The **Final NCSA methodology report** will be shared by the national consultant to the EPA through the CCCD Project Office, who will circulate the draft to stakeholders. The national consultant will also conduct a validation workshop that the EPA will organize through the CCCD Project. Feedback received from these sessions should be considered when preparing the final report.

**Qualifications and requirements:**

- Minimum 7-10 years of natural resource management/ environmental management/ business/ public administration other related disciplines.
- Minimum 7-10 years of relevant professional experience.
- Good computer skills and ability to apply SMART (S-specific; M-measurable; A-achievable; R-relevant; T-time-bound) indicators.
- Updated understanding of issues related to gender and climate change adaptation
- Excellent reporting and communication skills

**10. Consultancy Implementation Arrangements**

The principal responsibility for managing this consultancy lies with the Project Management team. The consultant shall report to the National Project Director and the Project Management Unit, within the EPA, will contract the consultants and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.

**11. Environmental Protection Agency:**

- The Project Management Unit, within the EPA, will contract the consultants and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.

**12. PAYMENT MODALITIES Fees and payments**

Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables based on the following payment schedule:

Inception report	20%
Draft EKMS Lessons Learned study Report	40%
Final EKMS use Lessons Learned study Report	40%

**13. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to apply. The application should contain the following:

- A technical and financial proposals with brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, with a detailed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; a duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest
- The technical proposal should also contain personal CV, indicating education background/professional qualifications, all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate;
- Financial Proposal indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs

**14. Evaluation Criteria**

The applicants will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria (combined scoring method). Maximum score is 100% out of which technical criteria equals 75% and financial criteria equals 25%. The technical evaluation will include the following:

- Institutional Background as requested: 15%;
- Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field of institutional review, capacity development initiatives, notably at the systemic and institutional levels: 10%;
- Extensive conceptual and practical knowledge of NCSA and strategic principles: 10%;
- Demonstrated experience and practical knowledge in working and collaborating with stakeholders including governments; civil society and communities in Liberia: 10%;
- Fluency in English and a working knowledge of English: 5%. EPA/UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, and culture.
- Methodology: 25%;
- Financial Proposal: 25%

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy:

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**CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CCCD) PROJECT**  
**REFERENCE NO: TOR/CCCD/EPA-2021-002**

**Project Title:** Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations within the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities

<b>Job Title</b>	National Consultant
<b>Division/Department</b>	Environmental Protection Agency/EPA
<b>Programme/Project Number</b>	GEF ID number: 9390 (Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project/CCCD)
<b>Activity Result</b>	Early implementation and piloting of the EKMS to mainstream Rio Convention obligations into sectoral plans and policies
<b>Assignment</b>	Prepare lessons learned study on the use of the EKMS to mainstream Rio Convention obligations into sectoral plans and policies
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Report to</b>	National Director Executive Director, Project Director, Consultancy Duration: (Seven Weeks)

**BACKGROUND**

Liberia has undertaken numerous initiatives to address environmental issues. Despite those initiatives, Liberia continues to face important challenges to meeting environmental goals. Liberia is struggling to fulfill many of the objectives set forth in the Rio Conventions. Many of the developed plans for addressing environmental issues due to limited government resources, limited human capacity, and a lack of appropriate technologies. Liberia's strengthened institutional and knowledge management and information sharing between or within sectors. Additionally, the country's degraded and limited infrastructure combined with a low technical and institutional capacity severely limit Liberia's environmental governance framework and thus its potential to conserve the natural environment, let alone secure long-term benefits from it.

Leading to the formulation of the Rio Convention mainstreaming project, a National Capacity Development Project was undertaken through a consultative process and participatory approach that involved numerous stakeholders from various sectors in 2006 to establish empirical causes leading to Liberia's struggle to fulfill many of the objectives set forth in the Rio Conventions.

Between 2010 and 2012, UNEP implemented a global project, entitled **Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions** that included Liberia as a beneficiary country. This project focused on helping Liberia (among other countries) to better organize modalities for accessing and preparing their national reports. Notwithstanding the capacities developed, number of important capacities remained to be developed, such as the standardization of data collection and information analysis, improved coordination and collaboration to facilitate streamlined national reporting, and increased awareness and stakeholder engagement in the national reporting process.

In 2019, the CCCD project established an integrated knowledge management system that focuses on collecting, storing and sharing information and data between the institutions for better environmental management and the fulfillment of the obligations of the Rio Conventions. To use the technology for data collection, information management, due to limited government resources, limited human capacity, and a lack of appropriate technologies, Liberia strengthened institutional and knowledge management and information sharing between or within sectors. Additionally, the country's degraded and limited infrastructure combined with a low technical and institutional capacity severely limit Liberia's environmental governance framework and thus its potential to conserve the natural environment, let alone secure long-term benefits from it.

The implementation of the CCCD Project takes a strategic approach to meeting Rio Convention obligations through the implementation of the Environmental Knowledge Management System (EKMS).

The EKMS is part of a portfolio of capacity building interventions in Liberia that encourages regional cooperation and knowledge and information exchanges. Partnerships and collaborative efforts have also been analyzed by the national consultant to identify key actors and stakeholders. The knowledge management component also contains specific activities to be implemented, such as sharing knowledge, and to strengthen critical thinking and understanding the implications of the global environment towards sustainable development. These include a series of learning-by-doing workshops and public dialogues among a diverse set of stakeholders.

The EKMS is established as a system for collecting and sharing information and data between the institutions for better environmental management and the fulfillment of the obligations of the Rio Conventions (and other conventions). As with other interventions in the project, several lessons were learned during the planning, design, and implementation of the project, including the role of stakeholder in the use of the system.

The objective of the consultancy is to identify and summarize lessons learned study from the use of the EKMS to mainstream Rio Convention obligations into sectoral plans and policies since it was designed and piloted from December 2019.

**JOB RESPONSIBILITIES**

Following the desk review, the national consultant will build on the documented evidence through an agreed set of field and interview methodologies, including:

- The consultant task shall be to carry out a lesson learned study of the use of the EKMS
- Investigate and report on successes and challenges of the technological intervention, and debate the political, individual and institutional responses.
- The consultant to describe these challenges and how they have largely served to frame management and system of the intervention.
- Assessments conducted under the SWOT analysis initiative indicate that, though not complete, abundant environmental information exists. However, the capacities to access and manage this information are generally weak, as is the coordination of organizations involved in its management.
- With the support of EPA/CCCD/UNDP and their implementing partners (among others), the consultant shall develop strategic action plans, and followed-up with priority implementation of the recommended actions.
- Notwithstanding the positive outcomes of EKMS hardware and software enhancement, EKMS cannot be designed as sustainable, warranting a new strategy to assess and build institutional sustainability
- Thus, this assignment shall be systematic approach legitimized as an endeavour undertaken by current stakeholders to the current status of the EKMS.
- The preparation of national EKMS strategies and action plans is an on-going process of stakeholder consultations, expert analyses and reporting that benefits from regularly updated and revised information.
- As a process, the enabling activities therefore help strengthen the legitimacy and sustainability of the technological interventions thus represent an important process of capacity development in knowledge management.
- Given its focus on cross-cutting capacities, the EKMS Action Plan targets an assessment of the underlying capacities needed to achieve and sustain knowledge. The EKMS also contains a series of activities to be implemented, such as sharing knowledge, and to strengthen critical thinking and understanding the implications of the global environment towards sustainable development. These include a series of learning-by-doing workshops and public dialogues among a diverse set of stakeholders.

**DELIVERABLES**

- Inception report detailing methodology, time table
- Draft lesson learned study report
- Final lesson learned study report submitted in hardcopy and soft copy

One week after contract signing, the national consultant will produce an **inception report** clarifying the objectives, methodology and timing of the preparation of the lesson learned study report on the use of the EKMS. The inception report will be discussed and agreed with the implementing agency before the national consultant proceed with the preparation of the task as in the TOR.

The **draft study report** will be shared by the national consultant to the EPA through the CCCD Project Office, who will circulate the draft to stakeholders. The EPA will share the report with stakeholders for their comments and inputs. Feedback received from these stakeholders should be considered when preparing the final report.

**FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCIES:**

- Excellent and effective research skills, communication (verbal and written) skills, including ability to prepare reports and conduct presentations by clearly formulating questions on issues, identifying key stakeholders, and conveying maximum necessary information, making and defending recommendations; ability to convey difficult issues and positions to the public
- Good understanding and knowledge of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments
- Interest in achieving knowledge of the value of Rio Conventions to sustainable development and considerable knowledge of Liberia's environmental governance
- Draft EKMS Lessons Learned study Report
- Good computer skills.

**QUALIFICATION**

Candidates must have at least five (5) years of progressive work experience and good understanding and knowledge of research, stakeholders' engagement and report writing. Most have understanding of UNDP, GEF and GCF working. History of performing similar task. The candidate must have a minimum BSc's Degree in Demography, Economics, or related study. Most be a Liberian.

**Other Requirements**

Candidates are to submit application or letter of intent with CV, supporting educational credentials, technical and financial proposal.

**Consultancy Implementation Arrangements:**

The principal responsibility for managing this consultancy lies with the Project Management team. The consultant shall report to the National Project Director and the Project Management Unit, within the EPA, will contract the consultants and be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.

**Environmental Protection Agency:**

- EPA will ensure timely provision of the necessary feedback on deliverables.
- The Project Management Team within the EPA, will contract the consultants and have the responsibility of liaising with the team of staff

**Payment Modalities Fees and payments:**

Interested consultants should provide their requested fee rates when they submit their expressions of interest, in USD. The EPA will then negotiate and finalize contracts. Fee payments will be made upon acceptance and approval by the EPA of planned deliverables, based on the following payment schedule:

Inception report	20%
Draft EKMS Lessons Learned study Report	40%
Final EKMS use Lessons Learned study Report	40%

**Application Procedure**

Qualified and interested candidates are hereby requested to apply. The application should contain the following:

- A technical and financial proposals with brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, with a detailed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; a duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest
- The technical proposal should also contain personal CV, indicating education background/professional qualifications, all past experience, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate;
- Financial Proposal indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs

**Evaluation Criteria**

The applicants will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria (combined scoring method). Maximum score is 100% out of which technical criteria equals 75% and financial criteria equals 25%. The technical evaluation will include the following:

- Educational Background as requested: 15%;
- Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in the field of stakeholder engagement, research, and report writing: 10%;
- Extensive conceptual and practical knowledge of EKMS and strategic principles: 10%;
- Demonstrated experience and practical knowledge in working and collaborating with stakeholders including governments; civil society and communities in Liberia: 10%;
- Fluency in English and a working knowledge of English: 5%. EPA/UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, and culture.
- Methodology: 25%;
- Financial Proposal: 25%

All applications package must be attention to the below address in both soft and hard copy:

**Rebecca E. Doo**  
Assistant Manager, Procurement  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
4th Street, Sinkor, 10 Liberia  
P.O. Box 4024

Or through email ([rdoo@epa.gov.lr](mailto:rdoo@epa.gov.lr)), Closing date for submission of application is 4PM, April 6, 2021. Any submission coming/received after this deadline will not be given consideration. Only complete submission that meet the requirement/criteria as contained in TOR will be considered for evaluation. NOTE: This information is also posted on the below websites: [www.emanation.gov.lr](http://www.emanation.gov.lr), [www.ekmsliberia.info](http://www.ekmsliberia.info), [www.epa.gov.lr](http://www.epa.gov.lr), and local dailies.



# Français

## Quand le gouvernement nigérian retournera-t-il l'argent, l'or et le diamant de Taylor ?

L'un des majordomes les plus proches et les plus dévoués de l'ancien président Charles Taylor, qui a voyagé avec lui en exil au Nigéria, a fourni une myriade d'informations de fond sur les derniers jours de Taylor en exil au Nigéria, qui se sont soldés par une catastrophe plus époustouflante et plus triste. Le majordome qui a demandé à ne pas être nommé réside actuellement dans l'État de Rhode Island, aux États-Unis.

Le majordome a révélé que « l'ex-président Taylor a été accueilli avec enthousiasme par le président nigérian de l'époque, Olusegun Obasanjo. Taylor a ensuite été emmené à Calabar, la capitale de l'État de Cross River au sud-est du Nigéria, où sa villa était située au sommet d'une colline, gardée par plus de 50 agents de sécurité du Nigéria.

Le gouverneur de l'État de Cross River, Donald Duke, qui a reçu Charles Taylor à Calabar, lui a dit de se sentir chez lui. Taylor a été contraint de divulguer toute sa richesse au gouvernement

nigérian pour sa sécurité et sa protection politique ».

Le majordome a en outre dit que la richesse réelle avec laquelle Taylor a voyagé comprenait vingt (20) Jeeps, quatre-vingt (80) valises noires, soixante (60) d'entre eux contenaient quarante-six millions de dollars américains en espèces, Mille six cents (1 600) carats d'or, deux mille cinq (2 500) pièces de diamants et douze (12) pistolets en argent.

Le majordome a dit : « Taylor m'a confié tous ces objets de valeur, donc je savais beaucoup de choses sur tout ce qui se trouvait dans ces valises, y compris son argent accumulé. Taylor m'a demandé de préparer un paquet de 8 millions de dollars avec 50 pièces de diamants pour le président nigérian de l'époque Obasanjo lorsqu'il a rendu

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Afrique : les 10 pays les plus libres et démocratiques

Deux classements de référence signalent le recul de la démocratie partout dans le monde en 2020. En Afrique, les 10 pays les plus démocratiques ne comprennent plus le Bénin, mais intègrent le Malawi.

« Une lutte sans leaders pour la démocratie », tel est le titre peu complaisant du dernier rapport annuel de Freedom House. Ce think tank américain et

indépendant mesure l'évolution des libertés publiques et de la démocratie dans le monde. Son classement, publié le 11 mars, s'inquiète d'un déclin général en 2020 sur fond de Covid-19. L'Afrique n'échappe pas à la tendance globale, avec très peu de champions en progrès, selon les paramètres de Freedom House. Le Cap-Vert fait exception, avec un score de 92 sur 100, meilleur que celui de la France (90). L'archipel

lusophone est suivi par deux autres États insulaires : Maurice affiche le même résultat que la Grèce (87) et Sao Tomé-et-Principe (84) devance d'un point les États-Unis. Viennent ensuite le Ghana (82), ex æquo avec la Pologne et l'Afrique du Sud (79), trois points de plus qu'Israël. La Namibie et les Seychelles (77) font mieux que le Brésil (74), tandis que le Botswana (72), le Sénégal et la Tunisie (71) figurent un cran au-dessus de la Hongrie (69) et de l'Inde (67). Mali, Bénin et Sénégal en net recul. Le Mali voit sa note dégringoler de 11 points, passant de 44 sur 100 en 2019 à 33 en 2020, année d'un nouveau coup d'État à Bamako. Le Bénin accuse, quant à lui, le plus net recul, de 14 points, avec un score tombé de 79 à 65 entre 2019 et 2020, ce qui lui vaut de disparaître des dix premières démocraties en Afrique et de perdre le label de « pays libre ». De son côté, le Sénégal, autre « vitrine » de la démocratie en Afrique, dévise de sept points entre 2017 et 2020 et ne fait plus partie des pays « libres », au nombre de 9 seulement en Afrique.



## Éditorial

### Les médias libériens ont aussi besoin de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles

Au cours des deux dernières décennies, ou plus, des partenaires étrangers ont dépensé des millions de dollars au Libéria pour former des journalistes et des rédacteurs en chef sans penser au renforcement des capacités institutionnelles, qui est un élément clé pour les rendre dynamiques.

De la MINUL en passant par d'autres partenaires au développement internationaux, dont l'IREX et l'Internews, des millions de dollars américains ont été consacrés à la formation, mais malgré l'afflux de fonds venus des organisations locales et internationales, l'impact laisse beaucoup à désirer. La formation à elle seule n'a pas vraiment aidé à renforcer les médias, car le personnel formé professionnellement quitte les maisons de presse pour chercher des pâturages plus verts.

Les médias indépendants en tant qu'entreprise ne fonctionnent pas en vase clos. Il s'appuie sur l'économie pour attirer, maintenir et augmenter les publicités pour sa survie. Mais avec une économie dévastée comme celle que nous avons au Libéria, couplé avec un lectorat médiocre et une diminution des diffusions, les médias sont incapables de payer leurs travailleurs et de les entretenir.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, l'impact du COVID-19 sur les institutions médiatiques s'est fait ressentir sévèrement.

Avec cet environnement économique épouvantable, les médias ont été abandonnés au point de périr. C'est au fait l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles le professionnalisme en matière de journalisme a cédé la place à la médiocrité.

Dans de telles conditions, il faut un changement radical dans la manière dont les fonds destinés à aider les médias libériens devraient être utilisés. Nous suggérons qu'au lieu de dispenser une formation de deux semaines, une semaine ou trois jours aux journalistes, des subventions soient accordées pour permettre aux maisons de presse de renforcer leurs capacités opérationnelles.

Ces subventions devraient être accompagnées de critères que les responsables des médias, y compris les éditeurs, sont tenus de respecter pour en bénéficier. C'est indéniable, certaines institutions médiatiques n'ont pas les moyens pour acheter quotidiennement ne serait-ce du papier journal et faire face à d'autres frais d'exploitation, et encore moins de payer régulièrement le personnel.

Ceci est même aggravé par les retards de paiement des services rendus aux clients, y compris le gouvernement, qui reste le principal annonceur du pays. Les malheurs s'aggravent lorsque des organisations non gouvernementales internationales et d'autres dirigent leur publicité vers le site Web de l'Executive Mansion - le site Web du Président de la République du Libéria prive les institutions médiatiques de revenus publicitaires indispensables.

Et chaque fois qu'il est prêt à payer des frais de publicité, des conditions sont posées, dont être en règle vis-à-vis du fisc. Mais, une entité médiatique en difficulté dans une économie comme la nôtre, où va-t-elle prendre de l'argent pour être à jour avec les impôts ? En tout cas, ce débat est pour un autre jour.

Mais la vérité est que les médias au Libéria ont besoin d'une aide sérieuse. Ils n'ont pas la capacité opérationnelle de fournir le type de services dont le public a besoin. Une subvention douce de partenaires internationaux contribuerait grandement à renforcer l'indépendance des médias pour permettre de jouer son rôle essentiel dans notre régime démocratique.

C'est un idéal que les partenaires au développement des médias doivent prendre en considération pendant que nous travaillons ensemble au renforcement de la presse au Libéria. Nous avons eu une série de programmes de formation professionnelle. Mais en l'absence d'institutions dynamiques, les journalistes tournent le dos à la salle de rédaction pour chercher une vie meilleure.



# Français

## Quand le gouvernement

visite à Taylor dans sa villa Hillside à Calabar. »

« 100 agents de sécurité gardaient notre villa, et chacun était payé 150\$ US chaque samedi matin en témoignage de la profonde appréciation de Taylor. La sécurité a également reçu de l'or. C'était différent des pourboires normaux reçus de Taylor par d'autres fonctionnaires du gouvernement nigérian qui visitaient Taylor régulièrement, en particulier les samedis et les jours fériés. »

Le majordome a poursuivi en disant : « à partir du moment Taylor a mis le pied sur le sol nigérian, il savait qu'il serait exploité et toute sa richesse serait volée. Les Nigériens ont finalement concrétisé cela dans un laps de temps ».

Il a révélé que lorsque l'acte d'accusation de Taylor a été officiellement annoncé, le gouvernement nigérian était sous une pression intense pour livrer Taylor, qui a rapidement soudoyé le gouverneur de l'État de Cross-River, l'honorable Duke, en lui donnant 6 millions de dollars américains et 200 pièces de diamants avec un pistolet en argent, « mais le gouverneur a trahi Taylor après avoir promis de le protéger. Le gouverneur a ensuite organisé une fausse route sous le prétexte de permettre à Taylor de s'échapper via la frontière du Nigéria et du Cameroun. Il s'agissait d'une manœuvre très trompeuse de la part du gouverneur.

Le gouverneur Duke a dit plus tard à Taylor que tout allait bien pour son évasion. Nous avons chargé tous nos objets de valeur, y compris les millions restants en espèces, les diamants et l'or, sur nos flottes à 3 heures du matin. Avant de quitter Calabar, l'un des agents de sécurité a laissé entendre à Taylor que 50 soldats étaient déployés sur la route. »

a dit le majordome.

« Voici notre consternation », a continué le majordome, « les 50 soldats ont été plantés par le gouverneur Duc. Ils ont tendu une embuscade à Taylor et à ses flottes, ce qui s'est certainement produit alors que nous n'étions qu'à 5 kilomètres dans une ville frontalière de Gamboru-Ngala, environ 50 soldats ont détourné Taylor sous la

menace d'une arme et ont tout emporté, y compris ses millions, ses diamants et son or. »

Les policiers nigériens qui ont escorté Taylor ont fermé les yeux sur ce qui se passait alors qu'on nous volait tout. Les soldats qui nous ont tendu une embuscade ont poussé Taylor et le reste d'entre nous dans un seul SUV et ont pris les SUV restants, y compris toutes les valises, et ont laissé un petit sac en plastique à Taylor avec quelques-uns de ses vêtements.

Taylor a soudainement pleuré abondamment et a demandé aux agents de sécurité s'il pouvait dire un mot au Gouverneur de l'État de Cross River, mais l'agent de sécurité a dit à Taylor que le téléphone du gouverneur Duke n'était plus accessible et joignable car il était très occupé à assister aux affaires officielles à Abuja avec le Président Obasanjo.

Les agents de sécurité ont demandé aux trois Nigériens qui étaient avec nous de retourner au Nigéria pour leur sécurité. Un des agents de sécurité a dit aux filles :

« Cet homme est maintenant un fugitif et un tueur, alors partez, idiots que vous êtes »

Dès que Taylor a été déposé à la ville frontalière de Gamboru-Ngala, un autre groupe d'agents de sécurité nigériens l'a immédiatement arrêté et l'a emmené directement à Abuja. Les agents de sécurité qui les accompagnaient nous ont dit plus tard de monter rapidement à bord d'un autre SUV pour retourner dans l'État de Cross River avant cela, nous avions été séparés de Taylor et d'autres agents de sécurité attendaient notre arrivée dans l'État de Cross River. A notre arrivée, l'agent de sécurité a saisi tous nos effets personnels restants de la Villa.

On nous a également dit de quitter le Nigeria dans les 72 heures sous peine d'être arrêtés pour crime de guerre.

J'ai coulé des larmes, car toutes nos affaires avaient été pillées par les agents de sécurité nigériens et les voisins. Un grand groupe de Nigériens s'est précipité dans la villa, l'a vandalisée et a emporté tout ce sur quoi ils pouvaient mettre la main pendant que les agents de sécurité se tenaient à l'écart ».

Le majordome supplie le président Weah de récupérer la richesse de Taylor au Nigeria et de la partager aux Libériens pauvres qui sont dans le besoin.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Anuj Tanna

### Il faut aider les jeunes microentrepreneurs du Kenya !

**N**AIROBI - La pandémie de COVID-19 et ses conséquences économiques frappent durement l'ensemble de la population kenyane. Mais en plein confinement, alors que l'économie formelle était à l'arrêt, le secteur informel a démontré sa résilience et son utilité, en particulier pour les jeunes qui ne pouvaient pas aller à l'école et dont les parents se retrouvaient au chômage,

Depuis le début de la pandémie, de plus en plus de jeunes Kenyans se sont lancés dans l'économie informelle. Selon un sondage du réseau Shujaaz Inc, en avril 2020 5% des jeunes Kenyans s'étaient lancés pour la première fois dans une activité informelle depuis le début de la pandémie. En mai ils étaient 16% et en août 26%.

Les jeunes microentrepreneurs kenyans font preuve d'une résilience remarquable. Certes, comme la plupart des chefs d'entreprise, beaucoup d'entre eux ont dû réduire ou suspendre leur activité durant le confinement. Néanmoins, les interviews et les sondages que nous avons menés montrent que les microentrepreneurs se sont adaptés rapidement. Ils ont répondu à la crise en changeant de modèle d'entreprise, en produisant des masques, en cultivant des légumes ou en se reconvertissant dans la livraison de repas. Ils ont pu ainsi sauvegarder un minimum de revenu, ce qui leur permet d'envisager des projets futurs.

Par contre, beaucoup de jeunes qui ont perdu leur emploi dans le secteur public ou dans l'économie officielle en raison de la pandémie nous ont dit que 4 mois après, ils n'avaient pas encore réussi à trouver un nouvel emploi et faisaient face à des difficultés financières.

Le secteur informel n'est pas seulement une bouée de sauvetage en cas de crise. Même avant la pandémie, il comptait pour plus de 90% des créations d'emplois selon l'Office national des statistiques kenyans.

Malgré toute l'importance du secteur informel, l'aide internationale et la politique des Etats se concentrent depuis longtemps quasi exclusivement sur l'économie officielle. Au Kenya cette tendance semble se perpétuer : sur les 503 millions de dollars du plan de relance gouvernemental, seuls 3 millions seraient consacrés directement au soutien du secteur informel.

Néanmoins, certains commentateurs remettent maintenant en question le point de vue habituel qui considère les emplois du secteur informel comme un simple palliatif et appellent à des mesures de soutien plus ambitieuses en faveur de ce secteur. Davod Ndi et d'autres experts estiment que le secteur informel va jouer un rôle essentiel dans le redressement économique post-pandémie du Kenya.

Compte tenu de la dépendance de la jeunesse kenyane en pleine croissance démographique à l'égard de ce secteur, cela n'a rien de surprenant. Avec un million de nouveaux entrants sur le marché du travail chaque année, le nombre de jeunes Kenyans actifs dans l'économie informelle (ils seraient actuellement 3 millions) est appelé à croître.

Le tiers environ de ces jeunes microentrepreneurs travaillent à temps plein. Ils gagnent un peu moins que le SMIC, mais en 2019 cela représentait deux

fois plus que le revenu moyen de l'ensemble des jeunes de leur tranche d'âge. Et chacun d'entre eux a créé au moins un emploi, injectant ainsi chaque mois 290 millions de dollars dans l'économie du pays.

Par ailleurs, l'enquête nationale 2019 de Shujaaz Inc. montre que les microentrepreneurs kenyans étaient 1,79 fois plus nombreux à utiliser les services financiers, 1,08 plus nombreux à voter et 1,15 fois plus nombreux à recourir à une méthode de contraception moderne que les autres jeunes de la même tranche d'âge. Pourtant, malgré l'importance de leur contribution économique et sociale au développement du pays, la plupart d'entre eux ne bénéficieront d'aucun des investissements prévus en faveur du secteur formel de l'économie.

Notre étude récente suggère un éventail de mesures peu coûteuses en faveur des jeunes qui voudraient devenir microentrepreneurs à plein temps. Cette aide dont ils ont besoin en urgence face aux conséquences de la pandémie constituerait aussi un coup de pouce salutaire pour le redémarrage économique du Kenya. Selon nos estimations, aider 2 millions de jeunes entrepreneurs rapporterait 110 millions de dollars dans l'économie du pays et créerait plus d'un million d'emplois.

Il est très difficile à ces microentrepreneurs d'obtenir les capitaux dont ils auraient besoin auprès des institutions, car ils n'ont jamais recouru au secteur financier officiel pour obtenir un crédit. Or à l'époque d'Internet, cela ne devrait pas représenter un obstacle pour obtenir un financement. Des millions d'entrepreneurs très prometteurs disposent de toutes les qualités nécessaires et leur expérience dans le secteur informel démontre leur capacité de réussite. Il est temps que les banques et les services financiers prennent en compte ces entrepreneurs et utilisent les nouveaux outils digitaux pour leurs proposer des produits financiers spécifiques.

Des changements réglementaires, par exemple la simplification et la numérisation des demandes de licence commerciale, aideraient aussi les microentrepreneurs à rebondir et à se développer. Un meilleur accès aux réseaux et aux compétences grâce à une formation abordable et au soutien des pairs est aussi crucial - c'est d'ailleurs ce que nous demandent fréquemment les membres de notre réseau.

Enfin, en dépit de la valeur sociale et économique créée par les microentrepreneurs et leur potentiel pour produire encore davantage, beaucoup de jeunes considèrent encore la création d'une microentreprise comme le symbole d'un échec. On a dit à ceux qui sont allés à l'école ou à la fac qu'un emploi à plein temps les attendait au sein de l'économie formelle. Pourtant une fois diplômés, 90% d'entre eux ne trouvent pas d'emploi ; ils se sentent alors trompés et sont paralysés par leur déception. Lauren Berlant de l'université de Chicago parle à ce sujet d'optimisme cruel : l'incapacité de renoncer à un rêve inaccessible au profit d'un plan B.

Il est temps de changer de discours sur le secteur informel. Au cours des 20 prochaines années, 20 millions de jeunes Kenyans vont entrer sur le marché du travail. La prise en compte du secteur informel reste sans doute un objectif à long terme, mais en attendant, la plupart des jeunes Kenyans y feront carrière. Reconnaître, aider et encourager les jeunes microentrepreneurs du secteur informel pourrait donner un formidable élan à toute l'économie et contribuera à répondre aux défis de demain.

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# Liberia gets US\$17.2 M to fight erosion in West Point township

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved a US\$17.2 million grant for the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project to West Point against coastal erosion and storm.

According to the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project intends to address life-threatening climate change-related impacts of sea-level rise, coastal erosion and urban encroachment into vital

coastal zone management approach for Liberia, a release from the EPA said.

EPA Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh said, the project will expand coastal defenses, enhance livelihoods, and create new economic opportunities for the Liberian people as well as improve protection for vulnerable mangrove ecosystems in the Monrovia Metropolitan Area.

"The project will protect our people from the existential risks posed by the climate crisis," Prof. Tarpeh emphasized.

address this urgent need by constructing a rock revetment to protect West Point against coastal erosion and storms.

In addition, the Project will improve institutional capacity and policy support for integrated coastal zone management across Liberia, protect ecosystems mangroves, and strengthen gender- and climate-resilient livelihoods to build climate resilience in the vulnerable communities of Monrovia.

The project builds on the Government of Liberia's efforts to respond to the climate crisis, enhance livelihoods and protect vulnerable ecosystems through a number of UNDP-supported projects that are building coastal resilience, fostering climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening climate information and early warning systems, and supporting the government's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

"I recently visited some of the areas where this coastal resilience work will be done. I saw the communities and met with many of the women and men whose lives and livelihoods are directly threatened by the sea-level rise. This is what the Paris Agreement is about; about climate change creating real risks to people and their ways of life, and why it is so important that we learn to better co-exist with nature. These coastal protection measures are extremely important, particularly for the vulnerable communities and populations whose livelihoods are at risks, but in the long term we have to take better care of our planet," said Mr. Stephen Rodrigues, Resident Representative, UNDP Liberia. -EPA



mangrove ecosystems.

The project will be implemented by the EPA with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for six years and is expected to benefit approximately 250,000 vulnerable people living in the Monrovia metropolitan area.

The project is also expected to indirectly benefit approximately one million people - a quarter of the country's total population - through the adoption of an integrated

In the last decade, coastal erosion has caused the shoreline of Monrovia's impoverished and densely-populated settlement at West Point to regress approximately 30 meters resulting in the destruction of over 670 homes.

Coastal erosion has also exposed the fishery sector to serious risk.

An additional US\$40 to US\$48 million in climate change-related damages could occur at West Point by 2100 if nothing is done, a study has shown.

The Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project will

# Lonestar MTN donates

Starts from back page

He says healthcare workers from the nurse to the doctor continue to need protection from this highly contagious disease.

He states that these professionals continue to fight to maintain the health and welfare of the country by treating the sick effectively, expeditiously and sometimes without adequate personal protection.

"That's why today we are very happy to announce that through a public - private partnership with the African Union, MTN has secured up to seven million doses as we were told of the Covid - 19 vaccine through a \$25 million U.S. Dollars donation for our health workers across the continent," Mr. De explains.

Further, he states that as part of the initiative, Lonestar Cell MTN in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has secured 27,000 doses of the AstraZeneca Vaccine from Africa Center for Disease Control (CDC) specifically for Liberian healthcare workers.

He notes that this is important because it is nearly impossible to tell who has contracted the disease until that person is displaying any kind of symptom.

The Lonestar Cell MTN CEO adds that with immunization, healthcare workers are protected from the coronavirus, saying more importantly, they can safeguard themselves and their families by treating patients with the disease.

During the donation Monday, Liberia's Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah said it is another great day here in Liberia, given that the vaccines have arrived after all the controversies surrounding their efficacies have been cleared.

"And now even the United States is fighting to clear it through the FDA (Food and Drugs Administration) to start using it there. So this is good for us that the public knows

that this has been removed so that all of us can begin to take our vaccines so that we are protected from the Covid - 19 virus," Dr. Jallah says.

The Liberian Health Minister expresses happiness that MTN was able to support all of the African countries including Liberia, saying "and we are very pleased to have you all working here in Liberia and that your thoughts are on the safety of the people that reside in Liberia."

Minister Jallah says she is sure President George Manneh Weah would have loved to be at the donation of the AstraZeneca Vaccines, but he is on county tour outside of Monrovia.

She expresses confidence that everyone in Liberia, especially the healthcare workers, will be protected. She thanks MTN for its contribution in making sure that everyone is safe.

In remarks, the House Committee Chair on Health, Nimba County District 3 Representative Joseph N. Somwarbi says he views the donation as a very laudable effort, expressing gratitude on behalf of the 54th Legislature to the donor for sitting and thinking about the wellbeing of the people here, especially healthcare workers.

Rep. Somwarbi notes that healthcare workers across the country are exposed to everybody on a daily basis as they seek their medical needs.

According to Rep. Somwarbi, the 27,000 vaccines when administered as two doses to each recipient, will target 13,500 healthcare workers here.

"I think that number is very adequate ... so we just want to say thank you," Rep. Somwarbi says.

He notes that one thing that impresses him is the Health Minister's statement that all other controversies that had surrounded the AstraZeneca Vaccines have been cleared and that the safety of the vaccine has been guaranteed.

# GVL clarifies media reports

Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) says reports published by the Independent Probe newspaper in its March 7, 2021 edition titled: "Golden Veroleum In Hot water Over 'Land-grab & Rainforest Bulldozed, Int'l panel Finding Reveals'" does not provide a complete and accurate account of findings of a recent High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) investigation.

The company in a press release, claims it had published its acknowledgement and initial

response to the HCSA findings on February 17, 2021 referenced: <https://goldenveroleumlberia.com/gvl-acknowledges-hcsa-decision-reaffirms-commitment-to-sustainable-operations>.

"In summary, GVL acknowledged the High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest clearance when the matter was first raised in 2018 and there was no attempt to hide or deny the clearance, even while efforts were made to validate the claims, the extent and causes with the assistance of a third party, the Earthworm Foundation (EF). Contrary to

reports that over 1000 ha of HCS forests were cleared, a detailed ground assessment found the actual number to be 165 ha in the area of interest", the release notes.

GVL points out that the HCSA report itself qualified its initial findings and recommended that ground assessments be performed to verify the actual clearance.

According to the company, it has reviewed the measures spelt out in the HCSA decision, and notes that many of these are already being implemented under its current Sustainability Action

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(<https://goldenveroleumlberia.com/sustainability-action-plan/>). It promises to incorporate the remaining ones into a revised plan which has been submitted to the HCSA for review, adding that GVL has decided to suspend further land development in compliance with the HCSA decision until the matter is

resolved according to HCSA guidelines.

"GVL remains committed to be fully compliant with the responsible palm oil commitments according to RSPO Principles and Criteria and the GAR Social and Environmental Policy (GSEP)", the release concludes. -Press Release



# “...Bomi will make you happy come 2023”

By Othello B. Garblah

**T**ubmanburg, Bomi County- Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe of Bomi County has told President George Weah on the start of the second leg of the President’s county tour in the Western region that the people of Bomi are ready to make him (Weah) happy in 2023.

Sen. Snowe, who was

reelection bid.

“Mr. President, the people of Bomi County are reliable people. When they give you their word, go and sleep on it. When they say they are for you, they are for you. They don’t play games.” Explained Snowe, a former Montserrado District #6 lawmaker who migrated to Bomi and won both a Representative seat and subsequently a Senatorial seat on December 8,

“What you have seen here and what you saw in Dowein District is the true feeling of the Bomi citizens. When they say they are for you, they are for you, just go and sleep. If you make them happy, they will make you happy in 2023,” Snowe emphasized.

However, Snowe was also quick to add that whatever promise President Weah makes to the people of Bomi, he should be able to fulfill them because the people of Bomi will judge him in 2023 by his deeds, not words.

President Weah who kicked off his nationwide tour last month in six counties-Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru, began the second leg of tour on Monday March 22, in Bomi County expressing his gratitude to the citizens for electing him in office and also telling them thank you for keeping the peace.

Mr. Weah said though the visits have been long overdue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary at this time to tour the counties to say thank you and listen to the citizens’ concerns as well.

President Weah’s first stop in Bomi was in Jenneh, Dowein District where he was welcome and held town hall meeting with the citizens before moving to Klay, where he also interacted with locals at the Klay Administrative building.



Sen. Edwin Melvin Snowe, Jr.

recently a ranking member of the former ruling Unity Party, which is part of the Collaborating Political Parties assured President Weah during a town hall meeting at the C.H. Dewey High School sports stadium that the people of Bomi are very reliable, suggesting that the President can count on their support for his 2023

2020.

Referring to the huge crowd of citizens that have gathered to welcome the President in the county out of excitement and conviction that those numbers could be translated into votes for Mr, Weah come 2023, Snowe noted that it was the true reflection of their feelings and expression of support for the president.

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# Weah to light

“Even though they say, we are not doing anything, but the development we are bringing here...they are here to stay,” President Weah went on as he addressed the crowd in simple Liberian English.

President Weah said the request for market buildings

and schools and other facilities being requested can be achieved if the citizens provide the land for the construction of markets.

He said government will build health centers in Klay, saying these are simple things that local leaders and eminent citizens should be looking

towards doing and not depending on the government.

However, he pointed out that his administration will intervene. “If we can’t do the little things as a government, then the big things we can’t do it,” Mr. Weah said. (More details in subsequent edition.

# Transport Minister bows to CDC

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

**A** day after the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) thru its chairman Mulbah Morlu instructed the Minister of Transport Samuel Wlue to withdraw the elevation of Mr. Oliver Dillon, an employee of the ministry to a newly created post, Director of Port and Border Entries because he’s a non-partisan the minister has revoked the appointment accordingly.

The decision by the ruling party has received widespread public condemnation here, with many pointing that its violates the Constitution of Liberia which calls for equal employment opportunities for all qualified Liberians regardless of politics.

Mr. Oliver Dillon, who has reportedly been in the employ of the Transport Ministry for more than six to seven years as a civil servant, is brother of opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of Montserrado County, a strong critic of the

President to dismiss where necessary.

However, speaking to Prime FM in Monrovia Monday, Oliver Dillon clarified that he had formally written Minister Wlue, asking him to disregard the appointment because of the political row it has generated because of his lineage to Sen. Dillon.

“I have no regret for being a brother of Senator Dillon; I didn’t choose which family to belong to. It is God that placed me there”, Oliver said.

He was seconded to the new post after the court acquitted him of murder charge brought by the government for stabbing a member of a criminal gang that attacked him years ago.

The governing Coalition for Democratic Change seems increasingly nervous of its chances in winning a second term in 2023, and has begun to threaten officials in government they risk losing their jobs if they failed to toe the line.

Chairman Morlu after a long



Mr. Oliver Dillon

ruling establishment.

But chairman Morlu in a weekend press statement argued that irrespective of the inspiration behind the decision, there can be no moral justification for supporting Cabinet Ministers’ appointment of non-partisans to important positions at ministries and agencies, while qualified partisans are left to wander in street corners, looking for jobs.

The statement called on the Minister to withdraw the appointment, which it describes as provocation. The CDC maintains the decision is a necessary step in building a cohesive and strong party.

Emphasizing the importance of adhering to President Weah’s mandate to officials early this year that ‘There will be no room for errors’, the national executive committee of the party said it will monitor officials’ performance by constructively criticizing, praising or requesting the

silence from the Coalition defeat in the December 8, 2020 midterm senatorial threatened those senior officials of the ruling establishment who are not working in concert in lifting President Weah’s Pro-poor agenda would lose their job before the 2023 Presidential elections.

“Before we lose the election you will lose your job. We cannot employ you and [you are] working against the interest of the government and party. The interest of the president and party comes first, it is time to serve our people and the country at large but some selfish officials are working against us and if they don’t stop, they will lose their job,” Morlu raged.

The warning is neither the first nor the second by the CDC, but is the first major public utterance by the boisterous ruling party chair since his dismal performance at the poll last December. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

### SURVEY NOTICE

March 19, 2021

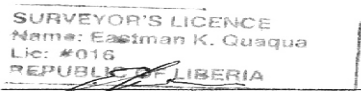
This is to inform the general public that the undersigned, Registered License Surveyor has been authorized by Agnes Dunbar to resurvey 2 lots of land lying or located on the Mamba Point, Montserrado.

The survey will commence on Saturday, 27 of March 2021, at the hour of 10:30 AM

Therefore, all those sharing boundaries with said property and other adjoining properties owner are asked to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram, with their technical representatives (Surveyor) and other relevant documents to avoid future land dispute.

This Notice should claim the attention of the following:

1. Mr. Amadu Kanneh
2. William Worthward
3. Michael Y. Gilman

Signed:   
 Eastman K. Quaqua  
 REG, License Land Surveyor  
 Republic of Liberia



# Weah to light up Tubmanburg



Flashback: Pres. Weah Provided Solar Street Lights in Sass Town, Grand Kru County

By Othello B. Garblah

**K**lay District, Bomi County- President George Weah told a cheering crowd in Klay District on Monday March 22, 2021 that he will light up Tubmanburg as part of efforts to decentralize development across the country.

President Weah said already there are 10, 000 solar lights in the country brought in by a Liberian company and that the

government has contracted the company's services to expand solar lights to the major cities and county capitals.

During his recent visit to River Gee County, President Weah installed about 2000 solar lights in Karnweaken as part of his lighting up project. He also lighted up Sass Town, his home town as well as he rapped up his previous visit in that area.

He noted that every development projects that are seen in Montserrado County will

be replicated in other counties.

"We must achieve this. We need to decentralize our government so development can go everywhere," he added.

"The government is here for you," President Weah stated in response to the citizens' laundry of requests during a town hall meeting in Klay on Monday.

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#WeNahStopping everywhere you go

Lonestar Cell MTN

# Lonestar MTN donates 27,000 Covid-19 vaccines to Health Ministry

By Winston W. Parley

**T**hrough a unique public - private partnership with the African Union, one of Africa's leading mobile networks, MTN has donated 27,000 Covid - 19 vaccines to Liberia's Ministry of Health for healthcare workers fighting to control and prevent the novel coronavirus disease here.

MTN which also operates in Liberia as one of the leading GSM companies, made the donation of the AstraZeneca

Vaccines at the Ministry of Health in Congo Town Monday, 22 March, hours after the vaccines arrived here.

Authorities at Lonestar Cell MTN in Monrovia say the vaccines have been made available through a unique public - private partnership by MTN, Africa's leading mobile network and the African Union.

The donation according to MTN, will secure up to seven million doses of the Covid - 19 vaccines for health workers across the 55 African countries, which is a part of the Africa



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) vaccination initiative.

Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Executive Officer Mr. Rahul De stresses that community protection is cardinal in the fight against the disease, adding that businesses like his must collectively demonstrate their commitments to Liberians through genuine partnership.

He emphasizes that it is essential to reach their target and achieve herd immunity.

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