



# Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Establishing Institutional Arrangements for Transparency in Liberia

Webinar

Regional Transparency Network of the Anglophone Africa Region Meeting

May 11, 2023

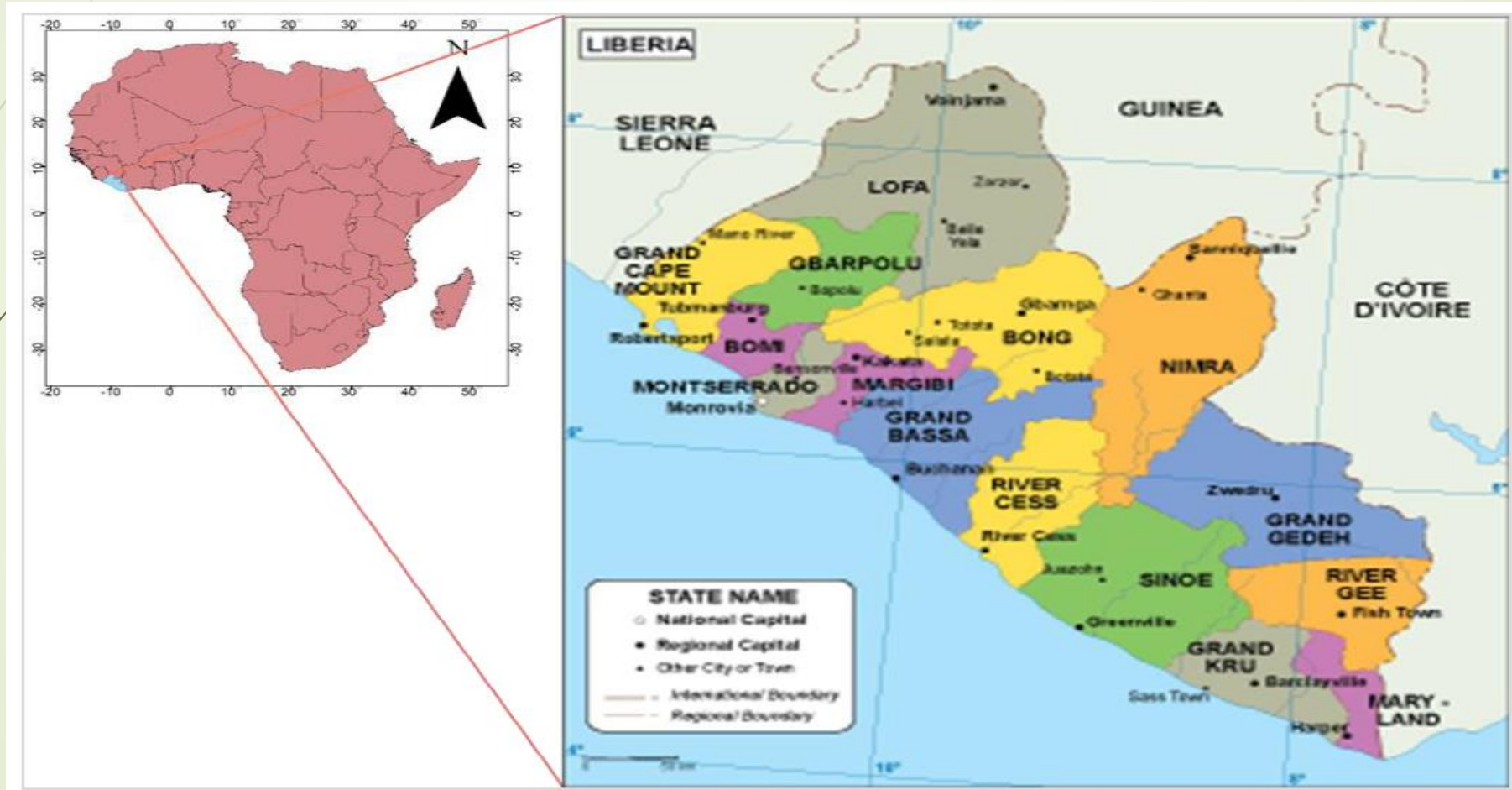


# Presentation Outline

- National Circumstance
- Why Institutional Arrangements in Transparency processes?
- Overview of Liberia's institutional Arrangement
- Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project, Government of Canada support)
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- Recommendations



# National Circumstance





# National Circumstance

Liberia is located on the West Coast of Africa and bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire. The current population of **Liberia** is **5,396,239** as of Wednesday, May 10, 2023, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Liberia's 2021 population is estimated at **5,057,681** people at mid year according to UN data.

Liberia's population is equivalent to **0.06%** of the total world population. Liberia ranks **123** in the list of countries (and dependencies) by population. The population density in Liberia is 53 per Km<sup>2</sup> (136 people per mi<sup>2</sup>). The total **land** area is 96,320 Km<sup>2</sup> (37,189 sq. miles)

**52.6 %** of the population is **urban** (2,658,561 people in 2020)

The **median age** in Liberia is **19.4 years**.



# National Circumstance

The coastline of Liberia is estimated to be 565-km in length. It is home to some of the country's largest cities and conducive to fishing and tourism.

Despite substantial forest loss over the years, Liberia is a net carbon sink and still has significant forest, estimated around 30% of total land in 2009 by FAO. Additionally, Liberia holds around 40% of the remaining West African moist forest (Upper Guinean Forest).

Liberia's population was estimated according to 2021 at 4.5 million in 2015 by the world bank and it is projected to increase to 10.3 million by 2058, with more than 70% of the population living in coastal cities including Monrovia, the country's capital.

Liberia remains one of the Least Developed Countries.

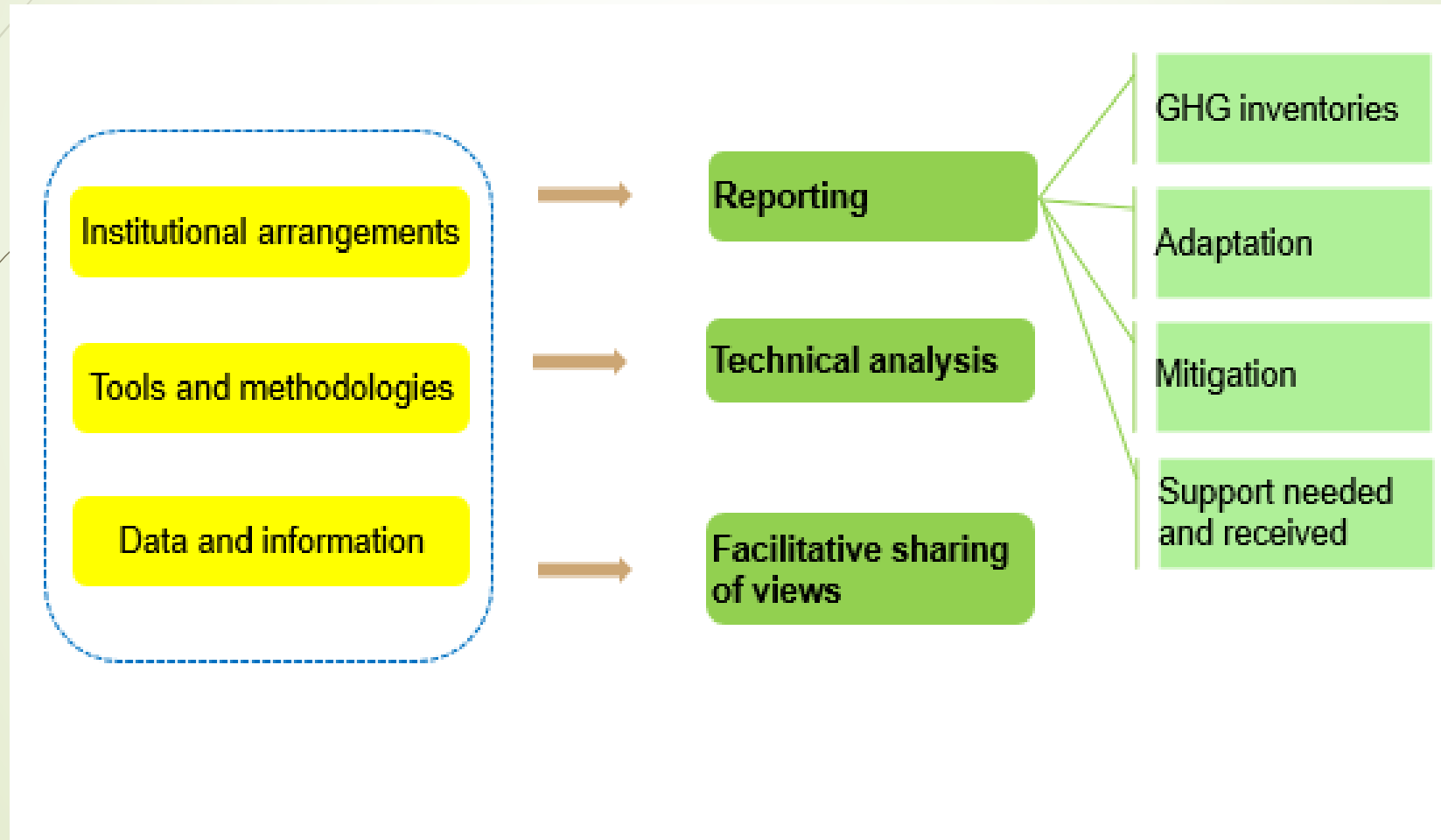


# Why Institutional Arrangements in Transparency Processes?

- Support effective participation in the MRV arrangements under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Inform national and international policymakers, at different levels
- Further build national capacities and ensure sustainability of national MRV processes
- Assist in institutionalizing activities relating to reporting on climate change.

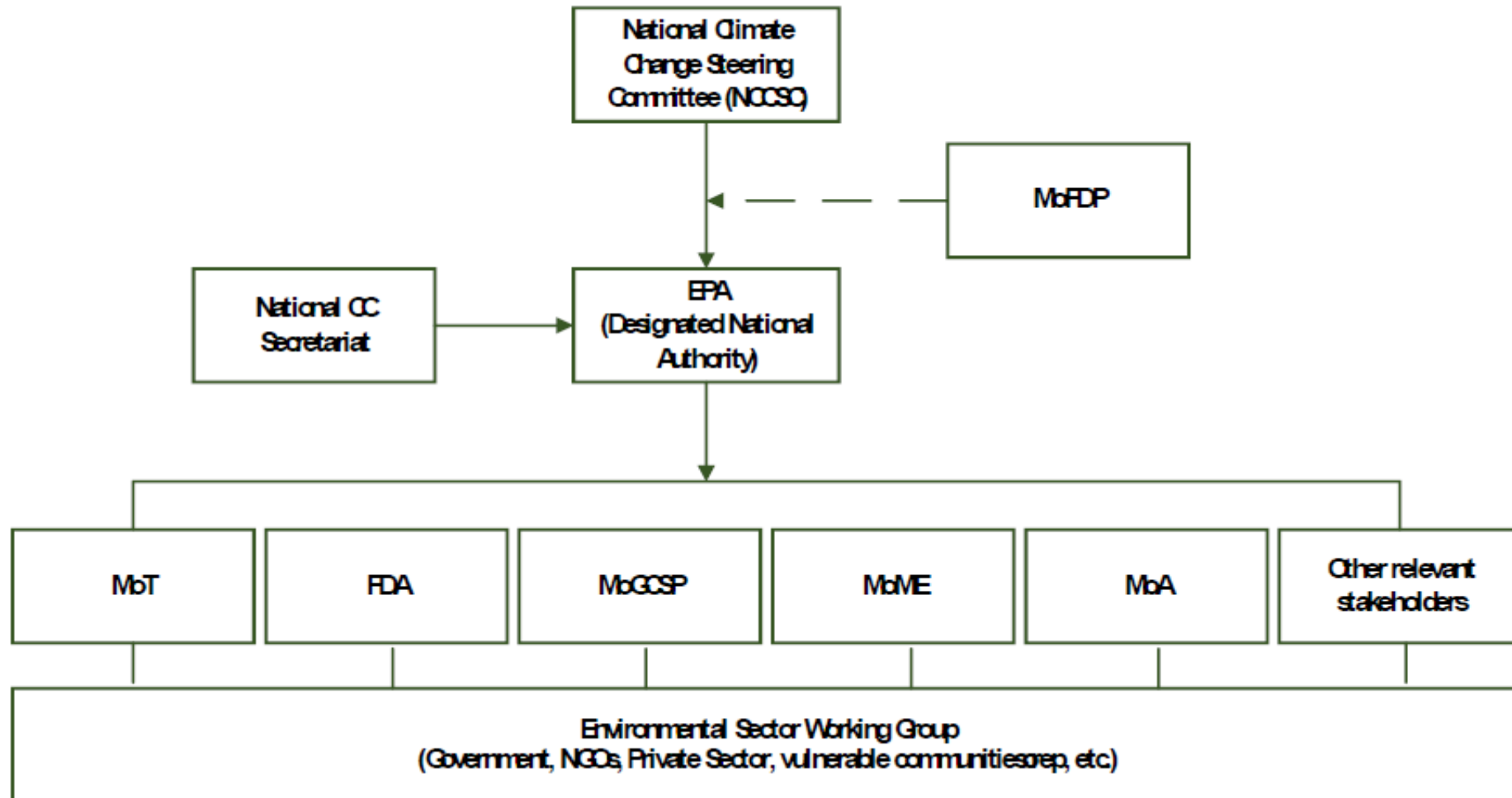


# Why Institutional Arrangements in Transparency Processes?





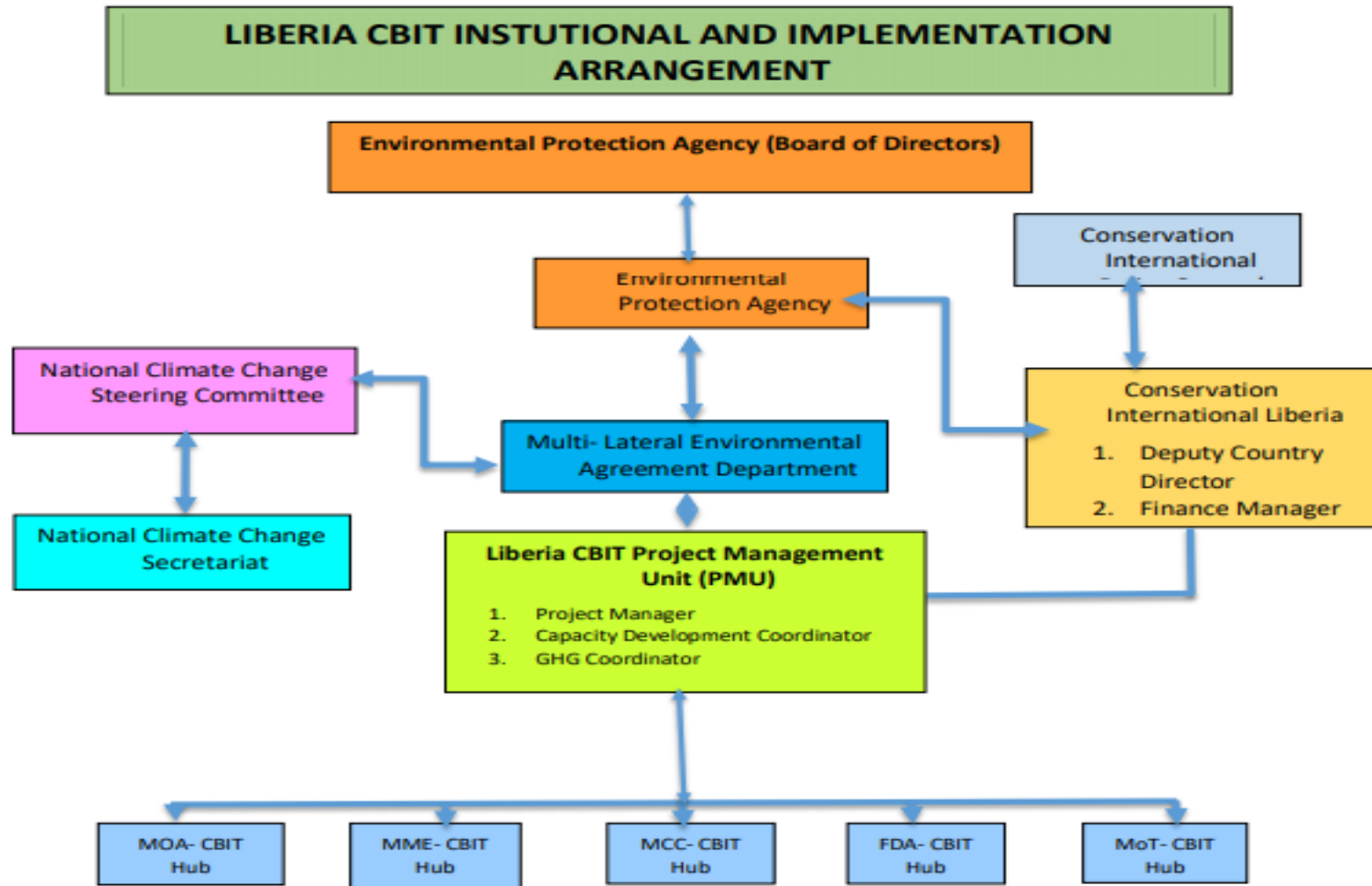
# Overview of Liberia's institutional Arrangement







# Overview of Liberia's institutional Arrangement





Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)

## CBIT-1 Project:

- Commenced 2019 and ended 2021
- Jointly implemented by the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia and Conservation International with funding from GEF
- The project aimed at ***“Building and Strengthening Liberia’s National Capacity to implement the Transparency Elements of the Paris Climate Agreement”***
- The key implementing partners during the project implementation were **Ministry of Mines & Energy, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, Monrovia City Corporation, and the Forestry Development Authority**



**Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



### **The core objectives of the project included:**

- to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to track NDC implementation and sustain transparency efforts over time;
- provide direct technical support to harmonize land use, agriculture, energy, transport and waste sectors data collection and reporting through training and assistance; and
- To build an integrated Platform for Data Sharing and Policy Making



## Cont'd: Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



### Core Deliverables:

- The setting up of National NDC sector hubs in five(5) NDC sectors( **Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Forestry Development Authority, Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Agriculture**) including the University of Liberia;
- The constitution of the Project steering Committee(PSC) to increase policy buy for the CBIT project implementation;
- The development of CBIT Communication Strategy;
- Series of CBIT Gender GHG/MRV Trainings;
- The signing of a Project Cooperative Framework Agreements amongst NDC sectorial line Ministries and Agencies to ensure data exchange void of duplications;
- Trainings for National sector experts on the usage of the IPCC Guidelines and Methodologies;
- Liberia participated in a South-South Exchange visit to Uganda to understand and share learning experiences with the Uganda CBIT Project
- Training for 67 National Experts on understanding GHG calculations the Energy, Waste, AFOLU, IPPU and MRV sectors;
- The development of the GHG Inventory Training Manual;
- The launch and the development of the CBIT GHG/MRV System;



**Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



## ICAT Liberia Project:

- ❑ **Scope:** NDC Tracking and Policy Impact Assessment
- ❑ **Duration:** 2020-2022 October
- ❑ **Implemented by:** the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia
- ❑ **Supported by:** Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

### ❑ **Objective**

-The project will focus on building capacities of technical experts in the Environmental Protection Agency, relevant sector ministries and other stakeholders to be able to assess the impact of mitigation policies, measures, actions and plans and track and monitor progress in NDC implementation.



## **Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



### **Specific Objectives:**

This project will focus on 3 priority sectors: **energy, transport and waste** with the specific objectives to:

- Contribute towards ongoing efforts to build a national transparency framework that meets international standards and is tailored to domestic needs
- Strengthen the EPA's and relevant stakeholders' capacities to apply methodologies and tools to assess GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies, measures, actions and plans included in the NDC
- Contribute towards ongoing efforts to improve the availability and quality of data required for measuring GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies and measures included in the NDC
- Support the formulation of NDC targets and actions in a manner that allows consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress (in collaboration with relevant existing initiatives that support the NDC update in the framework of the NDC roadmap)



**Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



### **Core Deliverables:**

- Capacity building for climate modelling(LEAP and GACMO Models) and ICAT sustainable development methodologies;
- Impact Assessment conducted on National Climate mitigation policies( Energy, Waste and Transport)
- NDC Target Trackability( Development of NDC Tracking Indicator Tools for the Energy, Waste and Transport sectors)



## **Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)

Government of Canada support through Environment Climate Change Canada(2022-2026):

**Amount:** \$20 Million CAD

**Beneficiary Countries:** Liberia, Ghana The Gambia and Togo

### **Objective:**

- Support to establishing more efficient and effective climate MRV systems, climate governance and institutionalize national Measuring Reporting Verification (MRV) in Liberia.
- Build the capacity of their national climate measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems
- Mobilizes investments and accelerates priority mitigation actions to achieve Liberia's NDC





**Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



In January 2023 the Evergreen Roadmap for Climate MRV through the Government of Canada Bilateral support to Liberia was signed and approved which seeks to institutionalize national Measuring Reporting Verification (MRV) through three(3) pilot interventions:

- Development of a National MRV curriculum for training at universities,
- Establishment of an inter-ministerial climate committee for Climate MRV
- The Expansion of the MRV Community of Practices at both national and subnational levels.



**Cont'd:** Concrete Actions to strengthen institutional arrangements for Transparency in Liberia( CBIT and ICAT Liberia Project Government of Canada support)



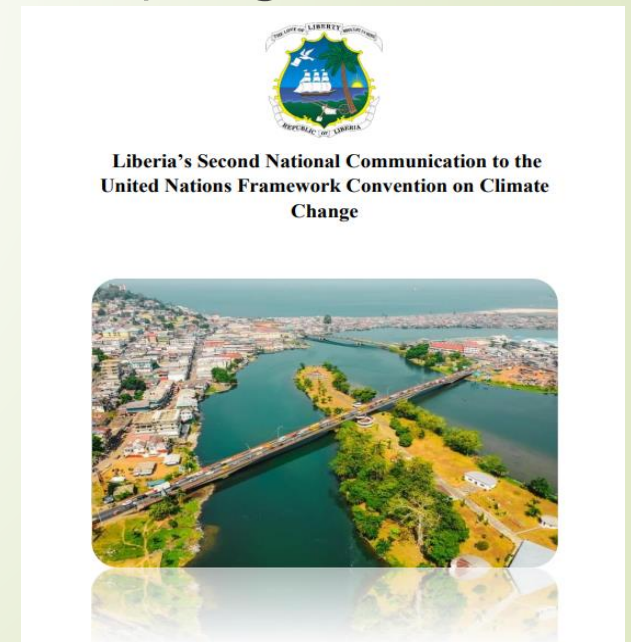
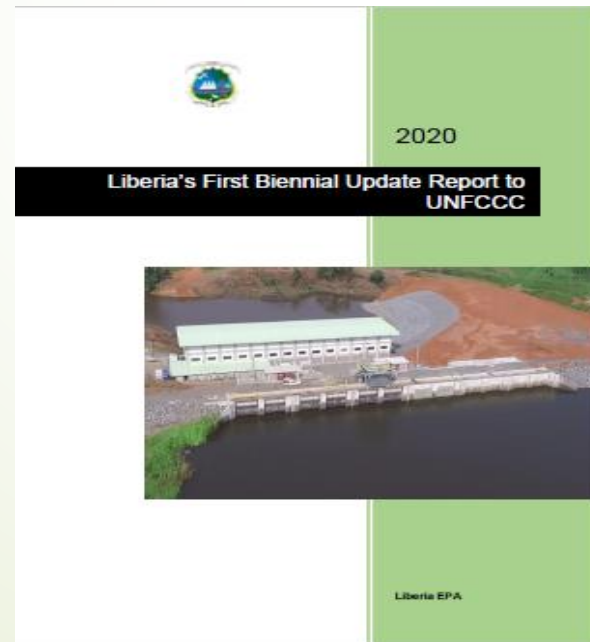
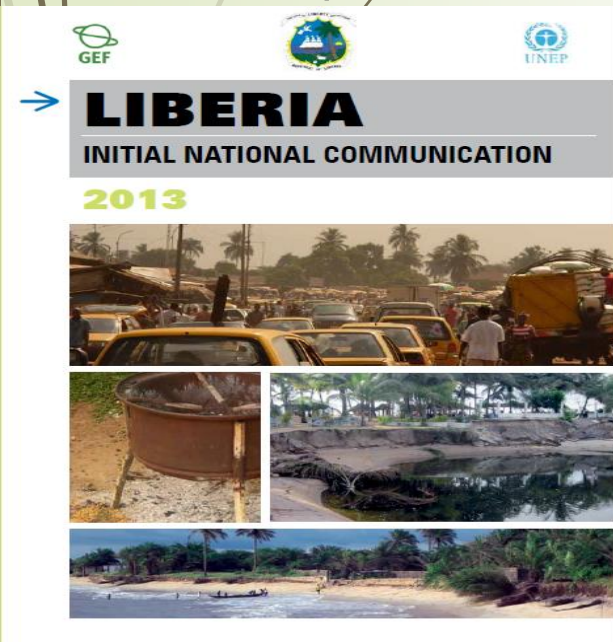
## **Additional steps to strengthen institutional arrangements for Climate Transparency includes:**

- The development and full operationalization of the Environmental Knowledge Management System. It was created to strengthen institutional coordination between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Partner governmental institutions as well as non-governmental organizations that have direct linkages with environmental policies and development. It was also created to increase access and dissemination of key information and promote adequate public awareness and education.;
- 'Climate Change Knowledge Sharing Platform' (CCKSP)** that facilitates easy access to relevant climate information, data, events, and training courses



# Key National Reports Completed

- ❑ Liberia's Initial National Communications(2013)
- ❑ Liberia's 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Update Report(2020)
- ❑ Liberia's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Communications( 2021)
- ❑ Preparation for 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication and BTR in progress





## Cont'd **National Reports Completed**

- National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy(2018)
- Forest Reference Emissions Level(FREL)- 2019
- State of the Environment Report I & II( 2006 and 2021)
- National Environmental Action Plan
- INDC(2015)
- Nationally Determined Contributions-NDC Updated(2021)
- National Adaptation Plan -NAP(2020-2030)



# Best Practices and Lessons Learned



- ❑ Undertake more detailed and structured gaps and needs analysis to guide capacity building actions that better inform the UNFCCC process, capacity building initiatives and potential funders;
- ❑ Strengthening Cooperative Framework Agreements(CFAs) amongst NDC sectors to enhance transparency as well as develop additional CFAs for new NDC sectors in the updated NDC;
- ❑ Institutionalize the reporting process, building on existing resources and structures to reduce costs and time to ensure more sustainable systems and seeking high-level political buy-in to foster better engagement and coordination across stakeholders, facilitate primary data collection and development and build a solid transparency system;
- ❑ Increase technical capacity to support and implement governance systems through International and country-led training, extending capacity building programs to other national and local stakeholders to expand domestic capacities;
- ❑ Mainstream CBIT best practices into all programs;
- ❑ Encourage all the institutions involved to ensure continuity of the processes through further raising of funds and engraining the concept of mentoring and coaching in the policy of the institutions.
- ❑ Maintain NDC sector hubs and establish additional sector hubs for other NDC sectors included in the updated NDC



# Recommendations



To increase capacities and improve reporting in Liberia as well as other countries it is recommended to include providing direct support to build in-country capacity. This would change reporting dynamics and help Liberia shift from a fly-in, fly-out consultant model to a nationally-owned institutionalized process. Hence, the following recommendations are advanced:

- ❑ Ensure the development, strengthening and full operationalization of an effective GHG/MRV system to track NDC sector targets overtime;
- ❑ Develop methodological guidelines for reporting on gaps and needs in line with the ETF;
- ❑ Develop NDC Tracking tools for all NDC sectors reflected in updated NDCs;
- ❑ Ensure Liberia gets the long-term financial and technical resources needed to improve the frequency and quality of GHG inventory reports, and
- ❑ Simplify procedures, reduce bureaucracy and streamline the approval process so Liberia can receive timely funds to fulfill transparency requirements.



## Conclusion



**Transparency** is the backbone of the Paris Agreement. It builds confidence in the entire process – trust that your neighbor is also working hard. The new Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) agreed at Katowice (COP 24) builds on and enhances existing Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) arrangements.



**Arthur R.M. Becker**

Project Officer

Department of Multilateral Environmental  
Agreements (MEAs)

**Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia**

National Focal Point- Partnership for Transparency in  
the Paris Agreement (PATPA)

Email: [armbecker@gmail.com](mailto:armbecker@gmail.com)

**Mobile:** +231777556238 (Calls/Whatsapp)

+231886556238