

REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR WESTERN AFRICA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY



**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
29 September to 3 October, 2008**

**STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
LIBERIA BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY
AND
ACTION PLANS**

**Presented
BY:**

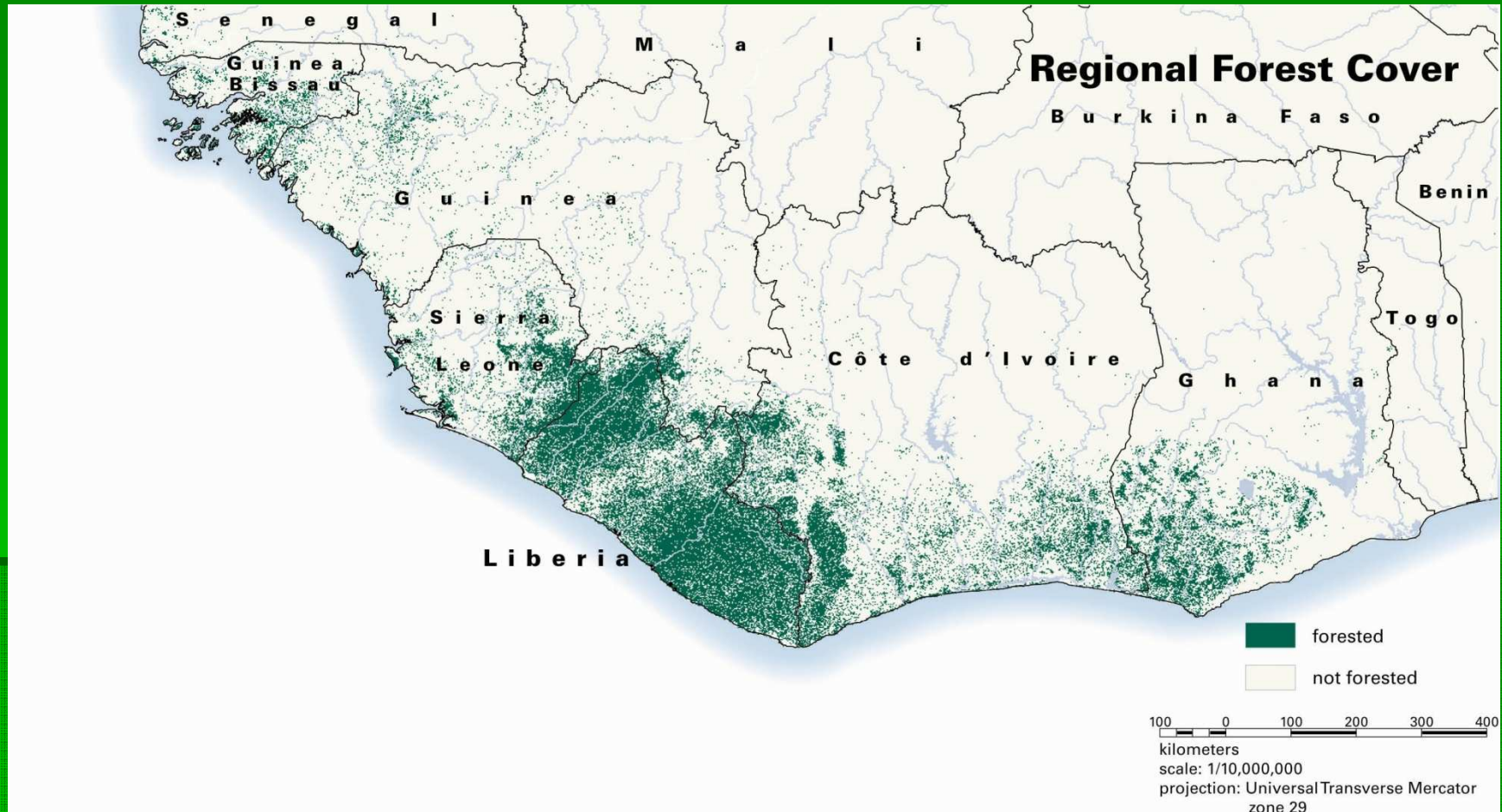
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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LIBERIA

- **Location:** West Coast of Africa, falls within latitudes 4°10' – 9°45' North of the Equator and Longitude 7°20' -11°30' West of the Greenwich Meridian.
- **Population:** 3.5 (2008)
- **Growth Rate:** 2.4%(2004)
- **Temperature:** range from 27°C to 32°C during day and from 21°C to 24°C at night.
- **Total land area:** 9.5 million ha
- **Total Forest areas:** 4.3 million ha

Liberian Context: Regional Forest Cover



Liberia's Biodiversity

- Species Diversity
- 2,000 flowering plants
- 240 timber species
- 125 mammals
- 590 birds
- 74 reptiles and amphibians



Endemic species:

- Pygmy hippopotamus
- Jentink's and Zebra duikers
- Liberian Mongoose
- White-breasted Guinea fowl

Endangered species:

- Western Chimpanzee
- Western Red Colobus
- Diana Monkey
- Black-and-white, Olive Colobus
- Forest Elephants

SOME MAJOR THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- Shifting cultivation
- Charcoal and firewood production
- Unregulated logging
- Invasive alien species
- Commercial hunting
- Mining



DESCRIPTION OF LIBERIA BSAP



PART I: BIODIVERSITY STUDY

■ Introduction

- Provides overview on the UNCBD. Liberia signed the UNCBD on 12 June 1992 and ratified it on 8 November 2000
- Outlines the institutional arrangements for preparation of the NBSAP
- Provides methodology for the development of the NBSAP

■ National context

- Physical features
- Culture , economy, and history
- Status of biodiversity

DESCRIPTION OF LIBERIA BSAP

PART II: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

- **Vision statement**

- promotes equitable benefit sharing , conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity

- **Guiding principles**

- relate to sustainable use, access and equitable benefit sharing, ecosystem approach , gender balance , public participation, and conduct of EIA in biodiversity conservation

DESCRIPTION OF LIBERIA BSAP cont'd

- Overall Goal

- To sustainably use biodiversity on long-term basis in order to meet the requirements of the present generations without endangering the potential of future generations to meet their needs

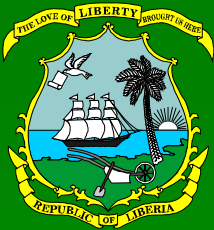
DESCRIPTION OF LIBERIA BSAP cont'd

■ Specific Goals

- To take appropriate measures to protect critical ecosystems against harmful effects or destructive practices for conservation of biodiversity
- To create biodiversity conservation awareness amongst sectors of the society and promote international cooperation
- To commit the people to the sound and sustainable use of biological diversity to bring about socio-economic development
- To promote rational utilization and conservation of biodiversity
- To promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable of benefits arising from their utilization
- To contribute to the fulfilment of the MDGs through poverty alleviation, food security, and women empowerment in biodiversity conservation by 2015

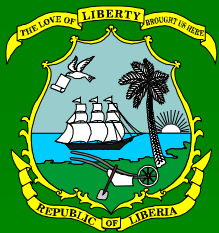
DESCRIPTION OF LIBERIA BSAP cont'd

- Objectives (for each specific goal)
- Strategies and actions(*based on each specific goal*)
 - *expected results*
 - *indicators*
 - *implementers*
 - *cost*
 - *timeframe(2004-2008; 2009-2015)*



PREPARATORY PROCESS/ STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

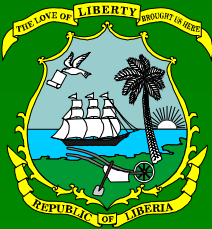
- Supervised by a 25 member steering committee along with a planning team comprising 10 members from public and private sectors
- Stocktaking and inventory of biodiversity information



PREPARATORY PROCESS/ STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT CONT'D



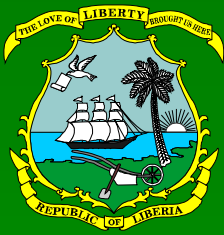
- First national stakeholders consultation workshop held at the beginning of the preparatory process to get stakeholders' inputs into planning for conservation and management of biodiversity—
- Three provincial stakeholders consultation workshops held in the major regions of the country to have inputs of local communities into preparation of the NBSAP



PREPARATORY PROCESS/ STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT CONT'D



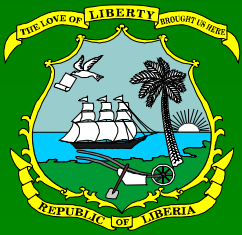
- Inputs from the consultative workshops were used in drafting the NBSAP
- One day discussion forum involving members of steering committee and planning team to review the draft NBSAP
- A second national stakeholders consultative workshop held to review the draft NBSAP
- Submission of the NBSAP to the Government for adoption



Examples of Achievements in Implementation



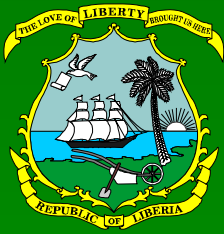
- Construction of storage facilities for the conservation of local crops
- Providing local crop genetic materials for use by local communities
- Gathering socio-economic data on a proposed protected area
- Training EIA technicians and decision-makers.



Examples of Achievements in Implementation cont'd



- Training in risk assessment and management in modern biotechnology
- Establishment of a unit for the implementation of environmental related conventions
- Reactivation of the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI)
- Supporting the timber certification scheme for sustainable forest management
- Establishment of two protected areas with combined areas of 193,500 ha. Eight additional protected areas have been proposed.
- Enactment of the New Forestry Law



Mainstreaming the NBSAP into national strategies and planning processes



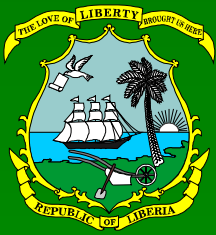
- Used as the basis for environmental strategies in the Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Forms part of agriculture sectoral policy

Major Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation

- Poverty
- Weak law enforcement
- Mining
- Lack of land use planning
- Unsustainable harvesting of biological resources
- Inadequate human capacities in relevant technical areas
- Inadequate financial resources to implement needed projects/programs
- General lack of awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation
- Weak coordination among relevant institutions

The Way Forward

- Provision of alternative sources of livelihood in the rural areas
- Conduct sustained public awareness on biodiversity conservation
- Strengthen capacity at all levels
- Promotion of better coordination amongst relevant institutions
- Ensure compliance to laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation
- Promotion of cooperation on conservation of shared resources
- Stronger political will to support and promote biodiversity conservation



I thank you for
your kind
attention!