



# LIBERIA - Forestry and Biodiversity

#GLOBALGATEWAY

#TEAMEUROPE

## TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL



### Interventions on sustainable use of forest resources, enhancing and promotion of:

- Logging sector performance (enabling mechanisms for private sector, strengthening law enforcement Government capacity) Forum
- Sector value chain development (timber transformation, value addition and improved efficiency, market promotion)
- Sustainable tree plantations to meet local and regional needs

### Interventions on conservation of biodiversity, landscapes, and its functionality:

- Strengthening support to conservation (rehabilitation of degraded forests, accountability for economic values of ecosystem services and improving livelihoods)
- Support the development of the eco-tourism sector, enable livelihood diversification for forest dwelling communities
- Fight illegal wildlife trafficking, decrease bushmeat consumption; alternative sources of protein research

### Cross cutting interventions:

- Green development mechanisms (sustainable forest resources use and protected areas management, CSOs)
- Foster forest research - twinning (JRC), critical knowledge gaps (forest management, timber harvesting, landscape restoration, high valued forest plantations)
- Enhance bio-diversity related research specific to the Upper Guinean ecology
- Develop forestry and conservation skills (twinning, TVET), raise awareness on climate change and strengthen resilience
- Gender inclusion: girls and women's education

## MODALITIES/TOOLS

Indirect management (UN entity)

### Direct management:

- Grants (call for proposals)
- Twinning grants
- Procurement (technical assistance)

## KEY DELIVERABLES

### FLEGT/VPA:

Implementation of the national legality assurance system that will be subject to an 'Independent Technical Evaluation' to guarantee that all timber and derived products specified in the VPA are produced legally and meet all transparency requirements (thus allowing exports to the EU).

### TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

Contributing to the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in Liberia, to the benefit of its citizens and future generations, through sustained job creation and income generation.

\*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress

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## NATIONAL CONTEXT

### Vast natural resources and conducive conditions for sustainable exploitation:

- Remarkable tracts of very specific type of rainforest
- Low population density
- Low labour costs
- Low opportunity cost for investments

More than 40% of the forest from the West African blocks (Upper Guinean Rain Forests).

The area of forest in Liberia is around 4.4 million ha

Endangered species (pigmy hippopotamus, western chimpanzee, forest elephants)

Successful conservation programme for fighting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Liberia

### Forest sector:

- 10% of Liberian GDP
- Employees: ≈10,000 formally & ≈20,000 informally
- Formal and Informal timber products market
- ≈2% per year deforestation rate, amongst the highest in the world
- Receding due to village needs in charcoal and clearing for agriculture production
- Logging is on the rise and big concessions expand
- Potential for job creation and economic growth (up to 12% of the GDP)

### National policies:

- Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)
- Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)

## GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGs

EU Green Deal

Paris agreement  
EU strategic approach to wildlife conservation in Africa

Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa

Communication on a new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and jobs: Taking our partnership for investment and jobs to the next level

Regional Programme for Western Africa following the NaturAfrica initiative