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# **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## **1.1 Beneficiary country**

Republic of Sierra Leone

## **1.2 Contracting Authority**

The National Authorising Officer (NAO)

## **1.3 Relevant country background**

Sierra Leone (SL) is a country endowed with a variety of natural resources. Sierra Leone lies within the Upper Guinean Lowland Forest Ecosystem with an abundant richness in ecosystems and species biodiversity (lowland rainforests, montane forests, savanna woodlands, agricultural, freshwater and wetlands). There are 48 forest reserves and conservation areas, representing about 4% of the land area (c. 180,250 ha). The total area of government wildlife reserves is estimated at 173,000 ha. There are over 2000 species of plants including 74 endemic species identified in SL. 15 species of primate, 18 species of antelopes and duikers, 9 bat species and over 500 bird species have been recorded in SL. About 4,837.8 km<sup>2</sup> of SL is covered by wetlands with vegetation that is typically of freshwater swamp forests, riparian and mangroves. Sierra Leone is also a country blessed with abundant mineral resources which include diamonds, chromite, rutile (among the largest reserves in the World), iron ore, titanium ores, bauxite, columbite, pyrochlore, gold, platinum, and monazite. The country's economy derives its strength mainly from the exploitation of these natural resources. Export earnings from the mining activities has over the years accounted for about 60% of the gross domestic product and the fisheries industry usually accounts for some 11% of the GDP. The long-term economic and social development of Sierra Leone therefore requires the effective management and use of the country's natural resources. On the other side of the coin, the country is one of the poorest in the world with a number of social and economic indicators below average level. Despite this, Sierra Leone remain focused on and committed to the fight against poverty and to the re-building of social capital, as articulated in its Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP).

Water Management is a critical environmental issue in the country. In most regions in Sierra Leone and in particular in the Freetown area water is relatively scarce (i.e. there is an acute water shortage). Both in urban and rural areas conflicts of interest between different uses (agriculture, livestock, domestic, industry) are increasingly common. Supplying water to urban and rural areas and thus water management in general, will be one of the key challenges in the near and long term. Where water supply is adequate in quantitative terms, the quality of the water is in serious decline - although the level of industrialisation in Sierra Leone is relatively low, untreated industrial wastes cause significant levels of localised water pollution. Groundwater potential varies from one locality to another as does its development. There is no systematic monitoring of this resource in the whole country.

Land Degradation is already a serious environmental problem in Sierra Leone. Ranked in order of priority, logging, firewood collection and mining have been identified as direct causes of Land degradation in Sierra Leone. The problem is aggravated by natural hazards such as floods and droughts. Bio-energy is the main source of fuel for 80 -90% of the country's population (both rural and urban) and accounts for over 75% of the energy consumption in the country. The long-term prospects for sustained supply of firewood and charcoal as a source of energy are threatened by the visible and worsening problems of deforestation and desertification in many parts of the country.

The Coast and Marine Environments are also under threat. Signs of environmental degradation as well as decline in natural biodiversity are becoming obvious in several parts of Sierra Leone's coast and marine environments. This is attributed to the combination of poverty, rapid population growth, as well as increasing land-based activities and sources of pollution such as industrial, commercial (along the Lumley beach for example) and agricultural activities.

Mainly as a result of the war, rural/urban migration has increased considerably and Sierra Leone's urban centres (and mainly is capital Freetown) are developing at an unprecedented rate, with corresponding increasing levels of urban dwellings, small-scale business/industrial activities and resulting pollution. In Freetown, there are a significant number of major unplanned settlements accommodating a huge portion of the city's population (approx 2-3million people). There is considerable, urban degeneration due to poor housing facilities, poor coverage of water and sanitation as well as waste management for the poor.

Most urban areas do not have sewerage systems and therefore pollution from sewage is a problem as there is inadequate collection and treatment. 90% of Freetown's residents are served by on-site sanitation with severe problems of overflowing particularly during the rainy seasons. Only small percentages of the generated solid waste is collected and disposed of resulting into heaps of uncollected waste in open spaces, streets, road side drains, etc. This represents significant health hazards as well as a source of surface and groundwater pollution. New sanitary landfill facilities need to be established with a proper EIA done and more sustainable long-term solutions should be sought after (e.g. recycling, etc).

Mining is the most significant and the fastest growing sector in the Sierra Leone economy. Its contribution to GDP is currently over US\$150m per year. While large scale multi-national mining is on the increase and relatively well managed but in the end also require increased monitoring both internally and from Government side, significant environmental (as well as health and safety and human rights) impacts are resulting from small-scale miners entering the sector. Closer cooperation between relevant Agencies and harmonization of legislation are crucial in this respect. The EC is currently providing some support to this sector (mainly support to Sierra Rutile Ltd) which includes some environmental aspects.

Road Transportation is essential to Sierra Leone's economic growth however, there was little EIA or SEA work conducted on major road developments. Considering the capacity building which will take place through SLEPA on these environmental instruments it is expected that transport networks will be better planned from an environmental perspective.

Although Sierra Leone has ratified and commenced coordination and implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements, more efforts are needed in this respect to keep pace with international cooperation and development. Particular areas of concern remain in identifying ways in which Sierra Leone can promote its obligations to Climate Change, Land Degradation and Biodiversity Conventions.

#### **1.4. Current state of affairs in the relevant sector**

With the growing environmental awareness globally and the pursuit of economic development in Sierra Leone without due consideration for the environment, government felt there was a need to have an institution that would be responsible for the protection and management of the environment. Therefore in 1986 this responsibility was given to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning. The Environmental Protection Section was then created within the Division of Housing and Country Planning and later transformed to the Environment Protection Department by an Act of Parliament in 2000. There are sectoral policies and legislation put in place addressing environmental and natural resources management matters in the country. They include the national environmental policy of 1994, the new forestry policy of 2003, the 1988 Forestry Act and its regulations of 1990, Wildlife Conservation Act of 1972, the Mines and Minerals Act of 1994, Fisheries Management and Development Act of 1994, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Act of 2002, National Land Policy and Land Commission Act of 2004, Bumbuna Watershed Management Authority and the Bumbuna Conservation Area Act of 2008.

In a bid to achieve sound environmental management and reduce the rate of deforestation and biodiversity loss, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) realized the need to hive off the Divisions of Environment and Forestry from their former ministries and established the National Commission on the Environment and Forestry (NaCEF) in August, 2005.

Desirous to have environmental protection and management on a firm footing, the new GoSL under President KOROMA established the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency (SLEPA) with autonomous authority through the Environment Protection Agency Act (EPA, 2008) which was enacted in July, 2008. The EPA Act 2008 makes further provisions for NaCEF being dissolved. The National Environment Board was also established comprising representatives drawn from relevant ministries not

below the rank of Director and the private sector to provide general policy guidance and supervise SLEPA. The Agency is managed by an acting Executive Director and comprised of six Departments, of which four are technical in nature, and the other two are administrative and finance. SLEPA with a cross-cutting mandate on mainstreaming environment has the responsibility of coordination and monitoring of the implementation of national environmental policies, programmes and projects, issuance of environmental permits, notices formulation of environmental standards and regulations, environmental education and awareness raising and the carrying out of environmental research. The Agency also ensures compliance with any laid down Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and guidelines in the planning and execution of development projects, including compliance in respect of existing projects. The Agency also acts as the focal point on all national and international issues relating to the environment.

SLEPA has been established with resources provided by GoSL. The Agency is currently under-staffed and under-represented in the provinces and districts, under-resourced and lack of transport logistics (vehicles etc) for its staff to carry out its coordinating and monitoring role throughout the country and meet its other responsibilities in terms of conducting research and investigations into national environmental issues and problems and pursue environmental education and awareness raising programmes to have a well informed public on the state of the environment in Sierra Leone. Nonetheless, a National Environment Fund will soon be established for funds provided by Government and donations, grants and bequests. The objective of this fund is to support environmental research, analysis and public education programmes.

At present there is no natural resource and land use plan and proper regulations for the sustainable utilization of the country resources. Line Ministries have conflicting mandates and overlaps with regard to environmental management and the existing national policies and legislation governing the exploitation of the country's natural resources are fragmented and required harmonization. Regulatory frameworks, environmental standards, regulations, guidelines and byelaws are underdeveloped, or where they do exist, are not adequately enforced.

There is inadequate attention paid to the environmental consequences associated with the key natural resource-based revenue sources such as mining, logging and fisheries. There are also inadequate monitoring and implementation capacities across the government entities whose mandates have an environmental component.

#### **1.5. Related programmes and other donor activities:**

The SLEPA project will be complementary to the EU funded Gola Forest project (EUR 3.0 million), which was officially launched by H.E. President Koroma in 12/2007. The specific objective of the project is to secure the Gola Forest Reserves for biodiversity conservation and community development as a new model of sustainable natural resource management in Sierra Leone. The envisaged transformation of the Gola Forest Reserve into a National Park will also depend on the institutional support of SLEPA. Further synergies are expected with the EC funded "Conservation of the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve (WAPFR) and its Watersheds" project as well as with the "Across the River – A Trans-boundary Peace Park for Sierra Leone and Liberia" project (together EUR 5.0 million). Both actions start their implementation in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009, and are very high on the political agenda of President Koroma. They entail innovative approaches on sustainable financing, by looking into possibilities for investments in global carbon trading markets.

Apart from EU funded actions in the field of environment, the SLEPA project is expected to have a number of synergies with the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Agriculture-For-Development (A4D) programme (EUR 16.0 million). The objective of the programme is to facilitate pro-poor economic growth, job creation and sustainable development in rural areas through agricultural development. Funds will be allocated to invest in selected commodities and agro-forestry products with cash-crop potential, such as cocoa, coffee, ginger, etc., which all largely depend on the sustainable management of natural resources. Another component of the A4D Programme will be on supporting the decentralization process in the agriculture sector. The specific objective is to support the development of rural strategies and local capacities, aimed at establishing a framework for participatory decentralized planning, resource allocation and management of agricultural development. As such, the A4D programme will build upon and sustain the gains made under the 8<sup>th</sup> EDF funded STABEX programme.

Without going into further details, there are also complementarities to be realized with EU funded projects in the field of Food Security, Fisheries, Water & Sanitation, Infrastructure, Good Governance and Institutional Support.

Among other donors operating in the environmental sector is USAID with its Promotion of Agriculture, Governance & Environment (PAGE) project. Finally, the World Bank is currently in the process of appraising a GEF financed Biodiversity Conservation Project (BCP), which sometimes also runs under its old name Sierra Leone Protected Area Management Project (PAMP)-(GEF PPG TF056209).

## **2. OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE & EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **2.1 Overall objective**

- The overall objective of the project of which this contract will be a part is as follows: To promote good environmental governance and improve sustainable development and management of natural resources in Sierra Leone.

### **2.2. Purpose**

The purpose of this contract is as follows:

- To strengthen the institutional/organizational setup and build the capacity of the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency (SLEPA) to effectively deliver its mandate.

### **2.3. Results to be achieved by the Consultant**

- Harmonised and conducive policy and legislative framework to manage environment and natural resources.
- Improved technical capacity and managerial skills within SLEPA.
- Established network and collaboration on mainstreaming environment with relevant institutions.
- Improved environmental education and awareness throughout the country.

## **3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS**

### **3.1. Assumptions underlying the project intervention**

- Peace and stability remain and will prevail throughout the country.
- GoSL remains committed to sustainable development principles & sound policies for environmental management.
- GoSL remains committed to good governance principles.
- GoSL remains committed to environment matters.
- Other relevant sector ministries are committed to mainstreaming environment.
- GoSL remains committed to environment matters.
- GoSL allows civil society to participate in policy-making process & governance issues.
- GoSL and line ministries committed to reforms.

- Assurance of public and vulnerable community's involvement in development projects as a conditionality.

### 3.2 Risks

The success of the project will largely depend on the commitment of the GoSL to proceed with the institutional reform process and its continued commitment for environmental matters.

An internal risk lies in the degree of personal commitment of management and technical staff within SLEPA and more importantly the commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone as an oversight authority to support the institutional reform in the environmental sector. The lower this degree of commitment, the lower the chances of achieving the results of the project

## 4. SCOPE OF THE WORK

### 4.1. General

#### 4.1.1. Project description

The project idea is the outcome of a number of discussions and meetings between the former National Commission for Environment and Forestry (NaCEF) and the EC Delegation in Sierra Leone. Based on this, the Delegation commissioned a Review of the Country Environmental Profile, which also served as a valuable input for the Joint Country Strategy Paper with DFID, while providing information for the identification and formulation of the NaCEF project. With the establishment of SLEPA under the new GoSL through the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Act 2008, effectively replacing NaCEF, the mandate for environmental matters got reinstated from a central level level – NaCEF was based directly under the Office of the President – back to the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment (MLCPE). The transition process from NaCEF to SLEPA further underlines the need for mainstreaming environment in Sierra Leone, while ensuring that governance concerns are adequately addressed in an inclusive, consultative and participatory process. While assisting the GoSL in putting more emphasis on environmental matters, the suggested project is a pilot action that prepares for future investments under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, under which the EC envisages to further extend its support to environmental governance in Sierra Leone.

The project envisages addressing the urgent need for the environmental integration and mainstreaming of environment in the public and private sector towards sustainable economic development in Sierra Leone. It will support SLEPA to evolve the necessary capacity in its ambition to review existing sector policies and come up with a harmonized national environment and natural resources management policy and legislative framework. There are currently serious overlaps in legislation from one institution to the other, most of which have negative consequences on both environment and forestry. The harmonization will lay the foundation for integrating environmental concerns in various line ministries and strengthen the capacity and skills of SLEPA to effectively deliver its mandates. It will be of particular importance to link SLEPA to non-state actors and civil society, which both play an important role in translating environmental commitments into action on the ground. Based on a well-established network with all relevant stakeholders within the environmental sector, the project will strengthen SLEPA's capacity to ensure the mainstreaming of environment, giving particular importance to environmental management instruments (e.g. EIA, SEA) and their enforcement. Efforts will also go into increasing SLEPA's capacity in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation. Further actions will be targeted towards the awareness creation for environmental matters and environmental education throughout the country. The proposed project will eventually lay the foundation for better addressing environment as a cross-cutting issue within the EC's actions in Sierra Leone. It will further enable the GoSL to adequately integrate Multilateral Environmental Agreements, to which SL is a signatory party, and translate them into national policies and strategies.

The general layout of the project as described above can be subject to revisions during the inception phase of the project.

The total EU contribution is EUR 1.0 million, while the level of national funding for SLEPA currently covers not much more than the salary payments. The period of execution shall comprise two phases: the operational implementation phase and the closure phase. The operational implementation phase shall end by 31/12/2011. The period of execution of the Financing agreement shall end on 31/12/2013.

#### 4.1.2. Geographical area to be covered

The project activities will be carried out countrywide. However, there will be a strong focus to start at the national level.

#### 4.1.3. Target groups

The project target groups are primarily the staff of SLEPA as well as of relevant ministries and other public entities. Furthermore, the project will work with non-state actors, such as NGOs and the private sector countrywide.

### 4.2. Specific activities

In accordance with Annex 5 of the Rider to the Financing Agreement of the SLEPA project, the following specific activities have to be undertaken by the Consultant in close cooperation with the other stakeholders of the project, namely SLEPA itself.

	2010				2011				Closure
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Result 1: Harmonised and conducive policy and legislative framework to manage environment and natural resources</b>									
Analyse the current mandate of SLEPA and assist in its evolvement to address present and future challenges	■								
Review existing policies and legislation in the environment and natural resources management sectors (including the SLEPA Act 2008) jointly with relevant sector institutions and stakeholders (i.e. NGOs, CSOs) for a review of the legislative framework for all organisations whose activities have an impact on environment and natural resources	■								
Initiate a consultation process with all relevant stakeholders to increase awareness for a national framework on natural resources management		■							
Assist SLEPA and relevant sector institutions in the development and enactment of revised and harmonized policies and legal frameworks in the natural resources and environmental sector		■		■		■		■	
Assist in a consultative validation process and in particular in the organization of regional/national validation workshops							■	■	
Support SLEPA in the development of final draft legislation covering the issues for consideration by the Law Reform Commission						■	■		
Provide advise and support to SLEPA towards the entire enactment process of new policies and legislations addressing Environment and Natural Resources Management					■		■		
<b>Result 2: Improved technical capacity and managerial skills within SLEPA</b>									
Analyse the organisational setup of SLEPA	■								

Conduct a technical and managerial needs assessment within SLEPA	■								
Provide adequate advise and support towards the organizational development and management of SLEPA	■	■		■			■		
Jointly establish and assist in the implementation of a comprehensive remedy plan, addressing the immediate and mid-term capacity development needs within SLEPA and closely associated partner institutions		■	■						
Assist in the development of a plan and provide support for addressing the improvement of management skills within SLEPA and relevant partner institutions			■						
Provide adequate technical equipment (e.g. vehicles, IT tools and technical instruments) and other supplies for the operation of SLEPA	■	■			■				
Provide advise and technical support towards the development of adequate capacity building and management plans in support of SLEPA staff and other relevant partner institutions			■	■					
Facilitate and conduct individual technical and managerial training of identified key persons within SLEPA and other institutions		■		■		■		■	
Identify potential impacts on environment, forestry and natural resources management and how such impacts are remedied (according to thematic areas)				■			■		
Carry out a rapid assessment in order to prepare an up to date State of the Environment report, NEAP		■	■						
<b>Result 3: Established network and collaboration on mainstreaming environment with relevant institutions</b>									
Assess and analyse relevant governmental and non-governmental actors in the wider field of environment	■								
Contribute to the organization of regular regional/national stakeholder workshops	■	■		■		■		■	
Assist in the formalization of appropriate communication mechanisms and for the regular and systematic exchange of environmental relevant information				■	■				
Develop appropriate strategies for environmental mainstreaming as well as well-adapted financial mechanisms for its economic and social sustainability					■	■			
Provide (on-the-job) training on key environmental management instruments (e.g. EIA, SEA) to public and private entities			■	■					
Organize relevant workshops for central and local authorities on environmental matters relevant to their respective areas			■		■		■		
Assess needs and identify existing structures of public education and awareness programmes, information needs of relevant agencies and persons in the environment sector			■		■		■		
Assess existing national information network and other information channels		■		■		■		■	
Develop information products and services to meet needs, circulate relevant information and ensure maintenance of the information network					■	■	■		
<b>Result 4: Improved environmental education and awareness throughout the country</b>									
Make an inventory of material on environmental education available in the country		■							
Analyse the utilization of education material and the impact on the target groups, particularly in primary and secondary education facilities		■	■						
Jointly develop mechanisms for promoting environmental issues, particularly on sustainable management of natural resources			■	■					