



Notice of Public Disclosure for the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy (RREA), through the Government of Liberia, have received funding from the World Bank to implement the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP).

The Project responds to the Government of Liberia's medium-term development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023, and World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Liberia for FY19-FY24. Both the CPF and PAPD identify the expansion of electricity services and its affordability for businesses, households and public institutions as a necessary intervention to address constraints to economic growth, human capital development and poverty reduction, made all the more pertinent in light of Covid-19.

The project will be jointly implemented by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) in four (4) Counties in Liberia, namely: Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase access to electricity in Liberia and improve the operational efficiency of LEC. This PDO will be achieved through the following three (3) project components:

1. Rehabilitation and Expansion of Electricity Infrastructure and Systems and Access Expansion
2. Electrification of health facilities and households in off-grid rural areas.
3. Technical Assistance for institutional reform, capacity building of sector institutions, and implementation support to LEC

The proposed project follows the environmental and social requirements contained in the laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment and affected communities in Liberia and under the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, Policies and Guidelines

Seven (7) Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) are relevant for the LESSAP. These include:

- i. Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1): Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risk and Impacts
- ii. Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS2): Labor and Working Conditions
- iii. Environmental and Social Standard 3(ESS3): Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
- iv. Environmental and Social Standard 4 (ESS4): Community Health and Safety
- v. Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5): Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement
- vi. Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8): Cultural Heritage
- vii. Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10): Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

In line with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), the Government of Liberia is pleased to announce the completion of the following required safeguard instruments and disclosure to the public:

- 1) *Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)*
- 2) *Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)*
- 3) *Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)*
- 4) *Labor Management Procedures (LMP)*
- 5) *Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)*

The ESMF for LESSAP provides clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social assessment, review, approval and implementation of interventions; it will assist the project implementers to identify potential environment and social impacts and mitigation actions to be taken for expected project activities. The RPF provides the framework within which the LESSAP project will be implemented especially in cases of involuntary land acquisition and/or compensation under the project activities. The SEP provides an opportunity for consultations and a mechanism for which complaints and grievances associated with the project activities will be managed or resolved. The LMP identify the main labor requirements and risks associated with the project and help the Borrower to determine the resources necessary to address the project labor issues. The ESCP is a commitment plan that guides the implementers on the material measures and actions required to meet the ESSs over a specified timeframe during project preparation and implementation. The purpose of the safeguard instruments is to inform the EPA, the World Bank and Interested and Affected Parties of beneficial environmental and socioeconomic impacts together with the potential adverse impacts and risks of the proposed Project, its alternatives, and the mitigation measures that will avoid or reduce any significant adverse impacts.

The five safeguard instruments which include the ESMF, RPF, SEP, LMP and ESCP are now being disclosed to the Public and can be found at the following offices:

The Liberia Electricity Corporation, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Mines & Energy, and the World Bank Office. Copies of the document can also be accessed from the LEC's website address indicated as: www.lecliberia.com and RREA's website address indicated as: www.rrealiberia.org and had been disclosed at the World Bank's website. The instruments will also be published in major local dailies.

All interested or affected persons having views, comments or concerns regarding the reports or the proposed project are encouraged to contact the Applicants as follows:

1. LEC

Mr. Matthew F. Konai
Head/Environmental and Social Management Unit
Email: mkonai@lecliberia.com/kentecol@gmail.com
Contact Number: +231-777-091-960, +231-880-326-485

2. RREA

Mr. David L. Wiles
The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist of the RREA
Email: davidw@rrealiberia.org
Contact Number: +231886527484/ +231775894039

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