



# Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 30-Jun-2021 | Report No: PIDA28789

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Liberia	Project ID P172012	Project Name Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA WEST	Estimated Appraisal Date 28-Jun-2021	Estimated Board Date 22-Sep-2021	Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	Implementing Agency National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority	

## Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve fisheries management and enhance livelihood and income for government and targeted beneficiaries.

## Components

Improving management and governance of fisheries  
Improving value-addition of fish and fish products  
Project management  
Contingency Emergency Response Component  
Project Preparation Facility

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	20.00
Total Financing	20.00
of which IBRD/IDA	20.00
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****World Bank Group Financing**



International Development Association (IDA)	20.00
IDA Credit	20.00

#### Environmental and Social Risk Classification

High

#### Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

## B. Introduction and Context

1. **Liberia is a fragile state striving to overcome the legacy of two devastating civil wars and the twin shocks of the Ebola crisis and the protracted slump in global commodity prices.** The two civil wars between 1989 and 2003 caused widespread loss of life, suppressed economic activity, and destroyed vital infrastructure. After the war, Liberia's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.2 percent on average per year between 2003 and 2013 but the twin shocks of the West Africa Ebola outbreak and the collapse of commodity prices (rubber and iron ore) brought Liberia's renewed expansion to a halt. The economy contracted an average rate of 0.8 percent per year during 2014–2016.<sup>1</sup> Headline inflation reached 27 percent in 2019 from 23.4 percent in 2018, largely due to the currency depreciation (by 29.4 percent year-on-year) combined with supply-side constraints, the monetization of the fiscal deficit, and financing of the Central Bank of Liberia's large deficit. Domestic food prices increased by 35.9 percent because of poor harvest.

2. **The fledgling economy is now facing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Government's ability to maintain social services, already limited before the COVID-19 outbreak, and ensure necessary imports to curb food insecurity given the country's reliance on food imports is further weakened. In other words, the impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated Liberia's economic problems and the livelihood of the fishing communities and poses an overall development risk. Poverty is projected to increase from 44.5 percent in 2019 to 45.4 percent in 2020. Real GDP contracted by 3.0 percent in 2020 (compared to a projected growth of 1.6 percent before the COVID-19 outbreak) due to unprecedented slowdown in global and domestic activities caused by the pandemic. Fiscal consolidation and monetary tightening further weakened domestic demand in 2020 but saw inflation down to 17.4 percent from 29.6 percent in 2019. Signs of recovery are in sight in 2021 following the lifting of lockdowns and the availability of vaccines amid uncertainty and multiple challenges. While the coronavirus outbreak will have long-lasting economic and social impacts for the entire population, these impacts are expected to be substantial for the fishery communities and other segments of the society who are poor and vulnerable due to overexposure, high vulnerability, and a lower ability to cope and recover.

3. **With a gross national income per capita of US\$580 in 2019, Liberia remained among the 10 poorest countries in the world.** The recent shocks have set progress back by five years in terms of poverty reduction. Extreme poverty incidence increased to pre-2012 levels during the two consecutive years of poverty reduction (2019–2020), undermining household welfare with three out of four households reporting job losses and two out of three households reporting food insecurity and income losses, according to the High Frequency Phone Survey Report launched in August 2020.<sup>2</sup> By

<sup>1</sup> Liberia: Macro-Poverty Outlook, Spring Meetings 2020.

<sup>2</sup> According to the High Frequency Phone Survey Report launched in August 2020.



2020, the share of the country's population below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in 2011 purchasing power parity terms had increased to an estimated 51 percent, from 48 percent in 2019.

4. **Liberia and its population depend heavily on the health of the marine and coastal environment.**<sup>3</sup> The coastal economy and population directly benefit from the goods and services that the marine and coastal environment provides, while extractive industries of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (for example, fish, oil and gas) are a major source of income for Liberia and rural households. Important ecosystem benefits provided by the coastal and marine environment include natural coastal protection, climate regulation, carbon storage, and biodiversity. Liberia has a long coastline of 570 km with a continental shelf supporting marine fish resources that could make a significant contribution to local economic growth. Liberia's continental shelf averages 34 km in width, affording an area of about 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of fishing ground extending to 200 nautical miles,<sup>4</sup> and the coastal area is home to some 58 percent of the population. Although per capita fish consumption is relatively low compared to the world average, fish contributes to the animal protein needs of an estimated 80 percent of the total population.<sup>5</sup>

5. **The marine and coastal environment provides opportunities for growth** as fisheries are inherently shared and represent a large asset to Liberia. Migratory stocks such as high-value tuna stocks and other pelagic fisheries stocks migrate through the waters of West African nations and together with non-migratory stocks, in recovery due to previous World Bank investment, are targeted by both local artisanal and foreign fleets. Through better management decisions for healthier and more productive fish stocks, less overcapitalization of the industry, and more value added locally, Liberia will be in a better position to help reduce poverty in coastal counties and supply nutritious food to the continent.

6. **Liberia is vulnerable to the effects of climate change.** Sea level rise, coastal flooding, pelagic seaweed invasion, and more frequent and severe extreme weather events directly threaten coastal population in Liberia and elsewhere along the West African coast. Rising ocean temperature, acidification, and changes in currents affect both the quantity and distribution of the fish species. Coastal mangroves provide natural protection ('green infrastructure') against winds and waves to prevent erosion and floods. They are also critical habitat for fish. However, mangroves are under constant threat from coastal communities' energy needs for cooking and smoking fish. Thus, conservation of natural assets such as coastal mangrove and seagrass bed contributes to the physical resilience of coastal communities and ensures the replenishment of fish stocks. Furthermore, due to expected shifts in the distribution of fish species in response to higher water temperatures, and a decrease in net primary productivity, Liberia's total annual landings are expected to be reduced by around 50 percent by the 2050s (IUCN Report 2016). Better managed fisheries can help enhance the capital resilience of Liberia by providing better income and awareness for the local communities. Fishing craft designed for the beach landing environment including life jackets and Automatic Information System (AIS) can help improve safety at sea. Climate-smart coastal infrastructure can help mitigate severe weather damage risk. Environmental protection and sustainable management of fisheries, therefore, must be addressed as part of an integrated effort toward sustainable and inclusive growth.

<sup>3</sup> Coastal area is defined as an area between 50 m below mean sea level and 50 m above the high tide level or extending landward to a distance 100 km from shore. *Source:* United Nations Millennium Assessment. This definition also applies to coastal states.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fcwc-fish.org/about-us/member-countries/76-liberia>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpc/doc/counprof/liberia/liberia.htm>.



### Sectoral and Institutional Context

7. **The coastal counties of Liberia are endowed with recovered fish stocks, unique in the West African region, contributing in a significant way to people's livelihoods, nutrition, and the overall economies.** Fisheries currently represent at least 10 percent of agricultural GDP and 3.2 percent of Liberia's national GDP. The fisheries sector directly and indirectly employs more than 3 million people throughout coastal West Africa. In Liberia, the sector provides a means of employment and livelihood for about 33,000 persons involved in fisheries, including full-time and part-time, sport fishers, and fish dealers.<sup>6</sup> During the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, fish was the main source of food when the agriculture sector almost collapsed. Ensuring the productivity of the fishery sector and reducing post-harvest loss can help contribute to both food security and value generation agenda.

8. **Despite the importance of Liberia's marine fisheries, this industry was seriously underperforming due to biological and economic overfishing until investments under the West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP).** As a result, overall fish stocks are in recovery and the fishing industry could be profitable. Overfishing in the past was mainly the result of poor fisheries governance and management as well as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, costing the Liberia and the West Africa region an estimated US\$1.3 billion in lost legal revenues a year.<sup>7</sup> With the four-year ban on industrial fishing and the enforcement of a 6 mile inshore conservation zone implemented under the WARFP, Liberia is the only country in the region that was experiencing some degree of fish stock recovery. The impact on stocks of allowance of a returned fleet of six trawlers has not been evaluated but as the 6 mile zone is being enforced through the WARFP vessel monitoring system (VMS) and donated patrol vessel, the inshore fisheries are expected to be maintained.

9. **The profitability of the seafood industry in Liberia is also limited by lack of roads, infrastructure, ice supply, and poor post-harvest practices.** Poor handling practices and shortage of ice, both onboard canoes and onshore, result in losses in the quantity and quality of products. Globally, one-third of reported catches is said to be wasted in various parts of the seafood value chain. Adopting simple measures to preserve catches onboard vessels and along the value chain could reduce spoilage and increase the value of catches. Improving marketing practices can help fishers obtain better prices. Investments in post-harvest practices, specifically in the reduction of post-harvest losses, could increase the value of fish production without catching more fish, thereby improving national and local food security and safety. Many fishing communities in Liberia have no road access resulting in lack of access to markets and spoilage of fish on extended transport routes.

10. **Aquaculture has been in increasing demand in Liberia.** It is estimated that aquaculture accounts for 46 percent (82 million tons) of world fish production and 52 percent for human consumption in 2018, and local and international demand for fish products is expected to continue growing. Farming fish as a source of income and food has only recently been introduced in Liberia and holds a great potential because of its suitable natural environment. This sector faces low capacity in fingerlings hatchery facilities, feed supply, and farming equipment and technology. However, there are several ongoing pilots on tilapia and other species. There is a need for research of business model development, identification of suitable species, and establishment of demonstration farms from which both public and private sector could benefit. Hence, any future donor support to the fisheries sector in Liberia may have to seriously consider investing sufficient resources into revitalizing the aquaculture subsector and helping to move it from one of subsistence to commercial.

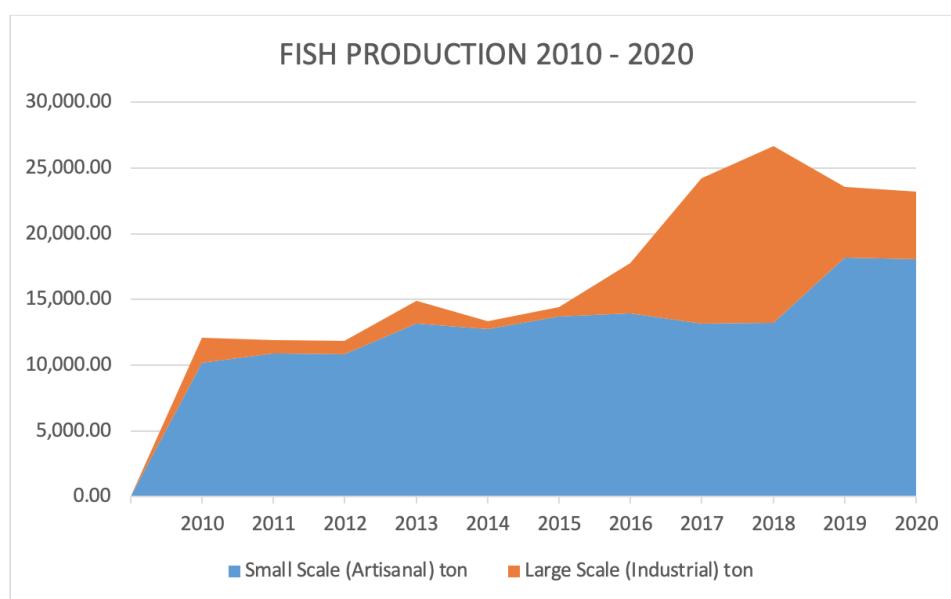
<sup>6</sup> FAO Fisheries Country Profile, Liberia: <http://www.fao.org/fi/oldsite/FCP/en/LBR/profile.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Africa Progress Panel. 2014.. *Grain, Fish, Money: Financing Africa's Green and Blue Revolutions*. Africa Progress Report 2014.



11. Under the WARFP, Liberia developed inshore exclusive zone (IEZ) reserved for artisanal fishermen and drafted the enabling legislation, completed registration of small-scale fishing fleets, achieved improvements in the national fishing fleet licensing policies in a number of fisheries and an overall enhancement in licensing transparency, improved monitoring capabilities by putting in place a satellite-based VMS for industrial fleets, increased sea patrols to combat illegal fishing, and witnessed official recognition of community fisheries management rights at Robertsport<sup>8</sup>. Based on evaluation by using Fisheries Performance Indicators (FPIs) in a sample community in Liberia, the WARFP has helped the country achieve better performance in social, economic, and ecological dimensions, which is also verified from the interview of the local fishing communities. Overall, the WARFP had a particular impact on the levels of illegal fishing in Liberia, with the rate of infractions declining by over 50 percent. As a result, on a localized basis, fishing communities in Liberia have started to see the resource base rebuild and productivity increase (figure 1).

Figure 1. Annual fish production in Liberia



Source: NaFAA data, March 2021

12. **With the WARFP closed, Liberia requires continued support to maintain the positive results achieved and scale up the effort at the regional, national, and community levels.** In fact, Liberia is merely at the beginning of the long-term process normally needed to transition into sustainable management systems of the fisheries sector. Liberia needs to expand its policy reforms and adequately manage its fishing capacity and fishing activities in the small-scale segment. At the community level, it is key to obtain full and active engagement of fishing communities in policy design and certain fisheries management activities (for example, access control and surveillance and use of legal fishing gears) in promoting good practices. A WARFP-associated study has demonstrated the lack of economic return to Liberia of licensing foreign industrial fishing showing that license fee revenue does not replace the value of stocks or consider ecosystem damage from unregulated trawling. Liberia is unique in the region of having the opportunity to develop a national semi-industrial fisheries sector based on valuable shrimp and fish species stocks that have been conserved in recent years.

<sup>8</sup> To date just a single Community Managed Association (CMA) was set up in Liberia.



**13. The proposed project will integrate lessons learned from earlier projects within and outside the WARFP.**

At the regional, national, and community levels, the WARFP gained a wealth of experience and observations from which the new project can learn. First, tangible progress in combatting IUU fishing in Liberia and other West African countries was achieved as the first step in governance reform, with most of the WARFP's targets met if not exceeded—though this still requires continued effort and investment to be sustained. The WARFP had to acknowledge that many West African states simply lacked the capacity to deliver fisheries governance reform at the spatial scales needed and also that community management pilots managed to effectively change rules to limit fishing effort and increase overall benefits. Overall, government officials were often unwilling to pursue reforms that would affect easy revenues and possible vested interests.

**14. With proper governance and careful planning, the fisheries sector could generate significantly greater economic benefits.**

Successful efforts to control illegal industrial trawlers within Liberian territorial waters gave confidence to the European Union (EU) to sign a five-year partnership agreement on tuna fisheries. Under this agreement, Liberia was receiving an annual license fee and catch bonus from its industrial pelagic fishery subsector, which previously provided little benefit to the country. The agreement boosted the annual revenue of the former Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) to about US\$2.6 million in 2016, or 30 times its 2006–2010 average. The composition of revenue also shifted from primarily fines to primarily license fees, indicating a positive trend toward financial sustainability. The healthy status of Liberia's fish stocks provides a valuable opportunity to develop Liberia's domestic industrial and semi-industrial fisheries. To seize this opportunity, the Government needs to provide secure fishing rights, strong legal enforcement, consistent stock monitoring and surveillance, compliance with international obligations to allow removal of EU restrictions and enable continuation of the tuna agreement while national fishery operators will need to utilize modern multipurpose vessels and land selected products for processing. The further expansion of Mesurado fisheries port facility both as a fish processing and marketing hub and expanded base for fishing vessels would complete the fisheries infrastructure begun under the WARFP and provide solutions as requested by the Government for development of the artisanal sector for Monrovia.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

15. The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the proposed project is to improve fisheries management and enhance livelihood and income for government and targeted beneficiaries

#### Key Results

- (1) Climate smart fisheries management plans developed and implemented (Number)
- (2) Fisheries management effectiveness improved measured by Fishery Performance Indicators (Score)
- (3) Gross profit generated from improved fish processing technology in selected communities (US\$) (%) (disaggregated by sex)
- (4) Export value increased for fish and shellfish products (US\$) (%)



#### D. Project Description

16. The project design is based on a holistic and integrated approach focusing on the fisheries sector by (a) improving governance and management reforms, developing human and institutional capacity, and improving policies, strategies, institutional and legal frameworks; (b) supporting activities that aim at increasing the national value addition provided by the fisheries sector, such as the establishment of an industrial and artisanal fish landing sites at the Mesurado Pier, Monrovia, toward improving conditions for industrial fish landing and for export of high-value fish species and fish products; and (c) supporting marine fisheries production. Project sites include the Mesurado Pier area (Montserrado county) and yet-to-be-identified specific sites in Margibi, Maryland, Grand Bassa, Sinoe and Grand Kru Counties. The project will comprise three main components: Component 1: Improving management and governance of fisheries; Component 2: Improving value-addition of fish and fish products; and Component 3: Project management. A fourth component—Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)—would be triggered and applied to provide swift response in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency.

- **Component 1: Improving management and governance of fisheries (USD 3.59 million):** NaFAA's overall goal calls for a sustainably managed and economically viable fisheries sector; however, the development of the fisheries sector has been impeded by limited human and financial resources, and gaps in the policy, regulatory, and institutional framework. These gaps and limitations have restricted the fisheries sector's contribution to the national economy and affected livelihood improvements in the sector. Therefore, this project component will focus on improving governance and management reforms; developing human and institutional capacity; and improving policies, strategies, institutional and legal frameworks to make them climate smart; and other relevant activities that are aimed at improving fisheries management and marine environmental health and resilience to climate change. This component of the project will benefit from the Liberia PROBLUE ASA that focuses on reducing the risk of unsustainable fishing practices, improving the quality of target fishing landing areas and fishing communities, and improving the health of the ocean.
- **Component 2: Improving value-addition of fish and fish products (USD 11.23 million):** The fishery sector in Liberia does not realize the value of fish caught by either industrial or artisanal sectors. Industrial fisheries yield only limited license fees and some landings of trash fish to local markets, while the artisanal fishing communities have poor quality canoes, do not use ice, and most have no road network to connect to markets. While fish production could be significantly increased to reduce the imports on which the urban centers depend, landing sites and associated infrastructural facilities need to be upgraded to improve fish quality and provide higher-value marketing in future.
- **Component 3: Project Management (USD 1.50 million):** This component will support the implementation, management, coordination, and oversight of the proposed project, including establishing and implementing a simple and smart monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system where climate risk screen tool will be integrated throughout project implementation to identify risks, communication, awareness, and training of the implementing entities on applying the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)/Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), World Bank Group ESHS Guidelines, and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). Among others, this component will also finance the administrative costs associated with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) support to the project and the project's overall oversight and coordination. The PIU will be responsible for the implementation of the project and carrying out day-to-day management of the project, while the inter-ministerial Project Steering Committee will be the decision-making and oversight entity whose meetings and deliberations will be financed under the project. The PFMU of the Ministry of Finance and Development





Planning (MFDP) will support the project's fiduciary aspects (FM and audits). Financing will also be provided for knowledge generation of climate-related impacts and adoption of mitigating activities, that is, crisis response plans, including undertaking evaluations of key project activities and policy research and sharing information and findings. Furthermore, the component will provide funds for new and relevant studies identified and agreed during implementation of the project as well as communication and information sharing activities. Efforts will also be made through a well-thought-out communication strategy which includes actions to address gender inequities to ensure that stakeholders are well informed of each of the project-supported activities to ensure a clear understanding of the project's objectives, their roles and responsibilities, increasing their access to new technology; information and skills; essential assets; and the alignment of the proposed project with the larger government project as well as to manage their expectations.

- **Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0):** The objective of this component is to provide immediate response to an eligible crisis or emergency, as may be presented in the future. The CERC is one of the World Bank's contingent financing mechanisms available to borrowers to gain rapid access to World Bank financing to respond to a crisis or emergency. It is included as a project component that is designed to provide swift response in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, defined as "an event that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact associated with natural or man-made crises or disasters." The mechanism for the triggering of the CERC will be included in the Credit Agreement, which will require (among others), the preparation of a CERC Manual detailing the applicable fiduciary, environmental and social, monitoring, reporting, and any other implementation arrangements necessary. Provided the World Bank Group agrees with the emergency assessment, this component would allow the Government to request the World Bank to reallocate uncommitted resources from other project components to this component to cover emergency response and recovery costs or, eventually, to channel additional financing that may become available because of the emergency.

#### Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

#### Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

17. The proposed project contains three components. Component 1 (Improving Management of Selected Fisheries) involves mainly institutional strengthening and capacity activities. This sub-component will support ongoing reforms of key aspects of the sector's institutional, policy and legislative regimes, and strengthen and equip national and subnational fisheries institutions with capacity to sustainably manage the sector and fisheries resources. Component 2 (Improving handling of Fish and Fish Products) will support activities that involve strengthening national post-harvest value systems and activities that support women and women entrepreneurship development, including financial management. This component includes the main civil works: construction of a fishery hub at Mesurado, and landing site at Buchanan in Grand Bassa County. Component 3 is project management.



18. Preliminary screening of the project components indicates that eight Environmental and Social Standards of the ESF are relevant to this project. Project potential environmental and social risks and impacts include those related to unintended consequences of policy reforms, civil works related risks and impacts, and risks and impacts of operational phase of facilities supported by the project.

19. The policy and regulatory reforms are intended to improve the overall management of the fisheries resources and optimize and sustain revenue generation in the sector. Nonetheless, as a result of the implementation certain reforms, such as development of fishery management plans for selected fisheries as proposed under sub-component 1.2 of the project, certain unintended consequences may also ensue, such as the impact on the per-person fish quota, or the potential limitation of certain areas designated for fishing, or crowding of native fishermen by those attracted from surrounding areas.

20. Construction phase potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Component 2 will include activities that could have adverse impact on the environment including activities such as i) dredging, ii) reclamation, iii) quarry operation, iv) refurbishment of access road, and v) construction of buildings and other ancillary facilities. These activities may have wide range of environmental and social impacts that need to be explored further and appropriate management plan established. Several of the activities, including dredging and sea reclamation are high-hazard activities that will need to be planned and carried out in ways that safeguard the health and safety of workers, as well as to the neighboring communities. In this regard, the project will prepare a SESA.

21. Dredging for example can have wide range of impacts both on the dredged area itself as well as disposal sites for the dredged materials. In the case of the proposed fisheries hub establishment at the Mesurado pier, the potential environmental effects of dredging will generally be two-fold, firstly as a result of the dredging process itself and secondly as a result of the disposal of the dredged material. During the dredging process, effects may arise due to the excavation of sediments at the bed, loss material during transport to the surface, overflow from the dredger whilst loading and loss of material from the dredger and/or pipelines during transport. Dredging involves excavation and transportation of materials from seabed to offshore disposal site. The process may lead to removal of some benthic animals and the destruction of critical habitats in some instances. There is no information available at this stage on the benthic community where dredging will be carried out. This has been included in the scope of the proposed detailed ESIA to be carried out during the detail design works of the fisheries hub. Dredging inevitably produces suspended sediments and turbidity which may have adverse effects on marine animals and plants by reducing light penetration into the water. Decreased light penetration can affect some submerged plants by reducing productivity and growth rate. Some harmful substances, including heavy metals, oil, PCBs and pesticides can be trapped into the seabed sediments, especially in port and harbor areas such as the Mesurado Pier. The proposed detailed ESIA will include undertaking sediment analysis to determine the level of sediment contamination to inform sediment management and disposal options.

22. It is expected that quarries will be developed, or materials will be sourced from existing quarries for reclamation work. Without proper environmental and social considerations, the operation of quarry can have negative impacts on the environment as well as pose health and safety risks to communities in the operation area. These impacts, including localized increase in vehicular traffic associated with aggregate haulage from quarry to reclamation site may create hazards to road users that require appropriate action to limit negative effects. The proposed detailed ESIA will assess all the associated environment and social impacts as well as the health and safety risks and hazards and provide mitigation measures.

23. Notwithstanding the industrial environment at the project site, the access road leading to the existing beach has been settled by squatters, creating a bottleneck in the road. Rehabilitation of the access road and construction of other



ancillary facilities will result in involuntary resettlement. As per the abbreviated resettlement action plan about 90 persons will be affected by the extent of livelihood and economic loss, if any.

**Operation phase potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**  
The main environmental and social issues of concern during the operation phase of the facilities are predominantly those associated with fish processing activities. The environmental concerns primarily include issues related to generation of solid waste and by-products, wastewater/effluent discharge, water and energy consumption, and emissions to air. Workers may also be exposed to OHS risks and hazards that are specific to this industry during the operation phase. Occupational health and safety issues of concern during this phase primarily include workers' exposure to physical and biological hazards, chemicals, heat and cold, noise and vibration, etc. Risk of injuries resulting from lifting, carrying and other repetitive works is also a major concern. These issues will need to be explored in the proposed detailed ESIA and relevant appropriate management plans developed.

24. Potential social risks and impacts relevant to the project could emerge from the Project's failure to promote sound workers – management of relationships including failure to: i) promote fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity to its workers; ii) protect its workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children of working age, and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate; iii) prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; iv) support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law; and v) provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

25. These potential risks and impacts will be further assessed during the preparation of the proposed detailed ESIA and the appropriate management plans developed as required by the relevant Environmental and Social Standards.

## **E. Implementation**

### **Institutional and Implementation Arrangements**

- NaFAA, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP), will be responsible for the overall implementation of project activities. The project will work with and strengthen the Government's institutions responsible for activities related to the management of the fisheries sector and coastal resources: Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), and so on. Policy direction and the oversight of the project will be carried out by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) established at the national level for policy direction and oversight that will be meeting on a quarterly basis. At a minimum, the SC will review the overall performance of the project and decide on important policy aspects to facilitate the achievement of outcomes and results. The Committee will comprise NaFAA, MoFDP, EPA, MoA, MoCI, LMA, Ministry of Justice, National Ports Authority (NPA), Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), World Bank, a representative each from the Development Partner Sector Group and LAFA/CMA.
- The project will be implemented by NaFAA as the agency responsible for managing the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Liberia and will coordinate with other Government agencies and line ministries for the project implementation. With regard to the implementation of activities under Subcomponent 2.1 - Strengthening national post-harvest value systems, NaFAA will also be



supported by EPA in the project activities that focus on conservation, sanitation and hygiene, environmental sustainability (enforcement and compliance with ESF of the World Bank and national regulations), and indoor pollution.

- A PIU has been established within NaFAA to strengthen NaFAA's capacity for day-to-day project coordination and monitoring. The PIU will be led by a Project Coordinator who will report directly to the Director General of NaFAA, and will include as a minimum specialists on procurement, FM, M&E, safeguards, communications, and administrative support. Given the fact that procurement aspects related to works, equipment and consultancies may escalate during the implementation phase of the project, NaFAA may consider complement the current staffing level with an additional experienced procurement assistant. NaFAA is established by law as an independent government owned institution able to recruit qualified staff without government service restrictions and therefore able to respond to the management needs of the project.
- **Project fiduciary management.** The PFMU of the MoFDP, which is established by the Government to consolidate project fiduciary management of all donor-supported projects, including the World Bank, will work closely with NaFAA and the PIU on financial management aspects under the project. The PFMU will be responsible for the day-to-day FM functions of the entire project. The related operational costs of maintaining the PFMU, for instance procuring of stationery, mailing withdrawal applications, and printing project FM reports, etc. during the life of the project, and salary of few critical staff at the PFMU will form part of the costs that the proposed project will cover.

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