**SL-MDTF**

**ANNUAL programme NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2010**

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| Programme Title & Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s) |
| Programme Title: Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding  Programme Number: Joint Vision Programme 21  MDTF Office Atlas Number:   * UNEP [00075592](http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00075592) * UNDP [00075593](http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00075593) | * Sierra Leone * Nation-wide * Environmental Protection – cross-cutting peace & security, rural development and youth |

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| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| UNEP  UNDP | * Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency * Meteorological Office * Ministry of Energy and Water Resource * Ministry of Lands Country Planning and the Environment * Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment * World Meteorological Organisation |

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| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration (months) | |
| MDTF Fund Contribution:   * UNEP – 495,000 * UNDP – 455,000 |  |  | Overall Duration | 31 December 2012 |
| Agency Contribution   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Start Date of Projects | 24 June 2010 |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Revised End Date of Projects | 31 March 2011 |
| Other Contribution (donor)  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Operational Closure Date of Programme | 31 December 2012 |
| TOTAL: $950,000 |  |  | Expected Financial Closure Date | 30 April 2013 |

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| Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation |  | Submitted By |
| Assessment Completed - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Mid-Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * Name: Oli Brown * Title: Programme Coordinator * Participating Organization (Lead): UNEP * Email address: [Oli.brown@unep.org](mailto:Oli.brown@unep.org) |

# Purpose

Given the significant role that natural resources played in the 1991-2002 civil war and during the post-conflict reconstruction period, along with the vital importance of natural resources to Sierra Leone’s economy, the good management of environment and natural resources is essential to continued peace consolidation and development. Linked to youth estrangement and rural alienation, many of the conditions for conflict that existed before 1992 continue today, aggravated by concerns about unfair distribution of benefits, opaque processes and inefficient and unsustainable practices.

Significant opportunities exist however to harness natural resources and environment for peace consolidation through investing in alternative livelihoods, collaborative community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), and capacity building in the districts and in Freetown.

The Programme is addressing these needs and focus on several main components: 1. Capacity building for environmental governance; 2. Sustainable land and water resource management; 3. Improved climate change adaptation planning and implementation.

UNEP Objectives:

* Improved technical and managerial capacity of SLEPA
* Improved land and water resource management in Sierra Leone
* Improved planning in place to respond to climate change

The following five programme deliverables are expected to be achieved by UNEP:

1. Capacity assessment of environment and natural sector completed, including national and local government, civil society and the private sector.
2. Technical and managerial capacity of SLEPA improved, including legal, institutional and process-oriented capacity building
3. Best practices for environmental governance introduced to government counterparts
4. Technical expertise for climate change vulnerability assessment and planning
5. Technical expertise on GEF project planning and implementation provided to UNDP.

Fragmented systems of environmental and natural resource management in Sierra Leone are an impediment to sustainable development and peacebuilding and the country has a part to play in the global agenda concerning climate change. During the civil war, nearly the entire observing and forecasting infrastructure at the Meteorological Department was destroyed. Since the end of the conflict in 2002, the Meteorological Department has received little attention from the Government due to other development issues that have taken immediate priority in the post-conflict period. This has resulted in the shortage of specialist equipment and trained personnel which means that the meteorological department is struggling to perform its mandated functions.

As part of UNDP’s contribution to Programme 21, support is provided to build the capacity of the Sierra Leone Meteorological Department. In addition, an operational satellite, aeronautical meteorology reception system, and forecaster workstations with observation displays in six weather stations will be provided to the Department. Staff training will also be provided to build the Department’s capacity to process observations for both real time weather forecasting and climate applications and the digitisation of existing weather data into the climsoft software package.

UNDP’s contribution will also support the formulation of a comprehensive national land policy document, including an implementation strategy and a reformed legal framework. The policy process will entail collaboration and consultations with representatives of all types of land users and stakeholders within and outside government, based on a common national vision of the desired forms of land tenure, and land management system rooted in transparent, accountable and participatory approaches.

UNDP Objectives:

* Sierra Leone’s national institutional and human resource capacity to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change improved
* Digitization of climate data using climsoft database system
* Capacity development of the Meteorological Department data collection and analysis
* Land tenure policy that is supportive of sustainable natural resource management

The following four programme deliverables are expected to be achieved by UNDP:

1. Climate change adaption plan developed, well coordinated and operationalised.
2. Climate change adaption plan mainstreamed into MDAs policies and programmes.
3. GEF projects coordinated and effectively implemented.
4. Land tenure policy that is supportive of sustainable natural resource management operational.

# Resources

*Financial Resources*

A total of US$ 950,000 from the Delivering as One fund was allocated to the Programme through the Sierra Leone MDTF. An additional US$ 870,000 was allocated from other funding sources, yet a funding gap remains which is equal to 60 percent of the total programme cost.

*Human Resources*

UNEP’s work under the programme was executed by two national staff (a programme assistant and a driver) and one international consultant. UNDP’s work under the programme was executed by one national staff, six data entry clerks and one driver.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

A variety of implementation measures were used by working through government counterparts, NGO partners, international experts and international consulting agencies. Procurement has been carried out according to standard UNDP and UNEP procedures. Several assessments were conducted during 2010 including:

* A capacity needs assessment of SLEPA’s EIA processes;
* A World Meteorological Organisation assessment of Sierra Leone’s Meteorological Department needs and a survey of the records being digitized at the Department.

# Results

Given the limited time and resources to implement programme activities in 2010, the focus for UNEP was on the aforementioned six deliverables. Good progress has been made towards the achievement of all deliverables. Key relationships were also formed with SLEPA and a variety of environmental NGOs in the region which has helped contribute to the success of the programme.

1. Capacity assessment of environment and natural sector completed, including national and local government, civil society and the private sector.

A capacity assessment was completed by the EFA and submitted to SLEPA. Furthermore, a workshop was held on May 20th 2010 to agree on projects to be supported using the MDTF/Delivering as One funds. A UNEP Assessment Report “Sierra Leone: Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding Assessment” (2010, UNEP) was launched at 20th May workshop and uploaded onto the UNIPSIL website at [http://unipsil.unmissions.org](http://unipsil.unmissions.org/).

1. Technical and managerial capacity of SLEPA improved, including legal, institutional and process-oriented capacity building.

An experienced consultant completed a review of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and held consultations with stakeholders and presented an action plan for how to develop a new NEAP on December 3rd 2010 to 15 government participants.

Two SAEIA consultants, Nick Okello and Farai Dondofema, spent 40 working days (20 days each) working with SLEPA to review pending EIAs (10 major EIAs[[1]](#footnote-2)) and mentor 6 SLEPA staff on EIA review methodology. In addition, a two day training course on EIA methodologies was delivered to 24 participants from across government on December 13th and 14th 2010.

Three separate monitoring visits and spot checks on mining, infrastructure and biofuel activities in Sierra Leone were carried out. On November 18th, accompanied by members of EFA and ENFORAC, SAIEA consultants visited the site of a new civil service college which is to be located in a forest reserve on Bureh Beach near Kent. Their findings report was submitted to SLEPA, EFA and ENFORAC and was included in a submission from SLEPA directly to the President. Between November 29th and December 2nd, SLEPA, SAIEA and UNEP carried out a 4 day monitoring mission by road visiting London Mining, Addax, Bumbuna Hydro, Ned-oil, Cluff Gold, Njala, Sierra Rutile and Sierra Minerals. On December 15th, UNEP organized a helicopter visit to overfly the London Mining, Addax, Cluff Gold, Koidu Holdings and Bumbuna Hydro and a 2 hour site visit to the African Minerals mine at Tonkolili with 18 participants from the UN, government, civil society and the press, including Reuters and SLBC.

SLEPA was provided with an analysis of comparative EIA fee structures across Africa and the 2010 draft license fee regulations were reviewed with detailed comments were provided on them. SLEPA was also provided with an EIA review template and methodology to standardize the review process and a checklist for on-the-ground monitoring of industrial sites was developed in November 2010.

1. Best practices for environmental governance introduced to government counterparts

An expert, Professor Jon Unruh, was commissioned to develop and present a paper on land reform in Mozambique. He met separately with all the Working Groups, the Steering Committee, the Law Reform Commission, UNDP and donors.

A seminar was organized on December 16th themed “Environmental Assessment: a tool for sustainable development”. Speakers included Minister I.E. Kargbo (Minister of Communications) on behalf of HE President Koroma, Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg (ERSG), Madame Haddijatou Jallow (Chairperson of SLEPA), and Dr. Peter Tarr (Executive Director of SAEIA) with a total of 140 attendees. The event was televised and the following day appeared as the number one news spot on SLBC with a 35 minute interview with SLEPA and a 25 minute interview with Dr. Tarr. The event was also reported on the front pages of several newspapers, in a [UNEP press release](http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=653&ArticleID=6871&l=en&WT.rss_f=pr&WT.rss_a=653-6871) and on SLBC radio on December 22nd 2010.

1. Technical expertise for climate change vulnerability assessment and planning

Two participants, one from the government and one from civil society, were supported to attend the COP16 meetings in Cancun for 12 days.

In collaboration with UNDP, six automatic weather stations and two observations management systems were purchased. Procurement was ongoing as of the end of 2010.

1. Technical expertise on GEF project planning and implementation provided to UNDP.

A GEF Expert, Mohamed Sesay, was brought in to advise UNEP and SLEPA on accessing GEF funding. He held a two hour strategy meeting with key members of SLEPA on strategies for environmental funding on November 26th. Mr. Sesay also gave a speech to Fourah Bay College to 40 students on the environment and development challenges facing Sierra Leone on November 26th and gave a presentation to civil society at the STEWARD forum on November 25th entitled “Accessing Environmental Funding through the GEF”. An inter-agency coordination meeting with UNDP, FAO, WHO and UNIDO was also held to discuss priorities for Programme 21 in 2011 and 2012.

During 2010, UNDP also made good progress towards the achievement of its deliverables:

1. Climate change adaption plan developed, well coordinated and operationalised.

In 2010, a WMO mission was carried out to assess the capacities of the Meteorological Department and other institutions on climate data for climate adaptation. A draft MoU between UNDP and the Government on further capacity building support to be provided to the Meteorological Department was drafted.

UNDP also met with the GoSL’s Human Resource Office on recruitment of staff to work at the Meteorological Office. The GoSL then proceeded to advertise for the recruitment of meteorologists to fulfill the minimal WMO staff requirements. Candidates were shortlisted in 2010, but interviews will be held in 2011.

In 2010, UNDP put out a tender for companies to bid on the procurement of six automatic weather stations, installation and calibration training for personnel within the Meteorological Department and the Agro-Met Department in the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security. An evaluation of the bidding company was conducted, and technical documents have been sent to ACP in New York.

1. Climate change adaption plan mainstreamed into MDAs policies and programmes.

In 2010, there was ongoing discussion with the Government on the establishment of a Climate Change Secretariat. In addition, the GoSL actively participated in regional and global climate change activities to incorporate best practices in the eventual operations of the Climate Change Secretariat.

Also during 2010, UNDP liaised with the World Bank and IFAD on complementary work done on meteorology to ensure that possibilities for the duplication of efforts were eliminated.

Climsoft database software was installed at the Agro-Met Department in the MAFFS and in the Meteorological Department offices. In addition, training was provided to both Agro-Met and Meteorological Department staff on use of the climsoft database systems.

UNDP has extended the work of the data entry clerks as more than the expected data was brought from the provinces which required digitization. These new staff and other provincial staff of the Sierra Leone Meteorological Department have been trained on the use of climsoft database software.

1. GEF projects coordinated and effectively implemented.

Two newly designed GEF projects on climate change mitigation and adaptation were submitted to the GEF Secretariat in 2010. The regular coordination, monitoring and evaluation of active GEF projects was ongoing in 2010.

1. Land tenure policy that is supportive of sustainable natural resource management operational.

A UNDP financed national land reform conference was held in February 2010, its purpose being to kick-off the Land Policy Reform process and to mobilize over 150 key stakeholders from various arms of government and non-state sectors of society. The various views raised on different land issues were documented in a Synthesis Report on the conference which has been widely disseminated among stakeholders. The conference approved the draft implementation plan as well as the setting up of a Steering Committee, five Technical Working Groups and a Coordination Unit within the MLCPE.

The establishment of the national Land Policy Reform Steering Committee and the 5 Technical Working Groups was initiated during February and March 2010, leading to the identification of over 40 persons to serve on these structures. A technical review of the land issues of concern was conducted through the Technical Working Groups, which also developed concept papers to guide the policy analysis phase and to inform the content and strategy of the public consultation process.

A Land Policy Reform Coordination Unit was established in the MLCPE. A technical advisor, two assistants and a driver were recruited to support the national Land Policy Reform process.

# Future Work Plan

Both UNEP and UNDP will carry on delivering core activities under Programme 21 in 2011 in the areas of natural resource management, support to SLEPA in the conduct of EIAs, sustainable land management, land tenure policy reform, climate change, and disaster risk management.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP Advisory Committee for Procurement

EFA Environmental Foundation for Africa

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

ERSG Executive Representative to the Secretary General

FAO United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

GEF Global Environment Facility

GoSL Government of Sierra Leone

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

MAFFS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security

MDAs Ministries, Departments, and Agencies

MLCPE Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

NEAP National Environmental Action Plan

SAIEA Southern African Institute of Environmental Assessment

SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment

SLBC Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation

SLEPA Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

WHO World Health Organisation

1. Lagan Construction - Upgrading of Freetown International Airport, Koidu Holdings/ Koidu Kimberlite Project/ Rock Quarry at Robat Village (Okra Hills), Koya Chiefdom, Port Loko District/ Sampi Quarry, Koya Rural District, Western Area, Freetown/ Marampa Mines, London Mining/ Tonkolili Iron Ore Project/ Africa Felix Juice LLP, Newton/ Quarry project at Ocra Hill, Koya Chiefdom/ Freetown Urban Water Supply Project Phase 1/ Boajibu Gold Project. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)