



## **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital**

### **Engagement Meeting with LISGIS**

**October 22, 2020**

On October 22, 2020, an engagement meeting was held between CI and LISGIS National Account team to discuss some collaborative activities under the project. The meeting was attended by the CI Liberia GEF NCA Project team, CI Moore Center for Science team (joined via MS Teams), and members of the National Accounts team of LISGIS. CI Liberia team members: Bill McGill Jones, GEF NCA Project Manager, George Ilebo, Technical Director, Solomon C. Carlon, Project Officer, CI Moore Center for Science (MCS) team: Rosimery Portela, Sr. Director, CI NCA institutional lead and overall Component 1, Mahbubul Alam, Director, GEF NCA Component 1 technical lead, Miroslav Honzak, Sr. Director GEF NCA mapping and modeling, Trond Larsen, Director, GEF NCA Biodiversity lead, Timothy Wright, Director, GEF NCA Component spatial planning lead, LISGIS team: Cormassa Brown, Deputy – EU, Edith F. Arkuwoile, Statistical Assistant, Rodi S. Vintoro, Asst. Director, National Account (NA), Bannel S. Dennis Head, NA, Jannie Fahnbulleh, GIS Specialist.

#### **Brief Presentations**

During the meeting, a brief overview presentation was made by Rosimeiry Portela. In her presentation, she mentioned that the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) is a statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with the economy, and that part of this is developed by the statistical system by the international statistical agencies. She further narrated the series of steps that are involved in Natural Capital Accounting from the Ecosystem extent account to the monetary asset of the natural resources.

Mahbubul Alam, Research Economist at Moore Center of Science led the GEF NCA Component 1 technical presentation and gave an overview of the Scoping. He mentioned that the objectives of the scoping are to identify priorities accounts and ecosystem services for implementation of EA. And the second part is to replicate the ecosystem accounts in other ecosystems and scale up at the national level. He noted that the key tasks will be to:

- a. Share the scoping materials with key technical persons
- b. Determine the priority accounts and services
- c. Get selected accounts and services approved by the PSC
- d. Conversation with institutions on the replication and scaling of the ecosystem accounts

Since the component 1 of this project is going to involve a lot of data both spatial and non-spatial, Mahbubul mentioned that data management, storage and data sharing are crucial to the project. He highlighted the following key tasks regarding the data management:

- a. Identify existing datasets, catalogue them, and centralize for better access
- b. Identify data gaps for the different NCA accounts

- c. Design surveys, and
- d. Review the existing data management, collection standards, storage, and software.

Miroslav Honzak, Sr. Director GEF NCA mapping and modeling give a brief review of the Ecosystem Extent Map. He highlighted the different processes involved and indicated an example of how the compilation of the extent accounts are going to be calculated.

### **Boundaries harmonization**

Miroslav highlighted that there were some issues with country boundary shapefile that was received from Solomon and there was a need to agree determine on which boundary shapefile is the official one for the country that should be used for the project. Jannie Fahnbulleh, GIS Specialist indicated that there has been some modified work done the country boundary and that he was going to share the updated shapefile with thee team.

### **MOU discussion between CI Liberia and LISGIS:**

Joint identification of the key measures for the implementation of the SEEA-compliant NCA and a plan to strength/build LISGIS' capacity on that, including with:

- Agreement on protocols for data gathering, storage and sharing.
- Implementation of trainings, with a focus on accounting-related methods, tools and approaches, as well as to post-accounting analytical analysis to inform policy and planning applications.
- Development of an operational framework for continuous implementation of accounts.

### **Action points/Next Steps**

- Draft MOU lead by CI Liberia and share with team for inputs
- Follow-up with LISGIS on the Scoping exercise
- Follow-up with LISGIS on modified boundaries and share with HQ team