

## **Areas of progress,**

Awareness raising of gender issues has significantly improved in Liberia. Climate. GEF Projects now seek at least 40% women participation in capacity building. However, the chronic shortage of women in national entities makes it hard for women to reach the required number of women participants. The Cross Cutting Capacity Development Project is working towards women's participation in Environmental Knowledge Management, Intellectual Capacity Development and awareness raising of the national policies and laws related to the implementation of the three Rio Conventions. This is also the case with the NAPs.

## **Areas for improvement**

Women are the hardest hit by the negative impacts of climate change in Liberia and yet serious gender disparities continue to persist in Liberia. The maternal mortality rates are still high. Wage gaps and gender segregation in economic activity are pervasive—for example, women agricultural workers, especially in the rural areas, operate smaller plots of land, have less access to essential inputs such as fertilizer, have no access to credit, and grow less remunerative crops, leading to less overall productivity.

Liberia's strong senate of 30 is occupied by only one is occupied by a woman and only 9 women are in the lower house out of 73 representatives. In October 2016, the House of Representatives passed the Equal Representation and Participation Bill, creating five seats for women, one for youth and one for people with disabilities. However, the Ministry of Justice had not incorporated the changes into a new consolidated election law before the 2017 elections took place. Liberia also needs to be inclusive in education, employment and access to health.

Liberia supports the global 2030 Agenda, which has identified the following key gender aspects of climate change action:

- Ensuring the equal participation of men and women in decision-making and implementation around adaptation and mitigation;
- Ensuring women can act as agents of change at different levels of the adaptation and mitigation process;
- Promoting mitigation approaches that are aware of gendered implications and outcomes and working towards gender equality and positive impacts on the lives of women through improving livelihoods and health and allowing time for the pursuit of additional opportunities;
- Developing resource mobilization strategies, applying climate finance instruments, and ensuring equal participation in the deployment of financial resources, particularly at the local level;
- Developing and transferring environmentally sound technologies that promote gender mainstreaming in technology access, information and training; and,
- Taking a gender-sensitive approach to creating, developing and strengthening institutional, systemic and human-resource capacity-building to foster gender balance in decision-making on,

in the delivery of, and in the accessing of means and tools for the implementation of mitigation or adaptation actions.

### **Further work to be undertaken in subsequent action plans**

Gender equality needs to be strengthened within Liberia NDCs. Even though Liberia refers to existing gender-sensitive policies at the national or sectoral levels, more needs to be done. The lack of integration of existing gender and climate change plans into INDCs, as an example, highlights that there could be improved policy cohesion in climate change action at the national level. As INDCs evolve into NDCs, the development of gender-responsive climate change action can be accomplished through a series of key entry points:

1. Analyze the national context for gender trends, sex-disaggregated data and differing situations of women and men and the resulting identification of key sectors, strategies and mechanisms for policy and action.
2. Assess institutional gender equality frameworks and coordination mechanisms, including the integration of women's leadership and inputs into national policy, as well as into approaches to interministerial coordination and cooperation.
3. Integrate gender equality into climate change policy and planning instruments and processes, including NAPs, LEDs, NAMAs, REDD+ and other UNFCCC processes, as well as other national policy and planning instruments.
4. Engage in multi-stakeholder consultations with women and women's organizations, as well as a range of stakeholder groups at local, subnational and national levels.
5. Support capacity development of different groups, including communities, women's organizations, and government officials at the national and subnational levels.
6. Monitoring and evaluation, and the use of sex-disaggregated data and indicators.
7. Gender-responsive climate finance mechanisms through national and global climate funds as well as innovative climate financing tools that target women's grassroots enterprises and sustainable development outcomes.