



GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministerial Complex Congo Town, Monrovia



**Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade (LIFT) Project
Project No.: P171997**

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)

Terms of Reference Climate Change Specialist

Post Title: Climate Change Specialist

Location of Post: Project Implementation Unit-Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Ministerial Complex, Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town

Contract Duration: 2 years with possible extension based on satisfactory performance.

Report Line: Project Coordinator-LIFT

Recruitment: National Position

Type of Contract: Lump Sum Contract

Background

1. The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), has received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) amount from the World Bank in preparation for the implementation of the *Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade (LIFT) Project: P171997* if approved. MOCI intends to recruit a **Climate Change Specialist** to work with the PIU's team to be established at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The overall objective of the LIFT-P is to improve the investment climate, expand sustainable access to finance, and increase the efficiency of trade in Liberia and help formal MSMEs recover from the impact of the COVID-19.

3. The LIFT-P is an explicit contributor to the FY19-FY24 Country Partnership Framework (CPF) Pillar I: Strengthening Institutions and Creating an Enabling Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. Specifically, the project implements Objective 3 of the CPF, that seeks a more enabling environment for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Project furthers the CPF's objective by fostering the emergence of an inclusive private sector through a more hospitable investment climate, expanded access to finance, and stronger market governance. The LIFT-P envisions the removal of key regulatory constraints, and will facilitate trade and expand access to finance. Specifically, it will focus on (i) the regulatory areas where Liberia ranks low on Doing Business indicators, (ii) implementation of the Financial Sector Development Implementation Plan and National Financial Inclusion Strategy, (iii) implementation of the Insolvency and Restructuring Law adopted in 2017, and (iv) support for Liberia's implementation of commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Trade Facilitation Agreement, since adoption of the long-awaited Customs Code.
4. The project supports a Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) framework for Liberia and its two pillars on which the outcomes sit: better market functioning and improved firm capabilities. In doing so, the project targets six of the ten-building block in this framework as a complement to other parallel activities under the Liberia CPF supporting macroeconomic management, infrastructure services, employment policy and human capital. The project takes account of the Government Recovery Program (GRP) project that seeks to support otherwise viable growth oriented private enterprises that were adversely impacted by the effects of the pandemic. As the mechanism for firm level support is structured, guardrails will be established to prevent adversely impacting financial discipline and commercial credit underwriting needed for a sustained recovery. At the same time, with various indicators highlighting access to finance as an issue, attention to expanding digital financial services (DFS) is needed.
5. In addition to its contribution to the Jobs agenda, the Project design supports a range of IDA priorities including Gender, Climate, Governance, Fragility, Conflict & Violence and Maximizing Finance for Development (MFD). The project will ensure that women-oriented training and eligibility will be included in firm support and financial access component by deliberately incorporating, in the design of project activities, features that seek to address the identified gaps between men and women with respect to their participation in economic activity in the country, especially around differential constraints and performance between women-owned and men-owned firms. These include the reforms to the business environment (e.g., registration, permits and access to finance), as well as activities to support SMEs and entrepreneurs. The project will monitor the extent to which activities are contributing toward closing gender gaps by measuring, among other things: (i) the number of women led MSMEs with a loan through the project; and (ii) the percentage of women that are covered by the credit registry.
6. Finally, as a foundational project to strengthen the public sector's ability to facilitate growth of the private sector on a sustainable basis, significant efforts will be devoted to institution building activities in key agencies. In this light, the project's concept identifies the strengthening of institutional functioning, streamlining of business

processes and use of automation to lower costs, improve services and remove face-to-face interactions.

7. The Project will be implemented in all 15 counties of Liberia for the next 5 years.

Objective of the Climate Change Specialist (CCS)

The main objective of the CCS is to provide support to project activities in ensuring that the project activities are aligned with Liberia's National Climate Change priorities, especially the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Climate Agreement (PA) and to the National Adaptation Plan (2021).

Scope of Services

The Climate Change Specialist (CCS) will be a key member of the project implementation team. The CC Specialist working within the PIU will be responsible for climate screening of each project activity – working closely with the Climate Expert in the private consulting firm – including doing the diagnostics of proposed management practices such as soil and pests management. He or she will provide support to project activities in ensuring that the project activities align with Liberia's National Climate Change priorities, especially the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Climate Agreement (PA) and National Adaptation Plan. S/he will clear documents involving climate related issues in compliance with the requirements and procedures of the Government of Liberia/EPA and those of World Bank.

Main Responsibilities

- Work with the project team to ensure that investment in the project activities have considered climate smart action plan, issues identified and addressed according to the Government climate agreements and strategies.
- Identify Climate / Disaster Risks on project and determine possible climate change mitigation and adaptation risks that are aligned to NDC and NAP.
- Lead the screening of potential SME investments for exposure to climate-related risks (flood risk and sustainable resource use);
- Prioritize SME investments that seek to improve climate change adaptation and mitigation in value chains;
- Raise awareness of climate-related risks and impacts in stakeholder engagement and SME business continuity planning training events to provide project beneficiaries with information and good practices to help promote adaptation and resilience at the firm level.
- Review and ensure that investments in the project activities are well aligned with Liberia climate change priority sectors as described in the Country's NDC, the NDC implementation plan, the National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategies (NCCPRS) and the Nation Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- Provide specific technical and policy support in the context of climate change to the project team.

- Review and appraise SMEs to be funded under project to ensure that the solutions they provide are climate smart.
- Coordinate all climate change activities under the project, and take responsibility for their implementation.
- Conduct education and awareness campaign of key Climate Change policies and actions, especially the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) among the project stakeholders.
- Participate in key project functions – preparation of annual work plans and budgets, progress review meetings, supervision missions, etc.
- Prepare and submit regular progress reports (i.e. monthly, quarterly, and annually) to the supervisor.
- Perform any other tasks as may be necessary by the PC.

Qualifications and Experience

- Master's Degree in Climate Change, Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Sustainable Development, or a related discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years of relevant professional work in the field of development, with a strong leaning in Climate Change, Environmental Management or Social Safeguards Development;
- Comprehensive understanding of Liberia's Climate Change and environmental policies and issues.
- Proven experience in applying the mitigation hierarchy for addressing climate impacts
- Experience working with multilateral partners (i.e. World Bank, AfDB) and/private sector in a similar position.

Key Competencies

Abilities

- Demonstrated ability to establish priorities and to plan, co-ordinate, and monitor his/her own work plan and those of subordinate staff.
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines, and to make appropriate links in work processes and anticipate next steps.
- Self-motivated.
- Ability to think strategically and conduct dialogue on environmental and social issues, rural development, climate change, etc.

Skills

- Excellent interpersonal and team building skills, including negotiation skills.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills, including presentations in English.
- Computer literacy with proficient knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint applications.

- Well-developed organizational skills Knowledge.
- Thorough knowledge of Government and private sector institutional and organizational structures and operations in general. Experience in Liberia would be an added advantage.
- Working knowledge of the operational modalities for donors' funded projects (World Bank, USAID, UNDP) is a must.