

for decision-making processes, capacity-building activities, and measures to guarantee that global warming and climate change vulnerabilities are addressed with a gender perspective. According to the CCGAP, curbing climate change requires the participation of women in creating processes to adapt to climate change and mitigation strategies.³⁵

In 2018, the Government of Liberia launched the National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change, and in 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released Liberia's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both documents highlight the importance of mainstreaming gender - focusing on women, youth, children, and people with disabilities - in planning, decision-making, and implementing climate change responses across Liberia. However, according to the Afrobarometer (2018), awareness about climate change in Liberia is higher among men than women (67% for men in comparison to 41% for women) highlighting their marginalisation and exclusion from processes and strategies to combat climate change along with its negative consequences on the environment and population.

Since the end of the second civil war, the country has adopted and ratified several international treaties, resolutions and protocols while developing and putting into practice national policies and action plans to mainstream gender equality in different sectors. Liberia also has stated that it has a commitment to providing an inclusive society for people with disabilities³⁶. In 2005, Liberia created the National Commission on Disabilities.³⁷ Liberia signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012³⁸.

Liberia has various protections for people with disabilities in the workforce. The government also promotes tax incentives for hiring people with disabilities and has a target of 4% employment for people with disabilities.¹⁵¹

People with disabilities have received less attention than other groups of people who are at risk in the country.¹⁶¹

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The action intends to address two main challenges that are hampering effective governance of ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots (priority area 1) and promotion of alternative and sustainable livelihoods from the forestry sector (priority area 2):

1. High deforestation rate and loss of forest species in a biodiversity hotspot, containing the largest area of the Upper Guinean Rain Forests (UGRF) increasing pressure on the most vulnerable populations in Liberia

Liberia is endowed with an abundance of biological and natural resources. Like other developing countries, the country is highly dependent on the exploitation of natural resources for the sustenance of the majority of its rural communities. It is estimated that nearly 700,000 households directly depend on the country's forest resources and agricultural biodiversity for their livelihoods. The agricultural sector in the country employs almost 70% of the population, a majority of which are women and youth (EU CLIP, 2021). Lack of adequate infrastructure has been a major contributor to the protection and conservation of the currently still existing 40% of the Upper Guinean Rain Forest on Liberian territory.

Liberia's total forest area is estimated at 4.2 million hectares, representing about 43% of the total land area³⁹.

From 2001 to 2021, Liberia lost 2.05 million hectares of tree cover. The drivers of deforestation and degradation include⁴⁰:

1. Harvesting for fuelwood, charcoal and construction, illegal logging, and wildfires.

³⁵ IUCN, 2012³⁵, UN Women. 2022

³⁶ "Government of Liberia Committed to Ensuring Inclusive Society--Develops Policies and Programs for People with Disabilities". *Liberia Permanent Mission to the UN*. 11 June 2019

³⁷ Van Aparen, Faustina (2019-04-04). "[Liberia: Trade union actions on decent work for people with disabilities](#)". *PSI*.

³⁸ SIDA (December 2014). "[Disability Rights in Liberia](#)" (PDF). *SIDA*.

³⁹ FLEGT Independent Market Monitor, 2021. Liberia Country profile. <https://flegtimm.eu/country-profiles/liberia/>.

⁴⁰ Global Forest Watch. Country Profile Liberia.