



RCC Western and Central Africa

CASE STUDY: Integrating Land Governance and Securing High-Level Buy-in for Liberia's NDC3.0

Executive Summary

In 2025, Liberia undertook a significant update of its climate goals, resulting in the successful submission of its NDC 3.0. RCC WACA provided essential technical guidance throughout the process to ensure the document was aligned with international standards and domestic priorities. The RCC facilitated a collaboration between the government of Liberia and the International Land Coalition (ILC) to incorporate land governance and natural resource management into the national climate framework. The RCC also supported an in-country technical and political buy-in for the country's NDC and the development of a national implementation plan.

Context and background

As a Least Developed Country (LDC), Liberia faces acute climate vulnerabilities, particularly in its coastal, agricultural, and forestry sectors. Consistent with the outcomes of the first global stocktake (GST1), the country set out to formulate an ambitious and economy-wide NDC 3.0. While technical development was underway, Liberia required specialized support to align its targets with the latest global decisions and to ensure that the implementation phase involved all relevant government ministries beyond the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Support design

Liberia requested and received support from RCC WACA structured around four main pillars:

- **Technical Guidance on International Alignment:** Providing expert advice to align the NDC 3.0 with key UNFCCC decisions, including that on GST1.
- **Thematic Integration:** facilitating a partnership with the ILC to provide technical guidance on incorporating land governance and community land rights into the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector targets.
- **Submission Facilitation:** Assisting the UNFCCC Focal Point in the formal NDC submission process.
- **Implementation Planning:** Facilitating political and technical buy-in by stakeholders and developing an implementation plan for the NDC 3.0.



Results and outcomes

Successful Formal Submission: Liberia became the second country to formulate and submit its NDC 3.0 in west Africa.

Policy Coherence: The NDC 3.0 effectively integrated land governance and natural resource management, reflecting the socio-economic reality of Liberia's rural communities.

Operational Roadmap: An NDC 3.0 Implementation Action Plan was developed, which defines specific roles, KPIs, and resource needs for sectoral ministries and enjoy government-wide support.

Political Commitment: The NDC 3.0 secured high-level buy-in from senior officials and ministers.

Lessons learned and follow-up

Bottlenecks and Challenges: Despite strong political will, consistent data sharing between sectors and securing large-scale climate finance remain significant hurdles. Securing long-term high-level engagement beyond the validation phase is critical for effective implementation.

Replicability and Added Value: Almost all technical ministries and agencies in Liberia have established internal Climate Change Units. This existing institutional capacity provides a robust foundation for mainstreaming climate action and makes this model highly replicable for other countries in the region.

Follow-Up: The RCC-Government of Liberia co-organized event was critical for unpacking to better understand the NDC and to clarify the roles of relevant ministries and to mobilize implementation partners (both UN and non-UN entities).