

ENVIRONMENT WATCH



Monthly Environmental Newsletter

An initiative of the Liberia
Agricultural and
Environmental Journalists
Network

Edition: 001
Februray 2025

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We are thrilled to introduce the **Environment Watch Newsletter**, a bold new initiative dedicated to reshaping the narrative around environmental reporting in Liberia. This newsletter is rooted in the belief that journalism should not only highlight problems but also present the innovative solutions and community-driven efforts addressing these challenges.

Through the lens of Solution Journalism, Environment Watch will focus on showcasing successful environmental practices, innovative solutions, and the stories of individuals, communities, and organizations working tirelessly to protect our environment.

In Liberia, like many parts of the world, environmental issues are pressing, but the focus often tends to be on the challenges and obstacles. While acknowledging these challenges is crucial, we believe it is equally important to shine a light on the positive actions being taken to create sustainable change. Our goal is to shift the narrative from one of despair to one of hope and progress.

Through this newsletter, we aim to inspire action, provide insights, and equip our readers with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their role in protecting the environment. By highlighting success stories, we hope to foster a collective mindset geared toward environmental resilience and sustainability.

We invite you to join us on this journey of positive change. Together, let's explore the possibilities, amplify the voices of those leading the way, and work toward a better future for Liberia and the world.

— **Editor, Environment Watch Newsletter**

The **Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN)** is a professional association dedicated to enhancing the quality of agricultural and environmental reporting in Liberia. Founded with the mission to promote accurate, in-depth, and solution-focused journalism, LAEJN serves as a platform for journalists committed to covering critical issues related to agriculture, climate change, environmental sustainability, and natural resource management.

Through capacity-building initiatives, training workshops, and collaborations with experts and institutions, the network empowers journalists with the knowledge and tools necessary to produce impactful stories that drive meaningful change.

One of LAEJN's key priorities is advancing Solution Journalism—a reporting approach that not only highlights problems but also explores responses and innovations that are making a difference. LAEJN aims to reshape the narrative around environmental and agricultural reporting, emphasizing sustainable practices, resilience, and development opportunities in Liberia.

Through partnerships with local and international organizations, LAEJN strives to ensure that critical issues affecting Liberia's environment and agriculture receive the attention they deserve, ultimately contributing to a more informed and proactive society.

For journalists, media professionals, and stakeholders passionate about agriculture and environmental reporting, LAEJN provides a dynamic space for collaboration, learning, and impactful storytelling.

EPA and Partners Conclude NDC 2.0 Stocktake Meeting, Call for Stronger Climate Action

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, in collaboration with its partners, in February concluded a technical stocktake meeting aimed at reviewing the country's progress in achieving its climate commitments under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2.0. The event, held at the United Nations Building in Monrovia, took place in the Kofi Annan Conference Room.



The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, development partners, and private sector representatives, who engaged in discussions to assess progress, identify challenges, and propose solutions ahead of the launch of Liberia's updated NDC 3.0 in March 2025. [Click on this link to read more about the outcome.](#)

Living with toxins and reptiles from 'garbage city,' the story of Whein Town

What started as a temporary emergency dumpsite in 2007 to cater for Monrovia's solid waste has become a permanent horrific nightmare for residents living in the 'garbage city' of Whein Town, Monrovia, Liberia.

DUBAWA's investigations and tests of liquid samples at the Whein Town landfill have uncovered deadly substances with risks of kidney failure, pneumonia, meningitis, food poisoning, etc, to the people living in the community of Whein Town. Already, scores have died over strange diseases and explosions, and dozens continue to endure the terror of living with toxins, snakes, and other dangerous reptiles, all from the 40-acre landfill site

perching on the outskirts of Monrovia in a community located in Paynesville, District#4 Montserrado County.



“When it rains, the water from the dumpsite, along with feces and snakes, roll down to us. The entire place can be flooded, we can't go out, and our children can't go to school for that number of days,” Laura Wilson, an Elementary School Teacher and mother of six narrated to the researcher. [Follow this link to read more](#)

Liberia's Electricity Rationing Fuels Surge in Charcoal Production, Worsening Environmental Impact

The ongoing electricity rationing in Liberia has triggered a significant rise in charcoal production, as households and businesses increasingly turn to alternative fuel sources. While this shift serves as a temporary solution to power shortages, it is causing severe environmental damage, raising concerns among conservationists and policymakers.



“The rate at which trees are being felled for charcoal production is unsustainable and could have devastating effects on our natural environment. If this continues unchecked, we will face serious consequences, including

desertification and worsening climate conditions,” said Steve Doito an environmental activist with Green Media Campaigners based in Monrovia.

Meanwhile, in a concerted effort to tackle Liberia’s persistent electricity challenges, Vice President Hon. Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Sr., has rallied Liberians to unite. His call came during the opening session of the National Energy Sector Coordination Retreat, held at Koung’s Farm from February 8 to 9, 2025. [Click on this link to get the details.](#)

Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development Concludes Youth Conference on Climate Justice in Bong County

Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development (WASD) has successfully concluded a Youth Conference on Climate Justice in Bong County, held with support from Action Aid Liberia. The conference brought together over 75 youths to discuss climate-related challenges and explore solutions to build resilience in vulnerable communities.



The event focused on empowering young people with knowledge and advocacy tools to address climate change and its disproportionate effects on Liberia’s rural and farming communities. Participants engaged in interactive discussion and, and action-planning sessions led by WASD facilitators. [Read more on this initiative](#)

EPA and Partners Celebrate World Wetlands Day 2025, Call for Stronger Protection Measures

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia has celebrated World Wetlands Day 2025 in Marshall City, Margibi County, under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future.” The event aimed to raise awareness about wetlands’ critical role in

environmental conservation and economic activities such as fishing, farming, and tourism.

Liberia is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, to promote wetland conservation and sustainable use. The country joined the convention in 2003, committing to protect its wetlands and ensure their wise use.



Liberia currently has five designated Ramsar sites: Marshall Wetland in Margibi County, Mesurado Wetland in Montserrado County, Lake Piso Wetland in Grand Cape Mount County, Kpatawee Wetland in Bong County, and Gbendi Wetland in Nimba County. [Read more on this event](#)

EPA Launches 32 Million Dollar Five-Year Environmental Protection Plan

The Government of Liberia, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, has officially launched a five-year strategic plan aimed at strengthening environmental governance and promoting sustainable development across the country.

The launch took place on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at the Belle Casa Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia. The event brought together government officials, civil society organizations, EPA partners, and international stakeholders.



Representing President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Sr. at the occasion, Ambassador Charles Snetter,

Ambassador At Large, Ministry of State conveyed the president's message, emphasizing the government's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable resource management.

[Read more on this development](#)

Liberia Advocates for Development Priorities at Forest Governance Forum in London

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia has called for stronger international partnerships to support the country's environmental and development goals during a sideline meeting with officials of the British Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office at the Forest Governance, Markets, and Climate Forum. The forum took place at Goodenough College in London, bringing together global stakeholders to discuss sustainable forestry and climate action.



Liberia's delegation, led by the EPA's Executive Director Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo used the meeting to outline the country's pressing priorities under the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. The ARREST Agenda is an ambitious eight-billion-dollar development plan that aims to transform Liberia into a lower-middle-income country by 2030.

Dr. Yarkpawolo called on international partners to focus on projects under pillar five of the plan, which addresses environmental sustainability and climate change. [Read more](#)

Locals Push Towards Conservation Amidst the Environmental Dilemma of Logging to Mitigate Climate Change Impacts

In the Bondi Mandingo Community Forest of Liberia's Bopolu District, the shadows of a logging industry's past linger, casting a complex web of challenges and opportunities for the community.

For years, logging companies have invaded their lands, cutting down massive trees and leaving behind a trail of destruction. Though the promise of jobs and economic growth was tempting, locals have begun to realize the cost.



Stanford David, a lifelong resident and mother of three in Gbarquoista of Bopolu district, voiced the growing frustration in the community. She said, *"They came in, cut down our trees, took some, and left us with nothing,"* She said, *"We see the beauty of our forest dying,"* so, *"we want to protect our home for our children."* [Read more on story](#)

EPA Hosts Climate Learning and Exchange Forum for Lawmakers to Advance Legislative Actions for Climate Change Mitigation in Liberia

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, in collaboration with the Liberian Legislature's Committee on Land, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment, has launched an intensive Climate Learning and Exchange Forum for lawmakers.



This three-day forum, running from February 14 to February 16, 2025, in Ganta, Nimba County, has convened more than 38 legislators to engage in comprehensive discussions on climate change mitigation strategies for Liberia. The initiative is supported by NovaSphere under the West Africa

MRV bilateral support for climate actions –
Implementation and governance with funding
from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
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Urgent Call to Address Climate Risks in Liberia

Like many other nations, Liberia is facing a formidable challenge of climate change. With its vulnerable geography, limited resources, and gradual increase in population, Liberia stands at a frontline to climate-related risk.

The impact of climate change is intense with the high humidity experienced during the dry season. Urgent action is not just necessary, it is crucial to safeguard the nation's future. This piece highlights the need to invest in the ecosystem and pay more attention to preserving the environment.



Climate Change according to (United Nations Climate Action 2022) refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns due to variations in the sun's activity, Since the 1800s human activities have significantly contributed to the current global climate change. [Read more on this special article](#)

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