

EPA, UNDP Initiate Trees Planting Program



EPA Deputy Executive Director leading tree planting exercise in Robertsport

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) last January launched a nationwide climate change awareness training program to enhance the adaptation capacities of residents offour counties.

Supported by the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Project, the 'Community Based Adaptation Training Program' which was launched in Robertsports, Grand Cape Mount County, is being

implemented by Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The training programs concluded by cleaning up exercises and tree planting in West Point, New Kru Town, Doe Community, SKD Boulevard, Kesseley Boulevard, Soniwhein, Clara Town, Marshall and Buchanan City.

EPA Deputy Executive Director, Randall M. Dobayou, said the climate change awareness training is intended for people he considered as 'grass-rooters' across the country to understand the significance and impact of climate change. Following the launch of the project, Dobayou led a team of government officials, development partners and local community members to plant trees in Robertsport.

He cautioned against falling of trees for coal production and stressed the need for people to turn to the use of efficient cook-stoves, which were introduced in Liberia under the NAP project.

Inspector Pinney, who spoke on behalf of Superintendent Aaron Vincent, acknowledged that climate change was negatively impacting the county and disclosed that an entire community was washed into the ocean some years ago.

SCNL Executive Director, Michael Garbo explained that his group was contracted by the National Adaptation Plan Project to conduct trainings on the benefits and impacts to coastal ecosystems and the urgency for grassroots community action.

EPA Shut-Down CICO's Operation

...For Breaching Environmental Law



The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) has shut down the operation of China Chongqing International Construction Company (CICO) in Caldwell, Montserrado County for refusing to adhere to a 'notice of violation' issued by the EPA on March 4, 2019. A team

from EPA's Compliance and Enforcement Department, headed by John K. Jallah, told management that their operation is in complete violation of the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia.

CICO operations had negatively affected the integrity of the environment and people within the Cassava Hill Community. They posed a serious environmental and public health threat to nearby environmental receptors (local communities, air and water quality issues) old and sickened elders, plants, animals and children.

Mr. Jallah explained that CICO's un-notified conduct of rock blasting without organized timing contravenes provision of the Noise regulation of Liberia and General Permit Condition 5.3, of the Environmental Permit issued by the EPA. The permit provides for the utilization of appropriate blasting technology, building consensus on blasting schedules, installation of bell alarm system, dust suppression amongst others, but was not fully complied with by the company.

Environmental Watch is the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia

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Liberia Hosts Blue Ocean Conf.



EDITORIAL

Liberia's Future Depends on Protecting Our Oceans

The ocean sustains us. The waters provide us with food, oxygen, weather, tides, a means of transport, a means of livelihood – the list goes on and on. But the value of our relationship with the sea is challenged: unscrupulous businesses take advantage of weak marine governance, overwhelmed governments struggle to prevent illegal activity, and climate change alters the very chemistry of the waters making it an inhospitable place for marine life.

These all impact life on land: as the head of Conservation International in Liberia, Jessica Donovan, pointed out “when fisheries are poorly managed they collapse, when sea levels rise, coastal businesses disappear, when coasts erode, houses crumble, and when species disappear, the whole composition of the ocean changes”.

In this edition of Environment Watch we are focussing on Oceans. In March, the EPA joined with the Government of Liberia, the Embassy of Sweden, and Conservation International (CI) to host the Blue Oceans Conference – the first major environmental and marine conference in West Africa – to discuss these very issues. We met with experts from all over the world to plan actionable steps to tackle marine pollution, climate change, sustainable fishing, and to establish a thriving blue economy.

This wasn't just a talking shop: the conference concluded by signing a collaboratively drafted document holding signatories accountable for their actions. Government, NGO, the Diplomatic Community, CSO and academic representation worked together to set out 10 pledges ranging from improving transparency internationally for vessel registration, to preventing net loss of mangroves after 2020, to galvanising the plastic recycling industry in Liberia to reduce plastic pollution.

So how do we move forward? We know the dangers of inaction, we have gathered a group of interested, creative, and passionate stakeholders, and we have set out standards that we want to achieve. We must use the pledge to hold each other accountable for inactivity and to provide a blueprint for scaling up marine protection. Let's fill the next issue, the next 10 issues, of Environment Watch with stories of successful and sustainable marine developments.

UNDP Donates Vehicle Value Over US\$ 43, 000 To EPA



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on Monday, February 18, 2019 donated one 'Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top' jeep valued over US\$ 43, 000 to the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA). The vehicle was purchased by UNDP under a project dubbed 'Coastal Add Project' to enhance the works of the National Climate Change Secretary (NCCS).

The Coastal Add Project is a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Least Developed Countries Fund initiative to support Liberia to address Monrovia's Coastal Vulnerability, amongst other things.

Keys to the vehicle were presented to EPA Executive Director, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr. by UNDP Assistant Country Director, Dorsla D. Farcarthy on behalf of UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Pa Lamin Bayee at a brief ceremony at EPA's 4th Street office. Mr. Farcarthy said the donation was part of collaboration between EPA and UNDP and noted that the two institutions are crucial partners in the protection of the environment.

Dr. Blama thanked UNDP for the gesture and promised that the Toyota Land Cruiser will be used for the intended purpose.



EPA Celebrates World Wetlands Day



Residents encroaching on Wetlands in Chocolate City

Authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia on Saturday, February 2, 2019 celebrated the 2019 'World Wetlands Day' in Chocolate City, Gardnerville outside Monrovia.

The 2nd day of February is celebrated every year as World Wetlands Day and has been celebrated by all UN member countries worldwide since 1997. The celebration is intended to focus worldwide attention on the importance of wetlands, their values and benefits. This year, the global theme for the celebration was 'Wetlands and Climate Change' and the local Liberian theme was 'Protect the Wetlands; Prevent Flooding'.

Speaking at the official celebration, the EPA Deputy Executive Director, Randal M. Dobayou cautioned residents against burying dead people on wetlands across Montserrado County. This was in response to reports that people were burying on Bali Island and other on wetlands under the cover of darkness.

The EPA Deputy Executive Director said wetlands are not dumpsites or wastelands, but serve a valuable protective purpose. As such, back falling wetlands for the purpose of constructing houses is not only illegal but also an unsustainable activity for nearby residents.

The EPA Deputy Executive Director asked residents who have legitimate ownerships of wetlands and plans to develop them to come to the EPA, which has the mandate and the scientific infrastructure to help them sustainably develop wetlands.

He warned against the constant cutting of mangroves in the wetlands, because mangroves protect shorelines from damaging storm and wide winds, waves and floods. “Cutting of mangrove means you are cutting the lifespan of our environment because mangrove prevents erosion by stabilizing sediments with their tangled roots system,” Hon. Dobayou cautioned.

Keynote speaker, Deputy Agriculture Minister, Robert G. Fangan, acknowledged that wetlands are being abused across the country and asked the EPA to also pay attention to wetlands in rural area where miners are destroying them.

Prior to the indoor program, residents joined some of the EPA staff to clean areas near the wetlands in Chocolate City. During the cleaning up exercise, the Focal Person on Ramsar Convention, Hon. Levi Z. Piah admonished residents against building on wetlands and cutting down of the mangroves.

At the ceremony, students of Al-Ansari English & Arabic Elementary & Junior High School were awarded a giant size trophy for emerging as winner of a quizzing competition held on Friday, February 1, 2019 among three schools including K. T. Woiwor Memorial Institute and Salvation Army Bill Norris Elementary and Junior High School.

ED Blama Speaks On Consent

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr. has attributed the repeated conflicts at concession sites across the country to the failure of companies to apply the 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' (FPIC) process.

FPIC is a specific right that is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) that allows local people to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories.

Several concessions in the mining, forestry and agriculture sectors awarded by previous government have been challenged by a series of protests from local communities.

Speaking at an inter-agency meeting on developing National Guidelines for Community Consultation held at the EPA on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, Dr. Blama told the forum that communities were not always informed and that they didn't necessarily give their consent to concessions granted by government. The forum aimed to change this by assisting Liberia to conform to the requirements and standards of community consultations when involving the use of their forest resources.

According to him, all the communities saw were long convoys of trucks and yellow machines coming to their areas and clearing their lands and when they inquired, they were told “we



Dr. Blama flanked by Deputy Director Randal Dobayou

have been given these lands by the Government of Liberia”.

Dr. Blama indicated that communities existed before the formation of government and “so you cannot go and clear their forest without the consent of the communities”.

In brief statement, EPA Manager for Planning and Policy, Z. Elijah Whapoe explained that the development of national guidelines for community consultation involving forest resources is a project under the Liberian Forest Sector Project funded by the Norwegian Government through the World Bank. Mr. Whapoe said the purpose of the meeting was to give information and listen to views of participants from line government ministries and agencies about the development of National Guidelines on community consultation.

Pictorial On The 2019 Celebrations Of World Wetlands Day In Liberia



Residents encroaching on Wetlands in Chocolate City



Wetlands in Chocolate City being encroached on by residents



Madam Ella D. Duncan, Assistant Manager Human Resource



Communication specialist Danise Love Dennis, Hon. Levi Z. Piah and Francis Saydue, Manager Intersectoral



Assistant Manager for County Coordination, Edwin and a cross-section of participants



This year's celebration of Wetlands Day was held in Chocolate City



Some residents cleaning the wetland



Student Hawa Mongai Sotiamon Christian School System reading the Presidential Proclamation



Mr. Dobayou addresses audience at this year's World Wetlands Day in Monrovia.



Wetlands on the SKD Boulevard in Montserrado County-Lib.

World Bank Enhances EPA's Operation



Authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) have disclosed that the agency's operation is being enhanced by support being provided by the World Bank.

They attributed the scale of achievements EPA has recorded to the support the World Bank has provided through the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP).

They indicated that under institutional capacity enhancement, the EPA has received a fleet of vehicles and motorcycles which has strengthened environmental monitoring particularly at field level.

According to them, under human capacity development, two EPA staff members were awarded scholarships enabling them to earn master degrees in environmental.

Under the same project, the agency carried out safeguard training for its field staff, natural resource management training for forest communities in the Liberia Forest Sector Project landscape, as well as conducted Green House Gas (GHG) training for Liberian Government Institutions.



EPA Trains Technicians on GHG Inventory



GHG emissions is important as the country is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Liberia has made significant progress aimed at mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and has made significant commitment to a 10% reduction in GHG emissions by at least 2030.

Speaking at the start of the three -day event, EPA Deputy Executive Director, Hon. Randall M. Dobayou said being a party to the UNCCC, Liberia has submitted its initial national communication to UNFCCC and is presently gearing up to address its capacity gaps, while preparing to report its Second National communication and First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia with funding from the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) concluded a three-day Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GHGI) Capacity Building Training for technicians from relevant government institutions. Understanding Liberia's

He disclosed that the agency is working with the University of Liberia to offer three graduate programs: MA in Environmental Management, MSc in Environmental Sciences and MSc in Biological Diversity and Climate Change, to ensure a new generation of skilled scientists will join the labour market.

EPA Staff Attend Climate Science Training At ASU



A delegation from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) headed by its Deputy Executive Director, Hon. Randall M. Dobayou on March 26, 2019 attended the “Global Climate Science and Communications and Early Warning Systems” Workshop in the United States of America.

Other staff members that attended the workshop included R. Baiyezenah W. Brown, Assistant Manager for Technical Services, Jeremiah Soka, Coordinator for National Climate Change Secretarial and Salimatu L. Gilayeneh, EPA Project Coordinator for Energy and Environment.

The workshop was hosted by Professor Dr. Boakai Keith Robertson, Executive Director of Graduate Programs in Biological Sciences at Alabama State University (ASU).

The Global Climate Science and Communications and Early Warning Systems Workshop was made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered between Alabama State University (ASU) and EPA on December 14, 2018.

The MoU is intended to enhance cooperation in several areas, including the enhancement of scientific and technological research opportunities.

Liberia Gets Over US\$ 6M To Address Environmental Issues

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), a financial mechanism for several major multi-lateral environment agreements has allotted US\$6.13 for Liberia under its 'GEF 7 replenishment period' for the execution of environmental projects between 2019 and 2022.

GEF Lead Environment Specialist, Dr. Mohamed Bakarr said GEF is a partnership of donors, recipient countries, implementing agencies and civil society organizations.

Speaking at the start of a two-day National Dialogue on environmental issues affecting the country on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, Dr. Bakarr said the GEF is hosted in the World Bank, which serves as Trustee.

The two day dialogue is being held under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

EPA Executive Director, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr told participants that the dialogue is intended to initiate and animate exchange views on home Liberian stakeholders with the assistance of partners can tailor program portfolio that gear toward consolidating the gain already made and advance



Participants at the two day National Dialogue on Environmental issues affecting Liberia substantive proposal which focus on long term development priority in the new spending period.

“It is expected that the dialogue will therefore consider and build upon our recent gains and re-direct focus mostly on synergistic and integrated project portfolios which have been identified in recent past as key priority if we are to turn the corner,” Dr. Blama noted.

Kawusu Takes Colleagues Through ESIA Process

The Assistant Manager for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in the Department of Compliance and Enforcement, Kawusu Toure on Friday, March 29, 2019 drilled some EPA's staff through the ESIA Process.

Speaking at a forum dubbed as 'Know Your Environment', Mr. Toure said ESIA process is a systemic process to identify, predict and evaluate the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of proposed projects, plans or policies.

The forum was organized by the Department of Planning and Policy headed by Z. Elijah Whapoe.

Speaking further on the 'Importance of the ESIA Process in National Development', Toure indicated that ESIA process is applied prior to issuance of environmental permits.

According to him, ESIA helps to provide key and relevant stakeholders with information about the likely potential impacts of projects.

“In some cases, the outcome of the ESIA process may require a



developer to alter or in extreme cases abandon a project,” he added In a PowerPoint presentation at.

The forum, which was moderated by Research Officer, George O. Free was climaxed by questions and answers.

EPA Participates In Int'l. Women Day Celebration



International Women Day program held in Kakata, Margibi County.

Fewer male staff also graced the celebration which was held under the global theme “Press for Progress”.

The national theme was “Act Now: Support the Liberian Woman Agenda.”

Beautifully attired in flowery green lapper suits, the EPA staff joined other women from several government ministries and agencies to parade the principal streets of Kakata City, before converging on Booker Washington Institute (BWI) Campus for the official ceremony.

The International Women's Day is an annual event held on March 8 of each year to celebrate women's achievements, identify the rights and power of women and give them the status they deserve across nations. The day also seeks to honor the voices that go unheard, tears that go unnoticed and, the rights that are dominated.

On March 6, 2019, some female staff of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) represented the agency at the celebration of this year's

Endangered Species finds Safety

On Thursday, March 14, 2019, a student of Blue Crest University in Sinkor presented a Lemur to staff working in the Conservation Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA).

The lemur is an endangered species popularly known in Liberia as 'Sopha-Sopha'. It was taken at a dangerously young age from the bush and ended up for sale. The creature, being incredibly young and vulnerable, was brought to EPA so that it could be properly cared for and rehabilitated to its natural environment through transfer to the animal sanctuary in Marshall, Margibi County.

In Liberia, it is illegal to keep a wild animal in the home without proper licencing and regulation. The student, Benjamin Urey, knew that animals too have rights to move freely in their own habitat and did the right thing by turning the lemur over to EPA.



Pictorial: The Government Of Liberia, The Embassy Of Sweden And Conservation International Recently Concluded A Four-day International Blue Oceans Conference In Monrovia



Dr. Blama sandwiched by Jessica Donovan of Conservation International and Elizabeth Harleman of Sweden Embassy during a news conference



Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr. making remarks at the Blue Ocean Pre-launch and Beach



Cross-section of participants at the Pre-launch and Beach Cleaning exercise



Levi Z. Piah, EPA Chief Technical Adviser making presentation at the conference



Henry T. Weah, Jr and Miss. Othrael Forte, Chief of Office Staff and member of the President Young Professional Program, respectively



Some conference participants cleaning the beachfront of plastics



Local residents joined the cleaning-up exercise



Cross-section of participants



Z. Elijah Whapoe, EPA Manager for Planning and Policy, did a presentation on Climate Change Policy and Planning



Consultant Urias Goll doing presentation at the conference

EPA Intensifies Climate Change Awareness



Participants post for picture

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia has intensified climate change awareness in Liberia by holding a one-day national capacity building training workshop on 'Understanding Climate Change' in Liberia.

Organized under the auspices of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the one-day event attracted instructors from various high schools, stakeholders and representatives of environmental non-governmental organizations. Benjamin S. Karmorh, National Focal Point on UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said the training was part of a series of workshops intended to educate Liberians about climate change and its impact in Liberia.

Hon. Karmorh explained that the training was necessitated by the fact that Liberia is experiencing climate induced disasters like torrential rainfall which causes flooding annually in Liberia.

This message was reiterated by the Assistant Minister for Mineral Exploration and Environment at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Rexford C. Sartuh explained that impacts of climate change can be seen all across Liberia.

Liberia has already loss a good portion of its coastal land to sea erosion and indicated that severe storm surges have also immersed leading to flooding.

African Development Bank Empowers EPA's Technicians

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) and Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) in collaboration with the African Development Bank Group held a one-week capacity building training in December 2018 for Laboratory Technicians, Environmental Inspectors and staff at the Geographic Information System (GIS) and Environmental Research and Standards (ERS) Units of the EPA on how to effectively monitor environmental impacts caused by High Voltage Transmission System (HVTs).

The development of a High Voltage Transmission System (HVTs), according to the organizers, exerts a wide array of environmental and social impacts, displacement of local people and can lead to serious health complications, migration of birds, as well as change in agricultural yield.

The training, held in Buchanan Grand Bassa County, also attracted staff of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Unit, managers of special environmental

projects, interns and university students studying disciplines relevant to the environment.

Hon. Jeremiah G. Soka, National Coordinator of the National Climate Change Secretariat, said the training was necessary because the installation of High Tension Lines (HTLs) has caused a loss of forest cover and destruction of wildlife habitat in certain areas.

"Although impacts to some of these environmental matrices may be minimum and delocalized, the net cumulative impact is often significant and spans across a large area of land," Hon. Soka indicated.

He disclosed that as a government agency charged with the mandate of ensuring the protection, conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources, the EPA faces serious constraints that limit its ability to effectively monitor projects across the country.

At the end of the training African Development Bank Group had delivered hands-on training in the use of portable water, air, and soil quality test kits to conduct in situ analysis of these environmental issues.

The ADB then gave the testing equipment to the EPA.



Cross-section of participants at the African Development Bank Group training in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County



Mr. Soka speaking at the start of the capacity building training in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County

EPA Takes Steps To Address Land Degradation



Institutions involved in issues related to sustainable land management, forestry, the environment, biodiversity conservation, climate change and agriculture met on February 20th 2019 to endorse the document.

In September 2015, the global community agreed on 'the 2030 agenda for sustainable development', including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets. Goal 15 urges countries to 'protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Speaking at the start of the workshop, EPA Executive Director, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr., said the Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program is a process that draws from the SDGs of which Liberia is a party.

Some of the targets seek to revert land degradation across the world and noted that Africa is one of the areas where there is an issue of increased land degradation and land loss.

Dr. Blama stressed the need for "us to look at our national circumstances and come-up with appropriate measure that can fight to avert or avoid land loss".

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia has begun taking steps to address land degradation in the country by vetting, validating and endorsing the country's Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Report (LDNTR).

EPA Hosts Climate Sensitive Investment Meeting

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on Thursday, February 28, 2019 held an investment meeting with representatives of select businesses operating in Liberia.

The 'Climate Sensitive Investment Meeting' for the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project (MMCRP) attracted representatives of concession companies, banks, airlines and other institutions and was intended to facilitate understanding of the MMCRP and the opportunity for investment.

In a welcome statement, the Focal Point for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Benjamin S. Karmorh said the meeting was intended to encourage members of the private sector participate in the proposed MMCRP.

The EPA Executive Director, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr. explained the importance of investing as the MMCRP seeks to implement a variety of coastal defense activities to protect five key areas around Monrovia that have become vulnerable to coastal erosion.

Already, over 674 households are reported to have already been displaced and it is estimated that up to a further 30,000 households are likely to be affected.

The EPA Boss indicated that the replacement cost of infrastructure alone will be in the range of US\$ 2 billion if nothing is done, and noted that through the EPA, the government is acting now to increase resilience.

The project, according to Dr. Blama seeks to access a US\$41



Participants posed for photo

million grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), but explained that the GCF has asked Liberia to also contribute financially to the project.

He noted that the government is constrained and cannot be the sole provider of co-financing. The impact of climate change will hit businesses as well as government, and so it is in the interest of the private sector to use this occasion to coordinate, access the funds, and protect valuable economic assets. John Mason, a consultant did an overview of the MMCRP and highlighted several areas along the coastline from Hotel Africa to Bernard's Beach in Congo Town that need protection.

Dr. Blama disclosed that investing in the project will attract enormous benefits to the banking, hospitality industry, tourism, transportation and other sectors.

EPA Bags Several Awards



In January, 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) and its Executive Director, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr., were proud recipients of over four different awards for outstanding performances in 2018.

Two of the awards were presented by media groups including Smart Media and Independent Probe Newspaper.

Smart Media Group, publisher of Smart News Liberia awarded Dr. Blama as the 'Executive Director' of the year, while Independent Probe Newspaper awarded EPA its 'Best Public

Institution' of the year award for its executing its duties with diligent. Receiving the awards at two separate occasions, which attracted senior staff of the agency, Dr. Blama said his institution sees the awards as challenge to do more.

"We feel humbled for the awards, this is going to make us to work even harder than ever before," said Dr. Blama.

Dr. Blama guaranteed positive engagement with the Liberian media for the successful implementation of EPA's duties and responsibilities.

EPA Boss: Liberia Doesn't Have Capacity Gap

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr., has dispelled notion that Liberia has a huge capacity gap for which expatriates are being hired to work here.

He sees it as a failure to utilize human capacities already belonging to Liberians.

Dr. Blama indicated that Liberia has 'knowledge management system gap' and indicated that the Civil Servants Agency (CSA) and the Ministry of Labor don't have comprehensive listing of qualified Liberians in a particular field.

He defended his argument by pointing to the number of people who applied recently for EPA Inspector post.

The EPA needed 100 persons, but over 3,000 persons applied for the Inspector posts.

He disclosed that the EPA is still struggling to finalize the list, and explained that of the 3,000 persons, 200 applicants successfully made it following a public test administered to 800 applicants who were shortlisted



Former Forestry Development Authority Managing Director Woods and EPA's CEO Blama

The EPA wishes to train and deploy the 200 persons, because they all hold first degrees in the sciences, but the agency lack resources to do so. There were over 68 master degrees holders in environmental sciences who also applied for the Inspector posts.