

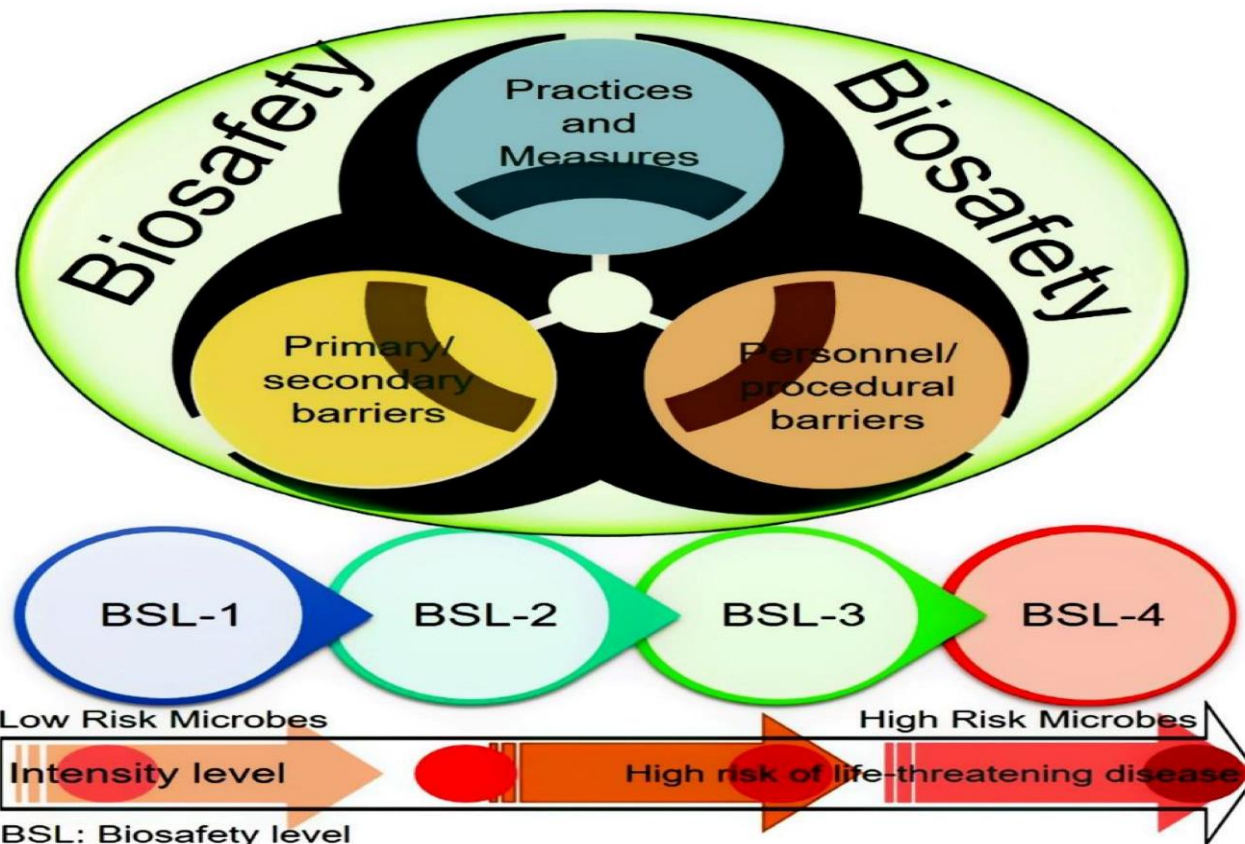
# An Overview of the Catagena Protocol

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# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Objectives of the Protocol
- Major Achievements
- Challenges
- Best Practices and Way-forward



## Introduction

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is one of the Protocols to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- It was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on 29 January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Protocol was opened for signature at the United Nations Office at Nairobi by States and regional economic integration organizations from 15 to 26 May 2000, and
- It remained open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001.

# Introduction

- Liberia began party to the protocol in February 15, 2002 when she ratified and accepted the instrument and deposited same into the depositary of the convention, and
- In September 11, 2003 the protocol came into force in Liberia.
- As of December 2019, the Protocol had 172 parties, which includes 168 United Nations member states, the State of Palestine, Niue, the European Union, and now Uzbekistan signed on October 25, 2019.

# Objective of the Protocol

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another.
- Its main objective is to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern Biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity( in Liberia), taking also into account human, animals and plants health.

## Categories of LMOs

**LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment (e.g. seeds, live fish)**

**LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (e.g. agricultural commodities – corn, canola, cotton)**

**LMOs for contained use (e.g. bacteria for laboratory scientific experiment)**





## Major Achievements

- The Biosafety Unit operated a project from 2011-2018, entitled National Biosafety Framework for Liberia Project.
- The objective of the project was to establish national biosafety framework to facilitate the implementation of the Cartagena Biosafety protocol at the national level.
- The project achieved many success stories, and amongst them are:

## Major Achievements

- Development of Biosafety Act and Policy
- Development of 5 Biosafety regulations
  - Transboundary movement of LMOs
  - Labeling of products of LMOs
  - Liability and Redress of LMOs
  - Environmental Release of LMOs
  - Contained Use of LMOs

## Major Achievements

- Establishment of GMO lab at the National Standard Lab.
- Preparation of Environmental Science curriculum at the Agriculture College and a Biosafety syllabus in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Liberia.
- Preparation of short-term Training courses (manual) for policy makers and inspectors (Environmental and Agricultural).
- Commencement of Biosafety and Environmental program at the University of Liberia in the college of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science and Technology.



# Major Achievements

- Consolidation of various Biosafety laws and Guidelines and validation of said document.
- Establishment of National Biosafety Committee
- Establishment of Biosafety Clubs in some Universities in Monrovia

# Challenges

- Ratification of the Biosafety Art by the National Legislature and Signing of the Biosafety Policy and Regulations by Policy Counsel and Board.
- Funding for capacity building for personnel at the GMO Lab
- Budgetary Constraint
- Public awareness of Biosafety mainstreaming into National Development plan and program.

# Best Practice & Way-forward

Networking and Establishing linkages with line ministries, related local and Regional organizations.

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**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**

