

"AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW OF LIBERIA"

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**AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW
OF LIBERIA**

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AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Liberia as party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which requires signatories to protect certain species of wild flora and fauna, including timber species against illegal trade and to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which requires in-situ conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings;

WHEREAS, the vision of the legislatively mandated Protected Area Network of Liberia contained in Chapter 9 Section 9.1 of the National Forestry Reform Law 2006 is to conserve the country's unique biodiversity and ecosystems services through stakeholder, especially community, involvement and participation in management in ways that ensure sustainable benefits, cultural values, and abiding by the rule of law, for now and generations to come, following the principle of the integration of community, conservation and commercial forest management;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Act is to maintain, protect and preserve wildlife as a national heritage, and to address the central issues concerning wildlife and wildlife habitats namely: (i) management and protection of wild animals through the use of appropriate and internationally accepted best practices including but not limited to: planning tools, licensing and pricing systems, hunting rules and regulations, game ranching and breeding control; (ii) ownership of wildlife is vested in the State and related user rights shall be granted to citizenry in accordance with this law; (iii) provisions on the protection of neighboring areas and the relationship between wildlife protection and other forms of land use and (iv) institutions enabling participation in wildlife-related decision-making and economic benefits, including consultations mechanisms, representative wildlife managing bodies, agreements between individuals or communities and public institutions and devolution of authority;

WHEREAS, wildlife resources provide a recognized socio-economic role of ensuring sustained livelihoods for forest--dependent communities, protecting the rapidly declining population of wildlife due to loss of habitat, the unsustainable harvesting of and commercial trade in "bushmeat" which are likely to negatively impact the very people who are less likely to find livelihood and alternative food sources;

WHEREAS, Chapter 9, Section 9.1 (a) of the National Forestry Reform Law 2006 mandates the establishment of a Protected Forest Area Network to cover at least 30 percent of the existing forested area of Liberia, representing about 1.5 million hectares; and that within one year of the effective date of the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, the FDA shall present to the Legislature for consideration and passage a comprehensive framework law for wildlife conservation and protection;

AND WHEREAS, the FDA has presented said framework for wildlife conservation and protection;

NOW THEREFORE, it is enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

CHAPTER I

Section 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Title

This Act constitutes, and shall be cited as *An Act Adopting the National Wildlife and Conservation Protected Area Management Law*.

1.2 Short Title/Citation

This Act may be referred to as the National Wildlife Law of 2012

1.3 Definitions

Words used in the singular form in this Law shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may require. For the purpose of this Law, the following definitions apply:

Alien species: any species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce, and whose natural range does not now or did not in the past include a specific part of Liberia or the whole of Liberia.

Alien Invasive Species: alien (non-native) species of plants, animals, and a pest whose introduction or spread cause or is likely to threaten biological diversity or cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. "Introduction" here refers to movement by human agency, direct or indirect, of alien species outside its natural range (past or present); within a country or between countries or areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Animal: means and includes any vertebrate or invertebrate animal or bird and the eggs and young thereof, but does not include a fish, except in a national park or a game reserve, or a domestic animal or bird, or the eggs and the young thereof.

Authority: The Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Created by an Act of Legislature on November 1, 1976 or the CITES Management Authority (FDA) cited under Section 43 of this Act.

Biodiversity: The varying number and forms of living things and their interaction within their habitats.

Biological Resources: includes genetic resources, organisms, parts thereof, populations or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors of the Forestry Development Authority.

Buffer Zone: For the purpose of this Act is a transitional zone (such as a Communal Forest, Game Reserve, or Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve) surrounding a more strictly protected zone, intended for low-impact sustained human use to reduce the impact of outside human disturbance, to protect the boundaries from encroachment, and to preserve the natural state of the more strictly protected zone it surrounds.

Bushmeat: The products of any vertebrate or invertebrate including mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and insects of every description but does not include any fish or domestic animals.

Bushmeat Trade: the selling, buying, bartering, hawking, exchanging, offering or exposing for sale . wildlife or bushmeat.

Bushmeat trader: person who buys and sells bushmeat.

Capture: includes any act that results in the taking alive of any animal or the taking of any nest, eggs or young of any animal.

CITES: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to which Liberia is a Party.

Commercial Hunting: hunting activities and operations undertaken for financial gain or other compensation and involves middlemen or re-sellers who are not hunters themselves.

Commercial Use: Any use of Forest Products or Forest Land, other than direct use for personal purposes or infrastructure development. Commercial Use includes uses involving Trade or any other disposition of Forest Products or Forest Land for direct or indirect financial benefits.

Communal Forest: An area set aside by statute or regulation as a result of a request from a local community or community of users for their management and sustainable use of forest products/natural resources for subsistence in buffer zones around protected areas within the Protected Area Network and wildlife management areas or any protected area requiring harvesting/extraction restrictions reflecting the objective of the protected area.

Community: A self-defined and publicly or widely-recognized coherent social group or groups who share common customs and traditions, irrespective of administrative and social sub-divisions, residing, in a particular area of land over which members of the group exercise jurisdiction communally by agreement, custom, or law. A community may thus be a single village or town, or a group of villages or towns, or a clan.

Community Forestry: The governance and management of forests by a community for commercial and non-commercial purposes to further development of the community and enhance the livelihood of community members.

Community Forest Land: Forested or partially forested land traditionally owned or used by communities for socio-cultural, economic and developmental purposes. This term is interchangeable with the term "community forest".

Community Land Area: An area over which a community traditionally extends its proprietorship and jurisdiction, and is recognized as such by neighboring communities

Community Wildlife Management Areas: an area described (designated) as a community wildlife management area by the Authority and/or a Community

Conservation: The sustainable management and protection of ecosystems and habitats to achieve maximum environmental, social, economic, and scientific benefits for present and future generations.

Conservation Concession: a contractual right granted by the Authority and/or a Community or private land owner in accordance with specified rules of this Act to utilize protected forest areas or community or private lands or resources for specified purposes or to carry out specified activities governed by this Act.

Conservation Corridor: The use of a Game Reserve, Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve, *community wildlife management areas*, *communal forests* or any other Protected Area category or wildlife management area category to ensure that large blocks of the protected Forest areas remain contiguous for the purpose to permit wildlife migration and maximum generic exchange between blocks.

Conservancy: The voluntary co-operative environmental management of an area by its community and users; a legally protected area established by a group of bonafide land-occupiers practicing co-operative management based on a sustainable utilization strategy, promoting conservation of natural resources and wildlife, and striving to re-instate the original bio-diversity with the basic goal of sharing resources amongst all members

Controlled Hunting Area: An area designated by the Authority and/or a Community, or private land owner where hunting is allowed under Regulations for off-take of certain animals under special license requirements and during defined hunting seasons.

Country of Origin of Genetic Resources: country which possess those genetic resources in in-situ conditions.

Cultural Site: An area, set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act for the preservation and enjoyment of features with a local or national cultural significance.

Customary Land: Land, including forest land, owned by individuals, groups, families or communities through longstanding rules recognized as customary land, it is not necessary for the land to have been registered under statutory entitlements.

Dangerous Animal: any animal specified as a dangerous animal by the Authority when necessary.

Domestic animal: any animal which is sufficiently tame to serve some purpose for the use of man, whether or not such use is utilitarian, and includes individual animals which were once tamed or which are in the process of being so tamed.

Domesticated Cultivated or Species: Species in which the evolutionary process has been influenced by humans to meet their needs.

Domestic bird: any fowl, duck, goose, turkey, or pigeon commonly regarded as a domestic bird or young thereof;

Ecosystem: a dynamic complex of plant, animal, and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Ecosystem-based forestry: forest management that seeks to sustain fully functioning ecosystems by adapting economic activities to natural ecological limits thereby maintaining the integrity and health of the forest ecosystems rather than eroding ecosystems to support economic activity.

Ecotourism: a form of tourism that strives to minimize ecological or other damages to areas visited for natural or cultural interest

Environment: includes the surrounding living and non-living things, and their interrelationship.

Endangered wildlife species: Any plant or animal species whose ability to survive and reproduce has been jeopardized by human activities and by changing environmental or predation parameters as identified by the Authority, CITES and IUCN.

Endemic wildlife species: Species that occur within a particular defined, discrete geographical area or zone and naturally found nowhere else.

Ex-situ Conservation: The conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitat.

Fauna: An animal of a particular region, habitat, or geological period listed by species and considered as a whole.

Flora: A plant of a particular region or period listed by species and considered as a whole. The collective plant organisms of a given locality.

Forest: For the purpose of this Act an ecosystem or assemblage of ecosystems dominated by trees and other woody vegetation and which includes shrubs, vines, grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants, mosses, algae, fungi, insects, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and microorganisms living on the plants and animals and in the soil.

Forest Land: A tract of land, including its flora and fauna, capable of producing Forest Resources, not including land in urban areas, land in permanent settlements, and land that has been in long-term use for non-shifting cultivation of crops or livestock in a manner that precludes producing Forest Resources.

Forest Officer: An employee of the Authority to whom the Authority has assigned inspection or enforcement duties.

Forest Products: Any material or item derived from Forest Resources.

Forest Resources: Anything of practical, commercial, social, religious, spiritual, recreational, educational, scientific, subsistence or other potential use to humans that exists in the forest Environment, including but not limited to flora, fauna, and microorganisms.

Forest Resources License: Any legal instrument pursuant to which the Authority allows a Person, subject to specified conditions, to extract Forest Resources or make other productive and sustainable use of Forest Land. Includes, without limitation, Forest Use Permits, Private Use Permits and Wildlife and other Non-timber forest product (NTFP) use permits

Forestry: the art, science, and practice of studying and managing forests and plantations and related natural resources and include assisting forests to provide timber as raw material for wood products; wildlife habitat; natural water quality regulation; recreation; landscape and community protection; employment; aesthetically appealing landscapes; biodiversity management; watershed management; and a 'sink' for atmospheric carbon dioxide,

Game or Game Animal: Any wild animal hunted for food or sport as specified in the Schedules of this Act and/or declared by season,

Fully Protected Wildlife: Refers species listed in Schedule I of CITES and/or as designated by the Authority.

Game Reserve: An area, set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act, to protect an important feature for wildlife or to allow the recovery or growth of Indigenous Species.

Government: The Government of the Republic and all branches, sub-divisions, instrumentalities, authorities, and agencies thereof

Granted Area: Any Forest Land area covered by a Forest Resources License and use rights permits.

Habitat: the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Habitat/Species Management Area: protected areas aim to protect particular species or habitats and whose management will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats such as endangered populations and rare and threatened habitats.

Holder: A Person who holds a valid Forest Resources License, use permits and use rights.

A Hunter: a person recognized by a rural community as a hunter or is licensed by the Authority to hunt.

Hunting: The act of killing, capturing, taking, trapping, injuring, shooting at, lying in wait for, willfully disturbing, or molesting any Wild Animal, or any attempt to do so.

Hunt: includes the doing of any act immediately directed at killing, wounding, injuring or capture of any animal and the taking or willful molestation of any nest, lair or other place where dependant young are born, hatched or reared.

Indigenous Species: A plant or animal that is native to Liberia

In-situ Conservation: conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

Land Owner (or Owner): A Person who owns land by legal title, under statutory or customary rights

Local Community: any community of people living or having rights or interests in a distinct geographical area

Managing Director: The Managing Director of the Authority.

Mineral Right: The rights subject to the Minerals and Mining Laws of Liberia

Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources): Protected areas that conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. An area, set aside pursuant to Chapter 6 of this Act, to allow sustainable ecosystem-based uses of Forest Resources, including subsistence uses but within parameters which do not harm the health of the ecosystem.

National Forest: An area, set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act, for sustainable regulated commercial Forest Product extraction, Hunting, and the preservation of essential environmental functions performed by the forest.

National Park: Protected areas which are large natural or near natural areas set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act, to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

Natural Monument: Generally small protected areas that have high visitor value and may include land forms, sea mounts, or geological features such as caves or living features such as ancient groves.

Nature Reserve: An area that does not represent a complete ecological unit, set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act, for the preservation and enjoyment of features that have outstanding natural beauty, or cultural or biological significance, and which may require some management intervention.

Noxious Weed: Any plant growing where it is not wanted or so designated by the government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property.

Peace Park: A trans-boundary conservation area established with the objective of promoting peace between neighboring countries or in the region.

Person: Any individual, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, trust, estate, unincorporated entity, community, government, or state, and any branch, division, political sub-division, instrumentality, Authority, or agency thereof.

Problem animal: includes any animal which poses danger to human life or property.

Professional Hunter: A person certified and licensed by the Authority to hunt Game or trophy animals, for hire or reward guide clients, conducts animal hunting or photographic parties or who for hire or reward assists a person or party in hunting or photographing of any animal.

Proposed Protected Area: An area that the Authority, community or private land owner has identified and proposed as suitable for designation as a Protected Area based on best available data and under an approved National Forest Management Strategy pursuant to Chapter 4 of the New Forestry Reform Law 2006 and Chapter 5 of this Act.

Protected Animal: An animal that the Authority has listed pursuant to its mandate, as threatened or in danger of extinction in Liberia.

Protected area: a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives ranging from the preservation of endangered species or landscapes to the protection of natural ecosystems, and include any area set aside under Chapter 5 of this Act for conservation purposes.

Protected game animal: Any animal which is so declared under the Act and specified by the Authority.

Protected Landscape/Seascape: A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

Published Notice: notice that shall be placed in at least one daily newspaper of major national circulation, and/or one newspaper having a distinct circulation, and shall be broadcast on a popular local station in English and at least one vernacular language relevant to the venue; and shall be disseminated as widely as is practicable by Local government offices, FDA regional offices, Community Assemblies, NGOs and CBOs.

Ramsar Site: Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention

Rare Wildlife Species: Species that have low population numbers or limited geographical distribution making them susceptible to extinction

Reforestation: The establishment of a tree plantation in a previously forested area that has been affected by cutting, fire, or some other act of tree removal.

Republic: The Republic of Liberia.

Species: a kind of animal, plant or other organism, including any subspecies, cultivate, variety, geographic race, strain, hybrid or geographically separate population.

Specimen: any wild plant or animal, alive, dead, whether or not native to Liberia, and readily recognizable part or derivative of such part of animal.

Strict Nature Reserve: strictly protected areas set aside pursuant to Chapter 5 of this Act to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphologic features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring.

Sustainable Use: the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Threatened Wildlife Species: Species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

Trade: To sell, buy, barter, exchange, offer, or expose for sale Forest Products.

Transboundary Conservation area: An area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more boundaries between states, sub-national units such as provinces and regions, autonomous areas beyond the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed co-operatively through legal or other effective means.

Trophy: any wild animal species, horn, ivory, tooth, tusk, bone, claw, hoof; hide, skin, hair, feather, egg or other durable portion whatsoever of any animal, whether processed or not, which is recognizable as a durable portion of such animal, .

Trophy dealer: A person who carries on the business of buying trophies for resale or export, or who carries on the business of processing trophies.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas, peat land and water, including marine water .

Wild Animal: Any animal (vertebrate or invertebrate) and insects of every description, not including domesticated animals.

Wilderness Area: protected areas usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition and my combine ecosystem management with limited recreational use.

Wildlife: All flora, fauna, and micro-organisms existing in their natural ecosystem.

Wildlife Conservation Area: includes a national park wildlife reserve, wildlife sanctuaries, community wildlife areas or any other area provided for under this Act.

Wildlife Management Area: an area which is protected for the sustainable management of wildlife in that area.

Wildlife Sanctuary: an area of land declared to be a permanent or temporary sanctuary under the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER2 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Section 2.1 The Objectives Of This Act Are To:

- a. provide, within the framework of national legislation, including the National Environmental Protection and Management Act and the Forestry Reform Law 2006, for the establishment of conservation areas and the management of wildlife;
- b. provide for the protection of wildlife and wildlife management throughout the Republic
- c. provide for co-operative governance in the establishment of conservation areas and management of wildlife;
- d. effect a national system of conservation areas in Liberia as part of a strategy to manage and conserve its biological diversity;
- e. provide for a representative network of conservation areas on state land, private land and community lands;
- f. promote sustainable utilization of conservation areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that would preserve the ecological character of such areas;
- g. promote participation of local communities in the management of conservation areas and wildlife, where appropriate; and
- h. facilitate an integrated management of conservation and wildlife.

Section 2.2 -Policy Guidelines

The implementation of this Act shall be based on the following guidelines:

- (1) The flora and fauna species in its wild habitat in Liberia, except as provided in Subsection 2.2(2) of this Section is held in trust and regulated by the Republic for the benefit of the people of Liberia and humanity
- (2) The wildlife and natural areas of Liberia are an important wealth and heritage of the Republic and are to be conserved so that diversity of species are maintained at optimum levels commensurate with other form of land use, in order to support sustainable use of wildlife for the benefit of the people of Liberia.
- (3) The Authority shall manage wildlife and their habitats in and outside of protected areas for the benefit of the people of Liberia in accordance with Liberia's obligations under international conventions and agreements to which Liberia is a party and consistent with internationally accepted principles of ecologically-based wildlife management.
- (4) It is the declared policy of the Republic of Liberia to:
 - (a) manage wildlife and natural areas for the benefit, utility, and enjoyment of ail people in accordance with internationally accepted principles of ecologically based management;
 - (b) enhance the social and economic benefits by sustainable wildlife management as a source of protein, revenue generation and employment thus ensuring that wildlife resources flow to people who depend on the forests of Liberia:

- (c) protect, preserve and manage wildlife that are endemic, rare, threatened or endangered by extinction;
 - (d) ensure the maintenance of habitats necessary to meet the requirements of specific wildlife species;
 - (e) prohibit the introduction of alien and/or invasive species of plants and animals that may be potentially harmful into the wild habitats of Liberia;
 - (f) conserve the natural habitat and species status of wildlife in Liberia by protecting areas of outstanding scenic, natural, scientific, recreational and other values through the establishment of National Parks, Nature Reserves, game reserves and other conservation and wildlife management areas;
 - (g) ensure that any measures instituted for wildlife management and protection in Liberia are based on scientific investigation and best practice such as monitoring of species and habitat conditions and where applicable, appropriate traditional knowledge and practices;
 - (h) promote and provide education about wildlife and nature conservation to all sectors of the Liberian society;
 - (i) implement, where relevant and feasible international treaties, conventions, agreements or other instruments to which Liberia is a party;
 - (j) collaborate with regional neighbors to create integrated trans-boundary biodiversity conservation and wildlife management areas including peace parks and, corridors for mutually shared migratory wildlife species;
 - (k) promote or facilitate public and rural communities participation in the conservation of wildlife and protected area management; recognize and encourage the role of traditional authorities, traditional knowledge and cultural values in protected area and wildlife management.
 - (l) ensure that women and youth are integrated into the development and implementation of conservation and wildlife management;
 - (m) transfer as much of wildlife management in and outside of protected areas as is feasible and practicable to communities, private land owners and voluntary associations organized for the purpose;
 - (n) provide support and create incentives for sustainable conservation and wildlife management at community level;
 - (o) take into account the views of local governments and communities affected or likely to be affected by protected areas and wildlife management measures;
- a. **Section 2.3. Specified Wildlife Ownership.** Regardless of land proprietorship, all matters pertaining to protected areas, conservation areas and wildlife management are subject to this

Act and without prejudice to the generalities of subsection 2.2(1) this Act recognizes the following categories .Lawful ownership by private landholders who have been licensed by the Authority to farm or manage wildlife species based on regulations

- b. Ownership vested by certificate, license or use right-granted under this Act
- c. Ownership of dead protected animals or cut protected plants is invested in the Republic of Liberia except where ownership has been vested by certificate, license or use rights granted under this law
- d. An animal killed or trophy acquired by a wildlife officer in the execution of that staff's duties, is the property of the Government

Section 2.4 Regardless of land proprietorship, all matters pertaining to protected areas, conservation areas and wildlife management are subject to this Act.

PART II WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER THREE: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

Section 3.1 Forestry Development Authority

- 1) Forestry Development Authority established by Act of the Legislature in 1976 Act with the mandate to manage Liberia's forest estate and existing prior to the coming into force of this Act shall serve as the implementing agency for the purposes of this Act.
- 2) The Managing Director shall act on behalf of the Government of Liberia in the execution of the Authority' s mandate in respect of this Act

Section 3.1.2 Functions of the Authority

The functions of the Authority and relevant agencies as related to protected areas and wildlife management include but not limited to:

- a. Promote the conservation of biological diversity in Liberia;
- b. The sustainable management of wildlife and conservation areas;
- c. Develop and recommend wildlife management policies of Liberia in collaboration with and participation of relevant ministries, agencies and civil society and forest dependent communities;
- d. Acting as the focal agency for the transparent implementation of all conservation and wildlife management policies in Liberia and where relevant, in collaboration with other government agencies;
- e. In accordance with Chapter 5 of this Act recommend areas, based on best social, scientific data available, to be classified and declared as wildlife management and conservation areas and components of Protected Area Network;
- f. Develop conservation areas and wildlife management plans and strategies in and outside of protected areas;
- g. Identify and address linkages between protected area management and external factors such as community development;

- h. Develop well-defined users rights that are consistent with the conservation objectives of the protected/conservation area;
- i. In consultation with relevant ministries, agencies and civil society and forest dependent communities establish rules and regulations on the sustainable management and harvesting of wildlife in Liberia;
- j. In collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies insure wildlife conservation in the extractive industries such as logging and mining operations;
- k. Control all trade in Wildlife and specimens thereof;
- l. Collaborate with relevant lead agencies and adjacent communities to develop eco-tourism in and around conservation areas;
- m. Establish policies, procedures, regulations in a participatory manner for the sustainable use of wildlife by and for the benefit of wildlife-dependent communities;
- n. Promote public participation in decision making relating to planning and management of protected areas and wildlife management areas;
- o. In collaboration with and participation of communities, develop benefit and responsibility sharing arrangements or mechanisms;
- p. Mitigate as much as possible the differing objectives between livelihood and conservation;
- q. Enable local communities to identify areas and provide necessary support to them to develop the capacity and institutional structures to manage wildlife areas for conservation and livelihood needs;
- r. Grant leases, concessions, and access for conservation-compatible economic activities such as wildlife-based tourism in a way that will maximize benefits to local communities and the nation in conformity with the wildlife policy of Liberia;
- s. Promote scientific research and knowledge of wildlife in Liberia;
- t. Ensure that Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted in conservation areas as provided for in the Environment Protection and Management Law of Liberia
- u. Disseminate information and promote public awareness of wildlife conservation and management strategies and the role of conservation in economic development and poverty reduction;
- v. Collaborate with educational institutions to encourage training in wildlife management;
- w. Develop strategies for funding wildlife protection such as fees for services, license, rights and other use permits;
- x. Ensure the implementation of conservation treaties, conventions and agreements to which Liberia is Party;
- y. Promote trans-boundary conservation area and wildlife management to sustainably manage shared wildlife; and
- z. Any other function that ensures the conservation of wildlife in Liberia for current and future generations.

Section 3.1.3 Supervision of Authority's Functions

The function of the Authority and its Divisions as relate to Protected Area and Wildlife Management are subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Authority and the Forest Management Advisory Committee established under Section 4.2 of the New Forestry Reform Law 2006. And, for this purpose, the Authority shall ensure that at least one member of the Forest Management Advisory Committee has a wildlife-related background.

Section 3.2 County Level Institutions

The Authority shall, in collaboration with county government, community and private landowners, establish an institutional framework for the decentralization of conservation and wildlife management and the incorporation protected areas and wildlife issues in the agenda of District and Community level Environmental Committees or other local level bodies designated for the conservation and management of protected areas.

a) County/local government

The Authority shall collaborate with county/local government authorities and establish an institutional framework for the Integration of conservation and management of protected areas into county development plans.

b) Protected Area Management Advisory Council (PAMAC)

The Authority may, if practicable, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders establish a PAMAC for each protected area created or one PAMAC for a County or Region where there are more than one protected areas established. The PAMAC may incorporate any existing protected area advisory committee in the area.

- i) The Authority shall propose the initial membership of the PAMAC which should include but not limited to representatives from county government, district, community, relevant line ministries/agencies as is appropriate and non-governmental and community organizations. The membership should be an odd number and of a workable size based on the extent of its jurisdiction.
- ii) The Authority shall ensure that the final membership of the PAMAC, its functions, rules and regulations are decided transparently and with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

CHAPTER 4. COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CONVENTIONS

Section 4.1 Enforcement of International Conventions

The Authority shall ensure that provisions of relevant international conservation instruments to which Liberia is party be enforced as is appropriate, feasible and meets the objective of this Act. *These include African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on the Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (RAMSAR); Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).*

Section 4.2. Sectoral Collaboration for Full Compliance

Without prejudice to the generalities of Section 4.1, and notwithstanding that the salient provisions of the international instruments mentioned in Section 4.1 have been incorporated in the provisions of the Environment Protection and Management Law and this Act, to ensure full compliance with the biodiversity conservation and wildlife management-related provisions of these international instruments to which Liberia is Party, the Authority in collaboration with focal agencies for the Conventions as well as relevant line ministries is to:

- a) Ensure integration of sustainable utilization of natural resources into national strategies, plans and programmes, such as development plans and the poverty reduction strategy;
- b) Protect and integrate where practicable, traditional knowledge about conservation and protecting wildlife species;
- c) Create economically and socially sound incentives for conservation and sustainable usage of Liberia's forest related resources;
- d) Collaborate with the EPA in governing access to genetic resources;
- e) Collaborate with the EPA in promoting biosafety;
- f) Promote regional and international cooperation in the conservation of biodiversity to ensure biodiversity conservation and utilization in cases of some areas beyond the jurisdiction of Liberia and on matters of mutual interest in the West African region;
- g) Adopt an ecosystems approach to biodiversity conservation and management;
- h) Collaborate with EPA in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of wetlands, taking account of important aspects and values of the wetlands other than habitat for waterfowls including rare, vulnerable and disappearing plant and animal species; and
- i) Integrate natural and cultural heritage sites in the Protected Area Network

Section 4.3 Institutional Arrangement for the Implementation of CITES

- 1) Without prejudice to the generalities of section 4.1, in accordance with Article IX (a) of CITES, the Forestry Development Authority is designated as the Management Authority for the implementation of CITES;
- 2) Establishment of a National CITES Scientific Authority:
 - a) the CITES Authority shall in line with Article IX (b) establish a National CITES Scientific Authority (CSA) composed of: the University of Liberia and the Forestry Development Authority.
 - b) The names of the specialists appointed under subsection 2(a) of this Act shall be published by notice in accordance with government public notice procedures/practice.
 - c) The CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority appointed under this Act shall in the performance of their respective functions consult relevant competent authorities and lead agencies.
- 3) The Functions of the Management Authority shall include:
 - a) The issuance of CITES export, re-export, import permits or certificates
 - b) Convening meetings of the Scientific Authority
 - c) Preparation of CITES annual reports providing information on import and export and traded species
 - d) Preparation of CITES biannual reports on legislative regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention
 - e) Communicating with CITES secretariat, Parties to the Convention or any other lead agency or person performing similar or related functions.
 - f) Development and issuance of regulations and guidelines for domestic trade, export, re-export, import in an wildlife species and species listed in accordance with CITES provisions and the protection of endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

The publication in a gazette and by notice, the amendment of the list of species as contained in the appendices to the CITES as they occur from time to time.

4) The functions of the CSA shall include:-

- a) To advise the Authority on the observance of the provisions of CITES
- b) To monitor the status of indigenous species and export data, in order to recommend suitable remedial measures to limit the export of specimens, to maintain that species throughout its range at a level consistent with the role in the ecosystem and well above the level at which that species might become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I of CITES;
- c) To gather and analyze information on the biological status of species affected by trade;
- d) To assist in the preparation of proposals necessary to amend CITES Appendices.
- e) To review proposals to amend the appendices submitted by other Parties to CITES and make recommendations as to how to assist in the preparation to amend the Appendices;
- f) To advise the Authority as to whether or not scientific institutions seeking registration for the purpose of being issued labels for scientific exchange meet the criteria established by CITES, and other standards of any stricter national requirements;
- g) To advise the Authority on the issuance of permits for export or certificates for introduction from the sea for Appendix I and II of CITES, stating whether or not the actions will be detrimental to the survival of the species in question;
- h) To advise Authority on the issuance of permits for exports for the species of the second schedule to the Wildlife Conservation Regulations, the species of the I, II or III Appendices to CITES, re-export of the species of the I, II, or III Appendices to CITES, internal trade of the above species, stating whether or not the export, re-export, internal trade will be for purposes not detrimental to the survival of the species in question;
- i) To advise Authority on the issuance of permits for imports or transit of appendix I species of CITES, or those of the first and second schedules to the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations*, stating whether or not the import or transit will be for purposes not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned;
- j) To base its findings and advice on the scientific review of available information on the population status, distribution, population trend, harvest, and other biological and ecological factors, as appropriate, and trade information relating to the species concerned.

CHAPTER 5. CONSERVATION AREA AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Section 5.1 Protected Area Network and Conservation Corridors

Specific objectives of establishing a national protected areas network are to:

- a) ensure that a viable network of sites representative of territorial and marine natural ecosystems that occur in Liberia are dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity-and of natural and associated cultural resources;
- b) ensure that viable populations of ail indigenous wild species including migratory species are adequately conserved and that rare, endangered and endemic species are specially protected;
- c) protect and maintain ecological and life sustaining processes such as water catchments protection, soil conservation, genetic diversity and natural forest as carbon sinks;

- d) provide opportunities for research, education, recreation and tourism;
- e) generate economic activity in and around protected areas and promote the sustainable use of wildlife;
- f) enhance rural development by integrating protected area management into local economies; and
- g) protect and maintain cultural and archaeological resources

Section 5.2. Protected Forest Area Network and Corridors

In accordance with Chapter 5 of this Act the Authority shall in a transparent and participatory manner and in consultation with communities to be affected, identify and target areas for protection and establish Protected Forest Areas Network and Conservation Corridors, designating protected area management categories appropriate to the sustainable forest and wildlife management in Liberia while taking into account rural communities needs, rights to community forest lands and forest resources, wildlife management and related ecotourism activities.

Section 5.2.1. Protected Forest Areas Network as Percent of Total Forest Area of Liberia.

As mandated under the Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and now incorporated in this Act, the Authority, while taking the rights of forest communities and private landowners into account, shall establish a Protected Area Network, together with corridors and incorporating existing national forests and community forest lands with consent of the community, to cover at least 30 percent of the existing forested area of Liberia, representing about 1.5 million hectares

Section 5.2.2. Conservation of Forest Resources and Services

To conserve forest resources and services within the Protected Forest Areas Network, the Authority shall:

- a) promote and undertake research in the Network on the socio-economic conditions of adjacent communities and on the distribution, habitat, and population of Wildlife;
- b) Promote community-based participation in the management of the Protected Forest Area Network and wildlife management areas and forests on community forest lands as well as the participation of NGOs and the private sector in forest conservation.
- c) Support communities to establish and maintain community-based forest management that meets their livelihood needs while accomplishing conservation objectives
- d) Seek the advice of the Forestry Management Advisory Committee created under Section 4.2 of the New Forestry Reform Law 2006, and of other scientists, professionals, and members of non-governmental organizations, forest dependent communities, on the management of the Network and the promulgation of appropriate Regulations for the conservation of the environment within the Network and wildlife management Areas

Section 5.3. Authority to Propose the Appropriate Protected Forest Area Category or Type

For the establishment of the Protected Forest Area Network, the Authority shall undertake surveys of areas of aesthetic, ecological or scientific interest and shall in collaboration with relevant line ministries and agencies, and in consultation with forest-dependent communities and civil society, based on agreed criteria, select and propose for presidential and legislative approval appropriate conservation and wildlife management categories.

Section 5.3.1 Protected Forest Area Categories for Legislative action shall include but not limited to:

- a) Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve
- b) National Forest Reserve
- c) National Parks
- d) Nature Reserve
- e) Strict Nature Reserve
- f) Natural Monument
- g) Habitat/Species Management Area
- h) Protected Landscape/Seascape.
- i) Any other category that the Authority in collaboration with the EPA and relevant agencies deems necessary for the protection of flora and fauna wildlife species in Liberia.

Section 5.3.2 Protected Areas Established by Regulations

- 1) To facilitate sustainable holistic protection and conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services, the Authority may, at its own initiative and/or in collaboration with or at the requests of communities and private land owners and relevant agencies identify and by Regulation establish, permanently or temporarily, within the Protected Areas management framework, conservation and wildlife management areas categories other than those listed in Section 5.3.1 above including, but not limited to:
 - a) Buffer Zones
 - b) Communal Forests (as defined in this Act)
 - c) Community Resource Management Area
 - d) Community Wildlife Management
 - e) Conservation Corridor
 - f) Controlled Hunting Area
 - g) Game Reserves
 - h) Marine Reserve or Park
 - i) Multiple Sustainable Use Management Area
 - j) Wildlife Sanctuary
- 2) Where a category appears in this section and is also listed in Section 5.2.1 of this Act, criteria such as purpose, objective, size, location, likelihood of change in purpose and objective may determine whether to establish the conservation area by legislative act or regulations.
- 3) The Authority in consultation with stakeholders and reflecting the procedure for protected Forest Area Establishment in Section 5.3 of this Act shall draw up the criteria for establishing protected areas by Regulations.

Section 5.3.3: Traditional Protected Areas.

The Authority shall recognize traditional protected areas such as Bush schools/Sacred Society Bush, Ancestor Homes, and areas left for windbreak and watershed protection on community forest lands as components of the protected forest areas except that these areas are managed by the communities with agreed support from the Authority.

Section 5.3.4 Trans-boundary Protected Area

The Authority may propose for legislation or establish by regulation any protected area category listed under Section 5.3.2 of this Act as Trans-Boundary Conservation Area or Trans-Boundary Peace Park.

Section 5.4 Protected Area Establishment

Section 5.4.1 Authority to Transmit Proposal to President

- 1) Based on the results of surveys, scientific research, consultations, as prescribed by Regulations, with relevant communities, local authorities and landowners of the proposed area and other relevant data and information, and following public notice and a 60-day opportunity for public comment, the Authority shall submit to the President a proposal to establish protected area categories listed in Section 5.3.1 of this Act setting forth:
 - a) A clear statement as to the purpose of and proposed management category for the specific protected area;
 - b) A description of the proposed boundaries for the area and indicating community awareness and agreement at least in principle;
 - c) Existing land use on the proposed area;
 - d) An assessment of the wildlife, natural, cultural, and other significant resources in the area for the preservation of representative biomes of the country;
 - e) An assessment of the existing state of human disturbances and resource utilization by rural people in the area;
 - f) Identification of all stakeholders to be affected directly and indirectly;
 - g) Report based on a study of the social and ecological consequences of the proposed conservation area;
 - h) A statement as to potential for community management/co-management and potential benefits to the community;
 - i) Indication of prior, free, informed consent of the community where Community Forest Lands are affected;
 - j) Plan for prompt, adequate and fair compensation to community and/or private individuals for loss of rights, titles, interests, franchises, claims, privileges;
 - k) A summary of any consultations held with Government agencies and Persons affected by the proposed establishment, and especially the views and needs of local communities and how community considerations have been or will be addressed; and
 - l) Any other data and information gathered as a result of consultations and environmental impact assessment processes.

Section 5.4.2. Protected Areas proposed by the Authority

Upon the receipt of the proposal of the Authority, the President may issue a presidential proclamation designating the recommended areas as targeted protected areas and providing for measures for their protection until such time when the Legislature shall have enacted a law declaring such recommended areas as part of the Protected Area Network.

Section 5.4.3. Areas to be integrated into the Network

Notwithstanding the establishment of the initial component of the Protected Area Network, the Authority may collaborate with other government agencies to propose the inclusion in the Network, additional areas with outstanding physical features, anthropological significance and biological diversity in accordance with the provisions of this Act

Section 5.4.4. Stakeholder Consultation

The Authority shall, for the purpose of creating and managing Protected Areas, conduct protected area establishment stakeholder consultations by holding meetings at all appropriate levels to increase awareness of protected areas as a worthwhile national priority, assess needs of communities, gather data and solicit feedback on the proposed protected area, especially in communities adjacent to the proposed protected area.

Section 5.4.5. While precise methods, frequency and sequence of consultative meetings may depend on the issues and interests of the different stakeholders, the Authority shall design a consultation procedure that ensures stakeholders awareness of the issues and input based on a consultation strategy that:

- promotes transparent decision-making;
- takes the capacity and interests of the different groups of stakeholders into account;
- is relevant to creation of the stakeholders-supported protected area network;
- solicits affected community feedback and partnership at the initial stage of the protected area creation process; and
- encourages the exercising of real decision-making powers by providing the means for incorporating stakeholders' feedback into the planning process.

Section 5.4.6. Upon the effective date of this Act, and subsequent to the establishment of any additional Protected Areas, the Authority shall have in place a community consultation process designed by involving as many stakeholders as possible and incorporating lessons learned from protected area creation in Liberia.

Section 5.5 President to Transmit Proposal to Legislature

After ascertaining that the Authority has met the conditions set forth under section 5.4.1, the President shall, upon approval of any proposal submitted by the Authority under Section 5.2 of this Act, deliver to the Legislature for consideration the law for the establishment of a protected area as listed in Subsection 5.3.1 of this Act

Section 5.6 Legislature to Enact Legislation Establishing a Protected Area

The Legislature may, upon consideration of any proposal for the establishment of a Protected Area category enact legislation establishing a protected area as listed in Sections 5.3.1 and 5.4 of this Act

Section 5.7 Demarcation of Boundaries

Within one year of the establishment of a Protected Area by the Legislature, the Authority shall, based on data and information submitted under Section 5.2 of this Act, and for management purposes clearly mark the boundary, between the established Protected Area and the surrounding areas.

Section 5.7.1: Regulations for Boundary Demarcation

The Authority, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Act, shall in consultation with relevant stakeholders establish regulations and/or procedures for undertaking the demarcation of protected area boundaries and such regulations and/or procedures shall include but not limited to:

- a) community awareness process that ensures that affected persons are fully informed as to ecological necessity, the law and the requirements of the protected area being established and identifying relevant sub-sections of Section 5.3 of this Act;
- b) planned timeframe for the demarcation;
- c) how adjacent communities will be involved in the demarcation activities;
- d) how boundary will be marked (cornerstones, natural markings such as trees, rivers, lakes);
- e) process for handling community concerns that arise during awareness sessions

Section 5.8 Modification of Boundaries or Abolishment

No protected area established by Legislative action under Chapter five of this Act shall be abolished or alienated, nor shall its boundaries be modified, except by act of the Legislature, following consultation with the Authority.

Section 5.9 Management Plans

The Authority shall, as soon as practicable after the establishment of a Protected Area by the Legislature prepare and publish, and thereafter review every five years with full public participation and republish at least every ten years, a comprehensive management plan for the Protected Area in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

Section 5.9.1 General Requirement for Protected Area Management

- a) It is mandatory that management plans for each protected area are prepared by the Authority in collaboration with affected communities and approved by the Board of Directors;
- b) While a management plan is in effect for a Protected Area pursuant to this section, such plan shall be considered to have the status of regulations issued under this Act; and
- c) The Authority will manage the Protected Area in collaboration with relevant stakeholders in accordance with that management plan that may be revised as necessary or according to regulation and no activities may be undertaken, allowed, authorized or condoned in that Protected Area if they are not in compliance with that plan.

Section 5.9.2: Contents of Protected Area Management Plans

The Authority shall establish regulation as guidelines for implementation of management plan. Notwithstanding, a management plan may contain:

- a) a description of the purpose and significant resources that warrant its inclusion in the protected area network of the country;
- b) a description of the area's exceptional resources;

- c) development of economic opportunities within and adjacent to the protected area in terms of the integrated development plan framework;
- d) development of local management capacity and knowledge exchange;
- e) financial and other support to ensure effective administration and implementation of a co-management agreement; and
- f) may be simplified for conservation areas established by regulation such as on private land, community-based conservation and wildlife management areas so long as the content of the management plans is consistent with the sustainable management of conservation and wildlife areas.

Section 5.10 Management Zones in Protected Forest Area

The Authority may, to allow for compatible human activities within a Protected Forest Area, identify and designate management zones describing activities permitted within each zone.

1) Management Zones and Description

- a) **A Protected Zone:** To protect the natural qualities of the site;
 - b) **an Ecological or closed Zone:** To provide maximum protection to site from all human interference;
 - c) **A Wildlife Zone:** To retain large areas of undeveloped land for wilderness experience;
 - d) **A Multiple-use Zone:** To provide for the sustained production of wild resources from a near natural ecosystem;
 - e) **Special-use Zone:** To provide sites for supportive programmes such as captive breeding, plant nurseries etc;
 - f) **A Development Zone:** To provide areas for administration buildings and visitor support services;
 - g) **A Cultural (traditional use) Zone;**
 - h) **Traditional protected area management zone:** (areas where the use of traditional management knowledge and practices would be appropriate); or
 - h) **any other category**
- 2) The description, objectives, management strategy development allowed, and the extent of public use for each of the categories of management zones listed in Section 5.9 (1) shall form part of this Act.
- 3) The Authority may enter into concession contract with a private person or community for the management of a protected area in its entirety, for specified wildlife management or to conduct activities permitted in a zone such as for the development, provision of maintenance and operation of infrastructural and other facilities in a protected area subject to conditions specified in the management plan of the protected area and license requirements.

Section 5.11 Management Plan and Boundary Demarcation for Conservation Areas Established by Regulations.

The Authority shall within one (1) year of the effective date of this Act, develop coherent Regulations to establish and manage conservation categories listed in Section 5.3.2 of this Act in a transparent manner with public participation and shall contain information supporting the proposal for establishment, provisions for management plans to reflect purpose and objective for the establishment

that conservation area and provision for demarcation requirement specific to that proposed conservation area.

Section 5.12 Protected Area Regulations and Prohibitions

- a) The Authority shall, within one 1 year of the effective date of this Act in consultation with local communities, counties, other local authorities and civil society, develop and issue, in accordance with accepted international standards, Regulations governing activities permitted and prohibited in the various management categories of Protected Forest Areas, Conservation Areas and wildlife management areas.
- b) Protected Area Regulations shall include but not limited to the following:
 - I. General offences as relate to the management category;
 - II. Permitting system for entry to protected, conservation, wildlife protected areas;
 - III. Permitting system for resource harvesting where appropriate -- taking of wildlife;
 - IV. Strictly prohibited activities
 - V. Regulated activities under zone management
 - VI. Permitted tourist activities such as camping and picnicking
 - VII. Destruction/altering of habitat
 - VIII. Fee structure for activities such as commercial photography or filming
 - IX. Sale of goods
 - X. Conducting research
 - XI. Construction
 - XII. Mining

Section 5.13. Alternative Livelihood for affected communities

- a. The Authority shall, based on the assessed community needs, actively solicit the support of non-governmental organizations, and interested international organizations, to undertake efforts to provide and/or build the capacity for alternative livelihoods for communities adversely affected by the establishment or maintenance of Protected Forest Areas and to integrate livelihood needs within the parameters of the purpose and objectives of the protected area.
- b. The Authority may explore the feasibility of applying the social agreement requirement of Section 53 (vi) of National Forest Reform Law 2006 to protected forest area establishment and related management concessions, as provided for in Section 6.3 of the Act, as a means by which communities affected by protected areas establishment could have some of their livelihood and development needs met.

Section 5.14: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Protected Areas

Section 5.14.1: Requirements for EIAs in Protected Areas

Protected Area establishment and proposed development, commercial activities and management plans are subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements of the Environment Protection and Management Law of Liberia. However, the Authority may develop protected-area-specific EIA guidelines or ensure that forest sector-specific EIA guidelines include adequate EIA requirements for protected areas and that the guidelines promote transparency and public participation of relevant conservation stakeholders in the process.

CHAPTER 6: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The purpose of this Act is to maintain, protect and preserve wildlife as a national heritage, there is an urgent need to address the central issues concerning wildlife and wildlife habitats namely: (i) management and protection of wild animals through the use of appropriate and internationally accepted best practices including but not limited to: planning tools, licensing and pricing systems, hunting rules and regulations, game ranching and breeding control; (ii) ownership of wildlife is vested in the State and related user rights shall be granted to citizenry in accordance with this law; (iii) provisions on the protection of neighboring areas and the relationship between wildlife protection and other forms of land use and (iv) institutions enabling participation in wildlife-related decision-making and economic benefits, including consultations mechanisms, representative wildlife managing bodies, agreements between individuals or communities and public institutions and devolution of authority; and (v) private

Section 6.1 Wildlife Protection

6.1.2 The Authority shall ensure the protection of all wildlife species, known and unknown as part of an important natural heritage and a symbol of significance to the cultural values of the communities surrounding the protected areas, forest edge and the corridors joining key wildlife protected areas.

In relation to the protection of wildlife outside protected areas the objectives shall be:

- (a) to ensure that viable populations of all indigenous wild species including migratory species, marine species, and mangrove species are adequately conserved and that rare, endangered and endemic species are specially protected;
- (b) that indigenous species are maintained to support genetic pool and diversity essential for maintaining a viable wildlife population in the country;
- (c) to provide opportunities for research, education, recreation and community eco-tourism opportunities as an incentive for local communities to participate in community-based wildlife management;
- (d) to enhance rural development by diversification of community-based activities that depend on wildlife in the community lands and as an alternative and viable land use;

6.1.3 The Authority, in collaboration with communities, private land owners, occupants, concession holders, civil society and relevant line ministries, especially Ministry of Internal Affairs shall, in a transparent and consultative manner develop/design/establish a regulatory regime for private land owner and community-based management/joint forest management of Protected Areas, forest conservation areas and wildlife management areas.

Section 6.2 Wildlife Utilization Including Non-consumptive Use

Section 6.2.1 The regulatory regime as mandated in Section 6.1 shall among other aspects:

- (a) integrate traditional forest management practices;
- (b) establish guidelines for communities, private land owners, occupants, concession holders,
- (c) regulate management roles of management structures established in Chapter 3 of this

Act;

- (d) formulate the methodology for establishing community-based management systems
- (e) benefit sharing arrangement/mechanisms
- (f) establish guidelines for participatory decision making;
- (g) establish guidelines for consultations
- (h) establish procedures for requesting the Authority's support for community-based joint management of protected areas.

6.2.2 Wildlife Regulations

For the purpose of sustainable management of Liberia's wildlife, the Authority shall establish regulations that govern all wildlife including fauna and flora, in protected areas and outside of protected areas.

(a) The Authority may by regulation:

- (i) control the use of Wildlife;
 - (ii) establish a regime for nationally and internationally recognized protected species
 - (iii) control hunting to achieve sustainable harvest;
 - (iv) control trade in Wildlife;
 - (v) establish requirements for the issuance of hunting and wildlife trading certificates and licenses.
- (b) The Authority shall by regulation and in consultation with relevant stakeholders establish appropriate hunting methodologies, allowable yield and off-take, trade and transport procedures for commercial and non-commercial hunting activities and any related licensing fees.
- (c) The Authority shall by regulations establish permit and license fees related to wildlife activities

Section 6.23 Wildlife Use Right.

The Authority may establish through regulation, a permitting regime to define and implement Wildlife Use Rights application procedures (including criteria for eligible applicants), and prohibitions, with respect to the following activities:

- (a) hunting
- (b) agricultural\ activities in multiple sustainable use reserves, buffer zones and community-owned forest areas;
- (c) education and scientific activities
- (d) non-timber forest product extraction
- (e) wildlife captive breeding and ranching
- (f) ecotourism.

Section 6.2.4 Community Wildlife Use Right

Community Wildlife Use Rights shall be as prescribed under the *Community Rights Law Related to Forest Lands* upon publication in handbill.

Section 6.2.5 Subsistence Use Right

Subsistence Wildlife Use Rights (as opposed to commercial use rights).

The Authority may establish two different categories of Wildlife Use Rights permitting and fees for commercial and subsistence wildlife use to ensure sustainable wildlife harvesting for protein source for forest dependant people while allowing for regulated trade in bushmeat.

Section 6.3 Protected Wildlife Species

(a) The Authority shall declare any wild plant or animal to be classified as a protected species based on best available data on the status of the species.

(b) Species Classification Surveys

The Authority shall, for purpose of species classification, conduct biological surveys at least once every five years to:

- (i) Review the population, distribution, and status of Liberia's wildlife and identify categories of animals and plants that are threatened with or in danger of extinction;
- (ii) Establish, maintain, and update a list of animals and plants, and, in collaboration ,with The Ministry of Agriculture, aquatic species, that are threatened with or in danger of extinction in Liberia under Paragraph (i) of this Subsection.

(c) The Authority shall promulgate regulations to:

- (i) Establish categories of protection, including fully protected and partially protected, to apply to identified species; and
- (ii) Establish a procedure and criteria for listing and delisting threatened and endangered species, including CITES Appendix I and II species.
- (iii) Establish a methodology for conducting species classification surveys, including provisions for data storage and public access within one year of the effective date of this Law.

Section 6.3.1 Migratory Protected Species

Wildlife protection under this Law shall extend to species that migrate to or through the territory of the Republic of Liberia, and that are protected under any international convention or treaty to which Liberia is party.

Section 6.3.2 Protected Species Controls

a. Except as provided in this Section, no person shall hunt, kill, capture, injure, harass, or trade any protected species, live or dead, or any part thereof, identified in the list established and maintained by the Authority under Subsection 6.3.(b)(ii) of his Law.

b. Section does not apply to any protected species that has been born, propagated, or lawfully placed in captivity and for which the owner has obtained a certificate to that effect from the Authority.

c. Any Officer the Authority authorized in writing to do so by the Authority may hunt or capture any Wild Animal, including any protected animal, anywhere in Liberia, including in a National Park, Nature Reserve, Game Reserve, or Controlled Hunting Area, where:

- i. Such hunting or capture has been requested by the Authority in the interest of research and sustainable management;
- ii. The Authority has determined that such hunting or capture is necessary for the safety of the public or the protection of crops, livestock, or other property; or
- iii. The Authority has determined that such hunting or capture is necessary to prevent undue suffering by any animal.

d. The Authority may authorize the capture, removal, and transfer of any protected species identified in the list established and maintained by the Authority under Section 6.3(a) if such activity is for the purpose of captive breeding, propagation, safety of the species or of humans, scientific research, or educational purposes.

e. The Authority may issue a certificate of legal ownership or possession for any protected species where the Authority is satisfied that such species was lawfully obtained under the authority of a valid license or permit or by other lawful means, or was raised in captivity. The person in possession bears the burden of proving lawful possession of any protected animal or any part thereof.

(f) The Authority shall promulgate regulations detailing the procedures, terms, and standards for issuing licenses and permits for the ownership, possession, capture, removal, or transfer of a protected species pursuant to this Section.

Section 6.3.3. Hunting of Wild Animal Species

a. The Authority shall ensure that the hunting and trade of wild animal species is based on surveys mandated under Section 6.3 of this Law and available wildlife data from other sources.

b. The Authority shall establish a list and update it every five years pursuant to the findings of the surveys required by Section 6.3 of animals:

- (i) Whose depletion would have negative ecological impacts and which should be given special protection; and
- (ii) Which, due to rapid natural replacement (recovery, regeneration), could be sustainably harvested for subsistence and regulated trade.

c. The Authority shall establish licensing standards or exemptions, as appropriate, for particular categories of hunters, including, but not limited to

- (i) Persons commercially remunerated for services related to hunting;

(ii) Persons hunting for commercial purposes; and

(iii) Persons hunting for subsistence purposes.

d. The Authority shall issue licenses for categories of hunters pursuant to the standards or exemptions developed under subsection (c) of this Section.

e. The Authority shall promulgate hunting regulations using the information required by this section.

f. The Authority shall educate the public about the findings of the surveys, particularly regarding which species can be sustainably harvested.

Section 6.3.4 Permits for Keeping Wild Animals

a) Keeping Wild Animals without a valid permit is prohibited.

(i) The Authority shall, by Regulation, establish procedures and standards for the issuance of Wild Animal possession permits.

(ii) The Authority shall, by Regulation, establish procedures and standards for the issuance of Wild Animal trading licenses.

(iii) The Authority shall cancel a permit where a Wild Animal is not kept and cared for humanely or in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the permit.

(iv) The Authority may take possession of any Wild Animal from any Person who does not possess a valid permit. The Authority may thereafter release the animal, donate the animal to a zoological institution or other appropriate facility, or dispose of the animal in a humane manner, in the discretion of the Authority.

b) Diseased Animals

The Authority may quarantine, humanely destroy, or deliver to the appropriate governmental agency for investigation any diseased live Wild Animal seized or confiscated.

Section 6.4 Wildlife Management Planning

a. The Authority shall, within one year of the effective date of this Law and every five years thereafter, develop a plan for improving the status of regulated wildlife populations, in particular protected species, based on the information generated by the surveys mandated by Section 6.3.

b. This plan must be developed through a participatory process and must include provisions for stakeholder participation in wildlife conservation and management Wildlife Management Planning.

CHAPTER 7 THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Section 7.1 Collaborative Management

- a. The Authority, in collaboration with communities, private landowners, occupants; forest resources license holders, civil society, and relevant line ministries, especially the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other constituents of Liberian society shall, in a transparent and consultative manner, develop a policy for private landowner- and community-based management/joint forest management of Protected Areas, conservation areas, and wildlife management areas.
- b. The Authority shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement the policy established in collaboration with the stakeholders.
- c. The regulatory regime as mandated in above shall:
 - (i) Consider and integrate, as appropriate, traditional forest management practices;
 - (ii) Establish guidelines for communities, private landowners, occupants, concession holders, and civil society to participate in the implementation of wildlife management and protected area regulations;
 - (iii) Establish protocols and standards for public participation in activities including, but not limited to, the management of protected areas, provision of services, ecotourism, construction and management of hotels, sport hunting, management of species in protected areas, and the management of protected forest areas for carbon sequestration;
 - (iv) Further define and regulate the roles of management structures consistent with Chapter 3 of this Law;
 - (v) Establish the methodology for establishing community-based management systems;
 - (vi) Establish a protocol for benefit sharing;
 - (vii) Set guidelines for stakeholder consultations and participatory decision-making; and
 - (viii) Establish procedures for requesting the Authority's support for community-based/joint management of protected areas.

Section 7.2 Establishment of Conservancies

- a. The Authority shall promulgate regulations elaborating procedures and standards for the establishment of conservancies.
 - (i) Conservancies may be established with any management approach valid for other protected areas under this Law.
- b. Authority shall assist private landowners, communities, and legal land occupiers to establish conservancies for conservation of natural resources and wildlife management on private land.

Section 7.3 Private Sector Conservation and Wildlife Protection Requirements

a. The Authority shall require all holders of forest resources licenses to include wildlife management in their management plans, including, but not limited to, measures:

- (i) Ensuring that no hunting or transportation of illegally acquired wildlife takes place in company vehicles or on logging roads;

CHAPTER 8. TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS, PROTECTED ANIMALS, AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

Section 8.1 Export of Wild Animals:

No Person shall export from Liberia any Wild Animal, including a Wild Animal kept as a pet, except pursuant to a valid permit issued by the Authority and a certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare certifying that the animal is in good health and free of all communicable diseases.

Section 8.2 Export of Protected Animals:

- i.
 - (i) No Person shall export, re-export, or attempt to export or re-export any protected wildlife species in Liberia, or as listed in Appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), except for purposes of scientific research, including breeding in captivity.
 - (ii) The Authority shall not issue an export permit for any protected wildlife species unless the Authority is satisfied:
 - (a) that the species has been lawfully obtained;
 - (b) that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species;
 - (c) that if CITES or the laws of the importing country require an import permit, an import permit has been issued by the competent Authority of the importing country; and
 - (d) that such animal will be prepared and shipped so as to minimize any risk of injury to health and to prevent cruel treatment.

Section 8.3: Import of Wildlife:

No Person shall import or attempt to import into Liberia any Wildlife, except pursuant to a valid permit issued by the Authority, a valid export permit issued by the competent Authority of the country of export, and, in the case of a Wild Animal, a certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare certifying that the animal is in good health and free of all communicable diseases.

Section 8.4 Household and Personal Goods Derived from Wild Animals

The Authority may by Regulation establish rules governing the fabrication, sale, transport, and use of household and personal goods derived from Wild Animals and establish standards with those in common use internationally.

Section 8.5 Adherence to International Market Requirements

After the Authority has established standards under Section 6.1 of this Law, no Person shall export products derived from wild animals except in conformity with the standards.

Section 8.6 Export Permits

- a. No Person shall export wildlife flora and fauna species without an export permit from the Authority.
- b. The Authority, may issue export permits for wildlife flora and fauna species meeting mandated requirements.
- c. The Authority shall not issue an export permit without confirming that all taxes and fees relating to wildlife subject to the permit have been paid.

Section 8.7 Aquatic Wildlife Species permits and Licenses

The Authority shall ensure that all permits and licenses related to the import and export of protected wildlife species are also required for CITES Appendix I-II listed aquatic species that are harvested from the sea within Liberia's jurisdiction.

Section 8.8. False or Misleading Information as Relate to Acquiring Wildlife Permits

The Authority shall cancel any revoke where it discovers information provided for the purpose of being granted the permit is false or misleading.

CHAPTER 9. MEASURES FOR THE PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES

Section 9.1 Conservation and Wildlife Research

- a. The Authority shall encourage scientific research and education related to wildlife Conservation, and wildlife species, and may engage directly in related research and training activities.
- b. The Authority shall encourage research and education related to traditional knowledge concerning forest conservation and wildlife management with the objective that such knowledge shall be integrated into sustainable wildlife management in Liberia

Section 9.1 Scientific data

(a) As a condition of funding or granting permission for privately conducted inventories, surveys, and other research the Authority shall require the researchers to provide the Authority with all data and reports from the research.

(b) A researcher submitting data or reports under this Section may request that the Authority withhold the information from public release as confidential business information, and the Authority shall process the request under Section 18.15 of the National Forest Reform Law 2006.

CHAPTER 10. Establishment of a Conservation and Wildlife Fund

The Authority shall in consultation with relevant stakeholders, establish a Fund to be known as the Conservation and Wildlife Fund for the administration of protected areas, wildlife conservation and management activities, and enforcement of this Law.

Section 10.1 Sources of the Fund

The sources of the Fund shall be but not limited to the following:

- (a) Such as appropriated by the Legislature
- (b) Voluntary contribution
- (c) Donations, grants, endowments
- (d) Payment of fees

Section 10.2 Management of the Fund

The Authority shall promulgate regulations detailing the use and management of the Fund.

CHAPTER 11: OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

Section 11.1 General Enforcement and Offenses

- a. A court of competent jurisdiction may issue an injunction to enforce any provision of his law against any person, including the Authority.
- b. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Law, or any Regulation implementing any provision of the Law, is guilty of an offense and is liable upon conviction to fines, imprisonment and other penalties as established by the Authority.
- c. Offenses that are criminal in nature shall be referred to the appropriate judicial authority.
- d. Any offenses and penalties prescribed are specific to this Law and penalties for related offenses under National Forest Reform Law 2006 are cumulative.

Section 11.2 Specific Offences and Penalties

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
(a) Possession of weapons in protected area	US \$50 to \$200 or 30 days to six months Imprisonment
(b) Hunting in a national park	US \$1,000 to \$2,000 or six to 12 months Imprisonment
(c) Killing of leopard, elephant or hippopotamus	US \$5,000 to \$10,000 or 2 to 4 years imprisonment

- | | |
|--|---|
| (d) Killing or destruction of any other protected animal without permit or license | \$250 to \$5,000 or four to six months imprisonment; auction of product and deposit of proceeds into FDA's account and confiscation of weaponry used in commission of the offence |
| (e) Cutting trees, farming in a national park | US \$250 to \$500 or 30 days imprisonment |
| (f) Fishing in a national park or nature reserve without permit or license | US \$100 to \$150 or sixty to one hundred days imprisonment. |
| (g) Possession of live animal without permit or license | US \$ 100 to \$150 or three months imprisonment |
| (h) Hunting in a game reserve without Permit or license | US \$250 to \$500 or four to six months imprisonment |
| (i) Hunting without a permit or license | US \$250 to \$500 or one year imprisonment |
| (j) Trophy hunting and export of protected animal without a permit or license | US \$5,000 to \$10,000 or four years imprisonment |

Section 11.3 Repeat Offenders

Any Person who, within two years of his conviction of an offense against the provisions of this Law and its Regulations is convicted of a second offense against the provisions of this law shall:

- (a) be liable to a fine of not less than US \$500 and not more than US \$1,000 or to a term of imprisonment or not less than one year and not more than two years,
- (b) suffer the permanent confiscation of any weapon or device used in the commission of such offense

Section 11.4 Offenses by Authority Officers

Any officer of the Authority who is convicted of an offense against the provisions of this Law shall, in addition to prosecution under this Law be subject to disciplinary action including suspension without pay and dismissal

CHAPTER 12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 12.1 Citizen Suits and Civil Enforcement

Any Person harmed by a violation of any provision of this law may bring an action against any person responsible in a court of competent jurisdiction

Section 12.2 Transitional

The Authority shall within one year of the effective date of this Act, if not before, ensure that all provisions of this Act requiring Regulations are identified and the process for meeting the requirement is in place

CHAPTER 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in handbill.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING

-2014-


THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

HOUSE'S ENGROSSED BILL NO 29 ENTITLED:

"AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA
MANAGEMENT LAW OF LIBERIA"

On motion, Bill read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on
its first reading and sent to Committee Room on Tuesday,
June 3, 2014 @ 12:00 G.M.T.

On motion, the Bill was taken from Committee Room for
its second reading. On motion, under the suspension of the
rule, the second reading of the Bill constituted its third and
final reading, and the Bill was adopted, passed into the full
force of the law, and ordered engrossed today, Tuesday,
November 11, 2014 @ 12:22 G.M.T. during it Extra-
Ordinary Session.


CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

-2016-

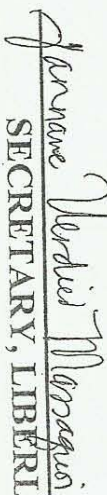
FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SENATE'S ENDORSEMENT TO HOUSE'S ENGROSSED BILL NO. 29
ENTITLED:

"AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA
MANAGEMENT LAW OF LIBERIA"

On motion, Bill read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on
its first reading and sent to Committee room on Thursday,
November 13, 2014 @ 14: 05 G.M.T.

On motion, the Bill was taken from Committee Room for
its second reading. On motion, under the suspension of the
rule, the second reading of the Bill constituted its third and
final reading, and the Bill was adopted, passed into the full
force of the law, and ordered engrossed today, Thursday,
September 20, 2016 @ 12:25 G.M.T.


SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE, R.L.

-2016-

ATTESTATION TO:

“AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW OF LIBERIA”

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA/PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE R.L.

THE SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE R.L.

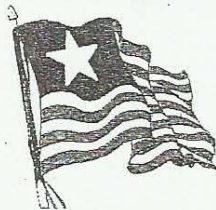
THE SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

THE CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.



THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Capitol Building
P. o. Box 9005
Monrovia, Liberia
Website: www.legislature.gov.lr



Office of the Chief Clerk

~~2016~~

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SCHEDULE OF HOUSE'S ENROLLED BILL NO. 50 ENTITLED:

"AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT LAW OF LIBERIA"

PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL.

APPROVED THIS: 5th DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2016

AT THE HOUR OF 3:10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA