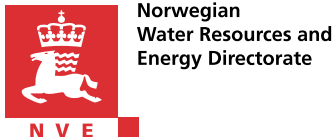


MLME – NVE Technical assistance programme 2010 -2020

Strengthening of the Power Sector Legislation and the Hydrometric Network for hydropower purposes in Liberia

The focus is twofold: i) to assist with development of the regulations in accordance to the Electricity Law and assist in developing a policy and legislation for use of water resources, and ii) assist Liberian Hydrological Services with operation, maintenance and further development of the hydrometric network.



Background:

Fifteen years of civil war seriously affected the country's physical and human capital, also leaving institutional capacities severely curtailed. Liberia has one of the lowest electricity access rates in the world with an overall total of 2-3%. In the capital city of Monrovia, less than 10 % of the population has access to electricity. Installed generation capacity is currently 22.6 MW of which about 16 MW are effectively available, and the reliability of supply is very unstable. The quality of supply is at a low level, the electricity cooperation company/ companies has an extremely weak financial situation and the losses in the distribution grid is around 30-40%.

In 2007 Norway entered into an agreement with Liberia with the aim of increasing electricity production in Monrovia. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed to rehabilitation and reconstruction of Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant as well as efforts to improve the management of the Liberian Electricity Cooperation (LEC).



Activities Institutional Cooperation Programme 2010-2016

An Institutional Agreement between MLME and NVE was in place in 2010, to assist the development of monitoring and management of the water and energy resources.

The programme contributed to the development of the electricity sector in Liberia. The two cooperation areas “Legal and regulatory framework” and “Upgrading national hydro meteorological network and database” have in particular contributed to reduce the risks for investors due to more predictability regarding legal conditions as well as hydrological data for efficient selection and design of hydro power plants

Activities Technical Assistance Programme 2016-2020

Two successful cooperation areas from the Institutional Programme 2010 have continued in this new Technical Assistance Programme 2016 -2020:

Cooperation Area 1: Legal Framework

Cooperation Area 2: Hydrology

NVE and MLME have agreed on narrowing this Technical Assistance Programme (2016-2020) compared to the former Institutional Cooperation Programme (2016 -2020) and the selection of the cooperation are based on:

- Prioritising cooperation areas within NVEs core competence
- Continuing cooperation areas in the current institutional cooperation programme where we have achieved successful results and where further development is highly needed
- Trying to avoid overlap with other donors

MLME-NVE cooperation in these areas will contribute to have legislation in place to fulfil the requirements in the electricity law of October 2015, and provide capacity building regarding legislation for hydropower purpose and case processing in accordance to this. This will probably make it more predictable for foreign investors and attract them to invest in the electricity sector. The electricity companies will be encouraged and required more efficient and reliable operations. Subsequently these will allow sustainable electricity supply for the society and contribute to improved economical development.

Within the area of hydrological services the network needs to be more reliable. It has to be further improved with data bases set up properly and offering measurement series for several years – not only 3-4 years as it is now. Training and general capacity building will also be an important part of the proposed activities. The hydro data will be crucial for design of hydropower plants as well as for other purposes such as drinking water, agriculture etc.

To improve the electricity sector in general and reduce the barriers for possible investors there is a need to ensure implementation of the new Electricity Law of October 23rd, 2015 and develop a reliable legal framework.

Contact person: Kirsten Westgaard, kwe@nve.no

Overall Project Data

Partner	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME), Liberia
NVE Mandate	Assistance to MLME including the Liberian Hydrological Services (LHS); - to contribute to the development of a predictable and transparent electricity sector to attract developers to invest in renewable energy resources in particular hydropower Assignment from the Norwegian Embassy in Accra, June 2016
Contract Value/ Duration	NOK 20 823 000 covering 4 years from July 2016 – to the end of June 2020.