



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Sector Scan

# The Agricultural Sector in Sierra Leone

*Commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency*

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International.*

**Sector Scan**

**The Agricultural Sector in Sierra Leone**

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Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council



## **Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council**

The Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council (SLNBCC) is an affiliate of the GNBCC, Ghana. The SLNBCC has been officially registered and active since September 2017, and is currently building a network of companies from Sierra Leone and the Netherlands. The target being collaborations, investments or partnerships between companies from the two countries.

Our network consists of both government and the private sector actors, and we work closely together with the Sierra Leonean Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) and the Sierra Leonean Chamber for Agribusiness development (SLeCad). The SLNBCC is expanding its membership base, these members receive:

- Monthly newsletters
- Quarterly networking events
- Access to Dutch network, to Dutch companies with interest in Liberia/Sierra Leone and introductions
- Access to more information on the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's (RvO) financial instruments
- Workshops and seminars on business related topics

The SLNBCC also offers paid business services to both members as well as non-members. These services include:

- Assisting with travel arrangements for business investors from the Netherlands to Sierra Leone
- Representing and assisting Dutch companies who do not have their own subsidiary, partner or office in Sierra Leone

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## Chapter 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sierra Leone is a country located on the Western fringe of Africa, bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. The tropical climate and abundance of water makes it an excellent location for growing crops year-round. Currently, the agricultural sector is not developed up to capacity, and holds the potential for enormous growth in the near future. This document provides background information on the country, the agricultural sector within the country and areas of opportunity for Dutch companies to enter the sector locally. These opportunities include:

<b>Subsection Agric. Sector</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>
Cash Crops (cacao, coffee & oil palm)	Rehabilitation existing plantations Establishment plantations Agro-processing Refined oil Soap production
Rice	Production Processing Marketing
Animal Husbandry	Livestock rearing Slaughter facilities Meat processing factories Development market chain efficiency
Carbon Credit Schemes	Forestry activities Plantation activities
Fisheries	Development fishing harbor Processing plants Regional distribution Cold stores Operation & management marine training school
Agricultural Inputs	Fertilizers Improved seed Agro-chemicals Animal feeds Veterinary inputs

Key challenges facing the sector such in infrastructural impediments, seasonal drops in local purchasing power and illegal fishing are touched upon. Finally, the policy and institutional frameworks guiding the agricultural sector are outlined.

## Chapter 2 | ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
DFID	UK Department for International Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
NRA	National Revenue Authority
SLC	Sierra Leone Local Content Agency
SLIEPA	Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency
SLPA	Sierra Leone Port Authority
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United National Development Program

## **Chapter 3 | SIERRA LEONE CONTEXT**

Sierra Leone is found in the West Coast of Africa, bordered by Guinea and Liberia. It has been experiencing annual GDP growth. Several years back, the country's GDP growth rate was one of the highest in Africa, but had a quick downward turn due to the twin shocks of a shrinking of the global iron ore price and the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease. However, Sierra Leone is actively reforming its business environment in order to facilitate the ease of doing business in the country.

### **History & Politics**

Sierra Leone gained independence from Britain in 1961. From 1961 to 1998, the political system shifted between multi-party democracy, military rule and one-party rule. Sierra Leone has remained a multi-party democracy since 1998. The country emerged from a decade-long civil war in 2002. The constitution recognizes three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Parliamentary terms last for five years and the President may not serve for more than two terms, whether or not those terms are consecutive. The current President, Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People's Congress Party, is serving his second term, having been re-elected in 2012 (winning 58.7 percent of votes). His party also holds 67 of the 112 nationally elected seats. Paramount chiefs fill 12 additional seats in separate elections. A total of ten parties took part in the 2012 elections, which were peaceful and transparent. The next elections are due to be held in early 2018. The constitution, as currently drafted, does not allow an incumbent to stand for a third term. A peaceful, credible and stable transition of power would increase investor confidence by providing a reduced risk of shock and greater predictability.

### **Governance**

The Government of Sierra Leone is led by a President elected directly by the people and who is also the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Within the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has oversight over policies relating to domestic and international trade. The Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) is responsible for policies to improve the investment climate, promote local and export trade, and encourage the development of small-to-medium-sized businesses. SLIEPA has thus far focused on Foreign Direct Investments in key economic sectors including the agriculture, marine resources, mining, energy, and tourism sectors. A system of local government was established by the Local Government Act 2004, which is comprised of 19 councils. Five city councils, one municipal council, and 13 district councils form the total of this local government structure. The Decentralization Secretariat was established under the World Bank's Institutional Reform and Capacity Building Project to promote decentralization.

### **Core industries**

Agriculture (key crops: rice, sugar, oil palm and cocoa, as well as agribusiness functions relating to trading and/or processing); diamonds (over 600,000 carats exported in 2013), iron ore (one of the world's largest iron ore deposits at African Minerals' Tonkolili mine contains an estimated 12.8 billion tonnes), rutile (the world's largest reserves,

producing an estimated 120,000 tons of contained titanium dioxide in 2014), gold (producing approximately 141 kilograms worth of gold in terms of mine output in 2012 and 193 kilograms in 2014) and bauxite mining (including the country's Portloko deposit, which contains 100 million tons of bauxite reserves). Tourism is another key sector in the country, with potential to tap into Sub-Saharan Africa's US\$66 billion tourism industry.<sup>1</sup>

### **Key exports and imports**

Sierra Leone's main exports are in the mining and agriculture sectors. Until 2012, diamonds were Sierra Leone main export product. Iron ore has since taken its place, accounting for 55.7 percent of total exports in 2013. The mining sector accounts for roughly 90 percent of annual export revenues. In 2015, Sierra Leone's exports were worth approximately US\$765 million, of which mineral resources accounted for approximately 75 percent, followed closely by cocoa (8.5 percent) and coffee. Sierra Leone's main imports are machinery and transport equipment (largely relating to mining and oil investment projects and accounting for approximately 50 percent of total imports) and fuel (10 percent).

### **Foreign Aid**

The country remains largely dependent on foreign aid. The current account deficit was estimated to be US\$511.8 million in 2013 and US\$466.9 million in 2014. The deficit was reported to be around US\$582 million in 2015. Sierra Leone benefits from the support of various international agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

### **The Ports**

Freetown boasts one of the largest deepwater natural harbours in Africa. The existing QE2 Freetown container port is currently managed by Bolloré Africa Logistics under a 20-year concession agreement awarded by the Sierra Leone Port Authority (SLPA) in 2010. The agreement includes plans to renovate the port's bulk handling terminal and expand its capacity. GoSL is also considering developing a "dry port" to ease congestion at QE2 and facilitate the transportation of containers destined for rural areas. Further efforts to involve private partners in the ports system have seen the SLPA award a 20-year concession for the Marine Slipway and Ship Repair facilities to Holland Shipyard.

To support the needs of the mining sector, the GoSL plans to develop a new deepwater port and associated rail infrastructure with the capacity to export between 30-50million tonnes of ore and other minerals each year. A pre-feasibility study to review options for the new deepwater port was commissioned by the GoSL in 2014. The World Bank is carrying out the study as part of a project to develop a "Ports Master Plan" assessing the need for the expansion of the Freetown Port and the feasibility of the proposed deepwater port. It is hoped that the study will also consider the potential for shared use at the Tonkolili and Pepel port.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2 2</sup> *Sierra Leone: An Investor's Guide – A Private Sector Perspective on the Investment Landscape, p36*

## Chapter 4 | COUNTRY OVERVIEW

<b>Population:</b>	7,092,113 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Urbanization:</b>	41% <sup>4</sup>
<b>Situated:</b>	West Africa
<b>Bordered by:</b>	Guinea (North/NorthEast), Liberia (South/SouthEast), Atlantic Ocean (West)
<b>Area:</b>	71,740 square kilometers.
<b>GDP:</b>	US\$4.4 billion <sup>5</sup>
<b>Official language:</b>	English
<b>Ha of arable land:</b>	5.4 million
<b>Rainfall:</b>	3,800mm annually

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<sup>3</sup> Statistics Sierra Leone (2015) '2015 Population and Housing Census: Summary of Final Results' p.14

<sup>44</sup> Statistics Sierra Leone (2015) '2015 Population and Housing Census: Summary of Final Results'

<sup>5</sup> 2017 estimate by IMF (2016) 'IMF World Economic Outlook 2016'.

## Chapter 5 | THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Agriculture is the backbone of the Sierra Leonean economy, with the sector accounting for an estimated 42.5 percent of GDP and employing around two-thirds of the national labor force<sup>6</sup>. Sierra Leone is endowed with approximately 5.4 million hectares of arable agricultural land, of which almost 75 percent is available for cultivation. The country boasts fertile soils and its ample rainfall averages roughly 3,800mm per year, making it one of the most humid countries in Africa. This climate supports a broad range of crops including rice, cassava and groundnuts, as well as livestock and cash crops, such as coffee, cocoa, and palm oil. Still, the sector's vast potential is largely untapped.

Small-scale subsistence farming currently dominates the sector, the government of Sierra Leone is looking to foreign direct investment to boost productivity through mechanized commercial agricultural development and investments across the agriculture value chain. Fisheries are one of Sierra Leone's lesser-known sources of untapped wealth, yet they have the potential to become the country's second largest sector for exports after minerals.

The case for investing in agriculture in Sierra Leone is highly compelling, particularly considering the country's vast availability of agricultural land. The sector also compares favorably against its counterparts in other comparable markets on a number of commercial variables, including labor costs and leasing costs for agricultural land. Resource-related costs are minimal – for instance, Sierra Leone does not charge agribusinesses for water utilization.

Agriculture is a strategic growth sector for the GoSL. Increasing agricultural productivity is central to GoSL's poverty reduction and food security aims, as stated in the Agenda for Prosperity and the Post-Ebola Recovery Strategy. This is reflected in government's efforts to create an enabling environment for agribusiness investors through numerous sector-specific investment incentives and the availability of wide-ranging investment facilitation assistance from SLIEPA. For example, Big agriculture companies like Addax and Socfin receive incentives for certain agribusinesses which include a complete exemption from income tax for up to ten years from the time of investment and a 50 percent exemption from withholding taxes on dividends, as well as a complete exemption from imports duties on agricultural inputs such as farm machinery, equipment and agro-chemicals.

### **Land<sup>7</sup>**

There are two distinct land tenure systems in Sierra Leone. In Freetown and the Western Area, title to land can be bought and sold under a freehold system. Outside of these areas, where much of the country's agricultural land is situated, only leasehold interests in land can be bought and sold and reversionary title to the land is retained by indigenous communities, represented by local chiefs. Foreign investors are not permitted to own title to land under either system, but can lease land for a term of up to 99 years.

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<sup>6</sup>Statistics Sierra Leone (2015) '2015 Population and Housing Census: Summary of Final Results'

<sup>7 7 7</sup> *Sierra Leone: An Investor's Guide – A Private Sector Perspective on the Investment Landscape*, p38

For investors unfamiliar with customary tenure-based land systems in Africa, the involvement of local chiefs in the leasing process can be concerning and act as a deterrent to investment. Sierra Leone's Law Reform Commission is currently working on a new land tenure policy with a view, amongst other things, to making it easier for foreign investors to obtain land leases. The government of Sierra Leone is prepared to assist foreign entities in negotiations with chiefs and landowners. In certain cases, the government of Sierra Leone may also take a head lease on provincial lands and sub-lease to agribusiness investors so as to mitigate any perceived risks of privity between customary landowners and foreign investors. The leasehold rights of agribusiness investors are protected by the wide-ranging guarantees against expropriation set out in the Investment Promotions Act of 2004<sup>8</sup>. To date, no claims appear to have been brought against government pursuant to these provisions under this Act.

### **Water**

As is common in West Africa, water is considered a communal resource in Sierra Leone. Usage rights are subject to recognition of the rights of others to the resource, and preservation of the water's quality. A landholder may claim rights to a stream or other water source on his or her land. There are hurdles with respect to water use in Sierra Leone, as the country lacks a comprehensive legal framework governing its water resources. Ascertaining which relevant permits and consents are required for water extraction poses a challenge to potential investors because the country does not have a single, central body charged with managing the country's water resources.

### ***Environment***

Before initiating any agribusiness and/or fisheries project, investors are required to undertake an environmental social and health impact assessment, inform affected communities of the results of the assessment and address any community objection to a project through community consultative meetings and community sensitization programs. The Environmental Protection Agency has broad responsibility for ensuring private-sector compliance with environmental regulations in Sierra Leone, including environmental, social and health impact assessment procedures.

Where the international lending community is involved, stricter environmental compliance, such as compliance with the Equator Principles and the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards, will be required. Although the primary environmental legislation applicable in Sierra Leone provides the environmental regulator with the power to promulgate regulations in respect of the control of effluent discharge and the release of hazardous and toxic materials, no such regulations have been enacted at the time of publication. The government of Sierra Leone has held several public workshops with interested parties on the adoption of such regulations and it is envisaged that a more robust environmental protection regime should become applicable in Sierra Leone in the near future.

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<sup>8</sup> Find link to full document of the Investment Promotions Act in Chapter 6; Policy Framework under the subheading 'Rights Foreign Investors'.

## **Labor<sup>9</sup>**

The Agribusiness Trade Council regulates labor relations within the sector. Labor regulation in Sierra Leone is relatively flexible and law regulates only certain aspects of working conditions for agricultural workers. For example, the national minimum wage mentioned in the government's labor policy is currently 65 USD per month and official daily working hours (currently eight hours) are mandatory.

Agricultural workers have the right to join a union and enter into collective bargaining agreements under Sierra Leonean labor laws. In practice, working conditions for agricultural workers are largely governed by such collective bargaining agreements with their employers. Productivity-based worker payment structures are widely applied and there is no legal prohibition on compulsory overtime. Around 40 percent of the Sierra Leonean formal sector labor force is unionized. The National Union of Forestry & Agricultural Workers, which forms part of the Sierra Leone Labor Congress (a prominent umbrella organization of trade unions) has approximately 1,100 declared members. Unions have the right to strike under national trade union laws, subject to giving 21 days' notice to government.

## **Local Content Requirements**

Sierra Leone has an investor-friendly approach to local participation. 100 percent foreign ownership is permitted in most sectors of the economy with exceptions in only some sectors such as mining). Although Sierra Leone has adopted a national local content policy, government acknowledges that at present there is insufficient capacity in the local labor market to be able to supply goods and services to business undertakings. With the assistance of development partners such as the United Nations (UN) and the British Department for International Development (DFID), government of Sierra Leone is building capacity in the local market. SLIEPA guidance indicates that agribusiness investors are "expected" to make social contributions to local communities as part of the negotiation of land leases. These may include community capacity building projects, infrastructure development and/or rehabilitation or the payment of royalties. There are no express legal requirements or consequences for a failure to make such contributions.

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<sup>9 9 9</sup> *Sierra Leone: An Investor's Guide – A Private Sector Perspective on the Investment Landscape, p39*

## **Chapter 6 | OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Cash crops**

Key opportunities for investment include cash crops such as cocoa, coffee and palm oil, with the government promoting investment in the rehabilitation and expansion of existing plantations and estates, as well as agro-processing, and further planning to establish (tax free) export-processing zones in the country.

#### *Cacao and Coffee*

In the 70s and 80s, cacao and coffee were mayor cash and export crops in Sierra Leone. Yield currently average at 410Kg/Ha for cacao and 390 Kg/Ha for coffee beans, low numbers even by West African standards. Opportunities lie in the rehabilitation of existing plantations and the establishment of new plantations.

#### *Oil Palm*

Oil Palm can be produced in many parts of Sierra Leone due to its favorable climate. Despite plantations being neglected, production of the crop has rebounded in recent years to around 195.000 MT annually. Due to aging, estates owned by the government consist predominantly of slowly yielding trees. Currently oil palm yields stand at approximately 1.5MT of Crude Palm Oil per hectare. Exports remain modest compared with 2 decades ago and stood at 1,500MT in 2003<sup>10</sup>.

### **Rice**

There are also significant opportunities and incentives for investments in the production, processing and marketing of domestically produced rice, Sierra Leone's staple food. The World Bank and the United Nation's Food & Agricultural Organization confirmed Sierra Leone to have a comparative advantage in supplying its domestic market<sup>11</sup>.

### **Animal Husbandry**

An increasing demand for meat both domestically, regionally and globally make livestock-rearing and slaughter facilities viable investment opportunities. The domestic production, as it stands today, is not sufficient to meet the needs of the growing Sierra Leonean population. Domestic consumers are gradually regaining their purchasing power, causing an increase in the demand for meat.

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<sup>10</sup> SLIEPA. 'Agriculture Investment Opportunities'. Retrieved from: <http://sliempa.org/investment/agriculture/>

<sup>11</sup> FAO. 'FAO in Sierra Leone'. Retrieved from: <http://www.fao.org/sierra-leone/fao-in-sierra-leone/our-team/en/>

This subsection of the agricultural sector currently contributes about 6 percent to the total agricultural GDP. In 2011, numbers were estimated to be about 178,000 head of cattle, 95,000 heads of sheep, 65,000 goats and some 900,000 poultry<sup>12</sup>.

Opportunities lie in the rearing of animals, slaughter facilities, meat processing factories and the development of more efficient marketing chains.

### **Carbon Credit Schemes**

Sierra Leone is also emerging as a viable destination for carbon credit scheme (CCS) projects, with a number of major deals for carbon captures projects signed in recent years. Forestry and plantation activities in particular provide opportunities for foreign investors to earn credits under the Framework Convention on Climate Change Clean Development Mechanism that can be traded on the global carbon market. The government of Sierra Leone has already identified a number of further potential sites for CCS-driven investment projects.

### **Fisheries<sup>13</sup>**

There are also opportunities for investment in Sierra Leone's fisheries. The region is one of the world's richest fishing grounds. Sierra Leone's 506km coastline and 30,000km continental shelf boast a commercially viable stock of fish. The fisheries sector contributes approximately 8 percent of Sierra Leone's GDP (according to World Bank figures and government of Sierra Leone statistics), and fish constitutes around 80 percent of animal protein consumed by Sierra Leoneans. Total fish production is increasing year to year, with production rising from roughly 60,000 tonnes to 140,000 tonnes in the past decade, but revenue generation is still far below its potential. In 2010, the economic value of yields was estimated to be more than US\$100 million per annum.

The marine fisheries of Sierra Leone are divided into:

- The artisanal fishery, operating in estuaries and inshore waters and extending from the shoreline to around 20-40m deep;
- The industrial fishery, operating in the open deeper waters.

Some 80 percent of Sierra Leone's protein intake comes from seafood, and the country's deep-water location provides for an ideal platform for developing the fishery sector.

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<sup>12</sup> SLIEPA 'Agriculture Investment Opportunities'. Retrieved from: <http://sliepa.org/investment/agriculture/>

<sup>13</sup> Herbert Smith Freehills LLP. 'Sierra Leone: An Investor's Guide' (July 2015)

The government signed its first Public Private Partnership for fish receiving centers in 2014, during the midst of the Ebola crisis, and has plans to develop an integrated fishing harbor along with fish processing plants in Freetown. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has also been looking at ways to distribute fish products to cold stores in major regional centers. With support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), a marine training school has been developed. There are opportunities for investment in the operation and management of the training school.

### **Agricultural Inputs**

In an effort to expand, professionalize and mechanize the agricultural sector in the country, the government is seeking not only foreign investments in plantations and processing facilities, but also in agricultural inputs. Currently, a lack of high quality agricultural inputs are hampering further development of the sector. This means opportunities lie in the supply of fertilizer, improved seeds, agro-chemicals, animal feeds and veterinary inputs.

## Chapter 7 | Key Challenges

Sierra Leone's agriculture is constantly under threat from climatic fluctuations such as droughts, floods and changing rainfall patterns – threats that are widely expected to increase as a result of climate change.

Infrastructure in many areas, and in particular the rural road network and electricity grid, will require sizeable investment in order to create a holistic enabling environment for agribusiness. However, this is as much an opportunity as it is a challenge for investors.

Supplies of fertilizers and pesticides are well below domestic requirements. Fires, which are used as a means of land clearance, can be problematic for those operating in the agriculture sector.

Food insecurity increases during the lean season (June to August). During this period, 45 percent of the population, or 2.5 million people, do not access sufficient food. In the past, the government has sought to avoid food shortages and price hikes through temporary export bans on widely consumed staple foods such as rice and palm oil. Sierra Leone is currently lacking a well-structured public sector “agricultural extension service”, which would help investors obtain technical information and manage risks through research and development, training and the use of extension agents to build connections between farmers, government planners, NGOs and the private sector.

Export quality controls in Sierra Leone can be improved. Exporters are required to obtain a quality certificate from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security. Requests for facilitation payments have been reported. Such practices have in the past resulted in poor quality produce being exported, which in turn negatively impacts the price of the country's agricultural export.

The principal challenge to the fisheries sector is illegal fishing, estimated to cost Sierra Leone US\$29 million annually. The EU and the World Bank have established the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program to address this.

## Chapter 8 | POLICY FRAMEWORK

The government of Sierra Leone's policy and strategic framework for the agriculture sector focuses on providing better quality and wider access to inputs and infrastructure, and improving storage and processing facilities to increase productivity, achieve food security, and expand exports. Investors should consider a number of areas of policy and regulation that impact the structuring and commercial viability of investments in the agriculture sector. These include:

### **Land and water rights:**

'Final National Land Policy of Sierra Leone: Version 6' (August 1, 2015). Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment. Read document here: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sie155203.pdf>

'National Water and Sanitation Policy' (July, 2010). Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Read document here: <http://www.washlearningsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-WASH-Policy-with-Photos-Sept-2010.pdf>

### **Environmental regulations:**

'Coordinated Implementation of the Bamako, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Sierra Leone' (December, 2016). Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone. Read document here: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13965/GOV\\_7\\_SierraLeone.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13965/GOV_7_SierraLeone.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

### **Labor laws:**

Employers and Employed Act (No.37 of 1965). Adopted in October 1965. Read document here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/Cap212.pdf>

The Finance Act (No.3 of 2013). Adopted in December 2013. Read Document here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5FAdEo13YPc%3D&tabid=79&mid=436>

### **Local content requirements:**

Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act (No.11 of 2015). Adopted in March 2016.

This Act established several aspects of the local content inclusion process, namely the Sierra Leone Local Content (SLC) Agency. The act creates a fund to support suppliers, exporters and importers, provisions for employment and training of citizens and rules for tendering processes. Read document here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/dnn5/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4TVSszJOH7ek%3D&tabid=79&mid=650>

### **Licensing and permitting requirements:**

Licenses and costs are established by the National Revenue Authority (NRA). Licenses and costs are listed here: <http://nra.gov.sl/individuals-and-partnerships/licenses>

**Rights of foreign investors:**

The Investment Promotion Act (No.49 of 2004). Adopted in August 2004. Read document here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2004-10p.pdf>

## **Chapter 9 | INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

### **National Revenue Authority (NRA)**

The NRA is charged with the responsibility of assessing and collecting domestic taxes, customs duties and other revenues specified by law, as well as administering and enforcing laws relating to these revenues.

Website:

<http://nra.gov.sl/>

### **Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLC)**

The SLC is a semi-autonomous intervention under the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) to strengthen the local economy by creating linkages between Foreign Direct Investments in Sierra Leone. They focus on capacity development, systems coordination, SLLCA compliance, supplier & market development and community relations.

Website:

<http://www.localcontent.sl/index.html>

### **Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 2008 through the Environmental Protection Agency Act (2008) and became operational in 2009. The EPA is housed within the President's Office and is the main government agency in charge of all issues concerning the environment and climate change. The EPA was established with the goal of creating and enforcing a strict regulatory framework for environmental regulation in Sierra Leone. It has the mandate to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of national environmental policies, programs and projects, including issuing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) licenses.

### **Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment**

The Ministry is primarily responsible for the management of land in Sierra Leone. This is especially important given the multiplicity of land ownership categories. The Ministry is expected to direct the government on matters relating to ownership, acquisition and use, as well as all the implications for sustainability. As the central authority for land use and management, the Ministry is required to set policy on the efficient and sustainable use of land. Therefore, the mandate of the Ministry is not limited to land surveying but extends to the formulation and implementation of sustainable human habitat development policies, a process which includes land mapping. The ultimate goal of the Ministry, as reflected in its Mission statement, is to administer effectual policies for land use which contribute to overall socio-economic development.

Read more: <https://psru.gov.sl/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/reports/MIN%20OF%20LANDS%20and%20COUNTRY%20PLANNING%202010.pdf>

### **Ministry of Energy and Water Resources**

The primary responsibility of the Ministry is to formulate and implement policies, projects and programmes on energy and provide oversight functions across the entire energy supply chain for all sub-sector agencies (which include electricity production, electricity transmission, electricity distribution and supply) and other forms of energy supply and utilisation.

Website:

<http://www.energy.gov.sl/>

### **National Union of Forestry & Agricultural Workers**

The National Union of Forestry & Agricultural Workers, which forms part of the Sierra Leone Labor Congress (a prominent umbrella organization of trade unions) has approximately 1,100 declared members.

### **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation**

This platform was created and launched in August 2011 by President Koroma. It has seven sub-committees, which cover fires and pest infestation, as well as a range of other socio-natural and man-made hazards such as mudslides, storms, and transport accidents. The Platform's mandate includes lobbying the government to commit and respond to disaster risk reduction through, among other things, the implementation of policies, standards and regulations by the relevant ministries, departments and agencies.



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