

Vision

The vision statement of the Agency is to ensure sustainable use of our natural resources and contribute to poverty reduction through effective protection and sound environmental management.

Mission

The mission statement is to effectively protect, sustainably manage the environment and its natural resources to ensure a quality environment adequate for human health and well-being for all in Sierra Leone.

Mandate

The broad mandate of the Agency is to effectively protect and manage the environment; monitor and regulate companies with EIA Licenses and illegal operations that have an impact on the environment and advise the Minister of Environment on all environmental matters.

Among others, the Agency has responsibilities to ensure compliance and enforcement of environmental impact assessment procedures and pursue environmental education for the creation of public awareness-raising of the environment and its importance to the economic and social life of Sierra Leone.

Motto

The motto of the Agency is “**protecting our environment for a better future**”.

Core Values

In living with its motto, the EPA-SL will strive at all times to maintain the core values of **Efficiency and Professionalism; Teamwork and Partnership; Transparency and Accountability; Stewardship, and Integrity.**

Core Functions

The main functions of the Agency as described in Section 12 of Part Three of the EPA Act of 2008 as amended in July 2010 are the following:

- **Environmental Impact Licensing.** The Agency reviews and approves environmental impact assessments and environmental impact statements submitted following the EPA Act of 2008 or any other sector law.
- **Enforcement and Compliance.** The Agency ensures compliance with laid down environmental impact assessment procedures in the planning and execution of development projects, including compliance in respect of existing projects.
- **Education and Awareness raising on the Environment.** The Agency is responsible for the creation of public awareness of the environment and its importance to the economic and social life of Sierra Leoneans.

- **Pollution control.** The Agency prescribes standards and guidelines relating to ambient air, water, and soil quality, the pollution of air, water, land, and other forms of environmental pollution including the discharge of wastes and the control of toxic substances.
- **Environmental Research.** The Agency undertakes such studies and submits such reports and recommendations concerning the environment as the Government or Board may consider necessary.
- **Environmental Integration.** The Agency ensures the integration of environmental and climate change concerns in overall national planning by developing modalities and maintaining linkages or partnerships with relevant Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.
- **Environmental policy-making and Legislation.** The Agency initiates legislative regulatory proposals, standards, and guidelines on the environment following the EPA Act of 2008.
- **Mobilize, expedite and monitor resources for environmental management.** The Agency develops plans and programs with environment management issues that can be funded from multiple funding sources.
- **Strengthen private sector involvement in Environmental Management.** Liaise with the private sector, non-governmental agencies, Community Based Organizations on issues relating to the environment.

Management Structure of the Agency

The Board of Directors and Executive Chairman

The Agency has a Board of Directors as provided for under Sec 3 of the Environment Protection Agency Act of 2008, as amended in 2010. The Board is the governing authority of the Agency and is headed by the Executive Chairman. Membership of the Board is drawn from several government entities and the private sector. As a governing authority, the Board provides policy guidance and advice for the effective functioning of the Agency and takes decisions on key operational and administrative matters including the granting of Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) License and the recruitment of staff of the Agency. The Executive Chairman is appointed by the President and approved by Parliament for a 5 year period which is renewable for another 5 years. Other Board of Directors are also appointed by the President subject to the approval of Parliament. Institutional representation on the Board is also provided for and such members participate in the Board's activities purely in a representative capacity, having been nominated by their respective institutions.

Membership

1. Dr. Bondi Nyuma Gevao, Executive Chairman, EnvironmentProtction Agency
2. Dr. Morie Kalilu Kormoh, Board of Director, EPA-SL
3. Ms. Margret Sia Leomy, Board of Director, EPA-SL
4. Mrs. Kadijatu Jalloh, Director, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
5. Mr. Peter Kaprr Bangura, Director of Mines, National Minerals Agency

6. Dr. Brima Mohamed Baluwa Koroma, Executive Chairman, Petroleum Regulation Agency
7. Mr. Emmanuel Konjoh, Acting Chief Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry
8. Mr. Andrew L. Sorie, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
9. Mr. Lloyd Awojomi-Dridged, Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
10. Dr. Ansumana Sillah, Ministry of Health and Sanitation
11. Mr. Momodu Alrashid Bah, Board Secretary

The Director

The Agency has a Director who is the principal assistant to the Executive Chairman on the day-to-day running of the Agency. The Director is also in charge of staff matters and performs the role of Secretary to the Board. He/she is assisted by various Deputy Directors who preside over the operational and administrative functioning of the departments of the Agency.

Departments of the Agency

1. Public Relations and Intersectoral Collaboration

The Public Relations and Intersectoral Collaboration (PRIC) is the department responsible for communications and public outreach. It also collaborates with other public and private institutions to build a society that is conscious of the environmental challenges facing our country and to promote behavioral change to overcome these challenges. Before the advent of PRIC, Public Relations was conducted by the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) department which has now been subsumed into the new directorate. The enlargement of the IEC to include intersectoral collaboration reinforces the need for institutions to work together for sound environmental governance and management in the country.

Among other things, PRIC is charged with the responsibility of “initiating and pursuing formal and non-formal educational programmes for the creation of public awareness of the environment and its importance to the economic and social life of Sierra Leone”. The department seeks to attain these goals through community mobilization, partnerships, radio/Tv talk shows, the new social media, and other conventional media platforms.

Another important role of the PRIC is that it acts as a conduit between the public and the Agency. As such, it receives environmentally-related complaints/concerns from the public and channels those complaints/concerns to the leadership of the Agency. The PRIC also facilitates access to information by the general public in line with the Right to Access Information Act.

2. Field Operations and Extension

To ensure full compliance with the EPA Act of 2008 and all environmental regulations for sustainable development and poverty reduction in Sierra Leone, the Field Operations and Extension department (FOE) is charged with the responsibility of coordinating all field operations of the Agency.

The department conducts regular environmental inspections and monitoring of proponents and ensures compliance with environmental laws. It also conducts annual audits on companies to determine their level of compliance with their terms and conditions as stated in their environmental permits.

The department is fully functional in the EPA regional offices in Makeni, Kono, Kenema and Bo.

3. Climate Change Secretariat

The Climate Change Secretariat promotes climate resilience and low-emission development for Sierra Leone and also provides guidance and direction for the formulation of national climate change policy and strategies in line with the National Agenda. It facilitates the domestication of the climate change convention and its related instruments through the mainstreaming of Climate Change into national development planning and budgeting.

Furthermore, the Secretariat coordinates all climate change-related issues in the country. It oversees the implementation of climate change-related projects and commitments under several Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which Sierra Leone is a party.

The Secretariat advises and ensures that the outcomes on the decisions of the conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its related instruments and other related matters to climate change and its implication to the green economy are conveyed to the Government and all parties involved in addressing Climate Change in the country.

Among other things, the Secretariat promotes resource mobilization through key climate financing mechanisms such as the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), GEF (STAR and Non-STAR), African Climate Change Fund (ACCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and Green Climate Fund (GCF).

4. Policy, Planning & Research

The Policy, Planning & Research (PPR) department is made up of three components. These are the Policy Planning and Research. Other Units like the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and the Chemicals Control and Management (CCM).

The CCM Unit oversees the domestic implementation of some Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Stockholm Convention, the Basel and Rotterdam Convention, the OPCW, the Montreal Protocol, the Minamata Convention, and the Chemical Biological and Radiological Agreement.

It advises the Agency on the state of the environment of Sierra Leone and the formulation of policies, regulations, and guidelines to ensure the protection of the environment. The department also plays a key role in mainstreaming environmental management into national development policies, programmes, and projects.

The department is also responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Agency's activities in its

Annual Work Plan, Strategic Plan and National Development Plans. The PPR department serves as the hub of environmental research within the Agency.

5. Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The NRM department is responsible for the implementation of sound environmental policies and management systems to minimize the environmental impacts resulting from the exploitation of natural resources. In collaboration with other agencies and departments, it deals in sustainable utilization of major natural resources, such as land, water, air, minerals, forests, fisheries, and wild flora and fauna.

These resources form the ecosystem services that provide better quality to human life. To achieve this, the department develops standards and strategies in line with the overall EPA-SL mandate in securing a healthy environment and sustaining natural resources. The department specifically pioneers the development and implementation of proper regulations and legal requirements in meeting sustainable natural resource management.

Overall, the department has the responsibility of advising policymakers on the formulation of regulations governing the sustainable utilization of natural resources and ensuring that international obligations and agreements relating to the protection of these natural resources are met.

The NRM coordinates and promotes aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems management. Draw up program of work aimed at promoting Conservation and Restoration of ecosystem biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. The department also supports and implements International Environmental Agreements (IEAs) specifically related to biodiversity conservation.

6. Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

This department is provided for under sec 17(2) (c) of the Environment Protection Agency Act of 2008. The main goal for its creation is to facilitate, promote and ensure the effective implementation of compliance practices and enforcement procedures of environmental laws in Sierra Leone.

The department periodically reviews the policy and legislative framework on the state of the environment of Sierra Leone to address emerging environmental challenges. At the global level, the department is the Focal Point for the Montevideo Law Program for the Periodic Review and Development of Global Environmental law.

To enhance public understanding of environmental law and its development in Sierra Leone, the department conducts periodic environmental law education programs for all sectors of the Sierra Leone society. The department also conducts investigations and facilitates the prosecution of violations of environmental law. The department, therefore, works with Law Enforcement

Agencies, including the Police, for the effective implementation of environmental law in Sierra Leone.

The Department is also the Focal Point for the Agency on the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). For this reason, the department undertakes periodic systems and processes reviews in compliance with NACS for the effective functioning of the Agency.

The department also serves as the Focal Point for the Agency on the Universal Periodic Review Process (UPR) in Sierra Leone, a process whereby countries of the world are required to implement human rights recommendations made by the international community. These recommendations are categorized and assigned to MDAS to report on their implementation.

7. Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration department exists by virtue of section 15(1)(c) of the EPA –SL Act of 2008. It consists of the Finance & Admin Unit, Human Resources (HR) Unit, Procurement, and Logistics Units.

Like all other departments listed above, this Department is essential for the successful implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Agency as it provides general administrative and financial management functions. It is headed by a Deputy Director and assisted by an Assistant Deputy Director. The department also includes an Assistant Director for Human Resources, Finance Manager, Procurement Manager, Human Resources Manager, Assistant Finance Managers, Senior Finance/Admin Officers, Logistics, Regional Admin/Finance Officers, and other support staff.

The Finance and Admin department continues to provide a supportive role as a fiduciary responsibility to the Agency by way of ensuring quality and timely periodic financial reports and reconciliation statements prepared for the attention of management. This department also interfaces with other relevant government ministries, agencies, and financial institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, Accountant General's Department, Bank of Sierra Leone, and other commercial institutions to enhance effective and efficient collaboration and coordination.

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8. Environmental Health and Safety

The Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has been recently established to take the lead in formulating policy on and exercising regulatory and supervisory control over environmental health and safety issues for all operations at the EPA-SL and at national level. The remit of Environmental Health and Safety goes over and above that of Occupational Health and Safety. It covers all the arrangements that mitigate the effects of human activities that harm the environment (flora, fauna, water, air & soil) and the health of employers and visitors to the work place.

EHS operations involve the identification of hazardous agents and practices which may degrade the environment thereby affecting public well-being on a larger scale. Its jurisdiction covers ambient air quality (including emissions monitoring); Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) issues as well as waste water (effluents from agricultural or industrial plants) and ambient water quality; hazardous materials management, waste management, noise pollution and issues dealing with contamination of land/soil.

EHS seeks to build the capacity for the integration of national efforts to ensure a safe environment for a healthy people. In order to fulfil its obligations, the EHS Department collaborates with other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and external partners to ensure a joined-up approach to National Health and Safety issues and to ensure our actions meet internationally agreed standards. An example of the is collaboration is evident in the National One Health umbrella - EPA collaborates with the Ministries of Health and Sanitation, Agriculture.

Contacts

<p>The Executive Chairperson, Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone, 92 Dundas Street, Freetown Tel: +232 88542660 +232 76 787 521 +232 76137440 +232 76897169</p>	<p>Regional Manager, Bo Regional Office, 40 Bo – Taima Highway, Bo. Tel: +232 76 617167 +232 79 162331</p>	<p>Regional Manager, No. 2 Ngandi Fanie Street, Koidu Tel: +232 76 599110 +232 78 290890 +232 76727744 OR No. 4 Kondebotehun Road by IDA Kenema</p>	<p>Regional Manager, Makeni Regional Office, Northern Region, St Lawrence complex building, Azzolini Highway, Makeni. Tel: +232 76 661 661 +232 78803102</p>
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Website	www.epa.gov.sl		
Social Media	WhatsApp: +232 88542660 Facebook: Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone YouTube: Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone		