



2025 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Summary of Key Outputs and National Impact

In 2025, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) had one of its most notable years in organisational performance so far. In areas such as climate governance, environmental regulation, pollution control, and systems transformation, the Agency took decisive action from policy ambition to real national delivery.

What follows is a consolidated overview of the outputs that characterise this transition.

Finance and Resource Mobilisation

01

- NLe 168.9 million internal revenue generated, exceeding the annual target by over 105%
- NLe 14.9 million increase compared to 2024
- NLe 10.43 million in grant funding mobilised
- USD 2.28 million in project funds received
- USD 5.05 million in new awards secured
- Total: Over USD 7.3 million in climate and environmental finance mobilised

Impact: Enhanced financial independence, an expanded project pipeline, and greater national capacity to deliver climate and environmental programmes.

Climate Governance and Delivery

02

- NDC 3.0 finalised and launched at COP30
- NDC Scorecard completed and launched (with Trocaire)
- First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) advanced to completion
- National MRV system operationalised
- ICAT initiative launched to strengthen climate transparency
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) initiated
- Climate mobility assessment completed (Plantain & Yeliboya, with IOM support)
- First district-level Loss and Damage Report completed (with SEND SL)

Coastal Resilience Delivery (SLCRP):

- 75 coastal communities targeted
- 53 officials trained (from 31 institutions)
- 49.2% female participation
- 37% knowledge increase achieved
- 1,500 hectares of mangroves under restoration planning
- 5 coastal districts covered

Impact: Sierra Leone established as a credible, delivery-ready nation under the Paris Agreement.



Natural Resources and Biodiversity Governance

03

- NBSAP updated and aligned with global biodiversity targets
- 7th National Biodiversity Report prepared (draft)
- National biodiversity monitoring system established
- Biodiversity Finance Framework developed

Decentralised Enforcement (Chiefdom Environment Enforcement Committees- CEECoMs):

- 9 chiefdoms across 5 districts operationalised
- MoUs signed (with MLGCA and MoECC), committees trained, action plans developed

Marine and Coastal Governance:

- Marine Spatial Planning framework established
- National MSP data system developed

Marine Protection Results (Abidjan Convention Project with NPAA):

- 20 game guards trained
- 30 stakeholders trained
- 6 hectares mapped, 4 hectares restored
- 5 communities engaged

Mining Accountability:

- USD 15 million secured in mine rehabilitation financial assurance
- 18 mining companies evaluated

Impact: Move towards enforceable environmental accountability and decentralised governance.

Pollution Control and Environmental Health

04

- National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) launched
- 65 data collectors trained
- Nationwide pollution data collection initiated
- 422 companies monitored using mobile laboratory systems
- Real-time air and water quality monitoring operationalised
- First countrywide e-waste inventory completed (to be integrated into the NPI)

Capacity Strengthening:

- 30 environmental officers trained
- 1 chemical expert trained (OPCW)
- Advanced monitoring equipment deployed

Lead (Pb) Regulation Delivery:

- 3 manufacturers compliant with new standards
- XRF testing equipment secured
- National lead prevention roadmap developed with LEEP (UK)

Impact: Shift towards data-driven, real-time environmental regulation..



Innovation, Research, and Systems Development

05

CEDAS operationalised

- Formative report published; dedicated structure established
- Officers deployed
- 3-year strategy developed
- First research activity (into the illegal river dredging riverscape) launched

OneEPA Digital System deployed

- HR, payroll, laboratory, EIA, GRS, and project systems integrated

RAC Centre of Excellence (Kono):

- National training facility launched (3rd COE nationwide in 2 years)
- 300+ stakeholders engaged

Impact: Digital transformation and innovation are positioned as the fundamental infrastructure for delivery.



Compliance, Enforcement, and Legal Action

06

- 1,184 inspections and audits conducted nationwide
- 83 EIA licences approved
- 25 legal enforcement actions executed
- 10 companies subjected to recovery proceedings
- 3 legal cases successfully defended

RAC Centre of Excellence (Kono):

- • 202 illegal dredges dismantled nationwide

RAC Centre of Excellence (Kono):

- 50 enforcement officers trained
- 2 landmark regulations enacted:
 - Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations (2025)
 - Lead in Paint Regulations (2025)

Impact: A year of significant enforcement in Sierra Leone's environmental history.



Public Engagement and Behavioural Change

07

- 22 national media engagements delivered
 - 5 TV, 17 radio
- 7 community campaigns conducted
- 8 EPA Unpacked videos produced

National Engagement Platforms:

- World Environment Day: 4 major national events
- 10 schools engaged in debate competition
- 100+ students reached through field learning
- Significant increase in social media reach

Impact: Transition from awareness to active public participation and behavioural modification.

Partnerships and Global Positioning

08

- 13 strategic partnerships formalised (including with EPA Liberia)
- First CLA Conference hosted (national coordination platform)
- Learning exchange visit to Liberia conducted

Climate Finance Readiness:

- GCF concept note developed; Readiness funds (\$US 4.6 million) committed
- Coastal resilience investment pipeline strengthened

Climate Finance Readiness:

- BBNJ Agreement ratified (19 Sept 2025)
- Sierra Leone co-chaired the West Africa BBNJ Committee

Impact: Enhanced global positioning and a partnership-led delivery model.

Infrastructure and Institutional Strengthening

09

- **Bo Regional Office construction launched**

- Value: NLe 8.55 million
- Completion: June 2026

- **Freetown Headquarters back on completion pat**

- Estimated cost: USD 7.5 million (35% privately financed)

- **8 Land Cruisers procured to strengthen field operation**

Human Capital Development:

- Ethics and anti-corruption trainin
- Health and welfare training
- ICT and data management capacity building

Impact: Reinforced institutional backbone for nationwide delivery.



An Invitation to Partner

2025 marked a pivotal shift in the Agency's direction. Throughout the year, operations transitioned from fragmented, project-based efforts to a more unified, systems-oriented approach to environmental governance. This approach prioritises enforcement, data systems, sustainable funding, and strategic partnerships, enabling the Agency to act not only as a regulator but also as a delivery platform for national environmental and climate goals.

This transition is already producing tangible results. Regulatory compliance has improved across key sectors, institutional credibility has strengthened both nationally and internationally, and the Agency has begun to demonstrate a more confident, coordinated form of climate leadership. At the same time, investments in data infrastructure and financial mechanisms are establishing the foundation for more transparent decision-making and lasting impact.

Importantly, the Agency is now positioned to deliver at scale. What was once a collection of initiatives is transforming into an integrated national platform capable of supporting long-term environmental management, climate action, and sustainable development outcomes. Building on this momentum, the focus going forward is on expanding the reach, depth, and diversity of interventions through strengthened partnerships and targeted investment, ensuring that impact is not only sustained but also significantly amplified.





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