

Annex 1: Detailed Project Description in Liberia
WEST AFRICA: West Africa Regional Fisheries Program

(\$9.0 m IDA, \$3.0 m GEF)

1. **Background: the Fisheries in Liberia.** Liberia has a long coastline (560 kilometers) with a wide continental shelf that supports marine fish resources which could make a significant contribution to local economic growth. More specifically, the country has considerable resources of: (i) shrimp, (ii) coastal demersal fish, (iii) small pelagic species (herring-like species), and (iv) large pelagics such as tuna. Liberia's coastal region is home to some 58 percent of the population, and although per capita fish consumption is relatively low, fish currently contributes to the animal protein needs of an estimated 80 percent of the population.

2. As of 2007, the total catch from the marine fisheries was roughly 15,000 tons, although large amounts of fish were likely caught illegally or caught in Liberia's waters and transshipped at sea for export, and thus never reported. However, this is far lower than what may be the potential fish yield from the country, which before the war reached well over 150,000 tons, including:

3. Currently, some 33,000 fishers and fish processors are directly employed in the small-scale fisheries, operating roughly 3,500 canoes (only 8 percent are motorized) and utilizing 137 landing sites. The motorized small-scale fishing vessels are generally used by large communities of Ghanaian (and in some cases from Benin or Cote D'Ivoire) fishers, and these vessels are far bigger than the small, wooden dug-out canoes that are often paddled and sailed by Liberian fishers, in what are almost parallel fisheries. While motorized canoes particularly target small-pelagic stocks, the small dug-out canoes particularly aim for high value demersal species. In terms of the communities participating in the small-scale fisheries, many are cut off from supply lines for the 5 months of the rainy season, and lack infrastructure for their small-scale landing sites, chilled storage, and ice, as well as access to micro-credit and/or supplies and repairs to vessels. Virtually all fishing gear is currently imported by Ghanaian fishermen – using subsidized credit from Ghana.

4. In 2007 there were more than 50 different licensed industrial vessels, and currently 33 vessels are reportedly legally operating. Although there are roughly 14 local companies affiliated with these 50 vessels, providing them with support services and receiving some fish from them for the local markets, much of the catch is still transshipped at sea for export. This is in sharp contrast to the past, when in 1973 industrial fish processing made the country the highest value exporter of fish products in Africa. However, currently there is no functioning fishing harbor, no competent authority for certifying fish products to export standards (legislation, training and equipment are all needed), nor cold storage/holding facilities at the airport.

5. The key issues specific to Liberia's fisheries are: (i) very limited institutional capacity in the National Bureau of Fisheries which currently has no fisheries research capacity, leading to weak governance and management of the fisheries, (of note is that current foreign industrial fishing vessel license fees are very low compared to Sierra Leone and other countries), (ii) increasing damage to coastal ecosystems and fish spawning and nursing grounds (as well as to small-scale fisheries) from trawling (the country needs enforcement of an inshore 6-mile zone free from trawling), (iii) reportedly high levels of illegal fishing (some recent estimates cite 60 to 100 illegal vessels fishing in Liberian waters), (iv) numerous negative factors affecting local value addition and trade, such as lack of port and fish landing infrastructure, training, and quality control capacity for export certification, and (v) deep poverty and a high level of social fragmentation in fishing communities which will make implementation of some reforms very challenging. As a result, there are no legal fish exports from the country at the moment. Past evaluations and foreign surveys have shown the coastal demersal fish stocks to be either fully or overexploited.

6. **Scenario for Program Investments to Achieve the Objective in Liberia.** Program investments would aim to develop a scenario for achieving the desired outcomes and objective in Liberia, whereby immediate support will be provided to adjust the regulatory environment for industrial fisheries and quickly expand the institutional capacity at the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF). The core components of this scenario would be the strengthening of MCS functions and the capacity of the BNF through a combination of external technical assistance and training of local staff. This scenario would focus on quick adjustments of the industrial fishery while gradually introducing an area-based rights regime through a co-management process for small-scale fisheries.

7. Policy change would initially focus on strengthening MCS to keep industrial vessels out of the environmentally and socially sensitive inshore areas, and deter illegal fishing in deeper waters. Priority would be given to development of a management plan for coastal shrimp and demersal resources, then tendering and negotiating a 5-year contract with a single shrimp company to land catch and develop basic infrastructure in Liberia based on defined quota, in order to encourage local investment by the company as well as compliance with fishing regulations. At the same time, the legal and regulatory framework for all industrial license fees and conditions would be adjusted, license fees for the existing industrial fleet targeting demersal species would be increased to levels comparable to those prevalent in the region (and adjusted according to the effectiveness of MCS and the potential resource base in Liberia compared to neighboring countries), and a fisheries access agreement with the EU limited to deep-sea resources and tuna would be negotiated. These licensing arrangements would substantially increase public income from the sector, as well as enhance efforts to strengthen MCS. Furthermore, strengthened surveillance would help ensure that vessels that are currently not licensed will more seriously consider the purchase of a license if available, possibly increasing the number of licensed vessels and the tax base. To enable future legal exports to high value markets such as the European Union (including by EU operators in Liberian waters), high priority would be given to establishing and certifying a Competent Sanitary Authority. While eventually the country would develop some internal fisheries research capacity, management decisions during the first five years would be largely based on evaluation of historic research data and analysis of improved catch records, data from regional surveys, better collection and analysis of fishing logs of the industrial fleet and targeted new research executed by external scientists and institutions, while the capacity of BNF to review and assess scientific activities would be strengthened.

8. Under this reform scenario, landing site co-management associations would be created for small-scale fisheries – in 1-2 locations currently accessible year-round by road - to better regulate fishing activities inside the coastal zone that would lead to rights over areas of the fisheries within the 6-mile zone, while providing training and community-level investments for co-management associations and investing in value-adding equipment and infrastructure to increase production and facilitate better domestic marketing and exports, possibly through public-private partnerships with local or foreign companies. Income and other benefits of small-scale fishermen would increase through a combination of: (i) technical development of the small-scale fisheries; (ii) effectively excluding industrial fishing from the 6-mile inshore zone, (iii) better regulation of the import and control over the use of illegal gear, and (iv) improved access to domestic and export channels targeting higher value fish. Once co-management groups have been well established, they would focus on better regulating local fisheries and –if necessary – limiting access to heavily exploited resources.

9. In summary, the proposed program investments in Liberia are expected to adjust the regulatory environment for industrial fisheries, strengthening MCS and reducing illegal fishing. A contract would also be tendered and negotiated with a single shrimp company to land catch and develop basic infrastructure.

10. For the small-scale segments, catch per unit effort is expected to increase by 2 percent annually beginning in 2012, once strengthened MCS which keeps industrial vessels out of inshore waters is fully in place. Modest growth is also expected in the number of vessels operating, mostly in the non-motorized segment, as returns improve and fishing continues to be attractive as a source of livelihoods. Fishing effort per vessel remains constant, but the increase in total fishing effort due to the growth in number of vessels acts to moderate increases in catch per unit effort. It is also assumed that license coverage for both small-scale segments will gradually increase to 100 percent, beginning with the motorized vessels, with improved institutional capacity for fisheries management developed through the program.

Component 1. Good Governance and Sustainable Management of the Fisheries

Sub-Component 1.1 Development of the Capacity, Rules, Procedures and Practices for Good Governance of the Fisheries (\$1.4 m GEF)

11. *Activity 1.1.1 Strengthening of Policy and Regulatory Framework for use of the Fish Resources.* The country's legal framework for the use of the fish resources is outdated. The Program will support a long-term technical assistance contract for a firm to provide legal, policy and training support for the Government to finalize and implement a new fisheries policy and regulatory framework. This support will include: (i) completion of the

ongoing regulatory framework review to produce a new Fisheries Act, (ii) finalization of a new fisheries policy, (iii) preparation of the necessary fisheries regulations (including adjustments to industrial license fees, the introduction of TURFs, and regulations to ensure that all fishing infractions detected result in actual penalties that will serve as a deterrent), (iv) facilitation of broad stakeholder discussion of the revised rules, including the development of institutional arrangements for transparent and efficient monitoring of prosecution processes and the imposition and collection of fines/penalties, as well as follow up to infractions, (v) support for wide dissemination of the new regulations through print and radio/television/etc, and (vi) training for Government staff and stakeholders in the fisheries law and policy, and fisheries management, as well as to judicial institutions in laws combating illegal fishing. Similarly, the Program will support separate contracts for high-level technical assistance (including legal services) to Liberia to conduct negotiations on foreign fishing agreements.

12. *Activity 1.1.2 Registration of all Fishing Vessels.* A small-scale vessel registration and licensing system is currently in place. The Program will finance improved implementation of this system to ensure that all small-scale fishing vessels are registered, initially by strengthening the capacity of the Bureau of National Fisheries in the field and in the longer term by development of local councils.

13. *Activity 1.1.3 Assessment of the Status of Key Fish Stocks.* The Program will support a long-term contract for a university to provide support to BNF collect and analyze fisheries statistics, and execute research surveys. The university will also provide training and education to selected BNF and Government staff in fisheries biology, management and economics, as well as training to a wider group of staff to improve the quality of catch statistics for small-scale fisheries.

14. *Activity 1.1.4 Transparency and Accessibility of Fisheries Management Information.* The ‘dashboard’ will be housed in the BNF in Liberia, designed according to the specifications described in Section A (Program Summary). This national node will be linked to the regional information platform established at the Regional Coordination Unit. This activity will include financing for goods, consultant services and operating costs.

15. *Activity 1.1.5 Preparation and Implementation of Management Plans that set Levels of Sustainable Exploitation for Targeted Fisheries, and Create Rights and Allocation Mechanisms for those Fisheries.* The Program will finance a technical assistance to BNF to work with stakeholders to prepare and implement management plans for the shrimp and demersal fish species, based on existing information and data. These plans will be based on, and updated by, newly collected data resulting from the assessments of the status of key fishing stocks supported through component 1.1.3, including data collected from industrial and artisanal fisheries, analyses of industrial fisheries logbooks, surveillance data and from data from neighboring countries. This technical assistance will include support to adjust industrial fishing license fees on the basis of the management plans (including the terms and conditions of licensing, the costs, as well as specifying institutional arrangements for the licensing process that would promote good governance and reduce pressure on BNF), and particularly an increase in license fees for the existing industrial fleet targeting demersal species. In terms of the shrimp fishery, once a management plan has been developed, a thorough review will be conducted of the options for licensing requirements, tender procedures and negotiating tactics, to tender and negotiate a long-term contract with a single shrimp company to land catch and develop basic infrastructure in Liberia based on defined quota. The technical assistance contract will include support to BNF prior to and during the shrimp contract tendering and negotiations. Based on the coastal demersals analysis (see component 1.1.3) and management plan, BNF would also determine a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for these fish resources. Applying FAO’s cautionary principles, and using estimates of small-scale catches, it would make an initial allocation of the TAC between industrial and small-scale users and create and allocate rights to industrial vessels applying for licenses up-to the allocated quota. Licenses would define quota, by-catch and discard levels and procedures to reallocate quota between license holders halfway during the season.

Sub-Component 1.2 Introduction of Fishing Rights (\$0.6 m GEF)

16. *Activity 1.2.1 Introduction of Fishing Rights through a System of Co-Management.* The Program will finance the creation of 1 to 2 pilot TURFs in the coastal fisheries, covering areas of the sea within 6 miles of the coast and in areas accessible year-round by road. To manage these TURFs, the Program will finance the creation of co-management associations (CMAs) in each TURF, (with varying numbers of communities in each site). Because

community cohesion in the fishing communities is extremely fragile, and because many fishers are living a hand-to-mouth existence and rely quite heavily on the use of illegal fishing gear and methods, the Program will provide intensive and ongoing support to establish and operationalize the CMAs. CMAs are important not only in improving local fisheries management, but also in contributing to community integration and poverty alleviation. The CMAs would be comprised of fisher chiefs; elected fishers, fish processors, and fish transporters; respected community figures (such as elders), and women representatives, all of whom would serve on the CMA for a specific term. Each ethnic group resident in a community would be represented on the CMA. In exchange for the benefits of the TURF (including increased MCS support from the national government in these areas), communities, through their CMA, would agree to work to enforce, regulations banning use of illegal fishing nets and other destructive fishing methods.

17. Ongoing support for the establishment and operationalization of the CMAs will come in the form of: (i) training of contracted community organizers (NGOs, individuals or firms with deep experience in this field); (ii) frequent community mobilization meetings run by the community organizers; (iii) frequent practical training for CMA representatives and support by the community organizers to help representatives on daily management and oversight issues, including early identification and resolution of problems and conflicts; (iv) training and support for the development of local business management and marketing strategies for CMAs and, particularly, women processors; (v) a one-time fishing net exchange event in each CMA community where resident active fishers could trade in illegal nets for a new legal net; (vi) specialized training for CMAs, and provision of necessary equipment for monitoring the health of beach and in-shore environments, including on sanitation, water quality and eco-system health; (vii) special training for Bureau of National Fisheries head office and field staff and fisheries inspectors on community liaison and facilitation; (viii) a visit by a small, but representative, group of CMA members and Bureau head office and field staff to learn from community co-management experiences in another country; (ix) support for pilots in new fishing methods and business models in local communities; and (x) evaluations to develop private fisheries micro-credit access to the communities.

18. The Program will also support the construction of CMA Community Fisheries Centers (CFCs) in up to 4 communities and provide needed furnishings and equipment. These CFCs will provide a location where the CMA can have an office, hold meetings, and post information, as well as office space for community organizers. However, the CFCs' design will also aim specifically at building community cohesion by offering an attractive place for residents to visit, gather and spend time. Some limited recreational equipment (for adults, youth, and children) will be provided to the centers to support this. The Program will also provide investments in CMA sites for value-added equipment and infrastructure to increase production and facilitate better domestic marketing and potential exports (see Component 3). Furthermore, as one of the first activities in the sites, the Program will finance the establishment of well-sited banks of chorkor ovens for women processors and provision of hands-on training to women in the community on the operation and maintenance of the ovens. This will improve the quality of smoked fish, significantly reduce wastage of fish, and reduce exploitation of mangroves for fuel.

19. The first TURF will be in Robertsport, with other(s) to follow. This TURF will include one large Fanti community and one large Kru community, who will work together in an umbrella CMA that will function as a private association that would co-manage the fisheries in a defined territory of the sea, with eventually ownership of the fishing rights for the TURF. Where feasible, TURFs will be twinned with public-private partnerships with local or foreign companies, in order to create an integrated fish handling facility (see component 3). In each TURF, the Program would also support the provision of safety navigation systems for small-scale fishing vessels and the adaptive/affordable GPS systems to increase selectivity and efficiency, including training for fishers in their use and operation. The TURF at Robertsport will be a pilot, developing through a gradual process of increasing community responsibility for fisheries resource management. On the basis of the experience at Robertsport, the Government will pass a new regulation for the establishment of TURFs and the rights of fishers in managing access to fisheries in these areas, by the end of Phase I of the Program. The experience at Robertsport will be replicated to a second TURF in the country, to be determined by mid-term of Phase I.

20. The first TURF at Robertsport will be introduced gradually, beginning as a co-managed marine protected area (MPA), established through the following process (see Annex 11):

- (i) An inventory and baseline survey of fishing communities in and around potential MPA by the PIU of their uses of the fish resources (and in some cases individual facilitators, NGOs and/or local organizations recruited by the PIU to support co-management in each MPA);

- (ii) Based on consultation with these communities, selection of MPA boundaries and fishing rules (and future TURFs) and participating communities by the PIU (and confirmation by the Ministry in charge of fisheries);
- (iii) PIU facilitation to communities to organize multi-community MPA Co-Management Associations (CMAs), and in some cases local fishers' committees at the community level, in both cases as legally-recognized entities that would have the right to manage the fish resources in defined and contiguous geographic areas of the sea;
- (iv) Legal establishment of the MPA by the Ministry in charge of fisheries, and recognition of the CMAs and any local fishers' committees/village fishing organizations;
- (v) Provision and confirmation of all available baseline information to the participating communities by the PIU;
- (vi) Ongoing technical assistance and support to the CMA and fishing communities to develop MPA co-management plans, measures and/or initiatives;
- (vii) In parallel with the above step, identification by the CMA, fishing communities and PIU of any Program-Affected Persons (PAPs) as a result of management measures and/or resource access restrictions introduced;
- (viii) Provision by the PIU of technical assistance and financing for all mitigating measures, including in some instances alternative livelihoods to fishing, where access to the resources is restricted;
- (ix) Implementation of an informal and formal grievance resolution process;
- (x) PIU support for fishing community efforts to monitor MPA co-management; and
- (xi) Technical and legal support to the CMA to convert the MPA to a TURF.

Sub-Component 1.3 does not apply in Liberia.

Sub-Component 1.4 Social Marketing, Communication and Transparency (\$0.2 m GEF)

20. *Activity 1.4.1 Social Marketing and Communication.* The Program will finance communications to support the introduction of fishing rights and community cohesion. To increase knowledge of the new fisheries laws, garner support for the introduction of fishing rights in the TURFs, build understanding of CMAs and their roles and responsibilities, and deepen knowledge of legal and illegal fishing gear and practices, the Program will support a broad communications strategy covering targeted coastal communities, both large and small. The development of the communications strategy and messages will be undertaken by a contracted entity with deep information, dissemination and marketing experience in this area which will work with the local media in disseminating information. The communication strategy will draw on information from the new National Fisheries Law, the Consultative Citizens' Report Card Survey, fish stock analyses, and other relevant information sources to craft clear, short messages that will be accessible to the public at large. These messages will be disseminated through different media including tv, radio, posters and brochures. Dissemination to communities in the TURFS will involve radio, posters, dedicated town hall meetings, and social marketing approaches such as local theatre troops to ensure effective penetration of messages. The national 'dashboard' will also support the two-way communication of information on key fisheries decisions and fisheries data.

Component 2. Reduction of Illegal Fishing

Sub-Component 2.1 does not apply in Liberia.

Sub-Component 2.2 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Systems (\$5.4 m IDA)

21. *Activity 2.2.1 Implementing sustainable surveillance systems.* The Program will support the development of a national MCS plan and strategy, based on cost-benefit and cost-efficiency analyses to determine practical solutions for combating illegal fishing. This planning will identify the recurrent costs of implementation and sustainable sources of funding, as well as prepare needed surveillance operational manuals. The Program will support the establishment of fisheries surveillance capacity that would be hosted in, or connected to, a new headquarters for BNF financed by the Program. Within that headquarters, the Program will support the construction and equipping of

a Fisheries Monitoring Center. The Fisheries Monitoring Center will be required to operate 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, run a continuous plot of the positions of all vessels within the country's waters using a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) and AIS, daily HF radio reports from fishing vessels and observers, radio reports from coastguard vessels, support data from BNF licensing and BNF air time. The Fisheries Monitoring Center would be equipped with communication systems, a VMS data reception platform, complete computers systems and office automation material and vehicles. The competent authority for fisheries surveillance, as part of the new BNF headquarters, will include (i) BNF/command center offices, (ii) a competent sanitary authority office, (iii) an office for the Port Authority, and (iv) a fish landing jetty with a slipway for vessel maintenance. In addition, the Program would construct and equip up to 2 coastal stations along the coast, which would serve as forward operational bases for fisheries surveillance. Each coastal station will be equipped with communication systems, complete computers systems and office supplies, vehicles, and eventually a replication of the VMS data reception platform in the Fisheries Monitoring Center.

22. The Program will also support the development of patrol capacity in the air and at sea, in the medium-term through financing a private service for sea and aerial patrol while national equipment is procured and local staff are trained, and in addition, when available, locally through the coverage of operational costs of coast guard patrol vessel to conduct surveillance of the inshore exclusion area and the trawling grounds. The elements provided indicate that no surveillance at sea with national equipment and crew is foreseen before the end of 2010, due to the training process and equipment delivery duration. Since the lack of surveillance would be a lethal factor for the project and the management of the sector, it is necessary to find alternatives. It is suggested to have recourse to leasing of private service for sea and aerial patrol. This support would include specific equipment (GPS camera, gauges, portable communication systems, etc.), as well as the costs of leasing vessels specific fisheries surveillance operations. On the basis of the experiences of leased patrols to reduce illegal fishing in the first two years of the Program, at mid-term review the purchase of patrol vessels for fisheries surveillance could be supported. To help implement this surveillance system, the Program would provide both short and long term technical assistance through the use of consultants from a retainer list to support the Fisheries Monitoring Center in the general management of surveillance activities and operations, as well as funds for specific studies and training for personnel of the Fisheries Monitoring Center (for example in finance, planning, human resource management, and specific surveillance technical matters). The Program will support the restructuring and upgrading of the fisheries observers program, which places observers on board industrial fishing vessels. To support the TURFs, the Program will support community monitoring and enforcement techniques, including canoes, GPS, digital camera and other communication equipment for participatory surveillance patrols (e.g. 'canoe patrols').

Component 3. Increasing the Contribution of the Marine Fish Resources to the Local Economies

Sub-Component 3.1 Fish Landing Site Clusters (\$1.3 m IDA)

23. The Program will finance an integrated fish landing site cluster at Robertsport, in conjunction with the establishment of a TURF (see sub-component 1.2). The Program will support the construction and operation of the minimum infrastructure base and services necessary to attract private investors at Robertsport and help increase the value added to fish products, in conjunction with strengthened resource management supported by sub-component 1.2. The landing site cluster at Robertsport would be the nucleus and the pole of a network of landing site clusters including 3 small-scale landing site clusters to be developed in the framework of this Program. This approach could be replicated to other areas in the national territory, depending on road conditions and access and economic appraisal. In terms of *basic infrastructure*, the Program would support construction of a jetty around the lake, an elevated water tank, repairs of the existing water pipe, the installation of a water pipe to the Fanti communities, the installation of a solar-powered pump and the extension of solar street lighting. In terms of *building the integrated landing site cluster*, the Program will support the construction of a hygiene block and septic tank, an ice plant, cold stores, the gradual development of dry-docking industry, the set-up of common service centers and the provision of extension services such as a set up of fishery material store, the provision of fuel and gas, net and crates repair, training in the maintenance of the cold chains etc. To be viable, the Robertsport Landing Site Cluster should be managed as a private enterprise. To this end, credit proceeds will finance the construction of the *basic infrastructure* while money will be earmarked to catalyze the involvement of private sector in setting-up and managing common services centers, dry docking industry and storage facilities in the cluster. The program should be supported by capacity development program aimed at strengthening good governance through after capture losses and selective/targeted fishing. The existence of such a landing site will support and reinforce stakeholder management of the local resources as well, within the TURF.

24. As mentioned in sub-component 1.2, the Program could support the replication of the TURFs and the fish landing site clusters in 1 other site throughout the country, depending on the availability of year-round road access. The average cost would be estimated to be some US\$0.5 million per site. The communities would be provided assistance to organize first around initial prototypes for basic infrastructure (such as chorkor ovens, insulated containers, etc.) built by local entrepreneurs, towards development of management associations.

Sub-Component 3.2 Fish Product Trade Infrastructure, Information and Systems – Regional Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform (MITEP) (\$0.6 m IDA)

25. *Activity 3.2.1 Quality, standards, metrology and testing (QSTM) infrastructure and technical assistance.* The Program will finance the establishment of a certified public laboratory and competent sanitary authority in Liberia, as well as more broadly the development of relevant protocols and standards for quality and traceability, including training.

Component 4. Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation and Program Management

Sub-Component 4.1 National Implementation (\$0.9 m IDA, \$0.8 m GEF)

26. The Program in Liberia will be managed through a national Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in BNF, staffed by external and local project management specialists. The PIU will report each six months to the national Steering Committee (established during preparation). The PIU will prepare an annual work program, budget, update of the monitoring and evaluation indicators and procurement plan that would be reviewed with the Steering Committee and transmitted to the Regional Coordination Unit.

Component 1. Good Governance & Sustainable Management of the Fisheries			
1.1 Development of the Capacity, Rules, Procedures & Practices for Good Governance of the Fisheries			
Strengthening of policy and regulatory framework for use of the fish resources	Long-term technical assistance contract for a firm to provide legal, policy and training support for the Government to finalize and implement a new fisheries policy and regulatory framework	\$0.4 M	GEF
	Contracts for high-level technical assistance (including legal services) to Liberia to conduct negotiations on foreign fishing agreements	\$0.1 M	GEF
Registration of all fishing vessels	Registration of all small-scale fishing vessels, operation and maintenance of vessel registry, database and equipment	\$0.2 M	GEF
Assessment of the status of key fish stocks	Long-term contract for a university to provide support to BNF collect and analyze fisheries statistics, and execute research surveys	\$0.3 M	GEF
Transparency and accessibility of fisheries management information	Development, installation and operation of a fisheries management information system, linked to regional database, including ongoing data collection	\$0.2 M	GEF
Preparation and implementation of fisheries management plans	Technical assistance to BNF to work with stakeholders to prepare and implement management plans for the shrimp and demersal fish species	\$0.2 M	GEF
1.2 Introduction of Fishing Rights			
Introduction of fishing rights through a system of co-management	Goods, works and services for the creation and implementation of 1 to 2 pilot TURFs in the coastal fisheries, for the management of coastal demersal species, starting in Robertsport	\$0.6 M	GEF
1.4 Social Marketing, Communication and Transparency			
Social marketing and communication	Development and implementation of a communications strategy to support the introduction of fishing rights and community cohesion; including Citizen Report Cards, and dissemination in a variety of media	\$0.2 M	GEF

Component 2. Reduction of Illegal Fishing			
2.2 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Systems			
Implementing sustainable surveillance systems	Technical assistance to develop a national MCS plan/strategy	\$0.1 M	IDA
	Construction and equipping of a new headquarters for BNF with a competent civilian authority for surveillance, including a Fisheries Monitoring Center	\$2.0 M	IDA
	Construction and equipping of 2 coastal surveillance stations	\$0.2 M	IDA
	Goods, works and technical assistance for the establishment of a satellite-based vessel monitoring system at the competent authority for surveillance	\$1.0 M	IDA
	Training for fisheries surveillance authorities	\$0.1 M	IDA
	Leasing and operation of patrol boats	\$1.4 M	IDA
	Fisheries observer program	\$0.3 M	IDA
	Participatory coastal surveillance patrols (canoe monitoring)	\$0.3 M	IDA
Component 3. Increasing the Contribution of the Marine Fish Resources to the Local Economies			
3.1 Fish Landing Site Clusters			
Basic infrastructure and support services for a landing site cluster at Robertsport		\$0.9 M	IDA
Replication to additional landing site clusters		\$0.4 M	IDA
3.2 Fish Product Trade Infrastructure, Information and Systems – Regional Minimum Integrated Trade Expansion Platform			
Quality, standards, metrology and testing (QSTM) infrastructure and technical assistance	Goods, works and services for the establishment of a certified public laboratory and sanitary authority, as well as more broadly the development of relevant protocols and standards for quality and traceability, including training	\$0.6 M	IDA
Component 4. Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation and Program Management			
4.1 National Implementation			
Technical assistance for a national Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in BNF, staffed by external and local project management specialists		\$0.8 M	GEF
Operating costs, goods and equipment for the PIU in BNF		\$0.9 M	IDA

27. **Tentative Implementation Plan and Chronology.** The following schedule for implementation of the Program is expected in Liberia for the first 18 months:

Activity	Component	Start Date	End Date
Completion of Operational Manuals, establishment of PIU in temporary housing for BNF	4.1	July 2009	November 2009
Training for BNF staff, including PIU, in Program Operational Manual and management	4.1	November 2009	December 2009
Equipment for PIU in place	4.1	November 2009	January 2010
Recruitment of firm to provide long-term, ongoing policy assistance to BNF	1.1.1	November 2009	February 2010
Identification of vessels for lease for sea patrols, and crew, for time-bound, mission-specific, civilian-led fisheries surveillance patrols	2.2	December 2009	February 2010
Terms of reference and request for proposals completed for long-term contract to university to provide research and training support to BNF	1.1.3	December 2009	April 2010
Recruitment and training of Community Organizers for pilot MPAs/TURFs	1.2	December 2009	April 2010
Preparation of technical specifications and bidding documents for new BNF headquarters, FMC and competent authority lab	2.2	December 2009	April 2010
Draft regulation on role of BNF in MCS is passed	1.1.1	February 2010	April 2010
Fisheries surveillance patrols conducted	2.2	April 2010	Ongoing

Community Organizers in place and begin work with communities to establish co-management associations in Robertsport for MPA/TURFs	1.2	April 2010	September 2010
Completion of technical specifications and bidding documents for fish landing site cluster in Robertsport	3.1	April 2010	September 2010
Recruitment of University for research and training support	1.1.3	April 2010	October 2010
Recruitment of firm completed for construction of BNF headquarters, FMC and competent authority	2.2	April 2010	December 2010
New Fisheries Act is passed	1.1.1	May 2010	August 2010
Recruitment of firm for construction of fish landing site cluster in Robertsport	3.1	September 2010	January 2011
Technical specifications for construction of community centers for Robertsport MPA/TURFs completed and validated by communities	1.2	September 2010	December 2010
Recruitment of 'dashboard' operators and FMC center staff, and training	1.1.4, 2.2	September 2010	December 2010
First research and training campaigns conducted	1.1.3	November 2010	December 2010
Training for BNF and PIU staff	4.1	January 2011	July 2011
Installation of 'dashboard' and training of local users, based on specifications developed through regional financing	1.1.4	January 2011	July 2011
Policy assistance firm prepares draft coastal demersal and shrimp fisheries management plans	1.1.5	January 2011	July 2011

17. **Assessment of Country-Specific Risks and Mitigation Measures.** The following risks to achieving the Program's objective specifically in Liberia were identified, along with mitigation measures:

<i>Risk factors</i>	<i>Description of risk</i>	<i>Mitigation measures</i>
I. Country and/or Sub-National Level Risks		
Macroeconomic framework	<p>The global economic crisis is expected to impact Liberia's growth considerably in the short term, with estimates of 4.9% for 2009 (down from previous estimates of 14%). The large debt overhang poses challenges and increases the country's vulnerability to external shocks. External public debt stood at US\$3.1 billion or more than 300% of the estimated GDP in 2008.</p> <p>External shocks particularly from lower remittance inflows and falling primary commodity prices including iron ore and rubber could pose significant challenges for Liberia going forward.</p> <p>Poverty is pervasive in Liberia. From the recent (2007) survey, 64 percent of the population lives below the poverty line with most of the poor living in the rural areas.</p>	<p>Liberia is transitioning from post-conflict to economic reconstruction and development. The Government has made progress in improving fiscal management with a fiscal surplus of 1.2 percent of GDP in 2008. The medium-term economic outlook is reasonably favorable, with growth rates expected to increase to around 9 percent, supported by the recovery in sectors that the government estimates will fuel growth, i.e., agriculture, forestry, mining and service sectors.</p> <p>The country benefits from debt relief under the HIPC initiative rescheduling of debt to Paris Club creditors and is nearing the conclusion of a debt buyback operation (at a deep discount) with commercial creditors.</p> <p>The Government has prepared a Poverty Reduction strategy focused on rapid pro-poor growth. In addition the Government has prepared and is implementing a strategy to respond to the economic crisis.</p>
Country Risk	<p>The security situation in Liberia remains fragile because of the number of (mostly) unemployed ex-combatants who have yet to be reintegrated into society, the lack of strong domestic institutions which can mediate conflicts and enable them to be resolved without recourse to violence. The fragile political situation in Liberia's neighbors, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea</p>	<p>UNMIL and its partners have supported the restructuring of the national police and army and the re-establishment of state authority throughout the country. In March 2008 UN forces began a drawdown of the military component of UNMIL, but initiated a moderate increase of police personnel. Presently there are 10,231 peacekeepers and 1,226 police personnel in Liberia, with another drawdown of 2,000 military personnel expected to begin in September 2009. In sum, UNMIL is expected to retain a substantial security presence over the</p>

	<p>augments this risk further.</p> <p>Political risks loom large as the population looks for a substantial peace dividend. Failure to deliver jobs, social services and to tackle corruption could result in a lack of support for the Government's reform agenda.</p>	<p>medium term.</p> <p>The activities being supported by the project to increase the population's access to markets and basic services will contribute directly to addressing some of the contributing factors to conflict.</p>
Country/ sector governance	<p>For Liberia as a whole, risks of poor governance in implementation remain high and anti-corruption instruments are in their infancy</p> <p>The legislative framework to allow for the effective policing of corruption is in need of updating.</p>	<p>The Corruption Commission has been established (though it needs strengthening) to prosecute cases of corruption.</p> <p>The program itself contains well- defined targeted activities and will utilize implementation mechanisms that contain Financial Management and Procurement frameworks that have been tested and are under constant monitoring.</p>
Systemic corruption	<p>In general, the inadequacy of internal controls in government systems, the history of widespread corruption during the interim government and lack of trained civil servants make project implementation in Liberia risky.</p>	<p>A substantial institutional strengthening component in the Program will help professionalize project management and reduce corruption risk.</p>
Sector Governance, Policies and Institutions	<p>Sector governance is still embryonic in Liberia, as the Bureau for National Fisheries simply does not have the capacity or resources to actively manage the fisheries.</p>	<p>A national PIU will be embedded in the Bureau for National Fisheries through the Program, and will provide training support, as well as support for policy development.</p>
II. Operation-specific Risks		
Institutional weaknesses for fisheries surveillance	<p>Risk that the Government will not designate a competent authority for fisheries surveillance, that could implement component 2 investments</p>	<p>The Government has agreed to pass a new regulation increasing the role of BNF as the competent surveillance authority, within the first six months of the Program, in parallel to the development of technical specifications for goods and works to be purchased through component 2.</p>