LIBERIA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

FINAL

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IPDP)
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

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## Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<tr>
<td>ARIPO</td>
<td>Africa Regional Intellectual Property Organisation</td>
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<td>CMO</td>
<td>Collective Management Organisation</td>
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<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For a long a time intellectual property was perceived to be of interest to the developed countries with the developing and least developed countries seen as mere spectators. This notion was worsened by the fact that many IP applications in the least developed countries were by foreigners with the local residents doing poorly. Of late this attitude is changing as countries are now embarking on strengthening their IP system so as to be equal players in the IP field in the global knowledge based economy. Examples from neighbouring countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana and Kenya just to mention but a few who though are still working on strengthening their IP system are already benefiting from the utilization of IP for socio economic growth.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has over the years continued to provide technical assistance in response to the Member States’ requests. These assistance is undertaken within the context of the cooperation activities for developing and least developed countries. In the past WIPO has been providing technical assistance to the Government of Liberia with the aim of strengthening the intellectual property system in the country. Such technical assistance led to the development of Intellectual Property Development Plan 2009.

Liberia’s IPDP (2017) has been developed as a collaboration project between the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Government of Liberia through Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) as part of WIPO’s ongoing technical assistance programme to Liberia. This IPDP reviewed and updated the existing IPDP (2009) by identifying the current intellectual property systems shortcomings and mainstreaming IP in the development agenda of Liberia.

Development of this IPDP was highly participatory and purposefully inclusive. A comprehensive assessment of the national IP system including the legal, administrative framework, enforcement, innovators and creators, human resource capacity, and innovation support structures was undertaken; of all stakeholders: (i.e. the public sector, private sector, and development partners) as follows: collection of secondary data, field missions through focus group discussion, interview of relevant stakeholders, visits to institutions, observations and inputs gathered during the two days multi stakeholders validation workshop forum. Given the above processes, this IPDP document represents the collective thinking of all stakeholders and is a
resourceful framework for strengthening the IP system in the country.

This comprehensive IPDP has been developed taking into consideration a number of existing policy and strategy documents that have a bearing on the effective utilization of intellectual property for economic development and within the context of the Government of Liberia’s framework of Vision 2030 and other national development policies, strategies, laws, reports, and administrative frameworks.

The IPDP is anchored on a vision of “A knowledge based economy driven by intellectual property for sustainable socio economic development for the benefit of all Liberians”. The selected vision attempts to set the overall national direction for the IPDP. However, the vision alone does not suffice to orient the IPDP (2017). It is supported by three broad national strategic objectives namely: Develop Liberia as an IP Power House; Building an IP Conscious Nation and Building Business Friendly IP Enforcement System all aimed at addressing the constraints that were identified during the IP Needs Evaluation to fully utilize IP for socio economic growth and lessons learned from other countries in leveraging IP for development for example Japan, Korea and Nigeria.

Despite the constraints, Liberia has various opportunities to utilize the IP system for the realization of its development goals in the emerging knowledge based economy and the global market including several economic actors, membership to regional and international treaties for example WTO and ARIPPO, existence of national policies and strategies, new IP laws for instance the Liberia Intellectual Property Act of 2016.

The IPDP therefore provides a needs-based blueprint for improving the use of intellectual property as tool for development in the country, thereby contributing to technological, economic and social growth. Anchored in a strong public-private dialogue, the IPDP development process has involved rigorous and comprehensive analysis at the national, institutional and sector levels aimed at identifying priorities for enhanced IP conscious nation and strengthening the linkages between intellectual property and economic performance.

In order to address the issues embedded in the Three National Strategic Objectives of the IPDP, an action plan constituting Six programs namely: improving efficiency of IP systems, strengthening traditional knowledge and genetic resources, promoting social climate for respecting IP, facilitating growth of IP, developing human resources in IP field, and building business friendly IP enforcement system is
provided. The said six programs and projects under them as contained in Annex A (implementation matrix) are envisaged to place Liberia in the global economic arena as an equal trade partner and beneficiary.

Programs and projects will be implemented in different contexts, in collaborative undertakings involving public sector institutions, private sector institutions, and development partners. This will involve several agencies and collaborators and hence a framework for the effective implementation, coordination and monitoring will be required. Initially the implementation of this IPDP will be through seven key sectors: manufacturing and industry, health, education training and research, agriculture, environment, information technology and communication (ICT) and creative sector.

Implementation of the said programs and projects in the IPDP is expected to result in increased use of the IP system to contribute to the economic growth and wealth creation, leading to employment creation, increased agricultural productivity and enhanced SMEs competitiveness for poverty reduction in line with the aspirations of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Institutional framework for the implementation of the IPDP will comprise of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the line ministry for intellectual property and will be the Ministry to spearhead the implementation of IPDP process. Other government Ministries include the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism; The Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (through the Director General LIP0) will be responsible for coordinating the work of the other committees that will be established.

Funding of the implementation of the IPDP is expected to be through line budget of individual implementing agencies and institutions, support from other development partners including WIPO. Monitoring will be done so as to make decisions aimed at improving performance, achievement of intended objectives, ensuring accountability to all parties involved in the implementation, to assess the use and delivery of resources in accordance with the implementation plan and to monitor the timely achievement of the intended deliverables.

It is evident that Intellectual Property Development Plan (2017) and its implementation fits well with Government’s commitment to rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. IP being cross-cutting is significant in one way or the
other in all the sectors of the economy: health, agriculture, environment, mining, manufacturing, tourism, natural resources, software, entertainment, book publishing, fashion and design and other creative industries, trade and industry and government development agenda as outlined in vision 2030 the country blue print for long term development.

To spur the process of IPDP implementation, five projects have been identified to be considered on priority basis and be completed within one year namely: Develop a Five Year Strategic Plan for LIPO; Strengthen LIPO Board Members; Establish Collective Management Organization; Financial Sustainability of LIPO and Financial Accountability and Transparency of LIPO. Various activities have been proposed in the implementation of the five priority projects as indicated in section 6.5 and implementation matrix.

To conclude, it is essential to reiterate that, leveraging Liberia’s IP potential for development depends on the resolve to address the identified challenges and the expeditious development of full project documents for the projects included in the action plan (see Annex A). This should include the design of M & E framework related to each project, to be used to keep track on the performance of the projects individually and collectively, and to assess the way in which they contribute to the achievement of the aspirations expressed in the country’s national development plans.
1.1 Background

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has over the years continued to provide technical assistance in response to the Member States’ requests. These assistance is undertaken within the context of the cooperation activities for developing and least developed countries. In the past WIPO has been providing technical assistance to the Government of Liberia with the aim of strengthening the Intellectual property system in the country.

In 2009 Liberia requested WIPO for technical assistance on ways of strengthening the Intellectual Property system in the country. In response, WIPO contracted external consultants to carry out an Intellectual Property Needs Evaluation and develop an Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) to address the identified needs. The findings of the above assessment culminated in the Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) 2009.

In order to ensure that intellectual property is well entrenched in the various sectors of the economy, a request by the Government was made to WIPO for technical assistance to review and update the existing IPDP 2009. In response, WIPO engaged the services of three consultants namely, Ms. Rose Mboya, Head Intellectual Property Division, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Nairobi, Ernest Bruce National IP consultant in Liberia, and Bathusi Lesolobe Managing Director: Palm Consult (PTY) LTD, Botswana to review and update the existing IPDP (2009) by identifying the current intellectual property systems shortcomings and mainstream IP in the development agenda of Liberia. The IPDP 2017 to take into account any new developments that had taken place over the past eight (8) years and for it to reflect the present IP situation in the country.

For ease of understanding, the document is presented in sections and sub-sections. Section 1 provides the background information, setting the stage for the document. Section 2 puts the IPDP 2017 into perspective giving the vision, mission, and national
strategic objectives. Sections 3, 4 and 5 discusses in details the Three National Strategic Objectives with programs, projects, and activities to achieve the said objectives. Section 6 discusses the implementation framework including the coordination, funding, monitoring and evaluation. The document concludes with an annex on the implementation matrix with programs, projects activities, implementing institutions and time frame.

1.2 Objectives of the Assignment

As per the terms of reference and using the WIPO methodology, the consultants were to undertake the following:

**General Objective:**

To review and update the Intellectual Property Development Plan (2009) by identifying the current intellectual property systems shortcomings and adopt the relevant implementation based proposals in a way that enhance the capacity of Liberia to strategically use IP in their national development agenda; and to reflect the changes that have taken place in Liberia over the past eight (8) years in order to prepare for the adoption of the IPDP.

**Specific Objectives**

(i) Reviewing and updating of the **IPDP 2009**

Using the tools provided by WIPO, undertake a thorough evaluation of the existing IPDP for Liberia, taking into account:

(a) Current information and data on the progress made and challenges faced in implementing the IPDP 2009.

(b) Current national and sectorial development policies and strategies that may have an impact on any aspects of IP, or within which an IP agenda could be explored in order to achieve intended policy objectives.

(c) Existing legislations as well as administrative and enforcement structures, related to IP including policies and strategies related to social, economic and cultural developments if any, and
(d) Review of the existing business and innovation support infrastructures as well as national policies and strategies, if any, to promote and support businesses and innovation and educational set up including universities and research and development institutions.

(ii) Undertake a 10 day working-day field mission from 27th November to 7th December, 2017 for the purposes of conducting focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders from the various sectors of the economy including small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) and the business community, state institutions of commerce and industry, public policy, indigenous knowledge systems, national IP office, education and research institutions, trade promotion offices and/or any other area with a stake on IP, to gauge the level of IP awareness, the use of IP, challenges in the use of IP by potential beneficiaries, and as a tool for economic development in Liberia.

(iii) Prepare an executive summary from all the findings from activities listed in (i) and above that accurately reflects new developments in the IP landscape for Liberia and make presentations to stakeholders in a national workshop.

(iv) Participate in a multi stakeholders workshop on December 5 and 6, 2017, make presentations of the findings, secure validation of the draft IPDP based on said findings as outlined in the attached program and;

(v) Prepare and send to WIPO a revised IPDP on the basis of the findings and the outcome of the workshop. The revised IPDP should:

Highlight the interface between IP and key public policy areas that are relevant to national economic, social and cultural development.

Make concrete recommendations on possible activities/projects in sectors/industries where the country may have a comparative advantage and potential to boost its trade and economic growth by leveraging opportunities that can be afforded by the IP system; and

Highlight, where possible strategic partners who can assist in implementation of the
said projects.

(vi) Prepare and send to WIPO, the documents described in paragraphs (iii), (iv) and (v) and the final IPDP based on all inputs collated from the two day Multi-Stakeholders Workshop.

1.3 Process of Developing the IPDP

Development Partners

Liberia’s IPDP (2017) has been developed as a collaboration project between the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Government of Liberia and especially the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) through the Liberia Intellectual Property Office, as part of WIPO’s ongoing technical assistance programme to the country.

The IPDP provides a needs-based blueprint for improving the use of intellectual property as tool for development in the country, thereby contributing to technological, economic and social growth. Anchored in a strong public-private dialogue, the IPDP development process has involved rigorous and comprehensive analysis at the national, institutional and sector levels aimed at identifying priorities for enhanced IP conscious nation and strengthening the linkages between intellectual property and economic performance.

Participatory and Inclusivity of Stakeholders

The development of this strategic document was highly participatory and purposefully inclusive. A comprehensive assessment of the national IP system including the legal, administrative framework, enforcement, innovators and creators, human resource capacity, and innovation support structures was undertaken; of all stakeholders: (e. the public sector, private sector, and development partners) as follows:

a) A desktop Review: Reviewing and updating the IPDP 2009 (WIPO Liberia, 2009) to assess whether it adequately addressed the development aspirations of Liberia;
identify other new development in the IP system that reflects the present IP situation in the country and gaps in the IPDP 2009 that are to be incorporated in the current draft National IPDP.

b) **Field Research**: Extensive consultations were held with stakeholders to zero-in on priority areas, taking into account Liberia’s comparative advantages (rubber, lowland rice production) and reviewing best practices from across the world. Hence, it involved conducting focus group discussions with the identified stakeholders.

c) **Multi-Stakeholders Workshop**: the two (2) day National Consultative Workshop held in Monrovia involved stakeholders such as small and mediums enterprises, innovators, universities and research institutions, judiciaries, IP offices, private sector government ministries to generate more inputs for the architecture of the National IPDP, through direct consultations with the IP stakeholders, and validation of the findings in the draft IPDP.

d) **Use of Inputs Generated Through the** steps (a), (b), and (c),) and the findings of the Desktop Research on Review and Updating IPDP 2009 (*WIPO Liberia, 2017 (a)*) IP Needs Evaluation Report (*WIPO Liberia, 2017(b)*) to design the final d National IPDP for Liberia.

e) **Finalization of IPDP**: This Final IPDP document for Liberia incorporates inputs from the validation workshop and other inputs received during the consultative forums.

Given the above processes, this IPDP document therefore represent the collective thinking of all stakeholders and is a resourceful framework for strengthening the IP system in the country.

1.4 **Linking IPDP to Existing National Development Plans**

The IPDP has been developed taking cognisance of the aspirations of Liberia and acts to complement the existing strategies and development plans of the country including:
Vision 2030: Liberia’s Vision 2030 provides the overall development plan and constitutes the framework within which the country’s short, medium and long term plans are established and implementation strategies outlined. Liberia envisages to achieve a middle income status having a peaceful and inclusive political system, a diversified economy, stable institutions, and healthy and productive citizens.

Agenda for Transformation: The AfT defines the initial steps toward that vision. It provides the medium-term planning framework to guide public investment programs and ensure inclusive growth, reduce marginalization, and build human, social and physical capital. It operationalizes the vision by outlining the major priorities and interventions required for growth and wealth creation in Liberia.

Given the key priority areas in Agenda for Transformation: Steps Towards Liberia RISING 2030, especially (a) Pillar II on Economic Transformation focusing on private sector development, agriculture and food security, mineral development and management, capacity development Needs and Opportunities for Economic Transformation Sectors; Pillar III on Human Development focusing on education, health and social welfare, water sanitation and hygiene; and Pillar IV on cross cutting issues dealing with environment, labour and employment, and HIV and AIDS.

Food and Agricultural Policy and Strategy (FAPS)
There is a consistent understanding in this Strategy that “value addition to agricultural products remains the best means of addressing poverty and creating the overall conditions for sustained economic growth and the further reduction of poverty.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry strategic Plan 2013-16
The above strategy intends to address the following challenges facing the sector: Production of a limited number of commodities for local consumption by manufacturing industries without the potential for export (b) Lack of adequate or poor conditions of existing infrastructure resulting in high costs of production (c) Cumbersome procedures in establishing industries (d) Unskilled labour force and

2 Government medium term plan : The Agenda for Transformation (AFT)
difficulties of firms transforming from the informal sector to the formal sector (e)
Lack of or limited access to the financial market.

To further address these challenges and be competitive in the global economy, Liberia must boost economic growth through higher productivity; develop human capital through education reforms to raise skill levels, promote new emerging sectors and move Liberia to a more knowledge-based economy while preserving a longstanding commitment to social welfare. The Government of Liberia has laid out a plan to return Liberia to a high growth path and to protect the people of Liberia who are negatively affected by the Fourteen year period of war, through a well-articulated Government Vision 2030 document.

In summary, Vision 2030 of Liberia envisages addressing the challenges the country faces through improvement in agricultural production and food security through value addition; employment creation, income generation, infrastructure development; safety and security; improving access to health and social welfare; improving quality and access to education. Policymakers and other stakeholders in Liberia recognize the role of value addition of agricultural products, (improved technologies of production and processing of agricultural products, use of high yielding and disease resistance seeds), improved access to health and social welfare requires provision of affordable health care to the citizenry, improved production and distribution of creative works, access to clean water, use of digital technologies to improve the creative industries, and increased access to education and information communication technologies (ICT).

It is evident that Intellectual Property Development Plan (2017) and its implementation fits well with Government’s commitment to rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. IP being cross-cutting is significant in one way or the other in all the sectors of the economy: health, agriculture, environment, mining, manufacturing, tourism, natural resources, software, entertainment, book publishing, fashion and design and other creative industries, trade and industry.

In conclusion, IP plays a major role as a tool for economic development and for the realization of Vision 2030 in creating a positive environment for economic growth by
leveraging existing resources, encouraging innovation and supporting a knowledge based economy.
2.1 Vision and Mission

**Vision:** “A knowledge based economy driven by intellectual property for sustainable socio economic development for the benefit of all Liberians.”

The realization of IPDP vision will be fulfilled through a public-private sector and civil society partnership focusing on sustained, competitive export trade; maintaining a conducive and free economic environment; provision of opportunities for Liberia and the general business community; and development of a competent, professional and skilled workforce. The IPDP has developed strategies that will place Liberia in the global economic arena as an equal trade partner and beneficiary. The implementation of this IPDP is expected to result in increased use of the IP system to contribute to the economic growth and wealth creation, leading to employment creation, increased agricultural productivity and enhanced SMEs competitiveness for poverty reduction in line with the aspirations of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Mission:** Mobilizing Liberia’s innovation, creativity, and inventiveness for global competitiveness through the strategic development of human resource capacity and innovation support structures.

2.2 Objectives of the IPDP

The selected vision attempts to set the overall national direction for the IPDP. However, the vision alone does not suffice to orient the IPDP (2017). It is supported by three broad national strategic objectives that were identified during the desk top research on review and updating IPDP 2009 (*WIPO Liberia, (2017(a))* and IP Needs Evaluation (*WIPO Liberia, (2017(b))* and which form the basis for the National IPDP as follows:
(a) Developing Liberia as an IP Power House  
(b) Building an IP Conscious Nation  
(c) Building Business Friendly IP Enforcement System  

2.3 Purpose of the IPDP

This comprehensive IPDP has been developed taking into consideration a number of existing policy and strategy documents that have a bearing on the effective utilization of intellectual property for economic development and within the context of the Government of Liberia’s framework of Vision 2030 and other national development policies, strategies, laws, reports, and administrative frameworks including: Agenda for Transformation, the Liberia Intellectual Property Development Plan (2009), the Liberia Intellectual Property Act 2016, the Act for the Establishment of Liberia Intellectual Property Office 2016 (LIPO), Final Report on desk top research on review and updating IPDP 2009 (WIPO Liberia, (2017(a)) and IP Needs Evaluation (WIPO Liberia, (2017(b)) ), Ministry of Commerce and Industry Strategic Plan 2013-2016, Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy, Liberia National Export Strategy 2014-2018, and the United Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).  

This IPDP document establishes a framework comprising specific strategies at Sector and Sub- Sector levels that aim at revitalizing and strengthening the IP system for maximum contribution to the government’s overall development goals.  

2.4 Design and Framework of IPDP

The design of the IPDP is guided by issues identified and documented in the Liberia Intellectual Property Development Plan of (2009), Final Report on desk top research on review and updating IPDP 2009 (WIPO Liberia, (2017(a)); IP Needs Evaluation (WIPO Liberia, (2017(b))), and also draws from lessons learned from other countries in leveraging IP for development for example Japan, Korea and Nigeria:  

**Japan: Use of Utility Model to Spur Technological Growth**  
Until World War II, the technical level in Japan was low compared to western
countries. There was need to develop their own technology. Examination for grant of patent was very strict for novelty and inventive step. Consequently foreign applicants were able to obtain patent with only few patents being granted to Japanese. The local inventors were discouraged since protection of small invention under patent law was not possible. There was a strong need for protecting such inventions which had lower level of technical standard. The enactment of utility model law in Japan gave the country a technological lip frog.

The enactment of utility models law acted as a catalyst to enhanced levels of innovation as it enabled SMEs to protect their innovations and put products in the market faster. Japan, China and Korea have exploited the system very successfully in order to promote the technological development. Initially the number of applications for utility models were more than those for patents and industrial designs. Once the technical knowledge had grown, the Japanese started filing for patents. Currently Japan is among the top five patent applicants world wide3.

**Korea: IP Support Structure for SMEs**

To increase SMEs competitiveness through use of intellectual property, Korea has 30 regional IP centres in the country that provides the following services to SMEs: to support R&D & commercialization, patent search customized for local SMEs, fostering patent star companies through selection and focus, IP management consulting for SMEs, IP commercialization package support program covering foreign application fees, sample manufacturing, technology assessment costs just to mention but a few. As a result of the above numerous support, the number of resident applications for patents has increased, and most of the products from the SMEs are found in the global markets4.

**Nigeria: Creative Industry**

The contributions of the creative industries to the economic development of nations have become strategic, given the global economic viability of the sector. Results of mapping exercises conducted in many countries show that these industries continue

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3 K.S.Kardam, 2007: Utility model a tool for economic and technological development; a case study of Japan
4 Eulsoo Seo, WIPO: Overview of the National IP Policies and Services in Korea and Presentation of Their Best Practices
to provide opportunities for investment, wealth creation and employment at a high percentage compared to other sectors. The United Nations for instance estimates the total value of world trade in this sector to be 3.4 per cent with a growth rate of 8.7 per cent.

In Nigeria, the creative industries have shaped economic growth and provided sustenance for a large number of people across the various social and economic strata. UNESCO for instance, has rated Nigeria’s Home video industry as the world’s second largest film industry with its potential annual revenue of N522 billion; over 2000 movies produced per annum and a captive viewing audience of over 200 million across Africa and beyond⁵.

The above mentioned countries have over time developed the necessary intellectual property systems including the laws, administrative structures, capacity and human resources to generate intellectual property and intellectual capital for development. Liberia’s IPDP addresses issues ranging from competitiveness to development and poverty reduction. Key points of consideration will include entrepreneurship, value addition and value retention, innovation capabilities and business competitiveness of Liberian enterprises.

In order for Liberia to be an IP power house, build an IP conscious nation and strengthen the creative industry, the IPDP recognises the following core pillars for an effective use of the IP system namely, the creation, utilization, protection, administration, commercialization and enforcement. Consequently the IPDP is designed in a manner that strengthens the above mentioned core pillars. The IPDP seeks to ensure that IP is incorporated in all sectors for overall development in Liberia towards the achievement of Vision 2030.

2.5 The Priority Sectors for the National IP Development Plan.

This National IPDP identifies seven key sectors for the initial implementation by the National IPDP:

a) **Manufacturing and business** –technology acquisition, adaptation and transfer;

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use of IP for business growth and competiveness.

b) Creative/Copyright industries: growing and promoting creative industries such as musicians, broadcasting, telecommunications, entertainment, education, publishing, software.

c) Education and training and research: building human resource capacity for innovation (creativity and inventiveness).

d) Health: access to affordable medicine and utilization of existing TRIPS flexibilities;

e) Agriculture: value addition to agricultural products; use of IP for increased agricultural productivity.

f) Environment: ways of mitigating climate change and incorporation of green economy.

g) Information Communication Technologies: utilisation of ICT in all sectors of the economy

The above sectors are key for effective utilization of the IP system in the country to:

a) Enhance export growth potential resulting from increase in productivity and value addition;

b) Enhance job creations through the manufacturing, agriculture and agribusiness and creative sectors;

c) Increase access to knowledge in all sectors

d) To contribute to poverty reduction through job creation; and;

e) Enhance exploitation of locally available resources in all sectors

2.6 Context of the Strategy

Constraints in using the IP System

Subject to the findings of the desk top research on review and updating IPDP 2009 (*WIPO Liberia, (2017(a)) and IP Needs Evaluation (*WIPO Liberia, (2017(b)) ), the following key constraints are identified:

a) Weak IP legal and administrative framework.

b) Low level of IP awareness amongst the citizens.

c) Inadequate human resource capacity on intellectual property.

d) Low level of generation and protection of IP by the locals.
e) Inadequate utilization of IP for economic growth.

f) Weak IP enforcement mechanisms.

g) Under development of creative industry.

h) Low level of commercialization/technology transfer of research findings.

i) Inadequate infrastructure to support the use of IP for economic development.

**Opportunities for the Utilization of IP to Realize the Vision 2030 of Liberia**

Liberia has various opportunities to utilize the IP system for the realization of its development goals in the emerging knowledge based economy and the global market including:

**Presence of Economic Actors:** Liberia has potential to derive benefits from effective use of the IP system for development. The country already have in place several economic actors including research institutions, universities, industries, private sector, development partners, creative authors and publishers, broadcasting organisations, entrepreneurs among others to generate, and use intellectual property for economic gain, but have not fully realised their potential in this area.

**Membership to International and Regional Treaties:** Liberia’s recent membership to World Trade Organization (WTO) July 14, 2016 and Harare protocol on patents and industrial designs in 2010; Banjul protocol on marks in 2010. In addition to above, the flexibilities offered by the TRIPS Agreement; availability of patent and technological databases under WIPO’s Technology Innovation Support Centres program; and the extension of the transition period to protect IP for pharmaceutical products to 2021 present opportunities yet to be exploited.

**National Policies and Strategies:** The Government of Liberia has in place relevant policies and laws including The Vision 2030, Agenda for Transformation, the existing IPDP 2009, the ICT Policy, Republic of Liberia National Export Strategy 2014-2018, Food and Agricultural Policy and Strategy amongst others which provide a basis for the legal and administrative framework for the realization of its development goals.

**IP Legal Frameworks:** IP legal regime consists of recently passed laws including:


**Existence of Creative Industries**: The country has a potential to develop and exploit creative industries such as software, films, music, fashion, book publishing while harnessing the opportunities offered by the digital technologies especially the Internet. The creative industries provide opportunities that ensure maximum utilisation of intellectual property and job creation for the youth who form a large portion of the population.
The key objective of Program I is to strengthen IP infrastructure and administration in the country. The proposed projects under this program comprise of the following:

**Project 1: A Five year strategic plan**

**Activity**
LIPO to develop a five year institutional strategic plan to guide in the operations and achievements of the office. Issues identified in this IPDP that are directly to be implemented by LIPO should be part of the said strategy. The strategy will ensure that LIPO’s activities are in line with the implementation strategy of IPDP. From which the activities of the institute will be anchored.

**Strengthening Administrative Framework**

**Project 2: Strengthen LIPO Board Members**

**Activities**

(a) **Develop TORs for the Board** members to enable them work effectively.

(b) **Train and sensitize** Board members on IP matters

(c) **Carry out visits** to other IP offices for board members for bench marking purposes

(d) **Establish sub-committee** of the board members to handle technical (copyright, industrial property and enforcement) and administrative matters of the office

**Project 3: Operationalization of CMO**

**Activities**

a) **Legislate a CMO fully**: currently the CMO is mentioned in the IP 2016 Act by reference, this makes it difficult to implement the same since, the law does not clearly indicate the type and mode of operation of the CMO, hence there is
need to revise the law to incorporate this aspects

b) **Proposal for One Stop Shop:** It is proposed that a one stop shop CMO be established. The CMO to be managed and operationalized by the copyright office, to nurture and enable it to grow. Models from COSOMA (Malawi) and COSOTA (Tanzania) are examples of such one stop shop. The CMO will administer and monitor the rights of owners; negotiate with potential users; collect licensing fees and distribute royalties to the owners of the rights. The CMO will be directly supervised by copyright department under LIPO.

c) **Training on CMO Management** for Board and Management

d) **Include people with various profession** in the Board for example legal, business and finance people in CMO Board

**Project 4: Strengthen Human Resource Capacity at (LIPO)**

**Activities**

a) **Human Resource Capacity** *Enhance human resource capacity* to handle IP matters by recruiting and/or replacement of qualified staff (currently majority of the staff are form four school leavers)

b) **Training and Capacity of the Staff:** Capacity building and training of staff on the following areas amongst others.
   i. Training of staff on patent substantive examination
   ii. Training of staff on establishment and management of TISC
   iii. Training of staff on copyright management
   iv. Training of staff on IP enforcement

c) **Establishing a Coordinating Mechanism:** There is need to set up a coordination mechanism or a network involving relevant Government bodies, research organizations, higher learning institutions, since currently there is no proper coordination of IP issues from the various institutions and ministries handling bits and pieces of IP laws.

d) **Visits of Staff to other IP Office** for benchmarking purposes for instance, Kenya on industrial property and copyright issues, and Malawi, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria for CMO.

**Project 5: Financial Sustainability and Accountability of LIPO**

**Activities**
a) **Develop Short and Long Term Resource Mobilization Strategy** aimed at:
   
i. Developing a culture and transformation of the office from non-profit organization to entrepreneurial orientation amongst the staff, top management and board members.
   
ii. Strengthen revenue streams to the organization for it to be self-sustaining

b) **Financing and Budgeting:** *Develop mechanisms for the IP office to generate and retain* income or increased budgetary allocation. This will be achieved through the following:

   **Copyright**
   
i. Increase number of copyright works registration
   
ii. Registration of Copyright Licensing Agreements with LIPO
   
iii. Enhance collection of fee from Blank tape levy
   
iv. Sale of Hologram

   **Industrial Property**
   
i. Increase number of Industrial Property registration and other related services by encouraging registration of trademarks that already exists in the country
   
ii. Ensure Registration of Trademark Licensing agreements with LIPO
   
iii. Ensure Registration of Trademark Assignment with LIPO

c) **Enhance Funding from Development Partners by:**
   
i. Taking advantage of bilateral relations with Developed Nations such as USPTO, Japan Patent Office, Korea Intellectual Property Office and EPO Nations
   
ii. Ratifying UNESCO relevant treaties to provide opportunities for funding of IP related activities especially on copyright and related rights

**Project 6:** **Financial Sustainability and Accountability of LIPO Activities**

a) **Financial Transparency, Accountability and Ease of carrying out operations:** To
ensure and encourage it is proposed that LIPO to Establish separate accounts for
i. Industrial property
ii. Copyright and related rights
iii. General operations of the institute
iv. Funds from development partners

**Project 7: Modernization and Automation of the IP Office**

**Activities**

a) **Strengthening the Infrastructure** of the IP Offices by equipping IP Offices with basic facilities such as furniture and other office equipment.

b) **Improve Systems of Operation** through automation and modernization of the offices

c) **Automate Processing of IP Applications** to enable the IP Office to provide improved services to the IP user community. LIPO may request WIPO to provide assistance to the IP Office in this regards with the deployment of the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS).

**Project 8: Establishment of Plant Breeders Agency**

**Activity**

a) **Plants Breeders Agency:** An office with adequate trained human capacity and facilities for the protection of new plant varieties will go a long way in enhancing the generation, protection and commercial exploitation of new plant varieties.

**Activities**

a) **Plants Breeders’ Act:** the act to provide rights for the protection of new varieties of plants. Lack of policy and acts make it difficult to enforce and ensure that only good seeds are brought into the country;

b) **Create Plant Breeders Agency:** The proposed Act should provide for the development of Plant Breeders Agency.

c) **Government to Enhance Funding to CARI** for more research on new and better seed varieties.

d) **Strengthen Coordination of the Work** between various ministries for instance,
environment, forestry, agriculture.

e) Encourage Active Breeding program for plant varieties. Farmers who are breeders are not protected and incentivised.

**Strengthening IP Policy and Legal Frameworks**


**Activities**


b) Regulations to Operationalize the Liberia Intellectual Property Act 2016: Develop the following regulations to ensure that the laws come into force.

   i. Industrial property
   ii. Copyright
   iii. Enforcement
   iv. Collective Management Organization regulations

**Project 10: Amending the 2016 IP Act**

**Activities**

In order to strengthen the copyright sector, the 2016 IP Act should be amended to address the following:

i. Incorporate the CMO fully: The type of CMO(s) to be licensed.

ii. Legislate the Hologram: Provide and legislate the use of hologram to assist in differentiating legal and illegal works.

iii. Electronic Commerce Transactions: Draft and enact laws on to enhance business transactions electronically.

**Project 11: Accede to Relevant IP Treaties, Protocols and Agreements**

There are various treaties, protocols and agreements that Liberia should accede and/or ratify for effective utilization of the IP system including the following:

**Activities**
a) Ratify UNESCO Treaties and especially
   i. 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
   ii. 2005 Convention for Cultural Diversity.

b) Accede/ Ratify UPOV for the protection of plant varieties.

c) Accede/ratify the ARIP0 Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge.

d) WIPO Copyright Treaty.

e) WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

f) WIPO Beijing Treaty for the Protection of Audio-visual Performances.

g) ARIP0 Arusha Protocol for the Protection of Plant Varieties.

Project 12: Facilitate Individual Institutions to Formulate, Adopt and Implement IP Policies

Activity

   a) Developing Institutional IP Policies: Encourage adoption and implementation of IP policies within various Institutions to provide guidelines on ownership and exploitation of IP. The policies should include among others; incentives to motivate employees to commit themselves to inventions, encourage their employers to proactively invest in technical developments and Benefit sharing for employees and employers to share the profits generated from employee inventions in a fair and reasonable way.

PROGRAM II: STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES

Project 1: Develop and Enact Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources laws and Policies

Activity

   a) Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources: Develop laws and policies for the protection of the rich Liberia’s traditional knowledge, genetic resources
and expressions of folklore. A draft act already exists, there is need to finalize and enact it to be law:

Project 2: Identification of Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources

Activities

a) **Mapping of TK and GR:** Identify and document TK and GR that belongs to Liberia

b) **Mapping of TK Holders:** Identify and document the TK Holders in Liberia

c) **Develop a database** of all TK and GR in Liberia

d) **Develop Mechanisms of Handling** transboundary Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources

Project 3: Traditional Knowledge Protection through IPR

Activities

a) **Carry Out Research** on the effective ingredients of traditional medicine and document them

b) **IPR Protection:** Identify those that can be protected through patents, utility models and trade secrets

c) **Develop Incentives** to encourage TK holders to share their knowledge

d) **Train TK Holders on Handling of TK Knowledge** with other institutions such as research institutions by signing Material Transfer Agreement and Non-Disclosure Agreement

Project 4: Mainstreaming TK and Medicines into the Contemporary System

Activities

a) **Training of TK Holders on Safety** operations when handling and administering TM

b) **Training of Traditional Birth Attendants** on ways of assisting mothers to safe delivery and providing them with equipment such as gloves

c) **Identifying some of the Traditional Medicines** that can be incorporated in the
contemporary medicine such as bone menders

d) **Creation of TK Lobby Groups:** to assist in pushing for the Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources agenda and issues affecting the sector with the Government

e) **Training on Packaging** of traditional medicines to increase their acceptability by the people.

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**Project 5:**  **Preservation of Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources**

**Activities**

a) **Mentoring and Capacity Building of Youth on TK:** Develop a program that encourages young people to be trained and mentored on TK.

b) **Licenses:** Develop tools to be used for Access to genetic resources materials.

c) **Prior Informed Consent:** Develop tools to ensure that of the communities where the GR resources was obtained to avoid misappropriation of GR.

d) **Access and Benefit Sharing: Develop Tools** that ensure communities from which GR is obtained have benefit sharing on the commercial use of such GR.

e) **Encourage Linkage** between TK holders and universities and research institutions for research and product development from Traditional knowledge.

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**PROGRAM III: PROMOTING SOCIAL CLIMATE FOR RESPECTING IP**

The low level of IP awareness in Liberia in all sectors and among all rights holders and users’ needs to be addressed. Hence a comprehensive IP awareness and outreach program to promote and strengthen IP knowledge among all stakeholder groups should be prepared.

**Project 1:**  **Enhance Visibility of the IP Office**

**Activity**

a) **LIPO Website:** Currently the office does not have a website hence getting information on the IP office is not easy. The office to develop an active
website

Project 2: Promoting IP Awareness in Universities, Higher Institutions of Learning and Research Organizations

Activities

a) IPR training for Policy makers at Universities and Research Institutions: these training to focus on Chancellors, Vice chancellors, Deans of faculties and Heads of Departments to create IP appreciation at the top level management.

b) IPR training for professors/Academics: Develop a program targeting professors and academics from various university departments to undertake basic IPR awareness training. In turn, the professors upon completion of their training promote IPR interests in their departments and amongst students.

c) Cooperation agreements with universities and research institutes: The Liberia Intellectual Property Office to establish a system of cooperation where it signs cooperation agreements with such universities on IPR administration. Under these agreements, the parties agree to undertake specific activities to promote IPR awareness and increase IPR application.

Project 3: IP Awareness for Government Officials and Policy Makers

Activities

a) IP Awareness for Ministers: From the Office of the President to different Cabinet Ministries and other policy makers

b) Members of Parliament: It should also include specific targeted IP sensitisation for Members of Parliament. This will ensure that IP is understood and incorporated into relevant government policies and documents.

c) Departmental Heads of Government Agencies: such as heads of research institutions, government departments

Project 4: Create IP Awareness Programme for Law Enforcement Authorities

Activities
a) **Regularly Carry-out Targeted IP Awareness** and capacity building workshops to various enforcement agencies including the Judiciary, National Police Service, National Revenue Authority, Prosecution Department, as well as lawyers and private sector entities that deal with enforcement.

b) **Set up a System** that will help the enforcement authorities such as Customs to have ready access to national IP laws and the official IP registries.

Project 5: **Establish IP Awareness Program for the Public and Users of IP**

**Activities**

a) **Devise Different Strategies to Raise IP Awareness.** This should help raise consciousness of the public and recognition of IP among the members of public including the media.

b) **Weakly Radio Talk on IP:** Carry out weekly IP talks on radio to reach out to stakeholders in other parts of the country.

c) **Develop a Concerted Effort with other Stakeholders in Raising IP Awareness.** As a start Journalism Against Piracy and Anti-Counterfeit should be actively involved in this initiative.

d) **Encourage the Establishment Innovation and Invention Lobby Groups** Sensitize the public on the importance of IP: for economic development and the need for filing for protection of their invention/creativity. Establish industry organisations to lobby: and engage the government and different stakeholders for the advancement of IP in development.

e) **Public Education** on the effects and impacts of pirated and counterfeit products on the economy (health, agriculture, education, creative industries, trade, transport etc.)
It is important to have a clear roadmap for **Building a Conducive Environment for Creating Intellectual Property** to promote economic growth.

**Project 1: Cultivating Creative Young Inventors and Artists**

**Activities**

a) **Invention Clubs:** establishing invention clubs in primary and secondary schools will assist in enhancing the level of innovation and creativity in children from a tender age. The invention club will provide basic knowledge and activities on intellectual property that will inculcate the knowledge of IP in the students. The clubs will run a wide range of activities such as performing practical skills for making inventions and creations, and visiting various sites where inventions are created. To stimulate invention clubs in schools, a variety of initiatives such exchange program, visits to other countries, training programs and publications may be introduced. As a start this clubs can be established in few schools that are willing to participate in the program.

b) **Establishment of Copyright Clubs in Schools:** establishing copyright clubs in primary and secondary schools for increased level of creativity children from a tender age. The copyright clubs will provide basic knowledge and activities on copyright and related right to students. To stimulate copyright clubs in schools, a variety of initiatives such exchange program, visits to other countries, training programs and publications may be introduced, writing competitions, music competitions, artistic works such as interior designs and any other copyright related works will be carried out. As a start this clubs can be established in few schools that are willing to participate in the program.
c) **Invention Teachers**: LIPO to train Invention teachers and give those with an excellent record in running invention clubs the chance to be trained overseas. Furthermore, LIPO should assist such schools by publishing and distributing to them a variety of teaching and study material such as comics, invention and patent stories.

d) **Student Invention Exhibition**: create the Liberia Student Invention Exhibition program to identify and encourage students who have potential to become a major force in developing a highly advanced industrial society. It helps students to cultivate creative ideas and to make invention part of their lives while still young. Items created or invented by students from elementary school, middle school, high school or university may be exhibited in the competition, irrespective of whether the inventions have been patented or whether patent applications have been filed. Prize-winning inventions are displayed for the general public at major local exhibitions, the winners are invited to invention camps.

### Project 2: Prepare IPR Acquisition Campaign for SMEs

**Activities**

a) **IPR Seminars and Workshops**: LIPO to conduct seminars and workshops throughout the nation to promote IPR acquisition among SMEs and assist SMEs in the creation of IP.

b) **An IPR Help Desk for SMEs**: LIPO to set up an IP desk specifically for SMEs information service for IPR creation, free patent database, IPR Call Centre for overall IPR questions.

c) **IPR Courses for SMEs**: LIPO to develop a training course on IPRs targeting SMEs. The IPR course to cover the importance of IPRs, the application procedure and government policies on commercialization of patented technologies. The course is aimed at improving awareness of IPRs among SME employees and executives to encourage them to use IPRs as a core business asset.
d) **Develop Mechanisms for Reducing the Cost for Acquiring IPRs**

**Reduction of Official Fees**: application fee, examination fee & registration fee for first 3 years for example 70% reduction for individuals and small enterprises and 50% reduction for medium-sized enterprises.

**Project 3: Support for Women’s Invention Activities**

Despite the international trend of women taking a greater role in economic activities, the economic and invention activities of Liberian women are still negligible. This fact is highlighted by the number of IPR applications filed by Liberian women which is very low.

**Activities**

a) **Raising Public Awareness and Interest in Women’s Invention Activities**: To improve public awareness on the involvement of women in inventions and IPRs, and to encourage women to be more familiar with inventions in their daily lives.

b) **Recognition of Exemplary Women’s Inventions**: To identify and share exemplary inventions borne of the brilliant ideas of women and to promote women’s invention activities, a symposium to show case women innovation to be held frequently.

c) **Establishment of Women Inventors Lobby Groups**: Stimulating the invention activities of women requires more than just the government’s efforts. Private organizations interested in women’s inventions should be formed; they should be able to stand alone financially and undertake various efforts to promote women’s inventions.

**Project 4: IP Support Infrastructure for the creative sector**

(a) **Study on contribution of the copyright sector**: Carry out a study on the contributions of copyright sector to the economy to enhance lobbying for support for the creative sector from policy makers.

(b) **Establish a National Creativity Fund** to finance the growth of creative sector such as making films and movies.
(c) Establish Counties’ Creative Industry Incubators to nurture the growth of artists

(d) Incentivize the Private Sector to Invest in the Creative Sector to promote a culture of private sector involvement.

Project 5: Strengthening the Creative Sector Movement

(a) Establishment of the National Arts Council to provide support to the creative sector for positive growth.

(b) Conducting Membership Audit among the Associations to ensure that only active members.

(c) Strengthening Governance Structures for the Sector including training officials on management of the unions.

(d) Develop a National Creative Industries Strategic Plan to align the activities of the sector to economic development and empowerment of the artists.

Project 6: Infrastructure for Promoting Innovation and Invention

Expanded cooperation on IP administration amongst academia, industry and research institutes.

Activities

a) Cooperation with Universities and Research Institutes on IPRs: To heighten the interest of universities and research institutes in IPRs and IPR applications, LIPO to established a system of cooperation with these institutions. These agreements will enable LIPO to cooperate with relevant organizations in a more systematic and strategic manner.

b) Establish IP Focal Point and Champions: Develop a plan to establish IP Focal points and champions in universities and other higher institutions of learning, as well as research institutions and expand it to ministries, and other government agencies. This will assist in mainstreaming IP across sectors and in pushing the research process towards innovation.

c) Development of Copyright Champions Program: establish copyright champions and focal points in institutions of learning, national copyright
associations, and media houses. This will assist in mainstreaming IP across sectors and in enhancing the contribution of copyright sector to the economy.

d) Improve IPR Training for University Departments and Faculty Heads: Although the Liberian universities may have experts and large research facilities, their understanding of IPRs is often inadequate and they consequently have a low number of IPR applications and registrations. To resolve this problem, the above training is proposed.

e) Carry out Institutional IP Audit: Most universities and research institutions despite their activity do not know the actual IP potential that they have, an audit will bring open these underutilized resources.

f) Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISC’s): Establish Technology Innovation Support Centres IP (TISCs) at LIPO to provide IP related information including patent information and encouraging the use of patent information by universities, research institutions and SMEs.

g) Establish TISC at Institutions: LIPO to designate some institutions as Pilot centres for TISC program, for a start CARI to be considered. These institutions must meet the requirements of having computer training facilities, designated officer responsible for TISC project. The goal of the program is to improve awareness of IPRs at university and to increase the use of technological information for research and thus increase the quality of research outputs from these institutions.

h) Establish National Council for Science and Technology: (NCST) to handle and supervise the direction of research in the country. To enhance its activities, a National Research Foundation may be incorporated in the proposed NCST for mobilization of research fund.

i) Mainstream IP Issues in all Stages of the Research Process - research output should be protected by appropriate legal instruments (e.g. in the case of joint research, pertinent issues must be handled by MoA or MoU) and including employment contract.
Project 7: Financial Support for the Commercialization of Innovations

To improve national competitiveness in today’s economic environment, it is imperative to lead global markets by means of core technologies with secured IP rights.

**Activities**

a) **Create an Innovation Fund:** Increase funding of innovation, research in strategic areas of the economy for them to play a major contribution in the economy in accordance with the Vision 2030. The innovation fund to support patented technology evaluations, production of patented technology prototypes, running the IPR assessment, offering financial support for overseas IP applications, developing prototypes and commercializing inventions and innovations.

b) **Establish Innovation, Invention Fairs and Award Systems:** hold innovation and invention fairs to show case innovations and enhance commercialization of the same.

c) **Providing Tax Incentives:** Providing tax incentives to private sector to fund research and IP commercialization.

Project 8: National IP Branding Strategy

**Activities**

a) **Establish a Comprehensive National Branding Strategy** that should enable actors in the local and external markets to identify specific products with Liberia.

b) **Introduce a Mechanism of Cultural Showcasing** in all the counties.

c) **Identify Key Products to be used as Pilot** for branding for example Rubber, rice and Lofa cloth.

Project 9: IP Support Infrastructure for Commercialization of Innovations

**Activities**

These IP support infrastructures will assist the local creators in managing and commercializing their IP assets.
a) **Technology Transfer Office (TTO):** Develop modalities to support universities and research institutions to establish and operationalize TTOs to enhance collaboration between universities and research institutions and the industries in order to bring research results into the market for the public use.

b) **Business Incubation Facilities:** Establish new institutional and national business incubation facilities and strengthen existing ones.

c) **Establish Common Manufacturing Facilities:** these facilities provide infrastructure such as equipment’s which ordinarily would be expensive for an individual SME to purchase. Such equipment’s are found in a common place where SMEs can use to produce their products of better quality.

d) **Science Parks, Innovation Hubs and Industrial Parks:** Science parks and innovation hubs have become useful especially in encouraging innovation and creativity in the ICT sector amongst the youth.

**Project 10: Strengthen the National Innovation System in Liberia**

**Activities**

a) **Encouraging and Strengthening Public Private Partnerships:** Strengthen the public private partnerships through creation of intra-Governmental committee. In this connection, the roles of each institution included in the intra-Governmental committee for the effective use of the IP system need to be clarified.

b) **Foster Closer Collaboration Between Government Ministries:** Foster collaboration between Government units (e.g., Ministries) with other institutions (e.g., private sector, civil society). In general terms, such institutions, as national archives, departments of art and culture, department of research, science and technology, etc., should be closely involved in the implementation of diverse aspects of the National IPDP.

c) **Research Collaboration between Industry and Research Institutions:** Develop an incentive framework to promote closer collaboration in research and technology development between industry and research institutions.

d) **Develop Mechanisms for Inter-institutional for Linkages:** between research
institutions (e.g., in the form of an Open Innovation Forum) and make them share knowledge on various matters (e.g., identify common challenges; identify opportunities, pool capacities).

**Program II: Developing Human Resources in IP Field**

A well trained human resource capacity in the various IP fields is useful in effective management of the IP system in any country.

**Project 1: Enhance Human Resource Capacity to Create Innovation**

**Activity**

a) **Building Capacity in Science Based Courses:** Put necessary measures to encourage and increase the number students graduating in science, technology and engineering.

**Project 2: Strengthen the IP Staff within IP Administration**

**Activities**

a) **As a Short-Term Intervention,** training for the person in charge of LIPO to help in the transition process. This training should include management of an Intellectual Property Office.

b) **Devise Training Programmes** based on the needs assessment for staff within the IP office and those identified to be deployed to the proposed.

c) **Training for Collective Management Society** staff/staff to be employed by the collective management organisations on collection, distribution rules, negotiations with the rights holders and management of the CMO.

**Project 3: Strengthen IP Education and Training at Local Education and Training Institutions**

**Activities**
a) **IP Human Resource Development Plan:** Prepare and implement a comprehensive training and education programme for the required human resources to promote the generation, protection, commercialization and enforcement of intellectual property rights in Liberia. They would look at issues such as *Curricula for universities and other tertiary institutions* and encourage IP training, education and expansion of IP teaching programmes at all levels.

b) **Capacity Building Programmes to** creative authors, right holders, government officials, universities, research institutions and industries to assist the creative innovators in commercializing their IPRs.

c) **Training and Capacity Building Programmes for Professional IP Service Providers** such patent attorneys, copyright lawyers, valuers auditors and managers. Enhance the skills of these professionals to negotiate IP agreements.

d) **Collaborate with WIPO and ARIP to Provide IP Training of Trainers** on key topical areas such as IP management, TISC management. The training of trainers will help build human resource capacity in the country that can provide further IP training to targeted audiences.

e) **Training of IP managers at institutions:** such as universities and research institution to assist in the identification, protection and commercialization of IP generated at these institutions.

**Project 4: Introduce IP at all Levels of Education Activities**

a) **Collaborate with WIPO Academy and the Universities** to ensure the teaching of intellectual property at the tertiary level.

b) **Developing IP curricula for elementary, primary and secondary schools** to create an understanding and appreciation of IP from an early age.

c) **Developing IP curricula for universities other tertiary institutions** and training programmes at various levels; and encouraging IP training, education and expansion of IP teaching to science, technology, engineering and business faculties. In this connection, it is also essential to expose to IP, pupil and
students from different specialisations.

Project 5: Develop Human Resource Capacity to Utilize TRIPS Flexibilities

Activities

a) Building local capacity to innovate and access technologies: Develop mechanisms that enhance the utilization of TRIPS flexibilities and the extension period of TRIPS compliance to 2021 to build capacity in innovation and access technologies that are useful for Liberia.

b) Technology acquisition, adaptation and transfer: Develop mechanisms that encourage technology acquisition, adaptation and transfer locally, to this end the use of patent databases will come handy.

c) Establishing mechanism and infrastructure to develop a viable pharmaceutical base: Develop mechanisms to encourage local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals products. As a start focus should be on products that are not protected by patents in Liberia.

d) Develop infrastructure for exploiting TRIPS flexibilities: (compulsory licensing and patents in the public domain) and access to medicine. Most of the drugs should be exploited without authorization by the owner since they are in the public domain in Liberia.
Following the challenges and needs identified above, it is recommended that the country should develop a strategy for strengthening the IP enforcement mechanisms. This strategy document provides for the following programs, projects and activities:

**Program I: Strengthening IP Enforcement Mechanisms**

**Project 1: Establishment of IP Enforcement Agency**

**Activity**

a) **IP Enforcement Agency**: Whereas the Liberia Intellectual Property Act 2016 articles 15 to 19 provides the various ways of enforcement of intellectual property right and mandates the Director General of LIPO to be in-charge of enforcement, however the workload will be too much since the director will also be handling administrative issues of IP and overseeing the day to day operations of the office.

**Project 2: Establishment of IP Tribunal**

**Activity**

a) **Establishment of IP Tribunal** to assist in handling IP issues before the same are taken to court.

**Project 3: Strengthening IP Enforcement Institutions**

**Activities**

a) **Establishment of an Inter-agency** enforcement team which will ensure close collaboration among all enforcement agencies as well as the relevant government ministries such as Trade Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Culture, Office of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and stakeholders.

b) **Establishment of concerted efforts between** Countries especially Sierra Leone and Guinea in fighting piracy and counterfeit goods by customs authority.
c) **Strengthen capacity of other enforcement agencies** such as the Pharmacy Board, Standards Organisation, Customs, etc. Among other things, there is need to limit border entries for counterfeit goods.

d) **Strengthen cross border enforcement** mechanisms and equip relevant officers with capacity to enforce IP rights.

e) **Enact laws or enhance existing laws** to cover unauthorized use of copyright works over the digital environment. This will involve looking at other laws and policies related to ICT, electronic commerce, and cybercrime.

f) **Enact and implement** the Anti-Counterfeit and Cybercrime laws

g) **Establish IP unit within the Police department**: to specifically IP related issues, such officers will receive adequate training on IP.

**Project 4: Review of Law to Enhance Penalties/Sanctions**

**Activities**

a) **Review penalties**: The fine of US 1500 for patents, copyright and trademark infringement is too low. Review these fines to ensure that they are deterrent and punitive.

b) **Review criminal sanctions**: the present term of prison for infringement of IPR of two years is very low and not deterrent. A consideration to be made to increase the number of years.

c) **Improve Enforcement of Copyright**: Incorporate Copyright Inspectors

**Project 5: Training and Capacity Building of Enforcement Officials**

**Activities**

a) **Training of judicial officers** to handle IP related matters. Provide IP training for the enforcement officials; judiciary, customs, police and rights holders. The determination of IP cases may be done within the commercial division of the High Court with a Bench that is conversant with IP matters.

b) **Establish linkages** with the Judiciary Training Institute, Police Training and Customs to ensure that IP is included in their curriculum.
c) **Develop exchange programs** for the enforcement agencies. Have officers attached to other countries for the enforcement agencies (IP Office, Judges, Prosecutors, police) every year to learn from them how to manage IP Issues and handle IP Cases.

d) **Develop capacity** including human resources and infrastructure to detect counterfeit and pirated goods and to effectively conduct surveillance.

e) **Training on copyright enforcement** in the digital environment and use of the internet to deter copyright infringement.
6.1 **Recommended Projects and Programmes**

The action plan below will help in implementation of the Liberia National IPDP which is summarised in Annex A. Despite the considerable challenges and severe constraints identified, there is a strong commitment from the Government of Liberia for improving the overall IP system in the country.

6.2 **Action Plan for Effective Utilization of the IP System for Development of Liberia**

Annex A, entitled "IPDP Implementation Matrix", sets out three National Strategic Objectives namely: Building an IP Conscious Nation, Develop Liberia as an IP Power House, and Building Business Friendly IP Enforcement Systems; Programs and projects have been developed to achieve these objectives. The implementation matrix has further provided a listing of lead implementing agencies, development partners and an indicative timeframe for the activities proposed.

Following consensus on the way forward, the next step is to prioritize the projects as set and to define in detail each of the agreed activities and further outlined in Annex A.

6.3. **Actors in the Implementation of the Projects**

The projects will be implemented in different contexts, in collaborative undertakings involving public sector institutions, private sector institutions, and development partners. This will involve several agencies and collaborators and hence a framework for the effective implementation, coordination and monitoring will be required.

**Institutional Framework**

The institutional framework for the implementation of the IPDP will comprise of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the line ministry for intellectual property and will be the Ministry to spearhead the implementation of IPDP process. Other
government Ministries include the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism; The Ministry of Justice,

The steering committee will include officers representing the Ministries above and the relevant private sector organisations, and shall be in charge of the coordination of implementation and reporting of the progress. The committee shall be reporting to the inter-ministerial Oversight committee. The oversight committee shall link with other ministries.

Coordination of the implementation

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (through the Director General LIPO) will be responsible for coordinating the work of the steering committee and the inter-
ministerial oversight committee. A secretariat within the Ministry will be responsible for documentation and report writing.

**Communication**

Effective communication is important in implementation of the IPDP. This IPDP should be widely disseminated through a number of institutions and the media. The level of dissemination will include, all institutions that are involved at each level of coordination of this IPDP. Upon approval of the IPDP a comprehensive communication strategy will be developed.

**Funding of the IPDP**

The funding of the implementation of the IPDP will be as follows:

- Through line budget of individual implementing agencies and institutions.
- Through support from other development partners.
- WIPO will provide the technical support as requested by Liberia

### 6.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring will be done so as to make decisions aimed at improving performance, achievement of intended objectives, ensuring accountability to all parties involved in the implementation, to assess the use and delivery of resources in accordance with the implementation plan and to monitor the timely achievement of the intended deliverables. This IPDP will be evaluated during and after implementation to ensure that it produces the intended results.

It is proposed that a monitoring and evaluation framework for the IPDP is designed and applied. A Result Based Logical framework will be designed for each of the strategic objectives, this will indicate expected outputs, activities, monitoring and evaluation tasks, means of verification, timeframe and resource requirements.

The implementing agencies will submit reports on the progress of work at intervals to be determined by the Steering Committee. The reports so generated first go to the Inter-Agency Working Group after which it will be submitted to the Steering Committee. The project reports will be evaluated against the indicators of the activities reported on to track the progress of implementation of the projects.
The Government recognizes the importance of initiating an effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for successful implementation of this Policy Paper and will work closely with the private sector and development partners in developing M&E systems. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system facilitates identification of deviations from set targets and taking timely corrective measures.

6.5 Priority Projects

The following FIVE (5) projects under program I of the first strategic objective are proposed to be undertaken on a priority basis on implementation within the first one (1) year and as particularized in the implementation matrix.

OBJECTIVE I: DEVELOPING LIBERIA AS AN IP POWER HOUSE

Program I: Improving Efficiency of IP System

Project 1: Develop LIPO Five Year Strategic Plan

Project 2: Strengthen LIPO Board Members

(a) **Develop TORs for the Board** members to enable them work effectively.
(b) **Train and sensitize** Board members on IP matters
(c) **Carry out visits** to other IP offices for board members for bench marking purposes
(d) **Establish sub-committee** of the board members to handle technical (copyright, industrial

Project 3: Establish Collective Management Organization

(a) **Legislate a CMO fully**: revise the law to directly provide
(b) **Proposal for One Stop Shop**: The CMO to be managed and operationalized by the copyright office will be directly supervised by copyright department under LIPO

Project 5: Financial Sustainability of LIPO

**Develop Short and Long Term Resource Mobilization Strategy** for culture and transformation of staff and to strengthen revenue streams
a) **Financing and Budgeting:** Develop mechanisms for the IP office to generate and retain through:
   i. Increased registration of copyright and industrial property works, licences
   ii. Enhance blank tape levy collection
   iii. Sale of hologram

**Project 6: Transparency and Accountability of LIPO**

(a) **Financial Transparency, Accountability and Ease of carrying out operations** by establishing separate accounts for Industrial Property, Copyright, General office operations, CMO and other development partners

**6.6 Conclusions**

To conclude, it is essential to reiterate that, leveraging Liberia’s IP potential for development depends on the resolve to address the highlighted challenges. The expeditious development of full project documents for the projects included in the *action plan* (see Annex A). This should include the design of M & E framework related to each project, to be used to keep track on the performance of the projects individually and collectively, and to assess the way in which they contribute to the achievement of the aspirations expressed in the country’s national development plans.

Preparation of indicative budget estimates for the implementation of the action plan and annexing them to the IPDP. Finally, achievement of the objectives set out in the IPDP shall depend on the mobilization and full deployment of the resources in a prudent manner.
## PROGRAM I: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF IP SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EXPECTED OUTCOME</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>COLLABORATING PARTNERS</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 1: DEVELOP LIPO FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN</strong></td>
<td>LIPO to develop Five Year Strategic Plan to align its activities to those in the IPFP</td>
<td>Strategi c Plan</td>
<td>LIPO</td>
<td>Three Months</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>WIPO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **PROJECT 2: STRENGTHEN LIPO BOARD MEMBERS** | a) Develop TORs for the Board members to enable them work effectively.  
b) Train and sensitize Board members on IP matters  
c) Carry out visits to other IP offices for board members for bench marking purposes  
d) Establish sub-committee of the board members to handle technical (copyright, industrial property and enforcement) and administrative matters of the office | Functional LIPO Board | LIPO | Three Months | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | WIPO |
| **PROJECT 3: ESTABLISH COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION** | (a) **Legislate a CMO fully**: revise the law to directly provide for the creation of CMO  
(e) **Proposal for One Stop Shop**: The CMO to be managed and operationalized by the copyright office will be directly supervised by copyright department under LIPO.  
(f) Training on CMO Management for Board and Management  
(g) Include legal, business and finance people in CMO Board | Fully operational CMO | LIPO | Six Months | Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism | WIPO,ARIPO, NORCODE,CIASA, UNESCO |
### PROGRAM I: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF IP SYSTEM

#### PROJECT 4: STRENGTHEN HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY AT LIPO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>LIPO</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) <strong>Human Resource Capacity</strong>&lt;br&gt;Enhance human resource capacity to handle IP matters by recruiting qualified staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) <strong>Training and capacity building of staff on</strong>&lt;br&gt;Substantive examination, copyright management, TISC Management, and IP Enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPPO, JIPPO, NARCODE, UNESCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) <strong>Establishing a coordinating mechanism</strong> involving relevant government bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LIPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) <strong>Visits of staff to other IP Offices for benchmarking</strong>&lt;br&gt;(CMO-Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania; Copyright and Industrial Property-Kenya)</td>
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#### PROJECT 5: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF LIPO

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<th>Task</th>
<th>LIPO</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b) <strong>Develop Short and Long Term Resource Mobilization Strategy</strong>&lt;br&gt;for culture and transformation of staff and to strengthen revenue streams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Six months</td>
<td>LIPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) <strong>Financing and Budgeting:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Develop mechanisms for the IP office to generate and retain through:&lt;br&gt;Increased registration of copyright and industrial property works, licences&lt;br&gt;<strong>Enhance blank tape levy collection</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sale of hologram</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) <strong>Enhance Funding from Development Partners by</strong>&lt;br&gt;Taking advantage of bilateral relations e.g. USPTO.&lt;br&gt;Ratify UNESCO 2003 AND 2005 Conventions.</td>
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#### PROJECT 6: FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY BY LIPO

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<th>Task</th>
<th>LIPO</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Transparency, Accountability and Ease of carrying out operations</strong>&lt;br&gt;by establishing separate accounts for Industrial Property, Copyright, General office operations, CMO and other development partners</td>
<td></td>
<td>Six months</td>
<td>LIPO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanism for financial control in place</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIBERIA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### PROGRAM I: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF IP SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT 7: MODERNIZATION AND AUTOMATION OF IP OFFICES</th>
<th>(a) Strengthening the infrastructure of the IP Offices by equipping them with basic facilities such as furniture, computer and other office equipment</th>
<th>Efficient and effective and modern IP Office capable of spurring the use of IP in the country</th>
<th>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</th>
<th>Two years</th>
<th>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism</th>
<th>WIPO, UNCTAD, ARIPD, JPO, UNIDO, JICA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) Improve systems of operation through automation and modernization of the offices, to enable the IP Office to provide improved services to the IP user community</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT 8: DEVELOP AND ENACT PLANT BREEDERS ACT

| Development of an act to create Plant Breeders Agency | Legal mechanisms in place for protecting new plant varieties | Ministry of Agriculture, | Three years | CARI, Ministry of Justice | UPOV, FAO, UNIDO, GIZ, ARIPD |

### PROJECT 9: ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANT BREEDERS AGENCY

| (a) Government to enhance funding to carry out research on new and better seed varieties | Functional and effective Plant Breeder’s Office that encourage farmers to develop new plant varieties that are fast growing and resistant to drought and disease | Ministry of Agriculture | Five years | Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Liberia Intellectual Property Office | UPOV, FAO, UNIDO, GIZ |
| | | | | |
| (b) Strengthen coordination of the work between various ministries for instance, environment, forestry, agriculture. | | |
| (c) Encourage active breeding program for plant varieties. | | |

### PROJECT 9: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IP ACTS

| (a) Implementation of Intellectual Property Act (2016) | A strong legal framework for protection, | Ministry of Justice | One year | Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism | WIPO, ARIPD |
| (b) Develop rules and regulations for copyright, industrial property, | | | | | |
### PROGRAM I: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF IP SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMO and IP enforcement</th>
<th>manage ment and adminis tration of IP</th>
<th>Affairs and Tourism</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(c) Implement recently enacted laws and especially Intellectual Property Act for establishment of LIPO (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) Develop regulations for implementation of the Intellectual Property Act 2016 to ensure that the laws come into force</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT 10: AMENDING THE IP ACT 2016

- In order to strengthen the copyright sector, the 2016 IP Act should be amended to address the following:

  a) **Increase Protection** Period of copyright works  
  b) **Incorporate the CMO fully:** The type of CMO(s) to be licensed  
  c) **Legislate the Hologram:** Provide and legislate the use of hologram to assist in differentiating legal and illegal works.  
  d) **Electronic Commerce Transactions:** Draft and enact laws on to enhance business transactions electronically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LIPO</th>
<th>Two Years</th>
<th>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</th>
<th>WIPO, ARIPO, NORCODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) <strong>Ratify UNESCO Treaties</strong> especially 2003 convention for safeguarding of intangible heritage</td>
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<td>2005 convention for cultural diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accede/ Ratify UPOV for the protection of plant varieties</td>
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### PROJECT 11: ACCEDE TO RELEVANT IP LAWS, TREATIES AND PROTOCOLS

- **Ratify UNESCO Treaties** especially 2003 convention for safeguarding of intangible heritage  
- 2005 convention for cultural diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengthened protection of cultural heritage</th>
<th>Liberia</th>
<th>Three Years</th>
<th>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism</th>
<th>UNESCO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened legal system that encourage farmers to develop new varieties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>ARIPO, FAO, WIPO</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accede/ratify the ARIPO Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of</th>
<th>Liberia</th>
<th>Three Years</th>
<th>Ministry of Commerce</th>
<th>ARIPO, WIPO</th>
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</table>
## PROGRAM I: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF IP SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Knowledge</th>
<th>Intellectua l Property Office</th>
<th>and Industry; Ministry of Justice;</th>
<th>UNESCO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- e) WIPO Copyright Treaty
- f) WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
- g) WIPO Beijing Treaty for the Protection of Audio-visual Performances
- h) ARIPO Arusha Protocol for the Protection of Plant Varieties

### STRONGENED LEGAL SYSTEM FOR USE OF IP FOR SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Liberia Intellectual Property Office

### THREE YEARS
- Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism
- WIPO

## PROJECT 12: FACILITATE INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS TO FORMULATE, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT IP POLICIES

### DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL IP POLICIES:
- Proper guidelines on handling IP issues at institutional level
  - Liberia Intellectual Property Office
  - Three Years

- Universities and research institutions
- WIPO, ARIPO, IPO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EXPECTED OUTCOME</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>COLLABORATING PARTNERS</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 1: DEVELOP AND ENACT TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES LAWS AND POLICIES</td>
<td>Develop laws and policies for the protection of the rich Liberia’s traditional knowledge, genetic resources and expressions of folklore. A draft act already exists, there is need to finalize and enact it to be law</td>
<td>TK and GR appreciated by top policy makers of institutions</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Three Years</td>
<td>LIPO, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment</td>
<td>WIPO, WIPO, ARIPO, UNESCO, UNIDO</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT 2: IDENTIFICATION OF TK AND GR</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Mapping of TK and GR: Identify and document TK and GR that belongs to Liberia</td>
<td>TK and GR well mainstreamed in the national development agenda</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs</td>
<td>Two Years</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Mapping of TK Holders: Identify and document the TK Holders in Liberia</td>
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<td>c) Develop a database of all TK and GR in Liberia</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Develop Mechanisms of Handling trans boundary Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT 3: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PROTECTION THROUGH IPR</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Carry Out Research on the effective ingredients of traditional medicine and document them</td>
<td>TK Protected through IPR system</td>
<td>LIPO</td>
<td>Four Years</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs, CARL, Research Institution</td>
<td>WIPO, WIPO, UNESCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) IPR Protection: Identify those that can be protected through patents, utility models and trade secrets</td>
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<td>c) Develop Incentives to encourage TK holders to share</td>
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</table>
## PROGRAM II: STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Train TK Holders on Handling of TK Knowledge with other institutions such as research institutions by signing Material Transfer Agreement and Non-Disclosure Agreement</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT 4: MAINSTREAMING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND MEDICINES IN THE CONTEMPORARY SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Ministry of Internal Affairs,</th>
<th>Four Years</th>
<th>CARL, Research Institution, LIPO</th>
<th>WIPO, ARIPAO, UNESCO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Training of TK Holders on Safety operations when handling and administering TM</td>
<td>TK Protected through IPR system</td>
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<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Training of Traditional Birth Attendants on ways of assisting mothers to safe delivery and providing them with equipment such as gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Identifying some of the Traditional Medicines that can be incorporated in the contemporary medicine such as bone menders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d)</td>
<td>Creation of TK Lobby Groups: to assist in pushing for the Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources agenda and issues affecting the sector with the Government</td>
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<td>e)</td>
<td>Training on Packaging of traditional medicines to increase their acceptability by the people.</td>
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### PROJECT 5: PRESERVATION OF TK AND GR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Ministry of Internal Affairs,</th>
<th>Two Years</th>
<th>CARL, Research Institution, LIPO</th>
<th>WIPO, ARIPAO, UNESCO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Mentoring and Capacity Building of Youth on TK: Develop a program that encourages young people to be trained and mentored on TK.</td>
<td>TK Protected through IPR system</td>
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<td>b)</td>
<td>Licenses: Develop tools to be used for Access to genetic resources materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Prior Informed Consent:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRAM II: STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES</td>
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<td>Develop tools to ensure that of the communities where the GR resources was obtained to avoid misappropriation of GR.</td>
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<td>d) <strong>Access and Benefit Sharing:</strong> Develop Tools that ensure communities from which GR is obtained have benefit sharing on the commercial use of such GR.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) <strong>Encourage Linkage</strong> between TK holders and universities and research institutions for research and product development from Traditional knowledge.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### ANNEX A IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX FOR IPDP

#### STATEGIC OBJECTIVE I: BUILDING AN IP CONSCIOUS NATION

#### PROGRAM III: PROMOTING SOCIAL CLIMATE FOR RESPECTING INTELLECTUAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EXPECTED OUTCOME</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>COLLABORATING PARTNERS</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 1: ENHANCE VISIBILITY OF LIPO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>a) LIPO Website: Currently the office does not have a website hence getting information on the IP office is not easy. The office to develop an active website</td>
<td>Increase visibility of LIPO office</td>
<td>LIPO</td>
<td>Three Months</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 2: PROMOTING IP AWARENESS IN UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS</strong></td>
<td>IPR training for Policy makers at Universities and Research Institutions: these training to focus on Chancellors, Vice chancellors, Deans of faculties and Heads of Departments. This is to create IP appreciation at the top level management</td>
<td>IP appreciated by top policy makers of institutions</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Three Years</td>
<td>Universities, Research Institutions</td>
<td>WIPO, KIPO, ARIPO, UNESCO, UNIDO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPR training for professors/Academics: Develop a program targeting professors and academics from various university departments to undertake basic IPR awareness training</td>
<td>Increase level of IP awareness amongst the academicians</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Three Years</td>
<td>Universities, Research Institutions</td>
<td>WIPO, KIPO, ARIPO, UNESCO, JPO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation agreements with universities and research institutes: establish a system of cooperation where it signs cooperation agreements with such universities on IPR administration</td>
<td>Closer collaboration between national IP office with institutions</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Three Years</td>
<td>Universities, Research Institutions</td>
<td>WIPO, KIPO, ARIPO, UNESCO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 3:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Ministry of</td>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Ministry of</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROGRAM II: PROMOTING SOCIAL CLIMATE FOR RESPECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **IP AWARENESS FOR TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICY MAKERS** |  (a) IP Awareness for Cabinet ministers: From the Office of the President to different Cabinet Offices and other policy makers  
(b) Members of parliament: It should also include specific targeted IP sensitisation for Members of Parliament. This will ensure that IP is understood and incorporated into relevant government policies and documents  
(c) Departmental heads of Government Agencies | Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism | One Year (regularly) | IDLO, AFD, LIBA, UNCTAD |
| **PROJECT 4: CREATE IP AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES** |  (a) Regularly carry-out targeted IP awareness and capacity building workshops to various enforcement agencies including the Judiciary, National Police Service, National Revenue Authority, Prosecution Department, as well as lawyers and private sector entities that deal with enforcement  
(b) Set up a system that will help the enforcement authorities such as Customs to have ready access to national IP laws and the official IP registries | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | One Year (regularly) | Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, WIPO, ARIPO, IDLO, KIPO |
| **PROJECT 5: ESTABLISH IP AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC AND IP USERS** |  Devise different strategies to raise IP awareness. This should help raise consciousness of the public and recognition of IP among the members of public including the media  
Encourage the establishment of Innovation and Invention Lobby | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | One year | Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, WIPO, ARIPO, WTO, UNCTAD |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Groups</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sensitize the public on the importance of IP: for economic development and the need for filing for protection of their invention/creativity</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public education</strong></td>
<td><strong>on the effects and impacts of pirated and counterfeit products on the economy (health, agriculture, education, creative industries, trade, transport etc.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 1: CULTIVATING CREATIVE YOUNG INVENTORS</td>
<td>(a) Invention clubs: Establishing invention clubs in primary and secondary schools will assist in enhancing the level of innovation and creativity in children from a tender age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Establishment of Copyright Clubs in Schools: Establishing copyright clubs in primary and secondary schools for increased level of creativity children from a tender age. The copyright clubs will provide basic knowledge and activities on copyright and related right to students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) Invention teachers: Train invention teachers and give those with an excellent record in running invention clubs the chance to be trained overseas.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) Student Invention exhibition: Create the Liberia Student Invention Exhibition program to identify and encourage students who have potential to become a major force in innovation and creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 2: PREPARE IPR ACQUISITION</td>
<td>(a) IPR Seminars and workshops: Conduct seminars and workshops throughout the nation to promote IPR acquisition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROGRAM 1: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

#### CAMPAIGN FOR SMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) An IPR Help Desk for SMEs: set up an IP desk specifically for SMEs Information service for IPR creation, free patent database</td>
<td>Increased level of IP information availability and easy access to the same</td>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; WIPO, KIPO, JPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) IPR Courses for SMEs: develop a training course on IPRs targeting SMEs</td>
<td>Increased number of SMEs with IP knowledge</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; WIPO, UNIDO, KIPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Develop mechanisms for reducing the cost for acquiring IPRs through Reduction of official fees: application fee, exam. fee &amp; registration fee for first for local residents and SMEs 3</td>
<td>More Local Residents registering their innovations</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; KIPO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PROJECT 3: SUPPORT FOR WOMEN’S INVENTION ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Raising Public Awareness and Interest In Women’s Invention Activities: To improve public awareness on the involvement of women in inventions and IPRs</td>
<td>More innovation from women</td>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>Ministry of Gender and... KIPO, AfDB, WIPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Recognition of Exemplary Women’s Inventions: To identify and share exemplary inventions borne of the brilliant ideas of women</td>
<td>Increased level of innovations from women</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; KIPO, JPO, KIPO, JPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Establishment of Women Inventors Lobby Groups: Stimulating the invention activities of women requires more than just the government’s efforts</td>
<td>Well-developed networks of women inventors</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and industry; KIPO, JPO, KIPO, JPO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PROJECT 4: IP SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Study on contribution of the copyright sector: Carry out a well-developed creative study</td>
<td>Well-developed creative</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; WIPO, UNESCO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PROGRAM I: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### THE CREATIVE SECTOR
- Study on the contributions of copyright sector to the economy to enhance lobbying for support for the creative sector from policy makers.
- Establish a National Creativity Fund
- Establish Counties’ Creative Industry Incubators.
- Incentivize the Private Sector to Invest in the Creative Sector

### PROJECT 5: STRENGTHENING THE CREATIVE SECTOR ASSOCIATION S
- Establishment of the National Arts Council
- Conducting Membership Audit among the Associations.
- Strengthening Governance Structures for the Sector.
- Develop a National Creative Industries Strategic Plan.
- Conduct a Study on the Contribution of the Creative Industries to National Economy

### PROJECT 6: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION AND INVENTION
- Cooperation with Universities and Research institutes on IPRs; To heighten the interest of universities and research institutes in IPRs and IPR applications
- Establish IP Focal Point and Champions; Develop a plan to establish IP Focal points and champions in universities and other higher institutions of learning
- Development of Copyright Champions Program; establish copyright champions and focal points

<p>| (a) | Cooperation with Universities and Research institutions on IPRs; To heighten the interest of universities and research institutes in IPRs and IPR applications | Libera Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) | Two years | Universities, higher Institutions of learning and research Institutions | WIPO, ARIPPO, JPO |
| (b) | Establish IP Focal Point and Champions; Develop a plan to establish IP Focal points and champions in universities and other higher institutions of learning | Libera Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) | Two years | Universities, higher Institutions of learning and research Institutions | WIPO, ARIPPO, JPO |
| (c) | Development of Copyright Champions Program; establish copyright champions and focal points | Libera Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) | Two years | Higher Institutions of learning and research Institutions | WIPO, ARIPPO, NOCODE |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM I: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>points in institutions of learning, national copyright associations, and media houses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Improve IPR Training for university departments and faculty heads:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Carry out Institutional IP Audit: Most universities and research institutions despite their activity do not know the actual IP potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISCs): Establish Technology Innovation Support Centres IP (TISCs). As a start the TISC can be established on few institutions as pilot before being scaled up to many institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Establish National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) to handle and supervise the direction of research in the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Mainstream IP issues in all stages of the research process - research output should be protected by appropriate legal instruments</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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### PROGRAM 1: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**PROJECT 7:** FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF INNOVATION S

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Ministry of Education</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Ministry of Finance; Research Institutions; Universities; Institutions of Higher Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a) Create an innovation fund to support the following:</strong> Supporting patented technology evaluations, production of patented technology prototypes, running the IPR assessment.</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>JPO, DFID, ADB, JICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b) Establish innovation, invention fairs and award systems:</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(c) Providing tax incentives:</strong> Providing tax incentives to private sector to fund research and IP commercialization.</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Five years</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT 8: NATIONAL PRODUCT BRANDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Liberia Intellectual Property Organization</th>
<th>WIPO, ARIPO, UNIDO, DFID, ADB, UNESCO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a) Establish a comprehensive national branding strategy</strong> that should enable actors in the local and external markets to identify specific products with Liberia.</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Organization</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO, UNIDO, DFID, ADB, UNESCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b) Introduce a mechanism of Cultural showcasing</strong> in all the counties.</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Organization</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO, UNIDO, DFID, ADB, UNESCO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROGRAM I: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(c) Identify key products to be used as pilot for branding for example Rubber, Rice and Lofa cloth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology Transfer Office:</td>
<td>Liberian Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop modalities to support universities and research institutions to establish and operationalize TTOs</td>
<td>Universities; Research Institutions; Higher Institutions of Learning;</td>
<td>WIPO, KIPO, JPO, UNIDO, USAID, GIZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming IP in the institutional set up</td>
<td>Support growth of innovation and creative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish common manufacturing facilities: these facilities provide infrastructure such as equipment’s which ordinarily would be expensive for an individual SME to purchase. Such equipment’s are found in a common place where SMEs can use to produce their products of better quality. Such facilities can be established in existing institutions eg research institutions</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced productivity and quality of SME products</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance,</td>
<td>UNIDO, ADB, GIZ, USAID, JICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science parks, Innovation hubs and Industrial parks: Science parks and innovation hubs have become useful especially in encouraging innovation and creativity in the ICT sector amongst the youth</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structures that encourage innovation and creativity</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 8: Strengthen the National Innovation System in the Country</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Encouraging and Strengthening Public Private Partnerships:</td>
<td>Universities, Research Institutions, Higher Institutions of Learning</td>
<td>JICA, UNESCO, DFID, AFD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNEX A  IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX FOR IPDP
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I: DEVELOPING LIBERIA AS AN IP POWER HOUSE

### PROGRAM I: FACILITATING GROWTH OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Ministry of Education</th>
<th>Three years</th>
<th>Universities, Research Institutions, Higher Institutions of learning</th>
<th>JICA, DFID, USAID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) Foster closer collaboration between Government ministries: (e.g., Ministries) with other institutions (e.g., private sector, civil society).</td>
<td>Creatin g synergi es betwee n various instituti ons for a commo n goal.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Research collaboration between Industry and research institutions: Develop an incentive framework to promote closer collaboration in research and technology development between industry and research institutions.</td>
<td>Improve d linkages betwee n public and private instituti ons</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) Develop mechanisms for inter-institutional for linkages: between research institutions (e.g., in the form of an Open Innovation Forum)</td>
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</table>

### PROGRAM II: DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FIELD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT 1: ENHANCE HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY TO CREATE INNOVATION</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EXPECTED OUTCOME</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>COLLABORATING PARTNERS</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carry out a needs assessment on knowledge of IP among core stakeholders including rights holders, government officials, enforcement agencies, and creative authors and innovators</td>
<td>Adequate human resource for innovation</td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry;</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## PROGRAM II: DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FIELD

### PROJECT 2: STRENGTHEN THE IP STAFF WITHIN IP ADMINISTRATION

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>As a short-term intervention, training for the person in charge of the proposed LIPO to help in the transition process. This training should include management of an Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Competent staff in management and enforcement of IP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Devise training programmes based on the needs assessment for staff within the IP office and those identified to be deployed to the proposed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Training for Collective Management Society on collection, distribution rules, negotiations with the rights holders and management of the CMO.</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT 3: STRENGTHEN IP EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td><strong>IP Human Resource Development Plan:</strong> Prepare and implement a comprehensive training and education programme for the required human resources to promote the generation, protection, commercialization and enforcement of intellectual property rights in Liberia.</td>
<td>High level human resource capacity to handle IP related matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Three years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Judicary, police, customs, prosecution department, University, Ministry of Education,</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>WIPO, JAPPO, KORIPPO, UNESCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Capacity building programmes to creative authors, right holders, government officials, and industries</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Three years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Judicary, police, customs, prosecution department, University, Ministry of Education,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WIPO, JAPPO, KORIPPO, UNESCO</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Training and capacity building programmes for professional IP service providers such as patent attorneys, copyright lawyers, valuers auditors and managers. agreements</td>
<td>High level human resource capacity to handle IP related matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judicary, police, customs, prosecution department, University, Ministry of Education,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WIPO, JAPPO, KORIPPO, UNESCO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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### PROGRAM II: DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FIELD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project 4: INTRODUCE IP AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a)</strong> Developing IP curricula for elementary, primary and secondary schools to create an understanding and appreciation of IP from an early age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b)</strong> Collaborate with WIPO Academy and the Universities to ensure the teaching of intellectual property at the tertiary level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(c)</strong> Developing IP curricula for universities other tertiary institutions and training programmes at various levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **(d)** Collaborate with WIPO and ARIPO to Provide IP Training of Trainers on key topical areas such as IP management, TISC management. |
| Local available capacity in the country that can provide further IP training to targeted audiences |
| Liberia Intellectual Property Office |
| **Three years** |
| Ministry of Education, Judiciary, police, customs, prosecution, department, University, Ministry of Education, |
| WIPO, Japan Patent Office, Korea Intellectual Property Office, UNESCO |

| **(e)** Training of IP managers at Institutions: such as universities and research institution to assist in the |
| Enhanced identification, protection and commercialization of IP generated at these institutions |
| Liberia Intellectual Property Office |
| **Three years** |
| Universities, research institutions and other government institutions |
| WIPO, IPO, KIPO |

<p>| <strong>(f)</strong> Well-developed human resource capacity to handle intellect |
| Ministry of Education |
| <strong>Five years</strong> |
| Liberia Intellectual Property Office, Universities, Higher Institutions of Learning |
| WIPO, ARIPO, IPO |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM II: DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FIELD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 5: DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY TO UTILIZE TRIPS FLEXIBILITIES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| (a) Building local capacity to innovate and access technologies: Develop mechanisms that enhance the utilization of TRIPS flexibilities and the extension | Liberia Intellectual Property Office | Five years | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | WIPO, WTO, KIPO |
| (b) Technology acquisition, adaptation and transfer | Liberia Intellectual Property Office | Five Years | Ministry of Education, Universities, Research Institutions | WIPO, KIPO, JPO, |
| (c) Establishing mechanism and infrastructure to develop a viable pharmaceutical base | Liberia Intellectual Property Office | Five years | Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce and Industry | WIPO, KIPO |
| (d) Develop infrastructure for exploiting TRIPS flexibilities: (compulsory licensing and patents in the public domain) and access to medicine. | Liberia Intellectual Property Office | Five years | Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce and Industry | WIPO, KIPO |
## ANNEX A IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX FOR IPDP

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE III: BUILDING BUSINESS FRIENDLY IP ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EXPECTED OUTCOME</th>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>COLLABORATING PARTNERS</th>
<th>DEVELOPING PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 1: ESTABLISHING IP ENFORCEMENT AGENCY</strong></td>
<td>Establish IP Enforcement Agency Separate from LIPO</td>
<td>Increased and effective enforcement of IP Rights</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Ministry of Information, Tourism and Cultural Affairs; Ministry of Finance, Creative Authors Organizations</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO, WTO, INTERPOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF IP TRIBUNAL</strong></td>
<td>(a) Establishment of IP Tribunal to assist in handling IP issues before the same are taken to court</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Information, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Customs, Police</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT 3: STRENGTHENING IP ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS</strong></td>
<td>(a) Establishment of an Inter-agency enforcement team which will ensure close collaboration among all enforcement agencies as well as the relevant government ministries</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>Judiciary, Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Information, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Customs, Police</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO, KIPO, JPO,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Establishment of concerted efforts between Countries especially Sierra Leone, and Guinea in fighting piracy and counterfeit goods by customs authority</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
<td>Four years</td>
<td>Judiciary, Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Information, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Customs, Police</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO, KIPO, JPO,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) Strengthen capacity of other enforcement agencies such as the Pharmacy Board, Standards Organisation, Customs, etc.</td>
<td>Increased level of IP enforcement</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice; Ministry Health;</td>
<td>WIPO, ARIPO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PROGRAM I: BUILDING BUSINESS FRIENDLY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS

| d) | Strengthen cross border enforcement mechanisms and equip relevant officers with capacity to enforce IP rights | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | Four years | Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Customs, Bureau of Standard | WIPO, ARIP, KOPINOR |
| e) | Enact laws or enhance existing laws to cover unauthorized use of copyright works over the digital environment. This will involve looking at other laws and policies related to ICT, electronic commerce, and cybercrime | Ministry of Justice | Four years | Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism; Liberia Intellectual Property Office | KOPINOR, CISAC |
| f) | Enact and implement the Anti-Counterfeit and Cybercrime laws | Ministry of Justice | Four years | Liberia Intellectual Property Office; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism | WIPO, ARIP |

## PROJECT 4: REVIEW OF LAW TO ENHANCE PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR IP RIGHTS INFRINGEMENTS

<p>| a) | Review penalties for patents, copyright and trademark infringement to ensure that they are deterrent and punitive | Ministry of Justice | Five years | Police, Customs, Liberia Intellectual Property Office | WIPO, ARIP, KOPINOR, CISAC |
| b) | Review criminal sanctions: the present term of prison for infringement of IPR of two years is very low and not deterrent. A consideration to be made to increase the number of years | Ministry of Justice | Five years | Police, Customs, Liberia Intellectual Property Office | WIPO, ARIP, KOPINOR, CISAC |
| c) | Improve Enforcement of Copyright: Incorporate Copyright Inspectors | Ministry of Justice | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM I: BUILDING BUSINESS FRIENDLY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT &amp; TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 5: Building Business Friendly Intellectual Property Enforcement System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a)</strong> Training of judicial officers to handle IP related matters. Provide IP training for the enforcement officials, judiciary, customs, police and rights holders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial officers well trained in handling cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIPO, ARIP, KOPINOR, CISAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b)</strong> Establish linkages with the Judiciary Training Institute, Police Training and Customs to ensure that IP is included in their curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP entrenched in the training of enforcement officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia Intellectual Property Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice; Customs, Police department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIPO, ARIP, KOPINOR, CISAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(c)</strong> Develop exchange programs for the enforcement agencies (Judiciary, Police). Have officers attached to other countries to develop skills and experience in IP rights enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Enforcement Skills developed through exchange programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police, Customs, WIPO, ARIP, KIPO, JPO, UNIDO, USAID, JICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(d)</strong> Develop capacity including human resources and infrastructure to detect counterfeit and pirated goods and to effectively conduct surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce level of counterfeit and pirated products in the market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police, Customs, Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIPO, ARIP, UNESCO, KOPINOR, CISAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>