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Stockholm+50 consultations go to the counties to accommodate more views

Monrovia, Liberia: 22 March 2022: The Stockholm+50 consultations, which are expected to chart how Liberia's natural resources should be managed to benefit both present and future generations, will take place in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County on Thursday, March 24, bringing together stakeholders from eight counties - Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Montserrado, Rivercess and Sinoe,

Two youth consultations will also be held, one at Harbel College in Margibi on March 23, and another in Bassa High School in Buchanan on March 25. These will be followed by consultations with communities.

“The Stockholm+50 consultations provide a unique opportunity to collectively decide how to manage our natural resources to sustain us, our children, and our children's children. It is also an opportunity to share in the responsibility of building a better future together,” says Stephen Rodriques, UNDP Liberia's Resident Representative.

Liberia's Stockholm+50 consultations kicked off on March 7 at the Monrovia City Hall with Foreign Affairs Minister Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah reiterating the Government's commitment to safeguard the country's rich natural resources in line with international principles and best practice as encapsulated in the environmental conventions that the country has ratified.

At the same event, visiting Sweden State Secretary, Hon. Jenny Ohlsson, said inclusive consultations were required to provide integrated solutions for a sustainable and just recovery in Liberia, and for the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

“We have only one Earth, and time is running out. Everyone's action counts,” she said. “To re-imagine a common, prosperous future on a healthy planet, Stockholm+50 calls for an inclusive approach that reflects the richness and diversity of voices and perspectives of various stakeholder groups.”

The government of Sweden, through UNDP, is supporting the national consultations in preparation for the upcoming international Stockholm +50 conference scheduled for June 2022.

The Stockholm +50 conference, themed “*a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity*”, comes at a critical time when countries worldwide are grappling with the Earth's triple crisis – the climate emergency, unprecedented socio-economic impacts of



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COVID-19 that have reversed key development gains, and the continued degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

A youth representative at the launch of the consultations, Ms Victoria Mazee, caught everyone's attention by honestly sharing her concerns about her future in the face of the triple crisis, and insufficient action by the global community.

“Kindly permit me at this time to say without apology, that I am afraid for my generation and the generations of the future. I strongly believe that apart from the communiques, declarations and signed agreements, the world has not been able to address the environment and climate emergency with the urgency it deserves,” Ms. Mazee said.

On March 31, the second county-level consultations will be held in Ganta, Nimba with representation from the seven other counties - Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee and Grand Kru. This will also be accompanied by side consultations with students of Cuttington University, and with women, people with disabilities and civil society groups.

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