

Conservation International: Blue Oceans Programme

	Implementing partner(s)	Conservation International – Liberia
	Location	Liberian coastline
	Agreement period	December 2019 – December 2026
	Budget total (Sweden)	44 800 000 MSEK

Overview and objectives

The BOP was developed in 2019 as a follow up to the March 2019 Blue Ocean Conference (BOC). The BOC was a joint initiative of CI and the Government of Liberia with funding from Sweden. As a way of maintaining the momentum generated by the BOC, and taking some of the critical recommendations forward, the Embassy signed a decision in December 2019 to fund the intervention, with the overall goal of promoting sustainable management of Liberia’s marine ecosystem, blue economic development, addressing marine pollution, and supporting small-scale fishery development. Towards this end, a four-year agreement was signed between Sida and CI, 2019-2023, with minor amendments in 2022 and a major amendment in 2023 to expand BOP to cover mangrove protection and alternative livelihood solutions for coastal communities.



The strategic objectives of the programme are:

- Improved enabling conditions for coastal and marine resources management.
- Improved enabling conditions for addressing marine plastic pollution.
- Enhanced resilience of local communities and coastal and marine resources to climate change.
- Sustainable management of small-scale fisheries.
- Enhanced institutional capacity and coordination for management of marine and coastal resources.
- Inclusive and effective management of social and environmental impacts of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Effective delivery and knowledge management of BOP.

Activities

CI has introduced new set of activities that are not only important to achieving the expected outcomes, but also significant to the priorities of the government of Liberia. For example, there will be a conduct of the first ever national mangrove inventory for Liberia, like the 2019 forest inventory, establishment of community mangrove management committees and plans, providing alternative solutions to fish mongers who use mangrove for fish preservation, increased financial incentives to fishing communities, etc. The Government of Liberia, through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) sees the conduct of a national mangrove inventory as crucial for Liberia. The inventory will compile information on mangrove cover, types, canopy density, etc. This will help Liberia to develop a mangrove management plan that promotes conservation and economic development. It is however important to note that CI has not described the methodology that will be used to conduct the inventory. It is therefore recommended that CI shares a detailed scope of work on the conduct of the inventory for the Embassy’s approval prior to commencement. This shall be made an agreement condition.