

Overview of the Technical Assistance intervention
by the ACP-EU Migration Action



LIBERIA

West and Central Africa



Review of Liberia's Aliens and Nationality Act

July 2015

September 2016

Requesting entity

Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN)
Ministry of Justice

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Background

In view of the drawdown of the UN peace keeping mission known as UNMIL, the Government of Liberia approved a security transition plan where the revision of the Alien and Nationality Act was indicated as a benchmark in maintaining peace and stability in the country, following

the end of a civil war ending in 2003. The Government, through its Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) has recently developed the Draft National Migration Policy and elaborated the BIN Act, first steps in revising the legislative frameworks. The request submitted to the

ACP-EU Migration Action by the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization intends to add to these efforts by revising Liberia's overarching Act on Migration.

Objective

The objective was to provide policy guidelines and recommendations for the **revision of the Alien and Nationality Act of Liberia** and to develop a roadmap ensuring sustainability and **paving the way for a Migration Law** in the country.

Outcomes

Although the recommendations made in the report are numerous, they follow **distinct policy guidelines**:

STRENGTHEN VISA ADMISSION CRITERIA

Recommendations on how to create new visa categories that facilitate legitimate travel to Liberia while at the same time preventing bona fide travellers from entering the country.

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations on how to engage diaspora in rebuilding and investing in Liberia - the current Act excludes the Liberian diaspora from retaining their nationality in the event that they secure the citizenship of their new host country, hence alienating them and preventing their return.

ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION

Recommendations on eliminating discrimination in the current Act - gender inequality is hugely prevalent; as evidenced by the inability of women to support their spouses in applications for naturalisation and in the transfer of nationality to children born to non-Liberian fathers.

PROTECTION

Recommendations on how to include the rights of stateless persons, asylum seekers, refugees and victims of trafficking in the Act.

DEVELOPMENT AND STRUCTURE

Recommendations on how to facilitate the development of the use of technology within operational processes.

PROMOTING ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIETY

Recommendations on how to encourage the inclusion of foreign nationals in society whilst maintaining the security structure, as to benefit Liberia's economy