

# NATIONAL CHARCOAL UNION OF LIBERIA



## International conference Sustainable Woodfuel Value Chains in Africa: Governance, Social, Economic and Ecological Dimensions

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**Food and Agriculture  
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**AFORPOLIS**  
African Forest Policies & Politics



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# Topic: Organization of local charcoal chapters and local governance in Liberia

## Mission:

To build the capacities, advocate and promote charcoal producers for sustainable charcoal production in rural areas of Liberia,

## Vision:

Our vision is a just and fair Liberian society where charcoal producers and farmers related groups equally participate in and benefit from decision making processes at all levels in all areas as well.

## Objective:

1. To unify and coordinate all charcoal producers, traders and sellers under one umbrella organization.
2. To educate and strengthen the capacity of charcoal institutions and structures both at local and national levels in the production of charcoal and recognition of charcoal as a key sources of household energy in Liberia
3. To provide safe environment of clean marketing arrangements and to adopt rules for charcoal production to secure the natural habitat for sustainable peace, justice and the protection of our forest resources.

# NACUL BRIEF HISTORY

NACUL was established on December 4, 2004, as a community-based organization with the objective of formulating charcoal producers' collective position and views on political, socio-economic and environmental issues that have negative impact on charcoal producers and other disadvantaged groups in Liberia. The union also aims at educating and strengthening the capacity of charcoal institutions both at local and the national level. It is involved in the promotion of sustainable charcoal production, the recognition of charcoal as a key source of energy in Liberia, the provision of safe working environments and the establishment of clear marketing arrangements and rules for charcoal production.

Charcoal production results in deforestation, thinning of the ozone layer and global warming which induces climate change. However, the civil war in Liberia created unprecedented and untold suffering both to the country, the energy and to the agriculture sector, men and women, boys and girls of Liberia thereby sending a huge number of the country population to engage into Charcoal production under difficult conditions, unregulated circumstances and with limited government engagement, thereby not informed on rules governing forest protection and the need to have a sustainable charcoal production.

## **Brief History cont'd**

NACUL seeks to Promoting Effective Forest Governance and Sustainable Charcoal Production In Liberia by addressing limited knowledge on forest Governance and laws, low entrepreneurial skills amongst charcoal production chain, Rampant and Unsustainable charcoal production across counties, Low skills on Forest resource Utilization, weak institutional collaboration, and low or limited evidence through research in the sector amongst charcoal producers in Liberia.

# NACUL four pillars

As a way of sustaining the charcoal sector for sustainable forest management, NACUL has developed the following pillars;

1. Tree planting (Woodlot establishment)
2. Improved Production Technology (Kiln oven)
3. Alternative sources (Agriculture and wood based bio mass)
4. Efficient use of charcoal (improved charcoal stove)

# Establishment of local chapters

The sustainability of the forest cannot be achieved without working with the charcoal producers, traders and transporters. Having this in mind, the union with supports from FFF/FAO started mobilizing and organizing charcoal producers and traders in to association since 2015 and from that time, it has established 20 network associations with over two thousand members with women accounting for 40%.

This process is also in compliance with the charcoal regulations in entitle: **“sustainable wood-Based Energy Production and Marketing in Liberia”** Regulation No. 119-17.

# The purpose of this Regulation is to -

1. Provide guidelines on the legal requirements for producers, transporters, and traders, on a small or large scale, engaged in the wood-based biomass energy (fuel wood, charcoal, briquettes, etc.,) business in order to optimize its positive benefits and also mitigate its negative effects.
2. Establish a structured process by which authorization for wood-based biomass energy production and marketing/trade is requested, reviewed, and granted or denied.
3. Ensure that wood-based biomass energy production and marketing/trade is carried out in an environmentally appropriate manner and through procedures and practices that promote the mutual interests of producers, traders, communities and sustainable forest management in the Republic of Liberia.



# Local Governance in Forest Management

The sustainability of the forest is everyone business, including the international community, Government, Civil Society, charcoal producers, local authority and etc...with an objective of reducing climate change, bio diversity lost and an improve ecosystem.

In order to reduce deforestation and sustainably manage the forest, the local authority of the commonwealth District of Grand Cape Month County passed laws that forbid the felling of a standing tree for charcoal production. The law encourages charcoal producers to use agriculture and wood based bio mass for charcoal production. This is one of the best sustainable forest management practices in Liberia.



The way in which charcoal is produced in Liberia has great impacts on the management and sustainability of the forest. The traditional earth pit method encourages the felling of smaller trees, fire disaster and land degradation.

To improve the production method, a kiln oven was produced as a pilot and was tested in Elephant Town, Grand Bassa County. The output was very good and accepted by the charcoal producer associations established in Grand Bassa County.

The wood used in the production came from a female farmer who was rewarded with a premier mattress. As a result, more farmers are willing to offer their wood bio mass to the association for charcoal production.

**To change thing around, the union with support from FFF/FAO under the project title:** “Enhance Forest and Farm Producers Organizations on ‘Climate Resilient Landscapes and Improved Livelihood”, **NACUL** pilot an improved charcoal production technology in Grand Bassa County in a town call Elephant town.

Under this pilot, charcoal producers were not allowed to fell standing trees for production. The charcoal producers negotiated with female farmer who provided her wood based bio mass from her farm in exchange of mattress.

# Recommendations

In order to sustain the charcoal sector for the sustainability of the forest, we wish to recommend the following;

1. The recognition of charcoal as the most reliable, affordable and available household energy for all.
2. The mobilization and organization of charcoal producers, sellers and transporters into association
3. The development of a strong charcoal regulations taking into consideration the VGGT implementation principal number six( Consultation and Participation) of all stakeholders
4. A strong institutional collaborations in the implementation of the developed regulations



# Pictorials of Improved charcoal production (Kiln Oven)





# Oven)







Farmland where woods were taken from for production



Mattress given to lady for woods on farmland

THANK  
YOU!