

Sierra Leone Netherlands Business & Culture Council
(SLNBCC)



Construction Sector in Sierra Leone

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About SLNBCC

The Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council (SLNBCC) is an affiliate of the GNBCC, Ghana. The SLNBCC has been officially registered and active since September 2017, and is currently building a network of companies from Sierra Leone and the Netherlands. The target being collaborations, investments or partnerships between companies from the two countries

Our network consists of both government and the private sector actors, and we work closely together with the Sierra Leonean Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) and the Sierra Leonean Chamber for Agribusiness development (SLeCad). The SLNBCC is currently expanding its membership base, these members receive:

- Monthly newsletters
- Quarterly networking and informative events
- Access to the Dutch network, to Dutch companies with interest in Liberia/ Sierra Leone and introductions
- Access to more information on the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's (RvO) financial instruments
- Workshops and seminars on business related topics
- The SLNBCC also offers paid business services to both members as well as non-members. These services include:
 - Assisting with travel arrangements for business investors from the Netherlands to Sierra Leone
 - Representing and assisting Dutch companies who do not have their own subsidiary, partner or office in Sierra Leone

This sector scan is part of the SLNBCC's efforts to attract foreign companies to engage in business with Sierra Leone.

Chapter 1 | Executive Summary

Sierra Leone is a country located on the Western fringe of Africa, bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. Due to the devastating effect the decade-long rebel war had on the infrastructure of the country, its workforce and development, the Government of Sierra Leone is putting in efforts to bring the country to pre-war status. This results in a steady flow of private and public construction projects. Both long-term and short term projects are accessible for foreign investors to partake in. Recent crises such as the Regent mudslide (August 2017) and the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak (2014-2016) have emphasised the importance of (re)constructing a country infrastructure to mitigate risk and ensure adequate responses.

In addition, the current governments' efforts towards diversifying the economy and investing in the agriculture sector stresses the importance of a supportive infrastructure to support these developments. This spans across sectors; mining requires a high-quality road network through the country to connect mining sites to trade hubs, for example .

Although the sector shows considerable opportunities, current constraints include access to funding, human resource capacity and a lack of standardisation of procedures. Nevertheless, the construction sector holds the potential for enormous growth in the near future. This document provides background information on the country, the construction sector within the country and areas of opportunity for Dutch companies to enter the sector locally. These opportunities include:

Construction Sector	Opportunity
Housing	Commercial and residential development in Western Area (Rural as well as Urban)
	Rehabilitation and upgrading of informal settlements in Greater Freetown
	Construction of low-to-middle income (social) housing establishments
Rail	Reconstruction of Pepel to Tonkolili Mine
	Commercial railway construction
	Mining network railway construction

Roads	<p>Construction of roads alongside key agriculture and mining routes</p> <p>Rural road development</p> <p>Asset management; repair and renewal, road maintenance</p> <p>Feeder Road Rehabilitation</p>
Disaster risk reduction	<p>Construction of water and sanitation facilities in Western Area Urban</p> <p>Construction of waste management facilities</p>
Materials supply	<p>Innovation of sustainable and eco-friendly local building materials including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timber - Clay bricks - Bamboo <p>Provision of high quality trade mark supplies</p> <p>Heavy machinery and large equipment; diggers, cranes etc.</p>

Chapter 2 | Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
CBI	Center for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries
DFID UK	Department for International Development
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GDP	Gross domestic product
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
MWHI	Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure
ND	The New Direction
NRA	National Revenue Authority
SALHOC	Sierra Leone Housing Corporation
SLC	Sierra Leone Local Content Agency
SLIEPA	Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency
SLPA	Sierra Leone Port Authority
SLRA	Sierra Leone Road Authority
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United National Development Program

Chapter 3 | The Sierra Leonean Context

Country Overview

Sierra Leone is found in the West Coast of Africa, bordered by Guinea, Liberia and the Atlantic Ocean. It has been experiencing annual GDP growth. Several years back, the country's GDP growth rate was one of the highest in Africa, but had a quick downward turn due to the twin shocks of a shrinking of the global iron ore price and the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease. However, Sierra Leone is actively reforming its business environment in order to facilitate the ease of doing business in the country.

Sierra Leone recently had a change of government, with Brig. Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) as the new president of the country. His New Direction strategy promises an avid investment and development of the private sector, with one of its' goals to attract foreign investors and companies. Real GDP growth of double digits was a clear indication that the country was developing fast. Average GDP per capita has almost returned to its pre-2014 Ebola percentages and growth is registered in almost all sectors.

The mining and agriculture sector are the leading sectors in the country. The mining sector accounts for roughly 90 percent of annual export revenues. In 2016, Sierra Leone's exports were worth approximately US\$897 million, of which mineral resources accounted for approximately 75%, followed closely by cocoa (8.5%) and coffee¹.

History & Politics

Sierra Leone gained independence from Britain in 1961. From 1961 to 1998, the political system shifted between multi-party democracy, military rule and one-party rule. Sierra Leone has remained a multi-party democracy since 1998. The country emerged from a decade-long civil war in 2002. The constitution recognises three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Parliamentary terms last for five years and the President may not serve for more than two terms, whether or not those terms are consecutive. After a two-term reign, former president Ernest Bai Koroma stepped down and was replaced by Julius Maada Bio of the opposing SLPP. Maada Bio won with a 51.8% of votes. However, APC still holds the majority of seats in parliament. The constitution, as currently drafted, does not allow an incumbent to stand for a third term. The peaceful, credible and stable transition of powers should increase investor confidence by providing a reduced risk of shock and greater predictability.

Governance

The Government of Sierra Leone is led by a President elected directly by the people and who is also the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the armed

¹ <https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/sle/>

forces. Within the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has oversight over policies relating to domestic and international trade. The Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) is responsible for policies to improve the investment climate, promote local and export trade, and encourage the development of small-to-medium-sized businesses. SLIEPA has thus far focused on Foreign Direct Investments in key economic sectors including the agriculture, marine resources, mining, energy, and tourism sectors. A system of local government was established by the Local Government Act 2004, which is comprised of 19 councils. Five city councils, one municipal council, and 13 district councils form the total of this local government structure. The Decentralization Secretariat was established under the World Bank's Institutional Reform and Capacity Building Project to promote decentralisation.

Core industries

Agriculture: key crops are rice, sugar, oil palm and cocoa, as well as agribusiness functions relating to trading and/or processing;

Diamonds: over 600,000 carats exported in 2013;

Iron ore : Sierra Leone has one of the world's largest iron ore deposits;

Rutile: the world's largest reserves, producing an estimated 120,000 tons of contained titanium dioxide in 2014;

Gold : producing approximately 141 kilograms worth of gold in terms of mine output in 2012 and 193 kilograms in 2014. In 2017, this figure dropped by 24.31% compared to 2016, totalling 142.06 kg. The exports of 2017 were worth USD5.2 million.²

Bauxite mining: including the country's Port Loko deposit, which contains 100 million tons of bauxite reserves)

Key exports and imports

Sierra Leone's main exports are in the mining and agriculture sectors. Until 2012, diamonds were Sierra Leone main export product. Iron ore has since taken its place, accounting for 55.7 percent of total exports in 2013. The mining sector accounts for roughly 90 percent of annual export revenues. In 2016, Sierra Leone's exports were worth approximately US\$897 million, of which mineral resources accounted for approximately 75 percent, followed closely by cocoa (8.5 percent) and coffee. Sierra Leone's main imports are machinery and transport equipment (largely relating to mining and oil investment projects and accounting for approximately 50 percent of total imports) and fuel (10 percent).

Foreign Aid

The country remains largely dependent on foreign aid. The current account deficit was estimated to be US\$511.8 million in 2013 and US\$466.9 million in 2014.

² *Mining Journal, September 2018 Supplement (2018): page 8*

The deficit was reported to be around US\$582 million in 2015. Sierra Leone benefits from the support of various international agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The Ports

Freetown boasts one of the largest deep water natural harbours in Africa. The existing Queen Elizabeth II Quay (QE2) Freetown container port is currently managed by Bolloré Africa Logistics under a 20-year concession agreement awarded by the Sierra Leone Port Authority (SLPA) in 2010. The agreement includes plans to renovate the port's bulk handling terminal and expand its capacity. GoSL is also considering developing a "dry port" to ease congestion at QE2 and facilitate the transportation of containers destined for rural areas. Further efforts to involve private partners in the ports system have seen the SLPA award a 20-year concession for the Marine Slipway and Ship Repair facilities to Holland Shipyard.

To support the needs of the mining sector, the GoSL plans to develop a new deep water port and associated rail infrastructure with the capacity to export between 30-50million tonnes of ore and other minerals each year. A pre- feasibility study to review options for the new deep water port was commissioned by the GoSL in 2014. The World Bank is carrying out the study as part of a project to develop a "Ports Master Plan" assessing the need for the expansion of the Freetown Port and the feasibility of the proposed deep water port.

Chapter 4 | Country Overview

Population	7,369,190 ³
Urbanisation	40.7% ⁴
Situated	West Africa, coastal, Sub-Sahara
Bordered by	Guinea (North/NorthEast), Liberia (South/SouthEast), Atlantic Ocean (West)
Area	71,740 square kilometres
GDP	US\$3,64 billion ⁵
Real GDP growth	6% ⁶
Official languages	Krio, English
Ha of arable land	5.4 million
Rainfall	3,800mm annually
Climate	Tropical
Seasons	Rainy season (monsoon): May to October & Dry Season (Harmattan) October to May

³ *World Bank, 2016*

⁴ *IMF 2017*

⁵ *IMF 2017*

⁶ *IMF 2017*

Chapter 5 | The Construction Sector

Introduction

The construction sector in Sierra Leone receives ample private and public investments. It is one of the sectors most effected by the Civil War (1992-2001), which destroyed many roads and housing, as well as hampered any further development of the sector. Furthermore, skilled labourers, contractors and suppliers left during or shortly after the conflict.

Since the end of the war, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) has prioritised the reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing, roads, energy suppliers, hospitals, schools and bridges. However, the need remains high, and the country is still in need of the construction of key hubs and connecting structures. Both the public sector and the private sector undertake projects of varying sizes. The Diaspora is increasingly constructing residential and commercial structures with personal funding. In addition, CSO's, NGO's and faith-based organisations participate significantly in the construction of community facilities and religious premises.

Current sector constraints include a deficit in human resource capacity, a lack of investment, and the absence of standardised procedures and its procedures.

However, both the private and public sector are increasingly investing in the sector. In 2018, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) under presidency of Julius Maada Bio came to power. Later that year, the party introduced the New Direction, of which the National Development Plan 2019-2023 outlines plans and policies for the reforms the government aims to execute.

As outlined in this plan, the GoSL aims to “develop quality infrastructure for economic competitiveness and socio-economic development, compatible with the long-term agenda of becoming a middle-income country. This agenda incorporates the provision of a stable and affordable energy supply, transportation, water infrastructural systems, waste management, and ICT, while also promoting private sector growth and manufacturing.” (Page 93).

Sierra Leone has a rich landscape to accommodate various types of construction activities. The demand is high, and with the current governments' efforts to invest in the sector, the construction sector could offer promising opportunities.

Finance and economics

Construction accounts for 6% of GDP⁷. The table below shows the contribution of the construction sector to real GDP growth. In 2015, the sector experienced a sharp decline, which can be attributed by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in 2014, and the global drop in iron ore prices.

Table 4: GDP Growth by Sectors

Sectors	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Agriculture	3.90	4.60	0.80	3.50	3.80	4.81
Industry	127.50	97.50	13.50	-75.10	28.80	14.05
o/w: Iron ore	51.01	47.18	12.42	-340.28	16.35	9.00
Services	6.09	6.14	1.80	1.56	4.14	4.97
Real GDP						
Growth (%)	15.20	20.72	4.56	-20.60	6.30	3.50

Source: SSL forecast

According to the financial report of the Bank of Sierra Leone (2017), the construction sector accounted for the highest share of loans and advances, reflecting the high infrastructural activity in Sierra Leone.

In 2017, the construction sector accounted for 19.9% of advances in loans, compared to 17.5% in 2012 following a growing trend for the past five years.⁸

Multi-nationals, aid agencies and development partners can provide access to funding. Organisations such as the European Union, the African Development Bank, Kuwait Fund, UNDP, and the Islamic Development Bank support the GoSL in large-scale construction projects. The private sector has access to participate through ongoing tenders and funding opportunities.

Key stakeholders

Most construction projects are undertaken by the GoSL, often with support of international organisations such as DFID and the United Nations (UN). Furthermore, the sector comprises both local and international companies, including Senegalese, German, Ghanaian and Chinese-owned companies.

⁷ *Financial Report, Bank of Sierra Leone (2017): page 13*

⁸ *Financial Report, Bank of Sierra Leone (2017): page 13*

The Chinese and Sierra Leonean government have a good relationship that spans across trade investments and aid. The former Sierra Leonean government, led under the presidency of Ernest Bai Koroma, committed to long-term projects and investments in the country as defined in the Agenda For Prosperity (footnote).

The Chinese influence in the construction sector is a topic of debate. The GoSL has commissioned various large-scale projects to Chinese-owned companies. To name a few; the 45 kilometre toll road that spans from Jui to Songo, the Lumley-Goderich bridge expansion, the construction of the ministerial Youyi (friendship) building, and the four kilometre long Wilkinson Road rehabilitation in Freetown. This has raised concerns with local and other foreign companies regarding the nature of such contracts. However, the GoSL does tender projects through official channels, and assures transparency and righteous bidding processes.

Chapter 6¹ Opportunities

Sierra Leone offers numerous opportunities within the construction sector. Contractors can bid on public tenders, or explore the growing economy of Sierra Leone and tap into alternative projects. This sector will outline the various opportunities within the sector.

Housing

Due to the urbanisation of Western Area Urban, satellite settlements such as Regent and Waterloo are becoming more attractive for commercial and residential development. The strategic location of these towns (near the port and close to the highway network into the provinces) increases the potential for these towns to take over certain functions from the congested and overcrowded Freetown.

In Freetown, rehabilitation and upgrading of informal settlements can provide alternatives to slum-formation and expansion within the capital. Agencies such as the UNDP engage in resettlement and rehabilitation projects of informal settlements. Furthermore, there is a need for the construction of low-to-middle income (social) housing.

Road construction

With the advent of developments in the agriculture and mining sector, the creation of an extensive road network becomes gains importance.

The Feeder Road Rehabilitation project aims to improve access from and to agriculture production sites, farmers, and trade hubs⁹.

The official public road network totals about 11,000km, comprising about 8,000km classified in the National Road System and approximately 3,000km of local networks and unclassified roads and tracks. Most of these road networks are in need of improvement.

The construction of new roads is limited to the dry season, meaning that construction commences in November and usually ends in May.

The SLIEPA website has links to ongoing projects with further details: <http://sliempa.org/investment/infrastructure/>

⁹ *Urban Planning Project, page 37*

Mining network

The creation of a transport network for the mining industry is a priority for both the public and the private sector.

The map below presents an overview of the largest mining hubs in the country.

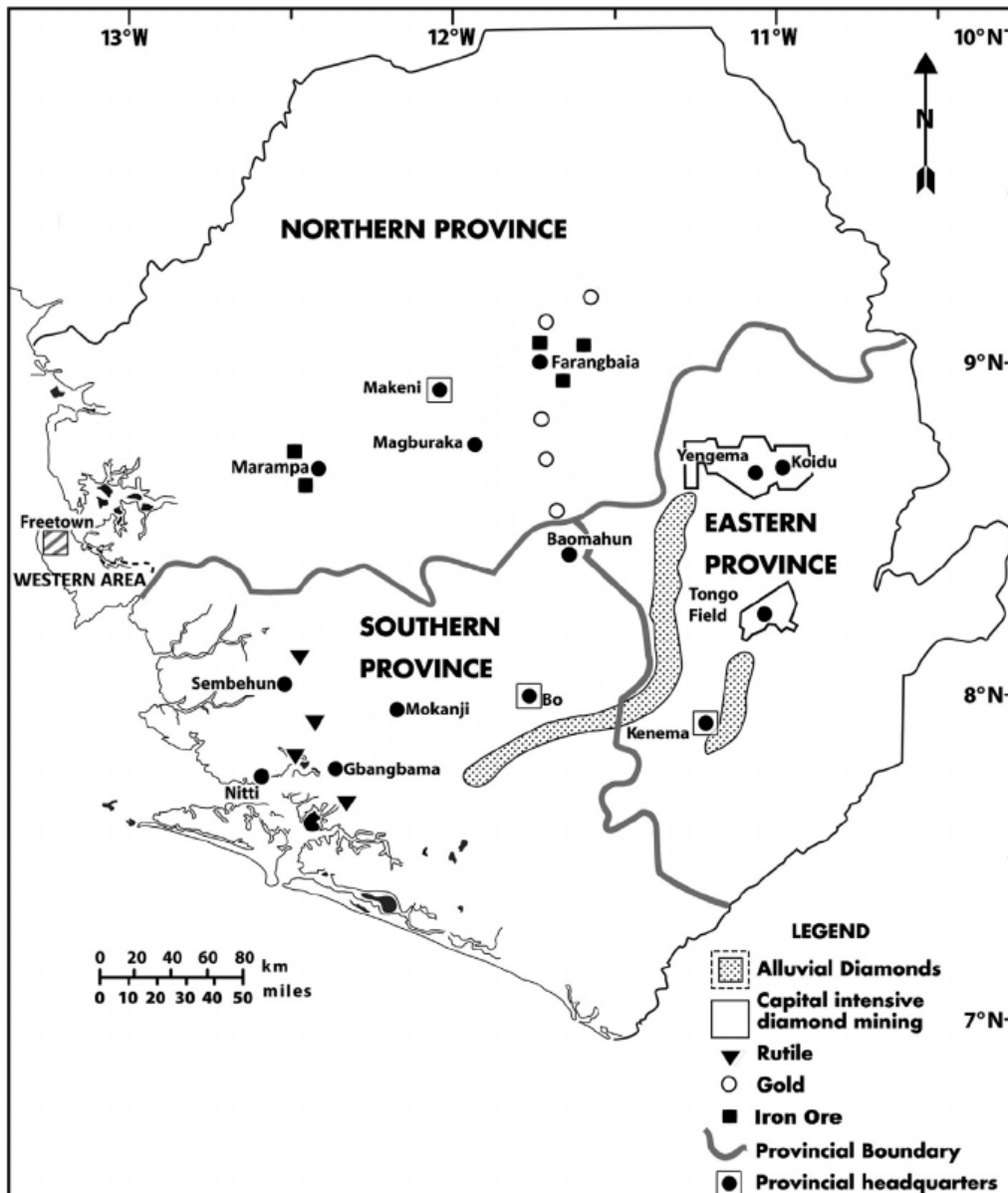


Figure 4. Mining Hubs in Sierra Leone (Source: *Strangers and Sierra Leone Mining: Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development Challenges*, figure 1.)

Due to the inactivity of the Marampa railway line, there are no alternative routes for transportation of freight. This means that road and water transportation are the only viable options.

Asset management

Due to the heavy freight of mining transportation, road deterioration is a serious challenge. Poorly-constructed roads require higher maintenance than quality roads. Opportunities lie in surveying and road rehabilitation.

Disaster risk reduction- to elaborate

Construction of water and sanitation facilities in Western Area Urban

Construction of waste management facilities

Material supply

Apart from cement, Indian, Chinese, European, Lebanese, South African, American and Guinean companies import the majority of construction materials. The market offers a range of materials that vary in quality. Some providers offer cheap alternatives below quality standards, and the demand for trademarked equipment and materials is rising.

With the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals more importance is given to sustainable solutions across all sectors. In construction, the import of foreign building materials is more expensive and climate-impacting than working with local materials. Examples of these are:

Timber;

Clay bricks;

Bamboo.

Lastly, there is in-market demand of the supply of heavy machinery and equipment, such as diggers and cranes. Due to a lack of variety in equipment, some contractors have to hire equipment from other countries in the region, such as Guinea.

Government of Sierra Leone Projects

The GoSL, under presidency of Julius Maada Bio, has outlined their four-year strategy in the "*Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I-2*". The second volume specifies aims and project per sector. As the GoSL is actively encourage (foreign) private sector engagement, this will provide plenty of opportunities for the coming four years.

Construction opportunities¹⁰

1. Airport

The addition of a new Terminal and increased aircraft parking capacity

2. Roads

Increase cumulative number of weather roads from 983km to 1966km, and number of feeder roads rehabilitated from 1420km to 1930 km

Coverage of proportion of urban roads (3,104km total) with road furniture and markings

3. Bridges

The construction of the Freetown to Lungi bridge by 2030

The construction of three bridges; Queen Elizabeth II Quay (port of Freetown), Gblamuya and Liberian border by 2023.

Two flyovers, three passenger overpassing constructed in Freetown.

4. Maritime

Construction of waste reception facility.

Rehabilitation of the Tagrin Ferry Jetty Terminal.

5. Railway

Construction of two public and commercial rail tracks; construction of a railroad as part of rural infrastructure development (see page 110 of the Medium-Term National Development Plan).

6. Waste disposal

All cities and district headquarters to have established recycling facilities

¹⁰ Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023. Page 110-122

Chapter 8 | Policy Framework

The government of Sierra Leone's policy and strategic framework for the construction sector focuses on regulating infrastructure projects and its surrounding elements. There is no single unified regulatory agency for the sector. For example, the Ministry of Lands needs to be involved in order to access rights to a piece of land, as well as the Ministry of Housing, Works and Infrastructure. Investors should consider a number of areas of policy and regulation that impact the structuring and commercial viability of investments in the construction sector. These include:

- Mines and Minerals Act 2009

This act contains all laws and regulations regarding mining and minerals. The laws were amended to promote investment in the industry, protect the environment and local communities from the harmful effects of mining and to adhere to international best practices.

The regulations for this law can be found in the **Mines and Minerals Regulations, 2009**.

Find documents here: <http://mmmr.gov.sl/laws/>

- Environmental And Social Regulations For The Minerals Sector, 2012

These Regulations shall apply to corporate bodies and individuals applying for or issued minerals rights under the Mines and Minerals Act 2009.

Find documents here: <http://mmmr.gov.sl/laws/>

- Permits, Licenses, and lease agreements are regulated by the National Revenue Authority (NRA)

Find list here: <https://www.nra.gov.sl/individuals-and-partnerships/licenses>

- The Architects Act, 1986 No. 7 of 1986

Includes all provisions regarding registration of architects and regulations for the practice of architecture.

Find document here: <http://sierra-leone.org/laws-1986-7.pdf>

- The Sierra Leone Housing Corporation Act 1982 (Act No 5 of. 1982) and its Amendment in 1986.

Incorporates rules and regulations regarding housing and housing corporations.

Find document here: <https://sierralii.org/sl/legislation/act/1986/3>

- SLRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges-

There is no manual available as of yet. Sierra Leone uses American standards for the construction of roads and bridges. The manual is currently being developed and will be published on the GoSL website:

<https://statehouse.gov.sl>

Sierra Leone Local Content Policy (SLLCP)

The Sierra Leone Local Content Policy (SLLCP) is a document born of the shared need to see that Sierra Leoneans take an active role in the establishment and running of private enterprises that are primarily owned by foreign nationals. The document sets out specific setup and performance requirements; especially the idea that all enterprises operating in any area of the country's economy should employ **at least 20%** of Sierra Leoneans in managerial positions and **50%** of Sierra Leoneans in intermediate positions.

Read here: [Sierra Leone Local Content Policy – Diaspora PDF diasporaaffairs.gov.sl/uploads/2017/08](https://diasporaaffairs.gov.sl/uploads/2017/08/Sierra-Leone-Local-Content-Policy-Diaspora-PDF.pdf)

Land and water rights:

'Final National Land Policy of Sierra Leone: Version 6' (August 1, 2015). Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.

Read here: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sie155203.pdf>

'National Water and Sanitation Policy' (July, 2010). Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

Read here: <http://www.washlearningsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-WASH-Policy-with-Photos-Sept-2010.pdf>

Environmental regulations:

'Coordinated Implementation of the Bamako, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Sierra Leone' (December, 2016). Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone.

Read here: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13965/GOV_7_SierraLeone.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Labor laws:

Employers and Employed Act (No.37 of 1965). Adopted in October 1965.

Read here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/Cap212.pdf>

The Finance Act (No.3 of 2013). Adopted in December 2013.

Read here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5FAdEo13YPc%3D&tabid=79&mid=436>

Local content requirements:

Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act (No.11 of 2015). Adopted in March 2016.

This Act established several aspects of the local content inclusion process, namely the Sierra Leone Local Content (SLC) Agency. The act creates a fund to support suppliers, exporters and importers, provisions for employment and training of citizens and rules for tendering processes.

Read here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/dnn5/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4TVSzJOh7ek%3D&tabid=79&mid=650>

Licensing and permitting requirements:

Licenses and costs are established by the National Revenue Authority (NRA).

Find listed costs here: <http://nra.gov.sl/individuals-and-partnerships/licenses>

Rights of foreign investors:

The Investment Promotion Act (No.49 of 2004). Adopted in August 2004.

Read document here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2004-10p.pdf>

Chapter 9 | Institutional Framework

National Revenue Authority (NRA)

The NRA is charged with the responsibility of assessing and collecting domestic taxes, customs duties and other revenues specified by law, as well as administering and enforcing laws relating to these revenues.

Website: <http://nra.gov.sl/>

Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLC)

The SLC is a semi-autonomous intervention under the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) to strengthen the local economy by creating linkages between Foreign Direct Investments in Sierra Leone. They focus on capacity development, systems coordination, SLLCA compliance, supplier & market development and community relations.

Website: <http://www.localcontent.sl/index.html>

Environmental Protection Agency Sierra Leone

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 2008 through the Environmental Protection Agency Act (2008) and became operational in 2009. The EPA is housed within the President's Office and is the main government agency in charge of all issues concerning the environment and climate change. The EPA was established with the goal of creating and enforcing a strict regulatory framework for environmental regulation in Sierra Leone. It has the mandate to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of national environmental policies, programs and projects, including issuing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) licenses.

Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

The Ministry is primarily responsible for the management of land in Sierra Leone. This is especially important given the multiplicity of land ownership categories. The Ministry is expected to direct the government on matters relating to ownership, acquisition and use, as well as all the implications for sustainability. As the central authority for land use and management, the Ministry is required to set policy on the efficient and sustainable use of land. Therefore, the mandate of the Ministry is not limited to land surveying but extends to the formulation and implementation of sustainable human habitat development policies, a process which includes land mapping. The ultimate goal of the Ministry, as reflected in its Mission statement, is to administer effectual policies for land use which contribute to overall socio-economic development.

Read more: <https://psru.gov.sl/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/reports/MIN%20OF%20LANDS%20and%20COUNTRY%20PLANNING%202010.pdf>

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

The primary responsibility of the Ministry is to formulate and implement policies, projects and programmes on energy and provide oversight functions across the entire energy supply chain for all sub-sector agencies (which include electricity production, electricity transmission, electricity distribution and supply) and other forms of energy supply and utilisation.

Website: <http://www.energy.gov.sl/>

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure (MWHI)

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all Government Buildings including the Airport. Its key functions include:

- Developing regulations for buildings and civil engineering standards;
- Identifying Quarrying sites;
- Registration of all civil works Contractors;
- Developing and implementing a National Housing Policy;
- Providing housing for Public servants and Low cost housing for the communities;
- Approving Building Plans and issuing Building permits;
- Ensuring compliance with building regulations;
- Collaborating with other MDAs/Institutions to develop a National Infrastructural Policy;
- Providing professional advice to all MDAs/Institutions/Non-state involved in infrastructural development (These include for example electricity, water, sewage and sanitation);
- Providing oversight responsibilities for the Sierra Leone Housing Corporation (SALHOC) and the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA).

Further reading and reference list

Further reading

- **Commonwealth Engineer Council (CEC)**. Links professional engineering institutions of the Commonwealth to foster cooperation and exchange of information, support the development of local engineering institutions and promote the education, training and professional development of engineers:
commonwealthofnations.org/sectors/business/construction_and_engineering/
- **Construction Permits details**: Page 27- 30, Doing Business 2016 Sierra Leone.
- **Sierra Leone Urban Research Center**: <https://www.slurc.org/about-us.html>
Reference materials, ongoing research projects
- **Engineers For Change**: <https://engineersforchange-sl.org>
- **Extractives Hub**: <https://www.extractiveshub.org/resource/list?TextString=sierra+leone> , an extensive overview of the latest analysis, reports and data on the extractives sector. This platform is an initiative of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy from the University of Dundee
- **The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)** is the **global standard** to promote the open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources:
<https://eiti.org/sierra-leone>

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- Sierra Leone Import & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) <http://sliempa.org>
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