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LIBERIA TRADE POLICY AND CUSTOMS (LTPC)

QUARTERLY REPORT

June 2012 – September 2012

CONTRACT NUMBER: EEM-I-00-07-00005

TASK ORDER NUMBER: TO 11

DELOITTE CONSULTING, LLP

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CHIEF OF PARTY REPORT

Summary of reporting period activities

Q5 has seen further positive traction on all fronts and in all components of the project. The staffing issues which affected both of our counterpart Ministries have now been largely resolved; however we did see the appointment of a new Deputy Minister of Commerce & Industry and we still await the permanent appointment of a Commissioner in the BCE MOF.

Relationships with other donors continue to be robust and the project has been especially careful not to duplicate efforts or indeed undo work previously completed by donor partners.

During Q5 LTPC was prudent in its use of STTA as we anticipate their need in the final 3 quarters of the program to finalize project deliverables. Our permanent team members have continued to work collaboratively with our counterparts in both our Ministries and have received only full cooperation and assistance. The project continues to respond to all requests from our counterparts and where we are able and time permits, we offer advice and assistance outside the project scope.

Our COP, DCOP and team members remain deployed in both the MOCI and the MOF/BCE. Specific elements are highlighted in each of the Ministries.

- The new Customs legislation still remains in review stage and no date for acceptance is currently known.
- The new Customs regulations await the new legislation
- The ‘Standard Operating Procedures Manual’ will now be introduced to approximately 120 BCE staff through training events which will take place in November and December.
- The plan for the Price & Marketing Division drafted by LTPC is now in the implementation phase and the STTA Advisor will complete the task during Q6
- The LTPC strategy for the Consumer Protection Unit within MOCI has been finalized and we are currently sourcing a qualified candidate to assist with its implementation. This initiative is being driven by the needs of the MOCI, who are keen to have a system in place which can better respond to consumer needs.
- The broker licensing regime is at the implementation level and we will see a large portion of the work completed by the end of Q6. All preparatory work and negotiations with the industry have been completed and we will bring back our STTA Advisor to assist BCE during November.
- After the completion of the NTB study and the drafting of the implementation plan LTPC was primed to host the new National Trade Facilitation Forums, (NTFF), first meeting. However this was not possible to achieve during Q5 due to inter-Ministerial dialogue surrounding ultimate responsibility for implementing the reduction/eradication plan. This issue has now been largely resolved and the first meeting should now take place during December. LTPC will monitor the Forum through the remaining of the project and ensure that regular meetings are held and progress reported.
- LTPC continued to move forward with WTO accession activities and have worked closely with our counterparts to facilitate the up-coming workshop with our Swedish colleagues. The workshop will be conducted in November and is the pre-cursor to the Long-term, SIDA

funded, program which is slated to begin in January 2013. We will continue to support MOCI in the coming months and gradually cede responsibility to the new program.

- Our CCN LTTA Advisor continues her work with the MOCI on IPR scope. LTTPC has conducted meetings with the Judiciary to gauge the level of training required. Our STTA Advisor will return in November and we will then conduct workshops as required. LTTPC has also reached out to the University of Liberia and to the Methodist University who are both keen for LTTPC to carry out awareness campaigns for their business students. We are currently working to produce the required training materials. The IPR legislation remains with the Law review Commission and is another piece of project related legislation which appears to have stalled. We remain ever hopeful that it will be adopted in the coming months.
- A review of training needs/requirements in both of our counterpart ministries was carried out at the end of Q3. As a result of this, we proposed to USAID to implement a Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) element for the project, in support of our key objectives. I am happy to say that we commenced these activities at the beginning of October, as planned. The team is making great progress and will be training intensively in the coming months with a focus on ToT, to ensure sustainability and ownership by counterparts.

The above mentioned project activities are specific and will have an impact on the coming months; but as always it should be mentioned that the team interact and deal with all the project long term goals on a day-to-day basis. We remain committed and responsive to the changing needs of GoL and LTTPC project team engages with their counterparts outside the official project remit as required.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED DURING THIS QUARTER

LTPC team has made further positive progression of the key activities and continuing consolidation of activities carried out during the previous quarters in this quarter. It included the following logistical and technical elements:

- **Personnel mobilization:** The following project personnel are deployed on the project on a full time basis and it is anticipated they will remain with the project until it's conclusion in August 2013:
 - Mr. Glenn Mackenzie-Frazer, Chief of Party (COP)
 - Philip Pleiwon, Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) – IBI International
 - Rufus Chamberlain, CCN Operations/Security Manager – RSM
 - Fanta Conde-Barclay, CCN IPR Advisor -- Deloitte
 - Edwin Martin, CCN Trade Facilitation and Integration Advisor – IBI International
 - Katie Fahrland, Trade Liberalization Advisor – Deloitte
 - Robert Letchford, Senior HR & Training Advisor -- Deloitte
 - Chirag Rajpuria, HR & Training Advisor -- Deloitte
 - Brian Foster, Senior HR & Training Advisor -- Deloitte
 - **Home office management team**
 - Dr. Stephen Lewarne, Engagement Principal
 - Ms. Alyona Polomoshnova, Engagement Manager
 - Mr. Remy Olsen, Home office project assistant

In order to consolidate project momentum further STTA personnel were also deployed during Q5.

- William Thibodeau, Price & Marketing Division Advisor – IBI International
- Stephen Strauss, LBR Advisor – IBI International

STTA Deployment Plan for Q6:

Area	Name	LOE	Approx. Deployment Date
• Brokers Advisor	Arturs Madzulis	24 days	December/January
• P&MD Advisor	Bill Thibodeau	40 days	Sept/December
(Mr. Thibodeau began his input in Q5; but will remain with the project during Q6)			
• CPU Advisor	TBD	40 days	December/January
• ToT Advisor	Diana Osinski	18 days	December
• CCN Training Coordinator	Pewee Reed	Remaining project duration	
• IPR Advisor	Mark Eghrari	50 days	November

- **Project operations and local offices set-up:** The LTPC project team have continued to use every possible opportunity to work hand-in hand with key project counterparts, including deployment of project advisors on counterpart's premises to the extent possible. The project team has co-located work space with our key counterparts, Ministry of Finance Customs Headquarters and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Working space is also available in the IP office, located within the MOCI. The project continues to maintain a small remote project office with reliable Internet connection, printing equipment and power generation

equipment, in order to ensure productive use of the project team's work time and minimizing the impediment of the currently unreliable infrastructure.

The preceding activities are the general logistical activities and specific activities related to the project SOW by component and are within the project plan framework.

FIFTH QUARTER IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

COMPONENT 1: TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN LIBERIA

- The Ministry of Finance (MOF) Bureau of Customs and Excise (Customs) continues to undertake the exercise to align the customs tariff structure with the World Customs Organization's Harmonized System for Tariff Classification Convention. Lack of a completely harmonized system inhibits the gathering, production and comparative analysis of timely and accurate national trade statistics. The current lack of trade data and poor transparency in the existing national customs tariff classification system undermines trader voluntary compliance and permits discretionary practices by customs officials. These factors discourage trading and drive up overall costs of doing business.
- The Deloitte team will work with the GOL to correct these weaknesses in the Customs tariff structure and its administration at border posts, where, according to MOCI officials, the majority of illegal and substandard activity reportedly takes place. These activities will move Liberia towards achieving its vision for simplifying tariff policies and reducing non-tariff trade barriers to stimulate expanded trade flows and economic expansion.

Expected Result 1 – Tariff Simplification, Harmonization, Implementation, and Reduction of Nontariff Barriers

Activity 1: Incorporate ECOWAS standards into GOL's draft National Trade Policy

The DCOP, Philip Pleiwon, based at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has continued working in conjunction with MOCI officials, in the preparation of activities for the achievement of this task. Philip continues to assist the Ministry in the consolidation of the final document. The first draft of the National Trade Policy document did not include a policy on women or cross border issues. The Ministry have brought in two additional external consultants, (at their own expense), and the draft is currently under review. We expect the final National Trade Policy document to be completed in the coming months. Although progress has been slow, the MOCI are never the less, moving forward. LTPC will continue to support their efforts and have made the decision to use the current draft policy document to push on with the ECOWAS compliance review. Taking this course of action will give us a head start when the Policy is finalized. (We do not expect there to be major changes).

Activity 2: Rationalize and harmonize tariff structures with ECOWAS

The responsibility for the harmonization and rationalization of the tariff structure remains with the Ministry of Finance. Progress has been made and harmonization with the international HS code has taken place, (ECOWAS has the same structure). Harmonizing the tariff rates continues to cause problems; however during Q4 the new Liberian tariff was shared with the WTO and the feedback from the WTO was positive.

The fiscal impact study on the adoption of the ETLS, has been shared with GoL. The initial findings and projections on the impact of adopting the ETLS have been presented and talks continue with ECOWAS we continue to await a decision by GoL on whether or when they intend to proceed. The adoption of the ETLS should create a positive trading environment with our ECOWAS colleagues; but agreement will need to be reached on the number and scope of goods which GoL wish to have excluded, (sensitive imports).

Activity 3: Train Customs and Trade Officials

No official classroom style training has taken place during Q5; however the OJT training continues moving forward through the close proximity of both long term and short-term advisors and their interaction with counterparts. An STTA Capacity Building Advisor carried out a series of assessments with the MOF and MOCI during Q3 and based on initial findings it was apparent that the amount and depth of training required by both ministries is large and requires the formulation of a training strategy and the development of a comprehensive TOT program. To this end as we entered our second year a formal proposal was made to USAID for the initiation of a Human Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) scope of work in both ministries. The proposal was accepted by USAID and during Q5 we have deployed HR and training specialists. To date they have completed an HR capability assessment in the MoF, carried out a training needs assessment and submitted a draft report and conducted/completed a management competency survey. All the ground work for the ToT program has also been completed and early in Q6 our first ToT training will begin.



Center -Senior HR Advisor Robert Letchford and counterpart colleagues, pictured during part of the HICD assessment at Bo Waterside Border Post

HICD cross-cutting work stream will support project objectives to implement sustainable training, improve HR record keeping and monitoring systems, and develop and implement a Human Resource Information System (HRIS), that can be linked into for HR reporting and support management of the career development of personnel. Although the HRIS will be developed within MoF, we intend to leave scope for expansion, should the planned implementation of a National Revenue Authority move forward. LTPC will also duplicate this effort within the MOCI.

In the early part of Q6 we will commence a series of training workshops focusing on three topics: Introduction and adoption of Standard Operating Procedures, (developed by LTPC), Introduction and use of the HS Tariff and a basic enforcement guide for IPR.

Activity 6: Identifying non-tariff barriers to trade

The NTB Survey and information gathering exercises were completed and during the final collation of information, discussions were held at Ministerial level, with trade partners and with selected business entities. The final report was submitted and accepted. During Q4/5 an STTA Advisor along

with our LTTA CCN Advisor drove the process and developed a final list of NTB's that was accepted.

Activity 7: Develop NTB elimination action program

This activity flows from activity 6 and currently all players identified in the NTB report are being asked to contribute to the overall reduction/prioritization/implementation strategy. The first meeting of the 'National Trade Facilitation Forum', (NTFF), was planned to take place in Q5. Unfortunately, it was delayed due to GoL discussions on who will lead the committee and who will take overall responsibility for tracking the reduction and elimination of NTB's. This situation will be resolved in the coming quarter and we are confident that the first quarterly meeting of the full committee will take place in December. LTFC continues to work with WB to ensure the success of the NTFF.

Activity 8: Import Permit Declarations and Pre-Shipment Inspection.

The project researched the background to this issue and through discussion with MOF and MOCI, reported that progress has been made in the area of IPD's and continues to be made. The IMF, WB and the EU have also taken up the issue with the MOCI and in unison we will continue to recommend the further reduction of IPD's.

LTFC has also worked closely with both MOF and MOCI to facilitate the installation of the Automated Customs Clearance System (ASYCUDA) in the MOCI. We have procured the required computer equipment needed and the ASYCUDA implementers UNCTAD, are now working to meet MOCI requirements. The timeline for completion of this task depends on UNCTAD's ability to produce required programming. LTFC will pursue the issue in the coming months and MOCI will then be able to automatically issue any remaining IPD's or EPD's through the system, leading to a further reduction in time and cost to business.

As stated in previous reports, the PSI contract remains unsigned. The GOL has again indicated that they expect the new PSI contract will be signed shortly. The incumbent company, BIVAC, continues running on a month to month extension basis. As previously stated, (Q2 report), there have been a number of reviews of the proposed new contract and the consensus remains the same; there is not a solid enough exit strategy built in. LTFC will continue to follow progress and will work to assist in the formulation of an exit strategy in conjunction with GOL. It should be re-iterated at this point, that the amount of training required to enable GOL/BCE to carry out valuation functions at import is formidable. Liberia is not currently in a position to verify values with exporting nations and the current infrastructure will not support it. Anticipated improvements in internet, the signing of regional and international trade agreements and the move toward the WTO will all place Liberia in a better position to take on the role now carried out through PSI.

Activity 9: Administrative and regulatory reform in health and safety

The DCOP, Philip Pleiwon continues to consult with MOCI to determine areas of technical assistance to the Standards Laboratory for LTFC project intervention. We however expect said intervention to come at the start of Q6. Recent discussions would indicate that the best and more sustainable approach will be to use a longer term CCN to assist with this task and will also promote ownership of the new processes and procedures which are developed.

Activity 11: Trade statistics and data analysis

Access and full use of ASYCUDA at MOCI was expected to begin in Q5. LTFC is poised to provide the required assistance; however as previously stated we await the necessary programming to be completed by UNCTAD.

LTFC continues to work closely with Assistant Minister Marvie within MOCI, to implement the plan for improved trade related research, data collection, and analysis. LTFC remain confident that future

statistics produced by the Ministry will be more comprehensive, accurate and meaningful and will allow the Ministry to meet GoL needs and expectations.

Activity 12: Activity Plan for the Price and Marketing Division of the MOCI

The Activity Plan for the Price Analysis and Marketing Division which was completed by LTPC is now in the implementation stage. LTPC has deployed a STTA Advisor who will complete his assignment during Q6. Currently we are working to build a usable price index and train counterpart staff in pricing research, as well as assisting with the building of a sustainable database.

LTPC are currently in contact with MIT who may enter into an agreement with GoL to host the database in 'cloud' form and assist GoL to keep the database updated and relevant. WB will also be carrying out a household survey in 2013 and this data will be added to the database.

Figure 1: Activities under Expected Result 1 – Tariff Simplification, Harmonization, Implementation, and Reduction of Nontariff Barriers

The table below summarizes the status of planned activities under Expected Result 1 as it compares to the work plan.

#	Activity	Work Plan Start	Work Plan Completion	FY2011	FY2012				FY2013				Comments
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Incorporate ECOWAS standards into GOL's draft National Trade Policy	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Continuing. Draft policy in review
2	Rationalize and harmonize tariff structures with ECOWAS	Oct 2011	Mar 2011	X	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				HS Tariff, submitted to WTO
3	Train Customs and Trade Officials	Aug 2011	Aug 2013	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Continual OJT, ToT to start in Q6 Tariff, IPR and SOP training the commence Q6
4	Conduct a media awareness campaign	Oct 2011	Mar 2012	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Awareness materials generated on IPDs and EPDs. Outreach conducted on the new LBR reduction in fees and procedures
5	Deliver ECOWAS CET training with GOL	Oct 2011	April 2012	X	X	X	X	X	ongoing				Training and research commenced and ongoing for the remainder of the project.
6	Identifying non-tariff barriers to trade	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	X	stta	stta	X	stta	X	X	X	X	Completed
7	Develop NTB elimination action program	Jan 2012	June 2012	X	stta	stta	ongoing	stta	ongoing				Preliminary plan developed through LTPC. First committee meeting to be held in Q6
8	Import Permit Declarations and Pre-Shipment Inspection	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Re-launch through media, of goods lists exempted from IPD. Further reduction implemented in Q4. New

														pre-shipment contract due to be signed???
9	Administrative and regulatory reform in health and safety	Oct 2011	April 2012	X	X	X	start ed	ongo ing	ongo ing					Q6 will see further progress, through STTA inputs
10	GAP analysis in ECOWAS protocol implementation	Sept 2011	Nov 2011	X	ongo ing	ongo ing	ongo ing	ongo ing	com plete d	X	X	X		A full comparison was not required. Only the ETLs remains an issue. The fiscal impact study completed in Q4 is in the hands of GoL who continue their negotiations with ECOWAS
11	Trade statistics and data analysis	Sept 2011	June 2012	start ed	ongo ing	ongo ing	ongo ing	ongo ing	ongo ing					ASYCUDA use in MOCI. Internet connection and training Q6. Awaiting UNCTAD programming
12	Activity Plan for the Price and Marketing Division of the MOCI	Oct 2011	April 2012	X	Start ed	ongo ing	ongo ing	com plete d	X	X	X	X		Plan completed. Implementation underway. Completion Q6

Expected Result 2 – Move Liberia toward WTO Accession

- Following a presentation to the WTO led by Liberia's representative, Liberia was granted observer status at the WTO. Under MOCI's leadership, the Integrated Framework (IF) initiative, which the GOL launched to spearhead the WTO accession process, developed an accession plan. We will provide MOCI and the IF coordination unit with technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the accession plan.

Activity 2: Establish and provide assistance to a WTO Accession Team

The WTO accession office is still based at the EIF. The project has encouraged and seen more active participation from MOCI, during Q4. Efforts continue to move the accession offices to MOCI under the supervision of the Assistant Minister. The technical negotiation team has now been established, with representatives from the relevant Ministries and agencies selected. The structure for the team was provided through the project and we continue to offer full support. The LTPC team has been supported by the Swedish Government, who facilitated MOCI, MOA, MOF and others to attend training in Stockholm on WTO Accession planning and requirements.

During Q4 the project continued to provide technical support through our STTA WTO Advisor Ben Irvin. A delay in the arrival of the Swedish WTO assistance project may mean LTPC will need to continue its assistance to MOCI through our STTA advisor. The project has also recruited a LTTA advisor to assist the MOCI in all project activities; but with an emphasis on the WTO accession.

Activity 4: Prepare the WTO first Working Party meeting

In July Liberia delegation, accompanied by LTPC LTTA advisor Katherine Fahrland, successfully participated in its first working party meeting.

Activity 5: Prepare Liberia's Goods and Services Offer

The project has distributed the format and questions to the Ministries concerned and continues to work on collating the information required to assist with the preparation of Liberia's goods and services offer. LTPC has also assisted with all preparations for the visit of the Swedish National Board of Trade that is planned to take place in early November. The SIDA are at the point of signing a long term assistance agreement with GoL. Latest information suggests that the program will commence in January 2013. The first task to be completed by the SIDA project LTTA will be the preparation of the Goods and Services offer and LTPC will continue to assist both our counterparts and our Swedish colleagues.

Activity 6: Research and draft legislation for ECOWAS and WTO compliance

There is no change in this section and the statement below remains extant.

An example 'legislative action plan' has been provided to MOCI and discussions held with the Liberian Law Reform Commission. The project has concluded that this body would be best suited to carry out this task as they have perhaps the best access to the most complete law library in Liberia. We have continued to work with MOCI in the drafting of a finalized action plan and provided a list of laws, by subject area), which should be given priority in the review process. LTPC will continue to monitor the finalized action plan during the coming months; however our Swedish colleagues will be in Liberia for 5 years working solely on Liberia's accession to the WTO.

Activity 7: Provide training on ECOWAS and WTO protocols

This is an ongoing activity for the duration of the project. As stated previously in this report LTPC has embarked on HICD cross-cutting activities in support of the key project objectives. Training needs will be met through these activities that will teach the necessary training skills and provide delivery ownership to counterparts.

Figure 2: Activities under Expected Result 2 – Move Liberia toward WTO Accession

The table below summarizes the status of planned activities under Expected Result 2 as it compares to the work plan.

#	Activity	Work Plan Start	Work Plan Completion	FY2011	FY2012				FY2013				Comments
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Finalize and submit the Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime	June 2011	Sept 2011	Completed	Completed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Submitted
2	Establish and provide assistance to a WTO Accession Team	Aug 2011	Dec 2011	Started	ongoing	stta	ongoing	ongoing	Ongoing				Training in Sweden completed. Possible delay in the implementation of the Swedish Program. Continued assistance through LTFC. Full time Swedish consultants to begin work in January 2013.
3	Respond to WTO MFTR Requests for Clarification	Oct 2011	Aug 2013	Started	started	stta	ongoing	completed	X	X	X	X	Completed and submission made to WTO.
4	Prepare the WTO first Working Party meeting	Oct 2011	Aug 2013	X	X	stta	ongoing	completed	X	X	X	X	The first working party meeting will take place in Geneva on the 11 th of July 2012
5	Prepare Liberia's Goods and Services Offer	Oct 2011	Aug 2013	X	started	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				On track
6	Research and draft legislation for ECOWAS and WTO compliance	Aug 2011	Mar 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Example Legislative action plan submitted to GoL.
7	Provide training on ECOWAS and WTO protocols	Sept 2011	Aug 2013	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Ongoing WTO training; but not for ECOWAS

COMPONENT 2: TRADE FACILITATION AND INTEGRATION

- Deloitte’s strategy to achieve Trade Facilitation and integration expected result is based on the objective of building institutional capacity in the key functions of cargo inspection, tariff classification and customs valuation to allow Customs to gradually phase out PSI over the next 3 to 5 years. We will also modernize the customs legal framework; simplify and harmonize customs procedures and controls in line with international best practices; maximize the use of IT systems; and strengthen customs verification and enforcement through the application of risk management techniques, post-clearance audit controls, and non-intrusive inspection technology. These reforms will support ECOWAS regional integration and WTO membership requirements.

Expected Result 3 – Improve customs procedures so as to reduce delays and costs to traders for complying with customs requirements

Activity 1: Simplify and streamline customs procedures and processes

LTPC continues to give reform advice and address the needs of the BCE in line with the work-plan and addressing new issues as they arise. As previously stated, this is a life of project activity. We continue to await the appointment of a permanent Commissioner.

Activity 2: Assist in finalizing the new customs code

This statement is still extant although it now appears we may not see the new code brought into force during 2012.

As stated in previous reports the new Customs Code has been finalized and checked for compliance with the Revised Kyoto Convention, WTO and ECOWAS requirements. The WB carried out this work and the new code is compliant. The code continues awaiting ratification by GOL and is not likely to be passed into law until 2013.

Activity 3: Assist the GOL in drafting and implementing regulations and administrative instructions

Our STTA Advisor completed the implementing regulations that have been discussed and reviewed with BCE. The final draft was submitted to MOF. It would be beneficial for Liberia if some of the new regulations could be implemented simultaneously with the adoption of the new legislation, as they are compliant with current legislation and offer enhanced controls. As indicated above, we remain hopeful that the new legislation and regulations will be adopted in the near future. The WB intends to send a Customs legal advisor during December and LTPC will coordinate efforts to promote the early adoption of the code and regulations.

Sub-Activity 3.1: Customs Standard Operating Procedures Manual

The Standard Operating Procedures Manual has continued to be adopted. A fuller program of roll out and training will take place early in Q6 and will use a mixture of BCE trainers and LTPC trainers. The training will cover approximately 120 operational staff. As the new procedures come on line LTPC will work with BCE to ensure the ‘Fact Sheets’ developed for the trade, are also printed and made available. One method will be to present them through the NTFF, as all trade related bodies will be represented in this committee. Although primarily designed for the reduction of NTB’s the committee will be the main body to disseminate trade information.

Activity 4: Assist the GOL in ensuring regulations are in compliance with WTO requirements.

Both legislation and regulations are compliant with current WTO requirements and the revised Kyoto Convention.

Activity 5: Improve and strengthen cooperation and consultation between customs, customs brokers, importers, exporters and other stakeholders.

As previously stated, the first meeting of the NTFF was delayed. The inaugural meeting should now take place during December.

Sub-Activity 5.1: Set up a Stakeholder Consultative Committee.

As stated in the previous point, the current committee will remain in force reformed as the NTFF. This initiative has the full support of the WB and will be the focal point for all trade related issues in Liberia.

Sub-Activity 5.2: Assist Customs in implementing a robust Customs broker testing and licensing regime.

The report has been completed and finalized. Implementation will now take place in Q6. Full consultations took place in Q5 and agreement has been reached with the participation of the National Brokers Association.

As LTFC had reported in the past, this issue still remains to be very sensitive, and has been approached with diplomacy. There is a strong support to the idea of re-licensing program needing to take place; however there is caution by all parties, while records for previously licensed brokers appear to be lost. In Q6 we will use a STTA Advisor to assist BCE in the smooth implementation of the program and the setting up a record keeping system.

Figure 3: Activities under Expected Result 3 – Improve customs procedures so as to reduce delays and costs to traders for complying with customs requirements

The table below summarizes the status of planned activities under Expected Result 3 as it compares to the work plan.

#	Activity	Work Plan Start	Work Plan Completion	FY2011	FY2012				FY2013				Comments
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	Simplify and streamline customs procedures and processes	Sept 2011	Aug 2013	Started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Ongoing for the project duration
1.1	Develop a cargo release time study	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	X	started	stta	X	completed	X	X	X	X	Completed.
1.2	Analyze timeframes for all types of cargo	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	X	started	stta	ongoing	completed	X	X	X	X	Completed. To be used in conjunction with the NTB study during project life
1.3	Propose alternative solutions and develop a detailed action plan to streamline each regime	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				To be implemented during Q6. First consultative meeting delayed until December
1.4	Introduce automated risk management techniques	Oct 2011	Aug 2013	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
2	Assist in finalizing the new customs code	Sept 2011	Jan 2012	Completed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Code completed and awaiting adoption by the GOL
3	Assist the GOL in drafting and implementing regulations and administrative instructions	Sept 2011	June 2012	Started	2 x stta	X	X	completed	X	X	X	X	Standard operating procedures completed. Implementing regulations completed
4	Assist the GOL in ensuring regulations are in compliance with WTO requirements	Sept 2011	Nov 2011	Started	stta	X	X	completed	X	X	X	X	New code compliant. Regulations compliant

4.1	Undertake a diagnostic study to benchmark Liberia's WTO Compliance	Sept 2011	Aug 2012	Started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Liberia thus far compliant.
4.2	Prepare an appropriate action plan on compliance for consideration by the NTFF	Oct 2011	June 2012	X	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Action plan developed, will be implemented through the NTFF.
5	Improve and strengthen cooperation and consultation between customs, customs brokers, importers, exporters and other stakeholders	Aug 2011	Aug 2013	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Ongoing assistance. Project life
5.1	Set up a Stakeholder Consultative Committee	Aug 2011	Oct 2011	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Committee, (NTFF) set up completed, awaiting first meeting in December
5.2	Assist Customs in implementing a robust Customs broker testing and licensing regime	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	Started	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Brokers program completed. Re-licensing planning completed. Licensing to begin Q5
6	Conduct training programs on Customs Valuation	Oct 2011	Mar 2012	X	X	X	X	X	X				Until the new legislation is adopted, valuation training will be pre-emptive.
7	Training at LIPA and Customs	Aug 2011	Aug 2013	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Initial consultation with LIPA. Ongoing program activity

COMPONENT 3: STRENGTHEN PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- In Liberia, the benefits of improved IPR protection are clear to economists and more sophisticated businessmen and entrepreneurs, but far less so to the population at large. With its intent to join the WTO and to comply with other IP-related international agreements, Liberia must comply with tighter rules and standards in order to qualify, which will have a clear, positive impact on the Liberian economy in the long run. Greater IPR protection encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, should businessmen and innovators become sufficiently aware of the processes and benefits involved through education and outreach. The Liberian population as a whole will benefit from the increased economic activity as well as reduced dangers from cheap, counterfeit products that threaten its health and safety. Deloitte will work with the GOL to make public awareness a centerpiece of its offering.

Expected Result 4 – Increase knowledge and capacity of GOL on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

Activity 1: Develop and implement an IP policy framework

Our LTTA CCN IPR Advisor Fanta Conde-Barclay continues her work to develop the draft IP Policy Framework. LTTC will bolster this work with the return of our STTA advisor Mark Eghrari during November.

Activity 2: Prioritize recommendations from WIPO's assessment of Liberia's IPR regime

An action plan for implementation over the coming quarters is in development and this activity is driven by our CCN LTTA advisor in a collaborative effort with MOCI. The implementation will be driven by GoL with the continued assistance of LTTC. Our STTA Advisor will assist during his return.

Activity 3: Strengthen IPR protection unit within the Bureau of Customs

LTTC plans to conduct basic training on IP concepts for the Bureau of Customs to be followed by training on TRIPS Border Protection Measures. The training will begin in November and will be a collaborative effort with the new BCE IPR Director. This remains all very new to customs and requires careful change management work to support implementation. LTTC will continue to assist during the coming quarters.

Activity 4: Support Automation for LIPO and the copyright office and train the Coordination Unit

No activities were carried out in this area during the quarter. LTTC will move into this area during the coming months.

Activity 5: Create a training program and Liberia-specific materials/training on IPR

Liberia specific IPR materials have already been developed, and more will continue to be developed throughout the duration of the project. These materials will be shared with government agencies, public interest groups, trade associations and the US Embassy in order to help reach business people and individuals who can benefit from these materials. Currently LTTC is developing public outreach information manual, which will relay IP concepts across all interest groups and associations. This approach seems appropriate as the concept is completely new in Liberia.

- Discussions with artists and organizations continue; but we all await passage of the draft laws in order to develop effective strategies for IPR protection. Our LTTA CCN IPR Advisor is currently working with the Law Reform Commission to finalize the 'Liberia Intellectual Property Act 2012. The new Act is in line with international laws and conventions. The passage of all legislation is slow and the Law Reform Commission appears overwhelmed. This situation will come to a head, especially in light of the WTO accession, which involves a large amount of legislative change.

Activity 7: Implement a permanent MOCI training program

LTPC has been in consultation with the Judiciary to ascertain the best approach to their specific needs. During November we will work with the LTPC STTA Advisor to develop workshop style events for Judges and Lawyers. Further specialized training will be developed for those assigned to IPR issues within the MOCI.

The LTPC HICD program will be heavily involved in the development and delivery of ToT training events, allowing MOCI to roll out to all staff. The HICD experts have already commenced a training needs analysis and completed an organizational health survey. The reports will be finalized during November.

Figure 4: Expected Result 4 – Increase knowledge and capacity of GOL on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

The table below summarizes the status of planned activities under Expected Result 4 as it compares to the work plan.

#	Activity	Work Plan Start	Work Plan Completion	FY2011	FY2012					FY2013				Comments
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1	Develop and implement an IP policy framework	Aug 2011	Dec 2011	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Policy development in progress	
2	Prioritize recommendations from WIPO's assessment of Liberia's IPR regime	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	X	X	stta	ongoing		X	X	X	X	Completed. Now back on the table.	
3	Strengthen IPR protection unit within the Bureau of Customs	Aug 2011	Mar 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Training materials developed for delivery in conjunction with the newly appointed BCE IP Director. (November)	
4	Support Automation for LIPO and the copyright office and train the Coordination Unit	Sept 2011	Feb 2012	X	started	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Ongoing support through MOCI of all automation	
4.1	Automation	Sept 2011	Feb 2012	X	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Ongoing support through MOCI of all automation. Price Index development underway.	
4.2	IP Coordination Unit	Sept 2011	Feb 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Coordination of IP is in place through the IPR office located within the MOCI. This office is now supported through a LTTA CCN IPR advisor	
5	Create a training program and Liberia-specific materials/training on IPR	Sept 2011	May 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Some training material developed and delivered. Further development and delivery in progress	

5.1	Train Customs Officials	Sept 2011	May 2012	X	X	X	X	ongoing	ongoing				Materials in developed. Delivery of initial training in November.
5.2	Prepare training programs for GOL Ministries	Sept 2011	May 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Some modules developed. Further modules in Q6 and throughout the life of the project
5.3	Develop informational materials for entrepreneurs/inventors	Sept 2012	Mar 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Materials in development
5.4	Work with Artists/Organizations to improve IPR protections	Sept 2012	Aug 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Materials in development
5.5	Increase Public Awareness	Sept 2012	May 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Materials in development
6	Strengthen judicial understanding and enforcement	Jan 2012	Aug 2013	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Judicial consultations carried out. Still awaiting new legislation
7	Implement a permanent MOCI training program	Oct 2011	May 2012	X	X	stta	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing				Basic analysis carried out. Further action in the coming months through HICD
8	Conduct public outreach	Jan 2012	Aug 2013	X	X	X	X	X	X				Will start in Q6

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- There are currently two outstanding pieces of legislation under review by the Law Reform Commission. The process is frustratingly slow and the legislation can have an impact on implementation. LTPC continues to assist and to consult at Ministerial level to drive the ratification of this legislation.
- The start of the LTCP HICD program and the associated training it will bring is a great step forward for the project. The coming months will see a hive of activity within both the MoF and the MOCI.
- A debilitating factor has been and continues to be the lack of infrastructure and equipment within GOL Ministries. The basic computing and communication needs are sadly lacking and can have a detrimental and profound effect on reform and Governmental moral.

STATUS OF OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE ON THE MONITORING PLAN

Q5 RESULTS (BASED ON THE COMPONENT OBJECTIVES)

High level results

Indicator	2010 Baseline	Target value Y1 (15 months)	Q5 Value	Notes
Liberia's performance on the Heritage Foundation "Trade Freedom" index	53.8 (2009)	65	53.8	NTB elimination

Result indicators

Component 1, Result 1 – Tariff Simplification, Harmonization, Implementation and Reduction of Nontariff Barriers

Indicator	2010 Baseline	Target value Y1 (15 months)	Q5 Value	Notes
Number of public awareness campaigns launched as part of a NTB Reduction Initiative	n/a	2	0	No campaigns launched in Q5

Component 1, Result 2 – Move Liberia toward WTO Accession

There are no applicable quarterly indicators under Component 1 Result 2 to report.

Component 2, Result 3: Improve Customs Procedures

Indicator	2010 Baseline	Target value Y1 (15 months)	Q5 Value	Notes
Reduction in days required for imports	15	-10%	11	Documented through TRS study reduction in Q4
Reduction in days required for exports	17	-10%	0	No documented reduction in Q5
Reduction in number of documents required for import	9	1	8	No requirement for an IPD on selected imports
Trainings conducted for customs agents, officials, brokers and traders	--	8	2	These activities will commence in earnest in Q6
Number of customs agents, officials, brokers and traders trained	--	150	62	These activities will commence in earnest in Q6

Component 3, Result 4: Increase knowledge and capacity of GOL on protection of intellectual property rights

Indicator	2010 Baseline	Target value Y1 (15 months)	Q5 Value	Notes
Number of parties trained on intellectual property rights	--	20	3 seminars	Activities will

protection				continue in Q6
Number of IPR-related public outreach events	--	2	0	Activities will commence in Q6
Customs staff trained on new IPR enforcement guidelines and procedures	--	TOT program developed	The TOT program development was postponed until Q5	Activities commenced in Q5
Number of project-facilitated discussions between Liberian business groups and the Customs Bureau	TBD	4	1	Further discussions planned in the coming months through the NTFB

Improved gender equality

Indicator	2010 Baseline	Target value Y1 (15 months)	Q5 Value	Notes
Number of women participating in public-private sector dialogues on trade and WTO	N/A	10% participation in all events	10 Govt. delegates attended WTO planning in Sweden. 2 were women	20%. 1 event. Further women delegates attending the WTO in Geneva during July.

DISCREPANCIES (IF ANY) BETWEEN THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND QUARTERLY REPORTS

The project is on track for the completion of all tasks however we continue to alter timelines where it makes sense to do so and to re-prioritize activities based on GOL's needs.

Further changes may be required and some tasks timeline may be affected by the events outside of LTPC project's scope. For example, the adoption of a new law or procedure can have an impact on other project activities.

We continue to be adaptive to the needs of GOL and to try not to duplicate work being carried out by other donor organizations.