

DRAFT REPORT

Liberia History Organizing Conference

13-16 May 2013

Monrovia, Liberia

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I. Introduction

The Liberia National History Project is a key output of the Vision 2030 and one of the twelve thematic areas in the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peace Building and Reconciliation. Vision 2030, the multi-dimensional approach to development in socio, political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural rationality, designed to transform Liberia from a war ravaged country to a developing nation—setting in motion a vibrant economy and strong sense of national identity. The Reconciliation Road Map (ranging from traditional forms of truth telling, memorialization, to writing an inclusive people’s history, amongst others) is conceived as a direct outgrowth of this National Strategy. On December 12, 2012, (12.12.12), in Gbarnga Bong County, Liberians from all walks of life (including Liberian representatives of European, African and American Diasporas) gathered and launched the Vision 2030 as the framework to promote socio-economic development in Liberia over the next 18 years.

As an integral component of the Vision, the history project seeks to contribute to reconciliation in Liberia’s post-war era by assisting in developing historical consciousness (and clarification of myths and falsehoods) among the people of Liberia and to strengthen national identity, unity and social cohesion in line with the National Vision 2030, *"One People, One Nation, United for Peace and Sustainable Development"*.

On May 13, 2013, the History Project kicked off, starting with the Organizing Conference. The event brought together an array of Liberian historians and experts, including political scientists, anthropologists and specialists in other academic fields. Local participants comprised ministers, commissioners, directors of agencies, members of the national Legislature, senior level civil servants, the Association of Liberian Universities and members of the press. Development partners attending the conference included representatives of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), National Civil Society Council and other members from the international NGOs (non-governmental organizations) sector.

The organizers had selected the University of Liberia, Fendall Campus Auditorium as the venue for sentimental reasons. As the flagship institution of Liberia, it was only logical that an event of this nature be hosted by the University. However, on 14, May, 2013, the authorities of the University

informed the Governance Commission that it was closed, in observation of the national holiday. Due to this unforeseen eventuality, the proceedings were relocated to the Governance Commission Conference Room for the second day and to the NEC (National Elections Commission) Conference Room for the last two days.

The focus of the Organizing Conference was three-pronged: (1) to bring together Liberian historians and experts knowledgeable in the history of Liberia so as to discuss and amend the history proposal assembled by the Governance Commission; (2) to establish terms of reference, structure, project budget, draft outline, work plan, assign writing tasks to scholars, align the curriculum development process to the history project, discuss the Liberia Historical Society and the strategy to resuscitate it; and finally (3) to agree on scope and time frame. This report is a narrative of the proceedings of the conference and its outcomes.

II. Opening Ceremony

The conference began with an official ceremony. Speeches and remarks were made by government officials (including the Liberian Legislature), development partners, UNMIL, UNESCO, and civil society representatives. All the remarks echoed the significance of the history project and underlined Liberia's divisive history as one of the root causes of perennial conflict. In particular, UNESCO highlighted the project "as ideal and not only for the purpose of inclusive history writing but rather maximizing the opportunity so that a new and transformative educational system evolves; one that is both rich in pedagogy and value-base in foundation".¹

Commission made the following observations: "It [the history project] is not a project in search of a single or official narrative of the Liberian experience,; instead it is expected that the array of historical interpretations will talk to each other in a manner that is edifying, contested when and where necessary, and in search of productive outcomes for our country. This project is not a government project, narrowly conceived and politically powered. Instead it is a national project. It is founded in the desired of the Liberian people to better understand their past in order to build anew. It is inspired more recently by our national vision and the national reconciliation

¹ UNESCO Opening speech

road map and it draws from the expertise and builds upon the initiatives of Liberian scholars, especially those sitting right here today.”²

On national ownership, Dr. Sawyer further emphasized that, “we expect the Liberian government, on behalf of the Liberian people, to support the project’s core budget, especially in the initial stages, remain committed to supporting the independence and integrity of this project and ensure that contents and products of this project inform our curricula and the textbooks in our schools. We see our international partners such as UNESCO providing technical support to this project as a National project and not as a donor driven project with venue in Liberia.”³

III. Session One: Organization of the Project

— Dr. Elwood Dunn, Lead Discussant

Session One focused on the organization of the project, sources and management of finance, definition of roles, including those of the Government, Advisory Committee, Expert Panel and Editorial Board. Expected outputs, timelines and composition of the Advisory Committee, Expert Panel and Editorial Board, among others. Dr. Elwood Dunn, lead discussant framed the first session by making the following generalization on Liberian history and its problems. He referred to it as Liberia historical problematic and made the following observations:

- Liberia has a contested history
- Examining Liberia’s history prior to and after 1980 coup tells us that Liberians are a divided people with a weak sense of national identity
- There are shortcomings in recording the unfoldings of historical events in Liberia. This is one of the problematics of Liberian history.
- The Liberian history project goes beyond accurate historical recordings. The project needs to consider the following:
 - Employ science to write Liberia history as objectively as possible
 - Seek to know whether a contested history is part of our past legacy, including the legacy of civil war;
 - Seek to know whether there is value in writing history with a purpose in mind - a history that reconciles, builds national

² Chairman Sawyer’s opening remarks

³ ibid

community and helps foster a clearer sense of Liberian national identity

- Written works, archeology and oral tradition

We must make one of our goals the writing of our history and with that purpose in mind, we must pose the following questions:

- Should Liberia history give way to Liberia future?
- Are we experiencing a gravitational pull toward a national rebirth?
- Should we draw meaning from our historical legacy such that we imagine a different path, a path of citizenship?
- Should we, in our endeavor to rewrite history, also bear in mind Prof Mahmood Mamdani's notion of the politics of naming?

IV. Plenary Discussion Administration and Structuring

The History Project proposes two key structures:

1. Expert Panel of Historians
2. National Advisory Committee

Additional structures proposed during the deliberations included a Resource Board to mobilize material resources for the project. More specifically other suggestions included:

- The establishment of a Trust Fund for the History Project to be managed by the editorial board with oversight from the Advisory Committee
- Broad-based citizens' participation and civil society involvement. The current overarching structure lack civil society and broad-based citizens' participation. It should be revised accordingly;
- A conflict management structure that is essential to prevent ideological conflict over what to include and those to reject from the historical narratives. It will also eliminate perception/notion about individuals or organizations trying to control content.

Role of the Advisory Committee

- Provide and guarantee an enabling environment for the history project
- Encourage collaboration across various disciplines; and especially interactions between curriculum specialists and scholars on the history project. For example, curriculum development is a matter for Government and not necessarily for scholars to determine. Although scholars are to provide baseline materials, content will be determined by government, through the Ministry of Education and not historians. The Advisory Committee will ensure much of this collaboration.
- Will lead fundraising campaigns to ensure the project is nationally driven and funded largely through government's revenue

Other related issues of structure included:

- Timeline for submission,
- Writing responsibility for scholars should commensurate with finances to avoid a situation of overburdening; for e.g. develop outline for the Liberia history project to guide the writing process and distribution of task, i.e. who to write what and when to submit draft product for peer review purposes.

Even though the Project will provide a general outline for official history writing, it should not and cannot be used to restrict unofficial initiatives of history writing. Let people [outside of the project] write whatever they want to write.

V. Session Two: Drafting a General History of Liberia: What is History Writing

— **Dr. William Allen, Lead Discussant**

Session Two focused on establishing guiding principles, the character, scope, direction and broad orientation of the general history. Some of the key questions framed for wider plenary discussion included: What type of history do we want to write? What areas do we want to focus on or cover (history from below or above; economic, social, cultural, gender, diplomatic/military) and explaining what that means. Other issues framed for discussion included epistemology, i.e. what is historical knowledge and its purpose and what would constitute a legitimate Liberia history, categories, definitions and methodology.

On account of what is history and what does it mean to write a general history of Liberia, discussions ranged from reconciling competing narratives, addressing myths and falsehoods through historical clarification to the notion of history being the function of synthesis rather than an exact science. Plenary discussion also triggered a discussion on revisionism, history writing and reconciliation, historians as investigators; whether it was proper to engage with this project from the perspective of satisfying the purpose [of reconciliation] in mind or using the evidence as guide in the writing process.

Expectations of Liberian History

- Review and revise current trajectory of modern day Liberian history from one based on conquest to one that is inclusive and promotes cultural and traditional diversity;
- Address crisis of identity and clarify myths and falsehoods
- Write an inclusive, transformative and popular history,
- Provide a totality of the Liberian experience including gender and children, among others.

Revisionist History Writing

- Addressing myths such as Matilda Newport and national symbols (as well as other foundational legends) should guide the history writing process,
- Myths and falsehoods are divisive and should be purged through the process of historical clarification.
- In re-writing Liberian history, the purpose of weaving together a narrative that promotes unity, reconciliation and social cohesion must feature prominent;

Historians as investigators often follow the facts regardless of where it leads and are unlikely to write with a purpose in mind because they are disinclined to purging historical narratives that fit a particular objective. Thus, historians/investigators are more inclined to re-writing a history that promote patriotism and national identity without guaranteeing that it could engender national reconciliation. Because history writing often uncovers new facts by providing new evidences, the latter could be achieved not immediately but over time. So then, what value does re-writing Liberia history bring to national reconciliation? Facts and evidence of injustices and exclusion in a new historical narrative for instance, it could trigger

resentment and call for accountability among some social groups. In more concrete terms it could:

- Identify multiple strands of ethnic groups and examine dynamics (eg history of conflict/ inter group fighting within Americo Liberians bloc)
- Discovered that indigenous societies are not monolithic and neither are Americo-Liberians
- Chronicle history of corporations and conflict across ethnics groups

Nationalism and Nationalist History—What Would Constitute a Legitimate Liberia History?

- Balancing historical narrative that is nationalist and national
- Writing a story of a human community with diverse culture and traditional practices;
- Writing a narrative that promotes minimization of our differences but illuminates and our similarities;
- Outside-inside history writing approach provides an advantage and gives much visibility across cultural variations.

Tools for History Writing

- Socio-linguistics, migration (internal and external) and interaction of our people is integral in tracking movement overtime.
- Lessons of migration and settlement
- Truth and accountability may not promote reconciliation but may promote identity and patriotism
- Going back to the villages to listen to oral tradition

Periodization and Chronology

Issues of periodization and chronology were considered in light of watershed moments in Liberia history. It was selected for the purpose of addressing specific period and time in Liberia history.

1. Liberia before 1822: the indigenous people of Liberia before the settlement
2. Liberia from the 1822 to1847: from colonization to independence
3. Liberia from 1847 to 1904: post-independence administrative, economic and social development

4. Liberia from 1905 to 1980: expansion into the interior, administrative, political, economic, and social and beginning of modernization and the deepening of relations with outside world
5. Liberia from 1980 to present: conflict period and efforts at peace building and reconciliation.

Session two plenary discussion concluded with a decision to divide up the participants into four working groups.

VI. Working Groups and their Reports to Plenary

On Day Two, delegates were divided into four working groups. Each group was mandated to deliberate, make findings and report back to plenary on the below thematic issues:

- Overarching theme and periodization
- Themes in Liberia History
- Terms of Reference, legal status, Structure and budget
- Challenges

(See annexes below on working group presentations.)

VII. Session Three: Institutionalizing the Study and Preservation of Liberian History – a Proposal for the Formation of a Liberia Historical Society

— Dr. Augustine Konneh, Lead Discussant

The Liberia Historical Society was established in the 1960s but has since disintegrated for a number of reasons; key among them was the Civil War. Thus, it was agreed to re-establish the Society to perform the following functions:

- Encourage and promote scholarly research of major historical topics affecting the interest of the nation;
- Guide scholars of Liberian history to pursue good, objective and honest research that will help to provide a comprehensive narrative of the history of the nation and its various people;
- Encourage and provide guidelines for the development of a national historical standards for a curriculum for the schools in Liberia
- Research into folklore, art, music and oral literature

VIII. Plenary

Generally, participants welcomed the idea of establishing a historical society. On structure, it was discussed and agreed that the same structure of the defunct Historical Society be adopted. On the question of when to establish the Society and sequencing, it was debated that establishment of the Society could compete with the History Project and so it was critical to study it more closely. It was also discussed that research into previous historical societies be drawn such that it informs the resuscitation of postwar historical society.

IX. Session Four: Consultative Conference on Developing a New History Curriculum and Standards for Liberian Schools

— **Ms. Roselyn Swaray**

A curriculum represents a set of desired goals that are developed and culminate in experienced learning for students. An effective curriculum must meet the following criteria: it must be specific, measured by outcomes and indicators, have content with supporting activities and have components on monitoring and evaluation. In view of curriculum development, it is hopeful that the history writing process will lead to the production of valuable history curriculum and standards on Liberian schools. The Ministry of Education is committed to this project. In support of this project a committee has been set up to:

- Draft curriculum for Liberian schools, grade 1 – 12. The draft will go across the country for validation;
- Draft operational plan for implementation for curriculum require text books and it must be in curriculum context.

X. Plenary Discussion

What happened to the teaching of Civics in the Schools?

- Draft National Citizenship Curriculum is being circulated for validation, and this will address the issue of civics. This draft has components on peacebuilding, conflict sensitivity and resolution. This is even beyond civic, and will not be limited to academic education, but will be taught in all institutions of learning

When should the curriculum development process begin? After the history writing process or commence simultaneously?

- The timeline to complete the history writing process is five years. Five years is too long a time. The curriculum process has to be now, otherwise an entire generation of kids will be born without knowing the history of Liberia

XI. Closing ceremony

On Thursday, 16 May 2013, the four-day Organizing Conference was brought to close. Attending the closing ceremony were senior level government officials, key among them was Vice President Joseph Nyuma Boakai. Our international development partners were also in attendance, including the representatives of UNMIL (United National Mission in Liberia) and UNESCO (the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). Critical reflections and remarks were offered to energize the process while a post-conference agenda was sketched out as guide to Liberia's journey to write a general and comprehensive history.

Nearly all speakers began by thanking the Governance Commission for the central leadership role played over the organization of the project. Some expressed hope in the process because of the involvement of Liberian scholars and their demonstrable knowledge and expertise over Liberia's history. Partners indicated that the involvement of competent Liberian citizens offers greater assurance that indeed the project will be successful and eventually produce a National History that is home-grown, Liberia-centered, driven with a sense of national belonging that may inspire and strengthen the desire for unity of purpose.

Others said the breadth and depth that characterized the four-day conference was further demonstration that the project will not only achieve its intellectual goal of writing a total history of the Liberian experience but would go beyond to promote critical issues of peace building and reconciliation.

In particular, UNESCO used the occasion to reaffirm its commitment to the process. The UNESCO representative at the event said: "Our association with the National History Project is not optional. I want to unequivocally reaffirm UNESCO's continued commitment to supporting the process. The UN Country Team's support will be coordinated with that of other UN Agencies within the framework of the UN common delivery processes which, in our UN jargon, is called *Deliver as One*."

George Kieh, political scientist and member of the Expert Panel of the History Project was asked to summarize the four-day proceedings. After delivering his summary, he challenged Liberian existential notions of where we come from as a people and where we are? In response he made the following observations: "We seek to promote the twin critical processes of national reconciliation and unity, we cannot afford any longer to spend time debating where our forebears came from; how they got to the place we now call Liberia; and when they got here. Instead, we must focus our collective energies on building a new democratic and prosperous Liberia based on the respect for ethnic and religious pluralism, and the promotion of social justice; a Liberia in which the cultural, economic, environmental, political, religious and social rights of all Liberians are fully respected; and a Liberia in which all will enjoy the full rights of "social citizenship irrespective of their background. God willing, I am fully confident that we can build that Liberia".

Dr. Kieh assured the people of Liberia that the Panel of Experts will do Liberia proud by writing an inclusive history that recognizes the contributions of all of its cultural-ethnic stocks and groups, thereby contributing to the collective quest for national reconciliation and unity.

The Vice President Boakai thanked the organizers and Liberian experts who came down from the Diaspora to volunteer their services. He said: "It is good to see that Liberians, despite their political affiliations, were always available to assist with the process of nation-building. It says a lot about the fact that we are all one people regardless of our differences and our past and that what matters the most is how we move forward."

In closing, UNESCO was praised for its support, as was UNMIL and Civil Society. Special recognition was also accorded to those experts who had travelled from afar to attend the Conference and, in particular, Vice President Boakai for his expressed support and for ensuring that the Project benefits from the political commitment required to complete the task.

XII. Annexes

a. Annex I: Working Groups

i. Overarching Themes & Periodization

- Diversity is healthy—diversity promotes the idea of Pan Africanism
 - Liberia: The Making of a Pan African Nation
 - Liberia: The Making of an African Nation
 - The Making of a Liberian Nation: various culture one People
 - The Making of a Liberian Nations: Various African Cultures, one people
-
- LIBERIA BEFORE 1822—Indigenous peoples of Liberia before the settlement
 - 1822 to 1847—from Colony to Independence
 - 1847 to 1904—The Early Republic Era
 - 1905 to 1980—Popular Struggle and State Consolidation
 - 1980 to Present: Between Revolution and Reform.

Group members

No.	Names	
1	Augustine Konneh, PhD	
2	Thomas Jaye, PhD	
3	Joseph S. Guannu, PhD	
4	Daniel Towalid	
5	Herbert Brewer, PhD	
6	Cecelia Flomo (Rapporteur/Notetaker)	Governance Commission

ii. Themes in Liberian History

Migration and Settlement of Various Groups:

- Migration is not an event, rather a process that is ongoing.
- Liberia is a country of immigrants; different social groups arrived at different times, African Americans were one of the last groups that immigrated.

- Visit theories of migration of languages, i.e. South African theory or the Nigerian-Cameroonian theory
- Were there people in Liberia prior to the coming of the ethnic groups?
- Seek archeological evidence before the arrival of the immigrants.

Liberian Mosaic

- Liberia is a heterogeneous society consisting of different ethnic and linguistics groups.
- Liberia has a history of conquest and it is divisive
- There is a history that needs to emphasize the interaction among people rather than conquest and conflict
- Identification of peoples in Liberia and stereotypes, how people call themselves and how others refer to them

Sub-regional, Socio-economic, and Political Context

- Contacts and interactions between Liberian ethnic groups and others in the region
- Trade
- Ethnic movements and acculturation
- Ethnic boundaries versus national boundaries

Class and Ethnicity

- Economic and political classifications in Liberian society
- Congos, Americo-Liberians and indigenous Liberians; Nigeria, Sierra Leone (coasters) and Caribbean (newcomers).

Integration and Reconciliation

- Marriage/intermarriages
- Religion
- Education
- Culture (e.g. indigenous fraternities and educational institutions)
- Music and Dance
- Tradition

Justice

Sources and Roots of Conflict

- Land
- Religion
- Liberian history itself (divisive history)
- Political economy

Memorialization

- Historical Memorialization

Gender

- Women in Liberian history

Artistic Industry

- Dances
- Music
- Carving
- Historical sites

Group members

No.	Names	Address
1	M. Alpha Bah, PhD	University Liberia
2	George Jallah	Cuttington University
3	Jeanette Carter, PhD	University of Liberia
4	Samuel Ngovo, PhD	Ferris State University
5	Abdul Rahman Lamin, PhD	UNESCO
6	Hon. Bloh P. Sayeh	Center for National Documents, Records, Agency and Archives
7	James Logan	SubahBelleh and Associate
8	Rev. Emmanuel Bowier	Consultant
9	G. Ralph Jimmeh	Civil Society Organization
10	Ibrahim Al - Bakri Nyei	Governance Commission

iii. Challenges

Challenge: Logistics of information – info not in Liberia.

Solution: Survey information sources before beginning

Challenge: Cynicism—suspicion over project

Solution: Publicity and communication; focused discussion and shared understanding

Challenge: Class-oriented

Solution: Include traditional and uneducated. Project has to have a list of broad, diverse and various areas clearly define on theme and diversity

Challenge: Publication and Distribution of final product

Solution: Hold forums and symposiums, validation of the document; For credibility, get an international publisher. UNESCO? Come to the public, writers and contributors, peer review, i.e. Drama

Challenge: Independence from Government

Solution: Autonomy of; diversify sources of funding; UN peacebuilding fund and other educational foundations

Challenge: Quality

Solution: Make accessible to all by storing in National Archive

Challenge: Capturing the audience

Solution: Go beyond a Monrovia-centric audience

Challenge: Cohesiveness of editorial, expert and management team; keeping the team together

Solution: Organizers who can manager conflict and delegate responsibility

Challenge: Weaving an inclusive history from a diverse historical perspectives

Solution: A holistic narrative, polycentric; mindful to include labor culture

Challenge: Issues of balance;

Solution: Seek balance in sources

Challenge: Lack of history programs

Solution: Empower Liberians; identify local historians to contribute to the history writing process

Challenge: Montserrado-driven

Solution: Decentralize the history project;

Challenge: Sectioning the historical periods

Challenge: Marking by major historical events; e. g. 1st indigenous Vice President

Challenge: Archiving the final product and achieving the goals

Group Members

No.	Name	Address
1	Roselyn Swaray	
2	Nathaniel Kwabo	
3	Verlone Stone, PhD	
4	Jim Gray, PhD	
5	Patricia Jabbeh Wesley	
6	Tirso Dos Santos	
7	Toushi Itoka	
8	Hartwoart Payne	
9	Klonnious Blamo	
10	Timothy Nevin, PhD	
11	Raphael Abiem	

iv. Resolution

1. The Structure

Background

The Liberian History Project shall have the following entities: Advisory Committee, Panel of Experts, and Secretariat. The composition and terms of reference of these entities are discussed in this section of the report.

The Advisory Committee

Composition: The Advisory Committee shall comprise the following:

The Governance Commission, Chair
Ministry of Education, Co-Chair
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ex-Officio
Association of Liberian Universities
Center for National Documentation and Records Agency
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism
National Teachers Association of Liberia
Council of Chiefs and Elders
Inter-Religious Council
Liberian Studies Association
National Council of Civil Society Organizations of Liberia
Mr. Kenneth Best
Rev. J. Emmanuel Bowier
William Togba
Justice Soko Sackor
3 others to be recommended

Functions: The Advisory Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Mobilize financial, material and logistical resources for the Project
2. Provide general administrative supervision for the Project. However, this shall not include the intellectual and academic contents of the Project.

3. Enter into agreements and contracts with both domestic and external organizations and entities, and individuals on behalf of the Project.
4. Approve the budget of the Project
5. Appoint the initial members of the Panel of Experts
6. Appoint the members of the secretariat of the project.

The Panel of Experts

The General Panel

Composition: The initial General Panel of Experts will consist of the following individuals:

Dr. William E. Allen
Dr. M. Alpha Bah
Dr. Amos J. Beyan
Dr. Herbert Brewer
Dr. Augustine Konneh
Dr. Samuel B. Ngovo
Ms. P. Bloh Sayeh
Dr. Joseph S. Guannu
Dr. D. Elwood Dunn
Dr. C. Patrick Burrowes
Dr. George Klay Kieh, Jr.
Dr. Thomas Jaye
Dr. Patricia Jabbeh Wesley

The General Panel shall elect one of its members as the chair. The chair shall serve as the liaison between the Panel, on the one hand, and the Project's Advisory Committee and Secretariat, on the other.

Functions: The General Panel of Experts will have the following responsibilities:

1. Overall responsibility for the conduct of research and the writing for the Project.
2. Appoint additional members of the Panel of Experts in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

3. Appoint and supervise the members of the Editorial Board.
4. Formulate the editorial guidelines for the conduct of research and the writing of the various chapters that the Project shall contain.
5. Develop the budget of the project and submit it to the Advisory Committee for approval.
6. Manage the budget of the Project under the supervision of the Advisory Committee.
7. Assign the chapters to the various researchers that will participate in the Project.
8. Approve the research related expenses of the authors of the various chapters of the volumes.
9. Appoint and supervise the members of the Research Resource Committee of the Panel of Experts.

The Editorial Board

Composition: The Editorial Board shall consist of five members—editor-in-chief and four members—appointed by the General Panel of Experts.

Functions: The Editorial Board shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Manage the research and writing of the various chapters for the volumes of the Project.
2. Conduct and manage a two-pronged external peer review process of the various chapters that shall constitute the volumes
3. Have final editorial authority over the intellectual and academic contents of the various chapters that shall constitute the volumes of the Project.

The Research Resource Committee

Composition: The Research Resource Committee shall consist of members to be appointed by the General Panel of Experts.

Functions: The Research Resource Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Assist the General Panel of experts in the identification of various research sources and materials for the Project.
2. Train the research assistants for the Project.
3. Carry out other responsibilities that are assigned by the General Panel of Experts.

The Secretariat

Composition: The Secretariat of the Project shall consist of a coordinator to be appointed by the Advisory Committee. In turn, the coordinator shall appoint other members of the Secretariat with the approval of the Advisory Committee.

Functions: The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as the clearinghouse, and administrative arm of the Project.
2. Make the logistical arrangements for conferences, meetings and related activities of the Project.
3. Keep and manage the budget for the Project.
4. Coordinate the Project's outreach activities.
5. Coordinate the Project's press and public affairs activities.
6. Carry out other responsibilities to be assigned by the Advisory Committee and the General Panel of Experts.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE PROJECT

The Liberian History Project shall be an independent and autonomous entity. The autonomy of the Project shall be particularly reflected in the conduct of the research for, and the writing of, the various

chapters for the Project's volumes. In this vein, neither the Government of Liberia, any of its agencies nor any internal and external entity shall have any control over the intellectual and academic contents of the project.

However, in the future, following the completion of the Project, the Government of Liberia may consider the creation of a permanent Liberian History Commission. In such a case, the Government shall then formulate the structure and terms of reference for the Commission.

v. The Liberian History Project Draft Operational Budget 2012-2013

	Activities	Unit/Pers on	Unit Cost	Mont h	Total Cost
1.0	Personnel				
	The Secretariat				
1.1	Project Administrator	1	4,000	60	240,000.00
1.2	Research Coordinator	1	3,000	60	180,000.00
1.3	Project Officer	1	2,000	60	120,000.00
1.4	Accountant	1	1,500	60	90,000.00
1.5	Secretary	1	600	60	36,000.00
1.6	IT Officer	1	700	60	42,000.00
1.7	Office Assistant	1	350	60	21,000.00
	Sub-Total				729,000.00
2.0	The Panel of Experts				
2.1	Chief Editor	1	5,000		5,000.00
2.2	Editor	4	4,000		16,000.00
2.3	Authors	30	10,000		300,000.00
2.4	Research Resource Persons	3	1,500		4,500.00
2.5	Research Assistants	10	2,000		20,000.00
2.6	Consultants	5	3,000		15,000.00

2.7	Advisory committee(Honorarium)	12	3,000		36,000.00
2.8	Sub-Total				396,500.00
3.0	Goods & Services				
3.1	Domestic Travel (including DSA)				200,000.00
3.2	Internal Travel (Including DSA)				400,000.00
3.3	Conferences	2			150,000.00
3.4	Vehicles	2	30,000.00		60,000.00
3.5	Vehicle Maintenance	2			20,000.00
3.6	Fuel & Lubricants				40,000.00
3.7	Consumable Supplies				24,000.00
3.8	Stationeries				30,000.00
3.9	Outreach & Media Relations				100,000.00
3.10	National Consultation Process				500,000.00
3.11	Website				3,000.00
3.12	Digital Voice Recorder	10			750.00
3.13	Video Recorder	2			700.00
3.14	Projector				500.00
3.15	Operational Funds				25,000.00
	Sub-Total				1,553,950.

					00
4.0	Capital Expenditures				
4.1	Laptops	4	1,500		6,000.00
4.2	Desktops	6	1,300		7,800.00
4.3	Heavy Duty Photocopier	2	4,000		8,000.00
4.4	Industrial Printer	1	1,850		1,850.00
4.5	Heavy Duty Scanner	1	2,000		2,000.00
4.6	Office Space				100,000.00
4.7	Furniture & Fixture				5,000.00
4.8	Back Up (Storage Device)	1	1,000		1,000.00
	Sub-Total				131,650.00
5.0	Contingency				300,000.00

Grand Total

3.3,000,000

Group members

No.	Names	Address
1	George Klay Kieh, PhD	University of West Georgia, USA
2	William Allen	Acting Chairman, History Department University of Liberia
3	Frances Greaves	National Civil Society Advisory Council
4	Ronald Kayanja	UNESCO
5	MunyaradeiMotsi	UNMIL
6	Aaron Weah	Governance Commission
7	Francis Wilson	Governance Commission
8	James Wiles	

vi. Proposed Outline of the Liberia National History Project

VOLUME ONE

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER TWO: HISTIOGRAPHY OF LIBERIA

CHAPTER THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF LIBERIA

CHAPTER FOUR: GENERAL SOURCES OF MIGRATION

CHAPTER FIVE: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF MEL-SPEAKING PEOPLES

CHAPTER SIX: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF MANDE -SPEAKING PEOPLES

CHAPTER SEVEN: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF KWA-SPEAKING PEOPLES

CHAPTER EIGHT: SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERACTIONS AMONGST THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

CHAPTER NINE: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INTERACTION WITH THE EUROPEANS

CHAPTER TEN: CONCLUSION

VOLUME TWO

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER TWO: THE ATLANTIC WORLD: A BACKGROUND

CHAPTER THREE: THE COMING OF THE AMERICANS: REPARTRIATION AND EARLY SETTLEMENT -1822-1847

CHAPTER FOUR: THE COLONIAL STATE – 1822-1847

CHAPTER FIVE: FROM COLONY TO INDEPENDENCE

CHAPTER SIX: THE EARLY REPUBLICAN ERA: 1847-1905

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE ORIGINS OF STATE CONSOLIDATION: 1905-1930

CHAPTER EIGHT: LIBERIA IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: 1926-1960s

CHAPTER NINE: LIBERIA IN WORLD POLITICS: 1920-1960s

CHAPTER TEN: LIBERIA AT THE CROSSROADS: THE LEGACY OF THE TUBMAN YEARS

CHAPTER ELEVEN: CONCLUSION

VOLUME THREE:

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER TWO: THE TOLBERT ERA: THE SOURCES OF CHANGE

CHAPTER THREE: THE RISE OF POPULAR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND FIGURES

CHAPTER FOUR: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS OF THE 1970s

CHAPTER FIVE: BETWEEN REFORM AND REVOLUTION: APRIL 1979-APRIL 1980

CHAPTER SIX: LIBERIA UNDER MILITARY RULE

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE SECOND REPUBLIC: 1986-1990

CHAPTER EIGHT: THE FIRST CIVIL WAR: 1989-1997

CHAPTER NINE: THE TAYLOR YEARS AND THE SECOND CIVIL WAR:1997-2003

CHAPTER TEN: POST CIVIL WAR LIBERIA: 2003-PRESENT

CHAPTER ELEVEN: CONCLUSION: RESULTS AND PROSPECTS

PROPOSED TIME LINE

YEAR ONE: 2013 –2014	RESEARCH
YEAR TWO: 2014—2015	VOLUME I
YEAR THREE:2015—2016	VOLUME II
YEAR FOUR 2016 –2017	VOLUME III AND CLOSING PERIOD

vii. Annex VI: Resolution

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL HISTORY PROJECT ORGANIZING CONFERENCE ON TERMS OF REFERENCE, STRUCTURE, BUDGET, FUNDING, THEMES IN LIBERIA HISTORY, OVERARCHING THEMES, CREATION OF LIBERIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CURRICULUM, OUTLINES FOR VOLUME I, II, III & IV AND WORK PLAN

OVERVIEW

- Having convened in Monrovia, Liberia 13 thru 16 May 2013 and held an Organizing Conference of the National History Project, we members of the National Advisory Committee, General Panel of Experts, delegates and representatives of international organizations and

donors body hereby agreed and adopt the following issues discussed over the last four days. See annexes in Summary Report.

Terms of References, Structure, Budget:

- We agreed and accepted the structure of the Advisory Committee, General Panel, Editorial Board, Secretariat and Research Resource Board. We also accepted proposed functions and responsibilities of these structures.
- We also accept and hereby adopt the proposed budget of \$5 million to be used to finance the history writing process over the next five years

Themes in Liberia History (some suggested themes..)

- Migration and Settlement of Various Groups
- Liberian Mosaic
- Sub regional, socio-economic, and political context
- Class and Ethnicity
- Integration and Reconciliation
- Justice
- Sources and Roots of Conflict
- Memorialization
- Gender
- Artistic Industry

Overarching Themes

- Diversity is healthy—diversity promotes the idea of Pan Africanism
- Liberia: The Making of a Pan African Nation
- Liberia: The Making of an African Nation

- The Making of a Liberian Nation: various cultures one People
- The Making of a Liberian Nations: Various African Cultures, one People

Periodization

(suggested periodization..)

- LIBERIA BEFORE 1822—Indigenous peoples of Liberia before the settlement
- 1822 to 1847—from Colony to Independence
- 1847 to 1904—The early republic era
- 1905 to 1980—popular struggle and state consolidation
- 1980 to present: Between revolution and reform.

Challenges

There are numerous challenges and obstacles that the project will encounter, amongst them are the following:

- Cynicism
- Independence and autonomy from Government
- Inclusive People history
- Quality

Liberia National Historical Society

- It was discussed and agreed that the creation of Liberia historical society will preserve and promote Liberia historical and material culture

History Book Outline

- Volume I,
- Volume II

- Volume III
- Volume IV

NATIONAL HISTORY CURRICULUM

- It was agreed that the development of history curriculum begin simultaneously with the history writing process..

Timeline

- YEAR ONE: 2013 –2014 RESEARCH
- YEAR TWO: 2014—2015 VOLUME I
- YEAR THREE:2015—2016 VOLUME II
- YEAR FOUR 2016 –2017 VOLUME III AND IV

CLOSING PERIOD

viii. Full Attendance at the Liberia History Project Organizing Conference

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