



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.68**  
**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASKFORCE AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENT ON**  
**BEACHFRONTS, WATERWAYS & WETLANDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Government of Liberia has realized the extreme damaging effect that encroachment on beachfronts, waterways and wetlands poses to the environment and the life of residents and citizens;

**WHEREAS**, Liberia signed the Ramsar Convention in 2003 as a commitment to join the campaign for the protection of wetlands;

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the importance of ensuring the sustainable use of the ecosystem and maintaining the decency of beachfronts, waterways and wetlands, the Government of Liberia, through the Maritime Commission, initiated a project in 2013 to clean the beaches in and around Monrovia;

**WHEREAS**, Section 75(1) of the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia empowers the Environmental Protection Agency in consultation with the relevant line Ministry to make guidelines and prescribe measures for protection of rivers, lakes, and wetlands;

**WHEREAS**, despite these guidelines and regulations to protect beachfronts, waterways and wetlands which exist on the books, these measures are not being enforced by the requisite agencies; consequently, people continue to encroach on these natural resources.

**WHEREAS**, the numerous un-sanitary encroachments and unwarranted uses of waterways and wetlands continue to increase environmental degradation in Liberia;

**WHEREAS**, urgent measures of sustainable environmental management and protection of these ecosystems need to be taken without delay, and urgent interventions that may curtail time lapses leading to permanent loss or destruction are required. //



**WHEREAS**, an inter-agency committee comprising of ministries, agencies and commissions working together to ensure the sanctity of these natural resources is needed to develop, implement policies, regulation and laws;

**NOW THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me by the constitution and laws of the Republic of Liberia, I do declare and order:

1. The establishment of a task force named and styled: **TASKFORCE AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENT ON BEACHFRONTS, WATERWAYS & WETLANDS.**
2. That the Taskforce shall comprise the following members:
  - I. Chairman of the Land Commission- Chair
  - II. Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency- Co-chair
  - III. Minister of Justice- Member
  - IV. Minister of Internal Affairs- Member
  - V. Minister of Public Works- Member
  - VI. Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy- Member
  - VII. Inspector General of the Liberia National Police- Member
  - VIII. Local Municipal Authorities- Member
  - IX. Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism- Member
3. That the Task Force will operate under the TOR stipulated hereunder which may be altered and updated from time to time by an Inter-Agency Committee to be established to respond to the prevailing realities and conditions, but not limited to;
  - I. provide technical and administrative support to the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on Encroachments on wetlands, beach and river fronts;
  - ii. Support offices of local authorities including Township Commissioners in ensuring that citizens and residents adhere and conform to prescribed and established policy and regulatory regimes for managing and regulating the use and conservation/reservation of wetlands, beach and riverfronts;
  - III. Report and document all violations and violators of established regulations, policies and laws;
  - IV. Process violators for legal proceedings and actions;



- V. Develop interim, immediate to long term policy and regulatory guidelines/regimes needed for the management of wetlands, beach and river fronts;
- VI. Develop and support the implementation of programs to sensitize and raise awareness for all residents and citizens about the economic potentials and environmental implications of wetlands, beach and river fronts;
- VII. Submit a quarterly report to the Inter-agency Committee outlining problems, challenges and achievements in the management of wetlands, beach and river fronts
- VIII. Monitor all developments within and surrounding these established zones (distances) un-allowed for un-approved developments;
- IX. Support and conduct assessments of potential uses of wetlands, beach and river fronts in conjunction and collaboration with relevant public and private entities; and
- X. Perform other tasks as may be deemed necessary by the Inter-agency Committee

This Executive order shall take immediate effect.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY  
OF JANUARY A.D. 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Johnson Sirleaf".

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
**PRESIDENT**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**