

# MOUNT COFFEE



**Location**  
Liberia

## PROJECT SUMMARY

REPP has approved a USD 615k development loan to developer Gigawatt Global Liberia Ltd to build Liberia's first ever utility-scale solar plant.

The West African country currently suffers from one of the lowest electrification rates in the world at 4.9% and has a total installed capacity of just 126MW, which is constricting its prospects of economic growth.

Once built, the 20MW plant in central Liberia will increase the country's generation capacity by 15% and improve its grid's stability and resilience to climate change, as well as provide 20 permanent skilled and semi-skilled jobs for local men and women. It would also mark the country's first development by an independent power producer (IPP), paving the way for further private sector-led clean energy projects.

Gigawatt Global's proposed site for the power plant lies 5km from the Mount Coffee hydropower dam, which experiences periods of significantly reduced productivity during the dry season due to low water levels, made worse by the increased prevalence of droughts. The completed solar plant would complement the hydropower facility during periods of reduced production and in doing so displace the need for higher-cost diesel generation that most Liberians rely on for electricity while increasing the resilience of Liberia's power supply to climate change. During wetter periods the plant would supplement the dam's clean energy production.

REPP's loan was approved based on a short, 18-month tenor, with an option to extend, and is being used to carry out feasibility studies that will enable Gigawatt Global Liberia to better understand the issues that need to be addressed to bring the project on stream. As of 31 March 2022, a REPP-funded ESIA had been completed.

If the development – which has been openly supported by the Liberian government – proves a success, it will provide a strong demonstration of impact for other clean energy projects regionally and help build the necessary capacity at government level to support the growth of Liberia's nascent solar sector.

The solar project is the second REPP-supported project by Gigawatt Global, with the other being a 7.5MW (AC) solar facility in Mubuga, Burundi.



### Country policy alignment

Supports Liberia's Updated NDC (2021) conditional target to reduce GHG emissions by 64% by 2030, including through installation of 100 MW of renewable energy plants, and make renewable energy >75% of the energy mix, as outlined in the Rural Energy Strategy and Master Plan (2016).

## AT A GLANCE

### Technology:

Grid-connected solar PV



### Project type:

Greenfield, grid-connected

### Offtaker:

Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

## KPIs



GHG emissions avoided: 23,772 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year



Improves stability of grid supply



Planned capacity: 20MW

## FUNDING STRUCTURE

**Signed:** 13 December 2018

**Type:** Development loan

**REPP funding:** USD 615,000

## SDGs

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



"Gigawatt Global is pleased to partner with the UK's REPP to unlock the potential of deeply impactful renewable energy projects where they're needed most. This is especially evident in Liberia which struggles with seasonal hydro levels and reliance on expensive polluting diesel power, thus benefiting greatly from Gigawatt's solar project."

Michael Fichtenberg, Executive VP Finance & Business Development, Gigawatt Global