# **PARTNER FACT SHEET**



## **Projected Impact**



Build eco-friendly infrastructure and preserve biodiversity in the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR).



Promote ecotourism in Liberia by attracting over 10,000 short- and long-term visitors, and 500 overnight guests.



Create and sustain a total of 185 jobs and provide on-thejob training.



Through this partnership with the Trade Hub, Nimba Ecolodge & Reserve is preserving the biodiversity of Liberia's forests.

Photo credit: Nimba Ecolodge and Reserve

### **About Nimba Ecolodge & Reserve**

Nimba Ecolodge & Reserve (Nimba Ecolodge) is a boutique ecotourism provider of sustainable tourism services and culturally immersive experiences that offers a restaurant, 15 lodges, lakeside camping sites and recreational facilities, and guided trekking tours in the idyllic East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) located in northeastern Liberia.

#### **Co-Investment Partnership**

The USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub (Trade Hub) awarded a \$335,349 co-investment grant to Nimba Ecolodge through its Catalytic Business Concept (CBC) portfolio to build an eco-friendly tourism facility in ENNR and promote ecotourism in Liberia. The 2.5-year partnership from October 2021 to February 2024 will enable Nimba Ecolodge to build and revamp ecotourism infrastructure in ENNR, a region rich in ecotourism resources as it boasts Liberia's largest biodiversity. The co-investment grant will enable Nimba Ecolodge to revive four scenic hiking trails, transform a former mining facility to a restaurant, discourage illegal poaching and deforestation, and create economic opportunities for local communities by creating 185 jobs and procuring locally sourced produce and crafts. Nimba Ecolodge will utilize its Trade Hub grant to equip the facility with a solar power system and leverage private sector investments of nearly \$500,000 to build and improve infrastructure that has the capacity to host over 10,000 short-term visitors and 500 overnight visitors during the project period. A comprehensive hiring and training plan is supported by the grant, enabling Nimba Ecolodge to develop a skilled workforce specializing in hospitality management.

## **Partnership Opportunities**

Despite abundant tourism resources, the tourism potential in ENNR, and in Liberia in general, is largely untapped. Jointly started by the country's leading tour company, Jos Travel and Tours, and the only fully functional eco-facility Libassa Ecolodge, Nimba Ecolodge is equipped with unparalleled resources to harness the potential of ecotourism in Liberia. The project site is situated along Liberia's growth corridor, which holds 62 percent of the population and has the potential to attract tourists from neighboring ECOWAS countries and beyond. The project expects to achieve a 143 percent year-over-year growth in revenue between 2022-2026. Through additional private sector investments, Nimba Ecolodge can expand its operations in ENNR in cooperation with local communities and tap into Liberia's rapidly recovering tourism market.







