

History

Grand Bassa County with Buchanan City as its capital is one of the three original counties that first formed the Republic of Liberia. The two others are Montserrado and Sinoe. It was established in 1833 and, named after Thomas Buchanan, the first Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia.



The County's flag is a royal blue cloth with the Liberian flag inserted in the upper left corner and two red and two white stripes in the lower right. The dark blue stands for loyalty, while the stripes represent the four members of the Grand Bassa delegation who signed Liberia's Declaration of Independence on 26 July 1847, namely Anthony Gardner, John Day, Ephraim Titler, and Amos Herring.

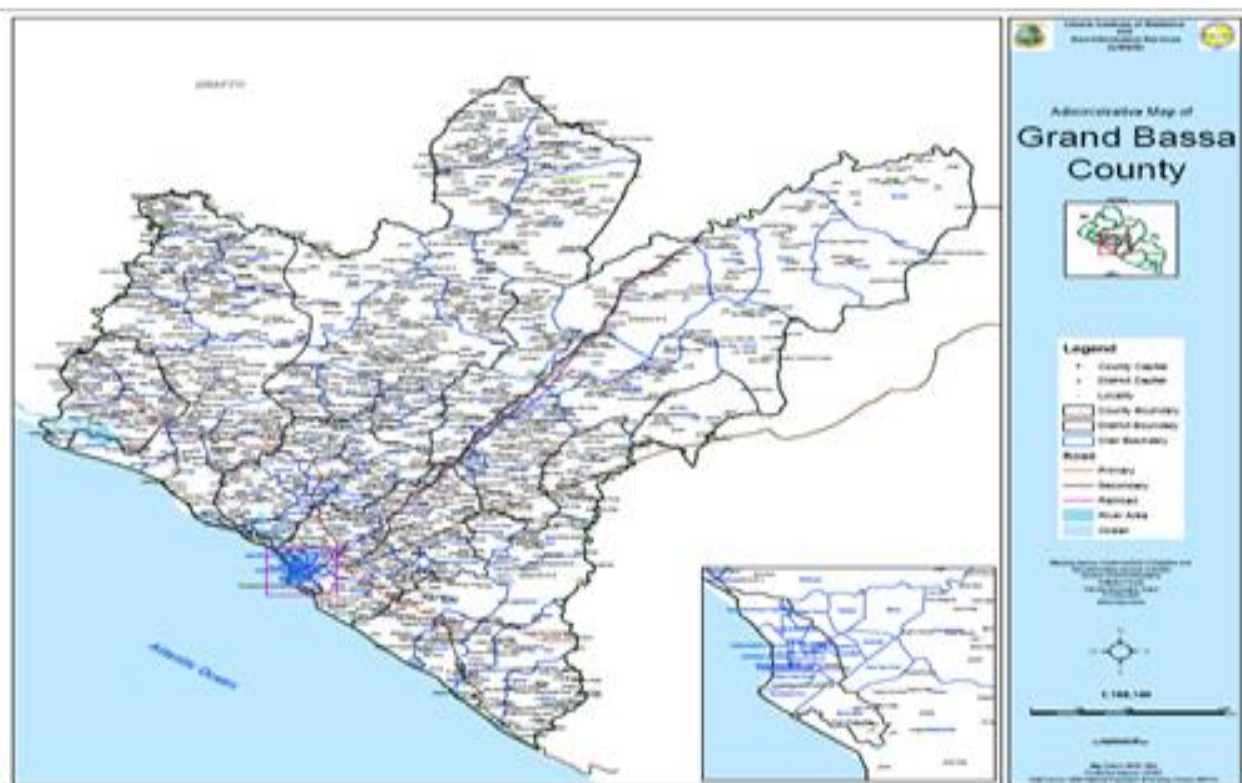
Grand Bassa is a county in the west-central portion of Liberia. One of 15 counties that comprise the first-level of administrative division in the nation, it has nine administrative districts with Madam Etweda A. Cooper as Superintendent.

The County went through series of political and territorial metamorphoses over the years until, on 18 April 1985, during the administration of Samuel Doe, the part of the County known as River Cess was upgraded to the status of a County.

In October 2003, the County's previous four districts (District #1, #2, #3 and #4) was also increased with Neekreen as a newly added District making a total of five statutory and a commonwealth District that are currently divided into nine administrative districts, eleven townships, three cities (Buchanan, Edina, and St. John River City) and forty-three clans.

The districts of Grand Bassa County include: [1]

- Commonwealth District (38,621)
- District #1 (40,651)
- District #2 (41,152)
- District #3 (54,789)
- District #4 (38,816)
- Neekreen District (37,750)



Country [Liberia](#), County Grand Bassa, Capital [Buchanan](#), Districts, Five Statutory and Eight Administrative Established **Government** • Superintendent Etweda A. Cooper **Area** • Total 7,936 km² (3,064 sq. mi) **Population** (2008) with a projected growth rate of 4.6 • Total 251,779 • **Density** 28.3/km² (73/sq mi) **Time zone** GMT ([UTC+0](#))

3. Geography

The County is located in the area from latitude 6°45' to latitude 5°30' North, and from longitude 10°30' to longitude 9°00' West (ISO 3166-2 geo-code: LR-GB). The county is bordered by Margibi County to the northwest, Bong County to the north, Nimba County to the east, and River Cess County to the south and east. The western part of Grand Bassa borders the Atlantic Ocean.

4. COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

With an estimated total land mass of 7,936 square kilometers (3,064 sq mi), Grand Bassa's total population currently stands at 251,779 with a male: female split of 137,075: 114,704¹. Basically the heads of households in Grand Bassa County is evenly split between men and women at an estimated disaggregated ratio of 50.7%: 49.3% in the rural areas and 49%: 51% in the urban areas.

The elderly population accounts for the headship of an estimated 13% while a total of 53% of household heads are reportedly battling chronic disabilities. The County statistics and information office estimates that at least 6,318 physically challenged persons live in Grand Bassa with a male: female split of 3,355: 2,963.

This has implications for economic access, choice and opportunities as it highlights the critical importance of ensuring that the needs of all the different groups of people living in the county are met in a more equitable manner.

Ninety one percent (91%) of the population speak the Bassa vernacular while the rest of the people speak one or more of the other dialects including the Gbandi dialect, Gia, Grebo, Gola, Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn, Kru, Mano Vai, Lorma and Sapo dialects respectively.

Table 1: Demographic indicators

County	HH Size	Dependency ratio	Demographic							Elderly headed House households in Bassa
			Sex of HH Head							
			Male			Female				
			Urban	Rural	%	Urban	Rural	Total		
Grand Bassa	4.6	1.31	49%	50.7%	100%	50%	50%	100%	13%	
Liberia	5.6	1.36	49%	50.9%	100%	50.8%	49%	100%	9%	

Data Source: County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS 2008 NHPC

Table 2: Population Data by Gender

Grand Bassa County					
District	Total Pop.	Population by District and Gender		Percentage of population by District and Gender	
		Male	Female	Male %	Female %
District # 1	40,651	19,919	20,732	49%	51%
District # 2	41,152	20,340	20,811	49.6%	50%
District # 3	54,789	27,942	26,847	51%	49%
District # 4	38,816	18,632	20,184	48%	52%
Neekreen	37,750	18,498	19,253	48.8%	51.2%
Buchanan City	38,621	18,924	19,697	49.6%	50%
Total	251,779	124,255	127,524	49.8%	50%

Data Source: County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS

Table 3: Population per Statutory Districts

Grand Bassa County	District	Population
	DIAHN-BLAE/ STATUTORY DISTRICT #1	40,651
GLAKON / STATUTORY DISTRICT # 2	41,152	
WEE / STATUTORY DISTRICT # 3	54,789	
KPOE-GBARN / STATUTORY DISTRICT #4	38,816	
NEEKREEN / STATUTORY DISTRICT #5	37,750	
BUCHANA CITY	38,621	
TOTAL	251,779	

Data Source: County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Dialects spoken

County	Language and Dialects Spoken													
	Bassa	Gbandi	Glo	Gola	Grebo	Kissi	Kpelle	Krahn	Kru	Lorma	Mano	Vai	Sapo	Others
Grand Bassa	94%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	18%	2%	7%	6%	9%	4%	26%	4%	3%	7%	7%	4%	1%	1%

Data Source: County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS 2012 County profile up-date

Table 5: Distribution of Religion

Religion	Distribution by sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Christian	107,645	108,517	216,162
Muslim	1,721	1,279	3,000
Traditional African	113	142	255
Other Religion	170	69	239
No Religion	1,264	773	2,037

Data Source County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS 2012 County profile Up-date

Table 6: Distribution of Any disability by district

District	Sex of people with Disabilities		
	Male	Female	Total
District # 1	819	769	1,588
District # 2	609	618	1,227
District # 3	504	521	1,025
District # 4	318	307	625
Neekreen	451	290	741
Buchanan City	654	458	1,112
Total	3,355	2963	6,318

Data Source County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS 2012 County profile up-date

Table 7: Household with Disabled Members and orphans

County	Households with disabled Members and Orphans				
	Chronically ill/ disabled	NO. Chronically ill/ Disabled	Chronically ill/ Disabled HH Head	Orphans	NO. Of Orphans
Grand Bassa	3.4%	1.0	53%	0%	-
Liberia	8.7	1.1	25%	2.3%	1.5

Data Source County Statistics & Information Office/ LISGIS 2008 NHPC

5. Climate

With an annual average rainfall of about 400 mm per year, the climate is tropical, hot and humid. Based on the prevailing precipitation, two seasons are differentiated – rainy season, which lasts from late April to October, and dry season, which begins in November and ends in April.

6. Topography

Grand Bassa has a flat coastline. A narrow coastal plain extends inland from the seashore, and the land gradually rises to the hilly hinterland of the County. High elevation regions have forest of evergreen and deciduous trees, including ironwood and mahogany.

The County has several major rivers which include St. John, Farmington, Mechlin, New Cess, Ilor, Timbo, and Benson River. Consequently, the shore is broken by estuaries, tidal creeks, and rocky capes. The coastal region does not rise more than 60 to 70 meters, excepting occasional small hills.

This situation makes several settlements near the sea—including Buchanan City—vulnerable to inundation and erosion. Moreover, Benson River and Mechlin River overflow the banks in some areas during the rainy season. As a result, many villages remain inaccessible during certain periods of the year due to the deteriorated roads.

7. Geology

The County's soils can be categorized as laterite (55%), which is leached out, alluvial (19%) and sandy and loamy (26%). Alluvial soil is prevalent in the leeward districts. Two onshore sediment-filled basins are located along the coastline: Roberts Basin, which is filled with sediments of the Farmington River formation and Paynesville sandstone; and the Bassa Basin, which is filled with material from the St. John River formation.

8. Vegetation

The County is generally covered by green forest, but there is also savanna. The territory not covered by the forest is used for farming using traditional methods. Rubber trees and palms are also planted in the concession areas and on small private farms.

9. Mining

There are no major mining activities on-going in the county except for BHP Billington who's carrying out exploration in parts of the county and Arcelor Mittal using the port of Buchanan to export ores from its iron ore mined in Nimba County. Notwithstanding, there are also report of illicit mining activities on-going in most part of the county.

10. Tourism:

Grand Bassa does have some beautiful scenery along its coastline, suggesting real potential for tourism. But tourism in Bassa and Liberia as a whole has never been fully developed.