

Climate Change and Environment - Trend Analysis

Sierra Leone environmental vulnerability trend: 2017, 2023 and 2025

IGR SCORECARD

Strategic Objective

Strengthen environmental governance, promote sustainable natural resource management, build climate resilience, protect biodiversity and improve sector governance for present and future communities.

DELIVERY STATUS

OFF TRACK

Vulnerability worsened since 2017

Main Finding

The ranking moved from 151st of 181 countries in 2017 to 180th of 185 in 2023 and 180th of 182 in 2025. This shows deterioration, not improvement, and places Sierra Leone among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

2017

151/181

ND-GAIN vulnerability ranking

Score: 0.551

High vulnerability baseline. Country already ranked in the lower global performance band.

2023

180/185

ND-GAIN vulnerability ranking

Score: 35

Major decline compared with 2017. Baseline shows a very weak resilience position.

2025

180/182

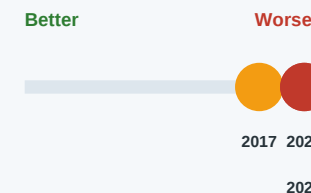
ND-GAIN vulnerability ranking

Score: 35

No meaningful recovery. Vulnerability remains extremely high and target is off track.

Rank Position

Closer to 182/185 = worse



Trend Interpretation

- 2017 to 2023: sharp deterioration in relative global ranking, from 151/181 to 180/185.
- 2023 to 2025: stagnation at 180, showing no visible improvement in resilience performance.
- 2030 target: currently unlikely without stronger enforcement, climate finance and land-use controls.

Likely Pressure Points to Address

- Illegal logging and weak forest governance
- Sand mining and coastal erosion pressure
- Unplanned settlements in high-risk areas
- Limited enforcement, monitoring and local adaptation capacity

Scorecard Summary

Sierra Leone is off track against the 2030 development target to drastically improve national vulnerability ranking. The country moved from a vulnerable position in 2017 to an extremely vulnerable position by 2023, then remained at that weak level in 2025. This trend suggests that environmental governance, land-use control and climate adaptation measures have not yet produced measurable national resilience gains.

Year	Ranking	Score	Delivery signal	Interpretation
2017	151 of 181	0.551	Baseline risk	Already highly vulnerable
2023	180 of 185	35	Deteriorated	Near bottom of global ranking
2025	180 of 182	35	Stagnated	No meaningful improvement from 2023

Recommended IGR Scorecard Conclusion

Status: Off Track. Priority action is required to reverse worsening vulnerability through stronger enforcement against illegal logging and sand mining, protection of biodiversity hotspots, climate-resilient urban planning, improved monitoring systems and targeted resource mobilisation for adaptation.

Bottom line: The 2030 target remains achievable only with urgent policy enforcement and measurable resilience investment.