

## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT065
Project title	Strengthening Liberia's response to illegal wildlife trade
Countries	Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast
Lead organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Partner institution(s)	Forest Development Authority (FDA), Liberian Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), Conservation International (CI), Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection (LCRP), Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)
IWT grant value	£400,938
Start/end dates of project	01/07/2019 - 31/03/2022
Reporting period (e.g. April 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	July 2019 - March 2020 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Sarah Gluszek
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Constant Ndjassi, Sarah Gluszek, Jenny Desmond, Nikki Chapman and Mary Molokwu-Odozi; 30 April 2020

### 1. Project summary

Liberia holds the largest and most intact forest blocks in the Upper Guinea Rainforest and provides one of the last strongholds for IUCN Red-listed and CITES Appendix I species such as vulnerable white bellied (*Phataginus tricuspis*), black bellied (*Phataginus tetradactyla*) and giant (*Smutsia gigantea*) pangolin; endangered Timneh parrot (*Psittacus timneh*), vulnerable African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*); endangered pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*); and critically endangered western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). Most of these populations are concentrated in the north-west and south-east forest landscapes of Liberia, particularly the transboundary forests (Map 1). However, many of these species face serious decline across their range in West Africa and the Mano River Union (MRU; Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast).

The primary drivers of population decline across the region are largely habitat loss, habitat degradation and unsustainable levels of exploitation including live trade of wild-caught species for pet and entertainment trades; fulfilling global demand in dietary preferences of wild meat and wildlife products. Pangolins are targeted for their scales for use in traditional medicines; elephants for their ivory tusks; and parrot and chimpanzee for use in the pet trade and/or wild meat in the case of chimps. In addition to the threat of IWT, these species are threatened by deforestation including for conversion of land to agriculture, which leads to habitat loss, fragmentation and increased conflict between humans and wildlife. These issues are underscored by secondary threats, including a general lack of awareness of the scale of the

problem and of the regional significance of these species, as well as a widespread lack of capacity in natural resource management and law enforcement in the region highly necessary in stemming such illegal wildlife trades (IWT). Currently capacity to combat IWT in Liberia and its fellow MRU states is low, exacerbated by weak legislation and insufficient awareness.

Liberia is a key source and transit country for IWT in West Africa (Born Free USA, 2018; FDA Internal Report, 2018). Monrovia's markets are well-known trade hubs, and porous international borders allow for easy, unregulated transboundary trafficking. For example, between 2000 and 2016, nearly 5,000 Timneh Parrots were illegally exported from or via Liberia, whilst a rare confiscation at a Liberian airport in 2015 revealed 12kg of pangolin scales (Born Free USA, 2018; Heinrich et al., 2017). Most live confiscations are anecdotally reported as infant chimpanzees (Born Free USA, 2018) – in 2018 two infant chimpanzees were confiscated within a space of 4 months near Sapo National Park, Liberia's oldest and largest protected area and five in 2019. Four elephants were killed in Liberia in Sapo National Park in February 2019 and one early 2020. Liberia is currently banned by CITES from legal trading of any species because its wildlife legislation is deemed too poor against international standards and criteria for managing legal wildlife trade. In theory, this should make detection of wildlife trade easier since falsified CITES permits cannot be used to trade species across borders, however Liberia is severely lacking in capacity to enforce even the weak legislation that currently exists and to detect even the most overt of illegal wildlife trades.

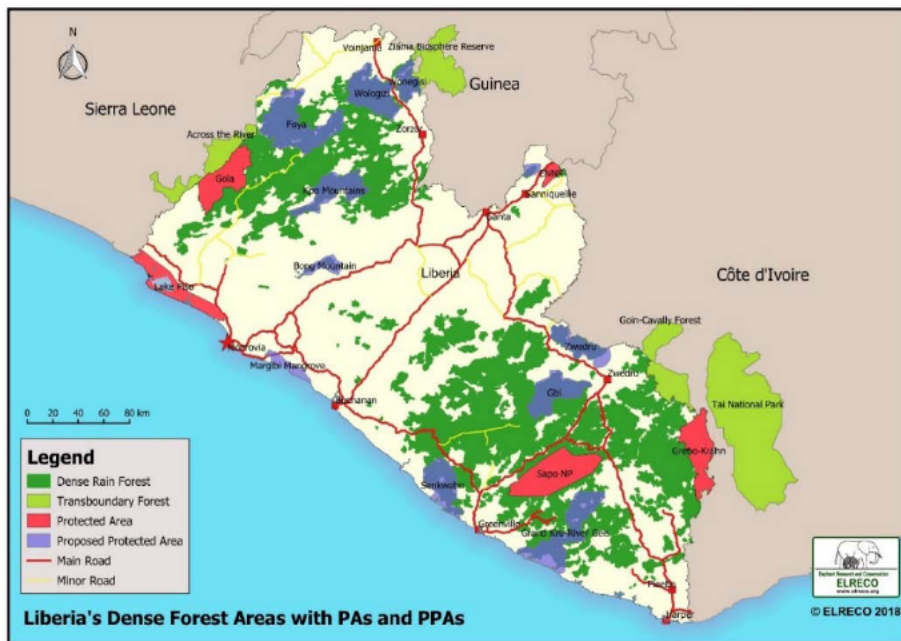
Although Liberia has no national IWT reduction strategy, national legislation provides a skeleton framework for law enforcement agencies to tackle IWT— police refer suspected crimes to customs for inspection, seizure and confiscation; crimes are then referred to the FDA, which along with police has authority to arrest. However, most known or likely trade locations are insufficiently resourced to detect and disrupt IWT. For example, there is no FDA presence at the four commercial seaports and there is limited presence at Monrovia international airport. Furthermore, only 45 of the 176 border posts are staffed (Gedi, 2017).

Officers at ports of entry and exit commonly lack the needed knowledge, skills, and materials to detect and respond to wildlife crime and given the sophisticated way that live animals such as chimpanzees are concealed in transit. For example, officers work without species identification manuals and are untrained in CITES or national/international protocols and skills such as case and evidence handling. FDA's (and other law enforcement agencies') role and protocols are not clearly defined, and there is little coordination between government agencies nationally or across international borders. Despite the recent passage of the aforementioned Liberian Wildlife Law (2016), regulations to that law - stipulating fines and penalties - are yet to be finalized and disseminated publicly. Until recently, combatting IWT has not been a high priority as demonstrated by the few cases that have been prosecuted; e.g. only one out of 50 documented seizures and arrests between 2010-2018 resulted in successful prosecution and sentencing (FDA Internal Report, 2018). However, two successful convictions were achieved between 2019 and 2020 due to recent interventions of this project and partner initiatives.

With growing international interest to fight back against IWT, and the gradual realisation of the growing problem facing West African countries, the Liberian government has started to act more readily and engage on this topic. A first small but effective step was the formation of the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC) in collaboration with FFI and Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF). The LESC is a subcommittee of the national Species Working Group Liberia (SWGL, chaired by FDA and FFI). Additionally, in July 2018, a representative of the FDA conservation department attended an ECOWAS meeting including 16 West African countries, specifically to “develop a coordinated counter wildlife trafficking response in West Africa.” The meeting resulted in an agreement that recommends actions around six pillars to combat IWT (Training, Coordination, Political Commitment, Disposal of Confiscated Specimens, Equipment and Resources, and Awareness) and the development of a regional strategy for combatting wildlife crime, now known as the West Africa Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC). The formation of the LESC platform in Liberia has enabled FFI and its partners to develop this project to respond to these regional priorities, build on momentum

created by the passing of Liberia’s Wildlife Law, and complement partner initiatives focusing on legislation and prosecutorial capacity.

This project is working to strengthen Liberia’s law enforcement capacity by (1) improving coordination to combat national and transboundary IWT; (2) strengthening intelligence gathering and enforcement capacity; (3) increasing public awareness; and (4) developing data management systems to guide responses. These interventions will lead to increased knowledge and technical and operational capacity on the part of personnel working in at least five governmental agencies involved in combatting IWT in Liberia; increased collaboration and knowledge-sharing across MRU states regarding wildlife crimes; increased capacity on the part of FDA and community rangers to effectively detect and respond to IWT; increased awareness and understanding on the part of the Liberian public of IWT issues, laws and penalties; and a more secure natural resource base to sustain ecological functions and support local livelihoods. The action spans Liberia as well as transboundary forest areas with Guinea (Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi - ZWW landscape), Ivory Coast (Tai-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo – TGKS landscape) and Sierra Leone (Gola landscape).



Map 1: National and transboundary forest landscapes needing protection.

## 2. Project partnerships

This project works in partnership with the Forest Development Authority (FDA), Liberian Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), Conservation International (CI), Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection (LCRP), and Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL), and in collaboration with multiple governmental agencies involved in combatting IWT. Project partners have been involved in project planning from the outset, are in regular communication, and, pending the specific intervention and/or site, are involved in decision making. For example, LCRP played a key role in developing a capacity needs assessment in line with their areas of expertise, and FDA provided data and a frontline perspective to accurately define priority needs.

All partners are on the LESC which meets on a regular basis with physical meetings almost every month and regular correspondence by email, WhatsApp and phone calls. An update is given at every meeting of partners’ activities. The LESC also forms a platform where information is shared with non-project partners. It is important to note that the LESC serves as the platform through which IWT activities are implemented collaboratively. A Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF) was formed in 2019, made up of the FDA and other law enforcement and security agencies, as well as the two sanctuaries that support wildlife confiscation. The WCTF present relevant updates at the LESC and through this forum support is provided by relevant partners for the implementation of activities by the taskforce. For example, if an arrest will be

made, the relevant partners, including FFI, LCRP, WCF, SCNL etc. agree with the FDA on a budget required for the mission and each partner supports the process through this platform. The LESG therefore serves as a communication channel by which partners support the FDA and other government agencies in responding to wildlife crime. This process has proved effective, with the recording of several notable achievements during this period.

An important achievement was the level of collaboration among partners leading up to and during the March 2020 IWT workshop, which resulted in the development of the first five-year IWT strategy for Liberia. In addition, the project continues to engage relevant local authorities, local communities and technical specialists as appropriate for their inputs and/or participation.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

##### **Output 1: National and regional political commitment to combat IWT is enhanced through better coordination and collaboration within Liberia, which creates a more enabling environment to respond to and prevent IWT of focal species in Liberia and across its borders**

###### **1.1: Run a national stakeholder workshop to develop a national strategy to tackle IWT in line with regional priorities**

This activity has been successfully achieved. A five-year national strategy to address IWT in Liberia has been drafted through an iterative and collaborative process with multiple stakeholders coordinated by this project. This process included: the distribution of an online survey to targeted institutions to identify their main concerns and key priorities, of which 12 responses were received (February 2020); a follow-up consultation in person by FFI's UK IWT Specialist, Sarah Gluszek, with 10 institutional representatives (February 2020); group interviews with rangers and communities working and living near Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape on their perspectives and experiences (February – March 2020; Photo 1; Annex 4); a planning meeting with seven representatives (4 women; 3 men) from FDA, LCRP and FFI to agree the details and agenda of the workshop (11 February 2020; Photo 2) and a national stakeholder workshop in Monrovia, in which 32 representatives (12 women; 20 men) from 16 different governmental, law enforcement, academic and NGO institutions participated (17-20 March 2020; Photo 3). Three rangers from the transboundary landscapes, Wonegizi and Sapo (funded by this grant) and Gola (border with Sierra Leone; funded by SCNL and RSPB) attended the workshop. During the workshop, participants drafted a five-year strategic plan (2020-2024) with six overarching objectives (listed below) adapted from the objectives set in the West Africa strategy, and an operational plan detailing assigned actions and responsibilities (Annexes 5 and 6). The draft strategy is currently being circulated to all collaborating stakeholders in Liberia for review and is expected to be finalised in Year 2. A national conference was also planned for the 23 March 2020 where the draft strategy would be presented to a wider stakeholder group, including policy makers. However, this was postponed due to government restrictions as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Objectives of the five-year national IWT strategic plan (2020-2024):

- *Objective I –To strengthen political commitment towards the eradication of illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.*
- *Objective II –To strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime through training, resource support, and law enforcement.*
- *Objective III –To ensure coordinated cooperation to combat wildlife crime locally, nationally and in transboundary region.*
- *Objective IV –To ensure national laws and regulations are harmonized and in compliance with CITES particularly in relation to the disposal of confiscated specimens.*
- *Objective V –To increase public awareness and community participation and involvement in tackling wildlife crime.*
- *Objective VI –To promote partnerships with relevant institutions to strengthen research, monitoring, evaluation and information sharing.*



*Photo 1: Consultative interview with FDA rangers in Sapo National Park, 5 February 2020.*



*Photo 2: Representatives from the FDA, LCRP and FFI planning for the national strategy development workshop, 11 February 2020.*



*Photo 3: Participants at the national strategy development workshop for Combatting Wildlife Crime, held 17-20 March 2020 and representing FFI, FDA, LCRP, WCF, the Ministry of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency.*

### 1.2: Host four LESC meetings and technical sessions for stakeholders to develop the regulations for the new wildlife law and organise the national strategy workshop.

Five LESC meetings of the Species Working Group in Liberia (SWGL) were held between July 2019 and March 2020, hosted in rotation amongst project partners. FFI and LCRP participated in all meetings, which were hosted mostly by FDA, WCF and SCNL during the reporting period. At all meetings, participants shared information and provided updates on wildlife crime detections and cases and the review of the current wildlife law. Additional topics covered included:

- **25 July 2019, SCNL hosted – 18 attendees (5 women; 13 men)** - LCRP gave an overview the draft terms of reference for LESC membership (Annex 7), Abednego Gbarway (FDA Wildlife Manager) presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the FDA and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and collected feedback for integration. The MOJ made a commitment to support FDA with combatting wildlife crimes and pledged staff resources.
- **27 August 2019, SCNL hosted – 13 attendees (4 women; 9 men)** – FDA and WCF provided updates on the wildlife law revisions and meeting with the CITES Secretariat. FFI, represented by its Country Manager, Dr Mary Molokwu-Odozi, provided feedback on progress made in the recruitment of a local law firm Heritage Partners and Associates (HPA) who were being contracted (under another grant to FFI) for the development of the wildlife regulations. Members were also updated on the new Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF) protocols developed by LCRP and FDA in collaboration with other partners, including FFI (Annex 8).
- **29 November 2019, FDA hosted – 12 attendees (5 women; 7 men)** - an update was presented by HPA on the drafting of the wildlife regulations. A draft table of content (ToC) of the wildlife regulations and a list of proposed regulations prescribed under the 2016 National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law were presented (Annexes 9-11). Plans for public awareness raising and distribution of the current law were also discussed. An update was given on upcoming regional judicial trainings in the southeast and northwest.
- **16 January 2020, WCF hosted – 20 attendees (6 women; 14 men)** - an update was provided regarding the wildlife law revision, which was previously carried out by FFI, CI, WCF, LCRP and FDA, and pending submission, and further revisions to the MoU between the MOJ and FDA. Presentations were delivered by WCF on the wild meat and pet trade survey, and by the FDA on the Concept Awareness Campaign plan. LCRP debriefed members on the upcoming Pan African Sanctuary Alliance meeting in Guinea on chimp trafficking in the region (Output 1.3; Photo 5).
- **10 March 2020, WCF hosted – 17 attendees (4 women; 13 men)** - FDA updated members on the training received by four FDA and police personnel on IWT investigation. They will represent the Wildlife Crime Task Force in their respective assigned districts across Liberia. Members agreed that the Wildlife Crime Task Force protocols would be shared across the different districts. Information was shared about training of FDA staff and security officers in Sierra Leone (by ISAT, 2-27 March 2020) and of judiciary and joint security forces in Zorzor and Voinjama (by FFI). Members were updated on the first draft of the wildlife law regulations, which is currently in preparation and will be shared with members for review once received from HPA.

### 1.3: Via regional transboundary committee/taskforce platforms, develop transboundary IWT coordination agreements and information sharing plans to enable informed and coordinated action acting on regional intelligence.

Cross-border IWT in the TGKS landscape between Liberia and Ivory Coast, was discussed at the Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee (TLETC) in Abidjan on the 24-25 September 2019. FFI was represented by its IWT Technical Specialist for Liberia and project coordinator for this grant, Constant Ndjassi. Under this grant, FFI supported the County Attorney for Grand Gedeh County to attend and discussed the need for more capacity, coordinated action, and harmonisation of wildlife laws, making a plan for information sharing

(Annex 12). The next meeting was initially scheduled for March 2020 and postponed to April 2020, however it was not held because of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

On the ZWW transboundary landscape between Liberia and Guinea, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2019 between the FDA and its counterpart in Guinea, the Centre Forestier de N'Zerekore (CFZ). This was funded under WABiCC, a project led by Tetra Tech and funded by USAID. The FDA are working together with CFZ to develop anti-poaching strategies in the landscape and share information on and strengthen responses to IWT. The first transboundary meeting was organised by FFI in Zorzor on 29 January 2020 with 17 managers (2 women; 15 men) of the Ziama Biosphere Reserve and Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area attending. A key outcome from this meeting was the planning of joint patrols within the landscape. The next meeting, funded under this grant, was proposed for the 5-6 May 2020 in Sereidou, Guinea, but will depend on when the lockdowns are lifted.

In November 2019, the Zonal Warden of the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area, Samuel Freeman, was supported to attend the World Ranger Congress in Nepal and accompanied by Constant Ndjassi (FFI Technical Specialist) and Morris Jah (Sapo National Park ranger) under another grant (Photo 4). Several themes were discussed over five days, including: the use of technology in conservation, ranger engagement with communities, rangers associations, capacity building, the role of female rangers, indigenous rangers, and ranger welfare. This was the first time Liberia rangers had attended an international ranger event and enabled the Wonegizi Zonal Warden to share his experiences of problems faced in the field and solutions to some challenges. This forum also allowed him to learn from the experiences of other rangers around the world (Annexes 13 and 14).

In November 2019, under the LESC, FFI contributed to and coordinated an in-country review of the draft West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC), which was developed by the West Africa Steering Committee on Wildlife Crime and represents an accumulation of dialogues by ECOWAS range states. The strategy provides a guide for development of national IWT strategies and the Liberian national strategy was formulated in line with its prescriptions.

In 30-31 January 2020, a conference was hosted by the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance in Conakry, Guinea to develop a regional plan for the conservation of Western chimpanzees against wildlife poaching and trafficking (Photo 5). FFI, LCRP, WCF and the FDA participated and contributed to the development of the Conakry Resolution on Combatting Illegal Trade in Western Chimpanzees, priority actions for 2020 to inform a work plan, and a roadmap for next steps (Annex 15). FFI was represented by Sarah Gluszek, Technical Specialist IWT, UK (supported under this grant) and Toupou Koighae, Project Officer, Guinea (supported under a separate grant).



Photo 4: Liberia delegation at the 9th World Ranger Congress in Nepal, 12-16 November 2019.



Photo 5: Participants at the Action for Chimpanzees conference organised by the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance in Conakry, Guinea, 30-31 January 2020. Project partners in attendance include FFI, LCRP, WCF and the FDA.

1.4 Design and implement an IWT learning exchange programme for 4 high-level law enforcement personnel from Liberia and its neighbouring countries.

This activity is planned for Year 2.

**Output 2: Targeted law enforcement authorities have strengthened capacity to plan, monitor, and respond strategically to illegal wildlife trade within Liberia and across its borders in coordination with neighbouring law enforcement authorities.**

2.1: Design and complete a capacity assessment of key Liberian authorities and institutions responsible for law enforcement (e.g. FDA, border customs, security, police and judiciary)

The project conducted a capacity needs assessment of 47 wildlife law enforcement officers (6 women; 41 men) from eight different government departments and law enforcement agencies, including FDA, MOJ, INTERPOL, Liberian Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA), National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Customs, Transnational Organised Crime Unit and the Liberian Immigration Service (LIS). The assessment was conducted following guidelines from the 2012 UNODC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic toolkit and reviewed which officers had already received training and what additional training was needed. The needs assessment was conducted by Constant Ndjassi (FFI's Technical Specialist IWT, Liberia) and two interns supported under this grant. To further gauge training needs, officers were asked about their knowledge of wildlife laws in Liberia, CITES and its permit acquisition process, protected species in Liberia, ethics and human rights, and information gathering and dissemination. A summary of capacity needs was presented in a report (Annex 16).

2.2 Define and develop the suite of IWT training modules for law enforcement agency personnel at national and transboundary levels.

A concept note and workplan for the law enforcement training was designed by a consultant from WildCrime ([www.wildcrime.com](http://www.wildcrime.com)) (Annex 17). The consultant has expertise in assessing national enforcement capacity, delivering training programmes and courses, developing national action plans, and researching and investigating wildlife crime cases. The training modules will be developed in Year 2 of the project, as per the agreed change request on 6 March 2020, using the capacity needs assessment (Output 2.1), materials shared by the Born Free Society, Liberian CITES contacts and the consultant's expertise. These modules, which will be used for future training, will be incorporated into the national syllabus at the University of Liberia and Forestry Training Institute and translated into French for transboundary enforcement agencies in Guinea and Ivory Coast (Output 2.6).

*Activities under 2.3-2.6 relate to the delivery, monitoring and adaptation of training in national syllabuses, and will be implemented in Years 2 and 3.*

2.7 Deliver a national training programme (both combined and specific agency focused) to at least 100 personnel across targeted law enforcement agencies.



As agreed in the change request, two five-day training courses will be delivered in Monrovia to law enforcement officers from Liberia and border officers from Guinea, Sierra Leone and/or Ivory Coast in Year 2 by the consultant from WildCrime (Output 2.2; Annex 18). This training originally planned for June 2020 has been moved to November 2020 given the current lockdowns in force due to the coronavirus pandemic. Changeable flights and accommodation were booked in case of any further delays or extensions of the lockdown period.

Training on the 2016 National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law was carried out in Zorzor and Voinjama on 5 and 7 March 2020 for joint security personnel and judiciary staff by FFI and LCRP, and funded under WABiCC. A total of 63 people – 33 in Voinjama (3 women; 30 men) and 30 in Zorzor (3 women; 27 men) – were trained and given wildlife law awareness materials (Annex 17). Most of these trainees will form part of the national training in November 2020.

#### 2.8 Identify 2 key individuals from Liberian law enforcement authorities to receive additional applied training, mentorship and accompaniment to build their capacity.

Two government officers have been nominated from the FDA for the mentoring programme. One of these nominations, Ms. Trokon Grimes, was trained under the CITES Masters programme in Spain (sponsored by WABiCC) and is also the MIKE focal point for Liberia. The second officer, Mr Jimmy Parker, is a Wildlife Officer at the Wildlife Division of the FDA and is very active in the WCTF. FFI will be drafting a formal request to the FDA to formalise an agreement for both officers to be seconded on this project. On completion of this mentorship and training, which will be delivered in Year 2 of the project, they will be expected to provide mentoring and training to other staff at the FDA.

#### 2.9 Support trainees to become trainers of 2 further individuals in the subsequent year, overseen by the project expert.

This will be implemented in Year 2.

#### 2.10 Provide site-based training to > 25 state and community rangers within two transboundary areas in anti-poaching, SMART patrolling, evidence-gathering, informant network development; the IWT database

Under this grant, two training courses on the use of SMART and CyberTracker were delivered by the Technical Specialist IWT, Liberia, Constant Ndjassi, on the 25-28 February 2020 and 3-5 March 2020 (Photo 6; Annexes 19-21). The first took place in Konia (Liberia) for 15 Wonegizi personnel (1 woman; 14 men), including 9 FDA staff, 2 FFI staff, 3 biomonitoring officers and 1 FDA community volunteer. The second took place in Sereidou (Guinea) for 15 Zياما personnel (0 women; 15 men), including 13 rangers and 2 FFI staff. Both courses had a practical component based on real-life scenarios and built basic knowledge of the use of SMART software and CyberTracker application on devices. Using a participatory approach with rangers, the project also developed a locally tailored data model for each protected area.

A similar training was organised by FFI and facilitated by Clarine Kigoli of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in Sapo National Park from 24 November to 2 December 2019, co-funded by WABiCC. 33 people (4 women; 29 men) were trained including 21 FDA staff, 3 FFI staff (including the project coordinator), 8 interns and 1 WCF staff (Annex 22). SMART has been used in Sapo National Park since January 2019, but data was collected manually by rangers and input into the software by an FFI staff member. This training has enabled rangers to use devices with the CyberTracker application to collect data in the field and directly import it into SMART, which they have been doing since January 2020.



*Photo 6: The FFI Technical Specialist IWT, Liberia/Project Coordinator, Constant Ndjassi, conducting the SMART/CyberTracker training for Ziama Biosphere Reserve Rangers, Guinea, 3-5 March 2020.*

2.11 Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.

Ranger teams in Sapo National Park were provided with two computers under this grant and trained on the use of SMART and CyberTracker (Output 2.10). Rangers in Wonegizi and Ziama received similar training (Output 2.10) and are expected to begin collecting data directly into SMART. Both these trainings developed configurable data models adapted to each protected area and incorporating ranger experiences. A field manual has also been developed to assist rangers who are still using data sheets for patrols, which will help ensure systematic and accurate patrol data collection (Annex 23). A vehicle was also purchased for the FDA Wildlife Division, to enable better responses to reports of IWT.

2.12 Provide customised training to at least 4 personnel under the FDA confiscation unit, including documenting and reporting resultant arrests and seizures in the database.

This will be implemented in Year 2.

2.13 Equip and support deployment of the confiscation unit to wildlife crime locations based on intelligence derived from the IWT database (output 4) and/or credible sources.

This will be implemented in Years 2 and 3 once the national database has been established.

**Output 3: Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes compliance by the public and increases the likelihood of public/informal engagement with IWT detection and reporting**

3.1: Design key IWT messaging and produce a series of awareness raising campaign materials (posters, info-graphics, billboards, murals, social media posts etc.) to promote public engagement.

A communications plan was created by FFI in February 2020 to consider key communications objectives, target audiences and messaging for raising awareness of new and existing wildlife laws and regulations. This plan broadly targets urban populations in Monrovia and rural communities near Sapo National Park and ZWW landscape (Annex 24). This plan is continually updated and aligned with the national awareness raising strategy drafted by the LESC. An initial meeting for the national strategy was organised and hosted by the WCF in collaboration with the FDA on 23 January 2020.

The project collaborated with other partners to design communication materials on Liberia's protected species and specific species targeted by IWT in March 2020 (Annex 25). These will be printed and disseminated in Year 2.

In collaboration with conservation partners, the FDA celebrated World Wildlife Day for the first time on 3 March 2020 in four major public areas across Monrovia. The event was attended by over 2000 people from embassies, government departments and local communities. The event, co-funded by this grant, featured a drama with wildlife conservation themes to raise awareness

on the importance of wildlife protection. Articles were published in the Daily OBSERVER Vol. 20 No. 40 and the INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 38 to mark the celebration; these local newspapers are two of the most widely read in the country (Annex 26). Respectively between 1200-1300 and 700-800, people would have read the articles according to the newspapers cited above.

Media was also involved and communicated the September 2019 arrest and subsequent conviction of an elephant poacher in Salaye Court (Lofa County) via an article published in the Daily OBSERVER, Vol.19 No. 158 on 10 October 2019 and via radio (3.4 below).

Furthermore, during the World Chimpanzee Day celebration on the 17 July 2019, also supported by this grant, a mural of a chimpanzee was also painted on a canvas, with over 200 people viewing the live painting near Monrovia. The mural was presented to the Mayor of Paynesville City.

### 3.2 Install billboards and distribute/post print campaign materials in/ near border control points, enforcement offices, targeted protected areas, and known/perceived market hotspots for wildlife trade crime.

This will be implemented in Year 2.

### 3.3 Commission at least one mural drawing communicating key campaign messaging at the Monrovia international airport.

It was not possible to commission a mural on the outside of Monrovia International Airport because all potential space was already allocated. Instead, the project was able to secure space in the Departures terminal for three side-by-side posters, and designed posters on three target species: pangolin, chimpanzee and Timneh parrot. Each poster is accompanied by key messaging in line with the communications plan and will be displayed for at least six months (Annex 27). Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has led to the closure of the airport, thus limiting the posters' reach to date, but will still be displayed for the full intended duration once the airport reopens.

### 3.4 Develop and air content for radio and TV that capture gender and culturally relevant messages promoting understanding of wildlife restrictions and penalties, and IWT reporting

Liberia's first World Pangolin Day celebration took place on 15 February 2020 with a public event planned and organised by Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, FDA, SCNL, WCF, the Paynesville City Corporation, LCRP and FFI (under this project). The event was pre-promoted in local newspapers on 13 February and on ELBC radio in a segment featuring representatives of FDA and the Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, and then covered afterwards in a newspaper article published on 17 February. The event was attended by 300 people, including student representatives from five schools in the region, and included parade in the morning, keynote address by the FDA, special addresses by experts in pangolin conservation and a drama show. Awareness materials included T-shirts, caps, fliers, banners, and stickers, some bearing the slogan 'I care for the Ants bear', the local name for pangolins.

Following the arrest and conviction of an elephant poacher in Salaye Court (Lofa County) in September 2019, a 1 hour radio show sponsored by this grant and organised by the FDA at "Radio Life 92.5", Zorzor district's main radio station, on 7 October 2019 which was broadcasted again the next day from (Annex 28). The morning and early evening timings of the show and its retransmission were selected based on information provided by the radio station's agency Internews on peak listening times. The programme featured FDA Wildlife Officer, Jimmy Parker, one Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) Officer from Monrovia and the Deputy Police Commander from Zorzor, who presented the wildlife crime arrests made in Lofa during the past month, including the case of elephant poacher who was arrested and sentenced to one-year imprisonment and a fine of USD\$ [REDACTED] and spoke about the importance of protecting biodiversity, complying with wildlife law and the penalties for breaking the law. This was followed by a Q&A call-in session to help clarify grey areas with respect to the wildlife law.

### 3.5 Establish listener and viewer statistics monitoring and recording of call-in sessions for qualitative discourse analysis to assess changing perceptions of and attitudes towards IWT.

ELBC radio has an audience reach of around 400,000-500,000 people across the country. According to information received from "Radio Life 92.5", 40,000-50,000 people would have

followed the live broadcast (Output 3.4) and 60,000-70,000 people would have followed the retransmission on the following day from Lofa, Bong, Nimba and Gbarpolu counties. During the radio show aired on the 7 October 2019, four (0 women; 4 men) of six callers (1 woman; 5 men) raised concerns with the implementation of the wildlife law (Annex 28). Three of these callers raised the issue of human-wildlife conflict and disapproval of current wildlife protection. Callers also raised their frustration with the burning of confiscated wild meat by the FDA, with a preference that meat be sold. Future call-in sessions in Years 2 and 3 will be analysed, to monitor changes in perception amongst the public.

### 3.6 Survey a random sample of campaign material distribution sites at least annually to gather information on outreach impact and monitor changes in perception.

A baseline survey to assess knowledge of focal species and the wildlife law was started and carried out at the end of Year 1 at five sites identified as key for targeted audiences, including markets and the airport (Annexes 29 and 30). 44 people were surveyed (22 women; 22 men). After the national lockdown, more people will be surveyed at other markets and border points, targeting at least another 56 people to make a sample of 100 people in total. Survey responses collected to date are being analysed and will be combined with additional responses once the surveys can be resumed. The full survey will be repeated the following year to monitor changes in public knowledge and attitudes towards species targeted by the illegal wildlife trade and the wildlife laws surrounding them at targeted distribution sites.

## **Output 4: Improved IT infrastructure and systems promote accurate, transparent and secure data management, enabling analysis and rapid responses to IWT detection by law enforcement agencies**

### 4.1 Design and develop a centralised national database for collecting, storing and disseminating information on wildlife crime and IWT, enabling access to coordinated and current intelligence.

The national database will be developed in Year 2 as per the approved change request.

### 4.2 Provide IT infrastructure and train specific IT support personnel within FDA for sustainable database housing and management.

Support for database management will be provided from Year 2 as per the approved change request. Two FFI staff members are advising on this process alongside a consultant who will be recruited to develop the database and train government personnel to manage the database. One of these FFI staff members is currently scheduled to travel to Liberia in November 2020 to provide in-person advice on the framework for the database.

### 4.3: Work in partnership with FDA to determine an enforcement baseline.

To date, FDA does not have a central database for measuring enforcement effort and monitoring arrests nationwide. Wildlife seizures and arrests carried out by the Wildlife Division and Confiscation Unit are only filed but not collated or recorded into a formal system. FFI and the FDA, along with partners WCF and LCRP, are working together to develop this into a data management system that can collect IWT information across the country.

A SMART database has been in use in Sapu National Park since January 2019 to capture information and intelligence on wildlife seizures, poacher arrests and legal outcomes, as well as ranger patrol effort. This database will feed into the national database once established (Output 4.1). FDA rangers have now been trained on collecting data directly into SMART (Output 2.10). Information from the database is managed by FFI and shared with FDA and law enforcement partners on a regular basis. SMART patrolling is also planned in Wonegizi and Ziama from April 2020. Previously manually collected data will also be fed into SMART.

Cumulatively, these efforts and systems provide initial inputs for the development of enforcement baseline data prior to the creation of the national database. Baseline data has already been collated by rangers in Sapu National Park and will be added from Wonegizi and Ziama once input into SMART. Once a national database is set up, these two sources of information can be pulled together and fed into the database to provide national-level baselines, in addition to records held by the FDA Wildlife Division, as well as a confiscation database already being compiled by FFI and LCRP for the chimpanzee pet trade in Liberia.

#### 4.4: Collate monthly enforcement agency effort (days of ranger patrols, days of mobile unit patrols, days of FDA officer intelligence gathering effort).

Ongoing support has been provided to the FDA in Sapo, Wonegizi and Ziama (through WABiCC and other grants) to ensure protection of these protected areas and address IWT. To this end, several activities were carried out in the field in Year 1, based on these five pillars:

1. Capacity development
2. Systematic and joint law enforcement patrol
3. Community surveillance and access point monitoring
4. Community engagement and awareness raising
5. Evidence gathering leading to arrest and prosecution

Under WABiCC funding, regular coordination meetings were organised among patrol teams and parks managers to discuss the progress of parks' activities, review results of previous patrols and adapt the patrol strategy if necessary. To manage patrols more efficiently, field teams were trained on the use of SMART and CyberTracker (Output 2.7) and have developed a protocol for data collection, including the establishment of a patrol grid system.

Data collected from Sapo National Park between July 2019 and March 2020 recorded that 45 hunting camps were destroyed, six poachers arrested, and five guns confiscated, and serves as a baseline for enforcement effort (Figure 1). SMART patrolling in Sapo National Park has been supported under this grant since January 2020, and co-funded by WABiCC, where a total of 15 patrols were carried out, covering 915.48 km for a total of 300.00 manpower days. Similar data is available from Wonegizi and Ziama (under WABiCC) and will be input into SMART in Year 2 now that rangers have been trained in SMART and CyberTracker (Output 4.3).

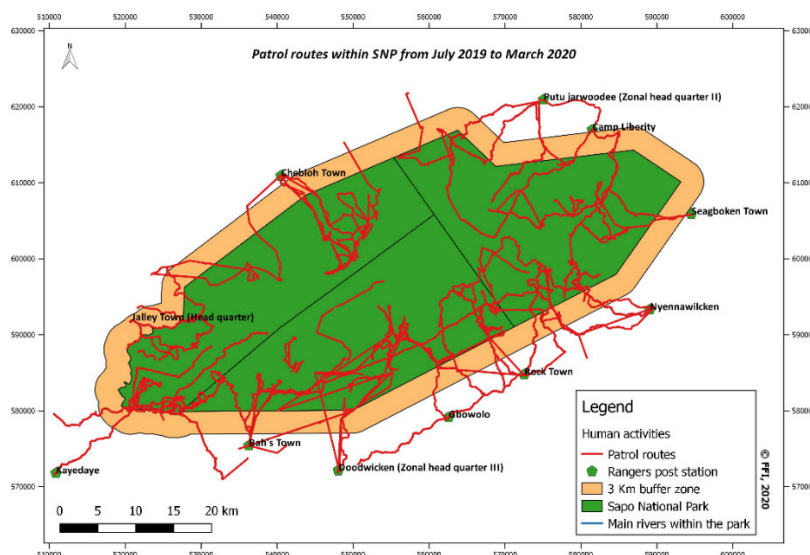


Figure 1. Patrol routes within Sapo National Park from July 2019 to March 2020.

#### 4.5 Analyse database on information origins (informant networks/research officers/border customs/rangers etc.), and collate reports of arrests, seizures, confiscations and prosecutions, share with transboundary partners where appropriate.

This will be implemented in Years 2 and 3 once the national database has been established.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

#### **1. National and regional political commitment to combat IWT is enhanced through better coordination and collaboration within Liberia, which creates a more enabling environment to respond to and prevent IWT of focal species in Liberia and across its borders.**

In the first year of the project, a five-year national strategy to address IWT in Liberia was drafted with multiple stakeholders (Output 1.1; Annex 5); the Liberia wildlife law was formally reviewed by Heritage Partners and Associates (financed under WABiCC), a proposed list of regulations drafted and presented at the LESC meeting in November 2019 (Output 1.2; Annexes 9-11); and the County Attorney for Grand Gedeh County was supported to attend

discussions between Liberia and Ivory Coast with the TLETC (Output 1.3; Annex 12). This progress reflects Liberia's commitment to combatting illegal wildlife trade in collaboration with national partners and neighbouring countries, with tangible frameworks being put in place to support this. Liberia's national strategy is the first to be drafted in the MRU, ahead of the recommendation for all member states to do so as per the West Africa Strategy, which is also in draft.

A MoU between the FDA and MOJ is in the final stages of agreement (Output 1.3) - it was on track to be signed by 15 April 2020 - however, this has been delayed by the current Covid-19 situation. Once it is signed, this agreement will enable more streamlined communication for wildlife crime case development and investigation.

## **2. Targeted law enforcement authorities have strengthened capacity to plan, monitor, and respond strategically to illegal wildlife trade within Liberia and across its borders in coordination with neighbouring law enforcement authorities.**

126 of the targeted 125 personnel from law enforcement agencies were trained in Year 1 (Outputs 2.7 and 2.10; Annexes 17 and 19-22). Of these, 93 from the ZWW landscape were trained on the use of patrol software (SMART/CyberTracker) and the Liberian wildlife law. 33 personnel in the Sapu National Park received similar training through WABiCC co-funding, enabled by the purchase and provision of two computers under this grant (Output 2.11). These trainings have enabled a better coverage of staff in Sapu National Park (and shortly the ZWW landscape), due to improved monitoring of patrol effort in relation to poaching threats, consequently informing more effective patrol deployment (Figure 1). These data collected from SMART and CyberTracker enables a reduction in reporting errors and make it possible to analyse data more quickly, and so allows faster and more strategic responses to illegal activities. Data collected from SMART and CyberTracker will be used to monitor wildlife threats.

A contract has been signed with WildCrime to conduct training in Year 2. This will be tailored to the needs identified from the national-level assessments carried out in Year 1 (Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.7; Annexes 16 and 18). The training will be delivered to personnel working along the wildlife crime case chain, including those in the Wildlife Confiscation Unit and those stationed at border points. This will support improved nationwide capacity to protect wildlife, and detect and respond to wildlife crime within Liberia and at its borders.

## **3. Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes compliance by the public and increases the likelihood of public/informal engagement with IWT detection and reporting**

Information on wildlife laws and sanctions were shared with the public through two radio shows, three newspaper articles and at an event on World Pangolin Day (Annexes 26 and 28). The radio show that aired on the 7 October 2019 conveyed a strong message of the consequences of illegally killing protected wildlife, using the example of the successful conviction of an elephant poacher who received a one-year jail sentence and USD\$ [REDACTED] fine.

A baseline survey was conducted at five key target sites of these messages and will be analysed and compared with follow-on surveys in Years 2 and 3. These will give an indication of the impact of these messages and whether they are increasing public knowledge and engagement with reporting of wildlife crimes. "Radio Life 92.5" radio listener statistics indicate that 40,000-50,000 people followed the broadcast live from Lofa, Bong, Gbarpolu and Nimba counties. Qualitative analysis of callers showed that 67% of callers raised concerns with application of wildlife protection, and will help to inform the project's communications plan (Output 3.1). This will be compared with statistics from radio shows planned in Year 2 and 3.

## **4. Improved IT infrastructure and systems promote accurate, transparent and secure data management, enabling analysis and rapid responses to IWT detection by law enforcement agencies**

In the first year of the project, data management was improved with the development and strengthening of systems to capture patrol effort and instances of wildlife crime in Sapu National Park and the ZWW landscape, and an informal system in the FDA headquarters in Monrovia. The provision of computers in Sapu National Park and training in SMART at both field sites, allows for more effective collection of IWT data at the source. This will support the

identification of trends in threats, inform efforts to prevent wildlife crime and support case development.

Year 2 of the project will see the creation of a national database and support with the management of sensitive information and appropriate mechanisms to share intelligence. Two FFI staff members and a consultant will support the development of this database and protocols for its use, and train government personnel to manage it. This national database, alongside the almost finalised MoU between the FDA and MOJ, will enable information-sharing between national agencies, collation of IWT information at national scale, and support improved inter-agency and cross-border responses to IWT.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

***Liberia has the capacity to tackle IWT nationally and with neighbouring countries at its international borders, thereby disrupting trade routes and leading to reduced trade threats to focal protected species.***

In its first year, this project has made progress towards building stronger law enforcement capacity with actions at the local, national and regional level. The first year of the project has seen:

- The development of a draft Liberian national strategy on wildlife crime, draft wildlife law regulations in Liberia, draft regional strategy on wildlife crime in West Africa, the development of the Conakry Resolution on regional chimpanzee trafficking, and transboundary planning between Liberia and Ivory Coast, and Liberia and Guinea.
- 100% of Sapo National Park personnel applying training received on SMART/CyberTracker (this represents 52% of the total number trained; personnel in ZWW landscape were trained just prior to the national lockdown). The quality and consistency of the data collected in Sapo National Park has improved with the use of these tools and methods (ref. Figure 1 which shows ranger coverage and a baseline of patrol effort).
- Of the 44 people surveyed at five market and border point sites, 64% could recall seeing messaging about protected wildlife species and 93% stated they would report wildlife crime. This also provides a baseline to compare the impact of awareness raising activities in Years 2 and 3.
- The collection of baseline data on the number of public reports, seizures, confiscations, arrests and prosecutions from the FDA's Wildlife Division and Sapo National Park.

One example of progress towards the Outcome was the detection, arrest and successful prosecution of an elephant poacher in September 2019, which was the culmination of several months of cooperation among partners, including FDA, and investment into FDA capacity building. In collaboration with FFI, LCRP, WCF and SCNL, FDA conducted a mission to Lofa County to identify the different routes used by poachers for wildlife trafficking from 22-29 August 2019. During this mission, team members met with security and judicial officials in the county and security officers at checkpoints and learned of information received through a police agent on the poaching of an elephant in the area. A second mission was organised, and as a result of information sharing and planning between different law enforcement agencies in the county, the poacher was identified, arrested while in possession of the ivory, and successfully prosecuted. This conviction was communicated to the public through a radio show and newspaper article (Outputs 3.1 and 3.4).

The project indicators remain adequate for measuring success towards the Outcome.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

The Outcome-level assumptions were:

1. Target agencies remain willing to collaborate and share information.
2. Political stability.
3. Political will is maintained.
4. National and international legislation governing wildlife trafficking are not weakened.
5. Corruption is managed and does not hinder efforts to disrupt wildlife trafficking.
6. Seizures, investigations and prosecutions are conducted and followed through.

These assumptions generally hold true. The arrival of Covid-19 is impacting all target countries to extents not yet known, and may contribute to political instability and/or the loss of political will as public resources and attention are redirected to support public health and disease surveillance efforts.

### **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation**

The project is contributing to the prevention of poaching and trafficking of pangolins, parrots, chimpanzees, elephants and other protected species through strengthened law enforcement systems in Liberia and the wider region.

In its first year, the project contributed to this desired impact by utilising a multi-pronged approach to tackle national and transboundary IWT, with an emphasis on building technical and operational enforcement capacity, and national and regional strategy development. In March 2020, an IWT workshop was held and resulted in the development of the first national IWT strategy for Liberia (Output 1.1; Annex 5), complementing the regional West Africa strategy. Still in draft, this strategy provides a key foundation for establishing a legal framework to prevent IWT and incorporates ranger and community experiences from Sapo National Park, Gola National Park and the ZWW landscape. Law enforcement capacity has been enhanced nationally and across borders with the training of Liberian and Guinean rangers in SMART and CyberTracker (Figure 1; Annexes 19-22). Further training will be delivered to national and transboundary agencies in Year 2, tailored to capacity needs identified in the assessments undertaken in Output 2.1. To ensure wider reach and sustainability of this training, a train the trainer approach will be followed (with two nominated FDA personnel to receive additional support and mentorship under Output 2.8) and modules will be incorporated into the University of Liberia and Forestry Training Institute syllabi. Law enforcement capacity of the FDA has also been improved with the provision of resources, including a vehicle and two computers, to enable rapid responses and better reporting of incidents. The outreach messaging shared via radio shows, newspaper articles and at the World Wildlife Day event, has started to inform the public about the wildlife law, penalties and the importance of conserving focal species. Initial results from the public surveys showed that 64% of people could recall seeing messaging about the project's focal species, but only 14% were aware of restrictions on hunting and trade of wildlife. With more awareness of the laws and to whom to report, the public will be more empowered to act as informal guardians of wildlife and potentially as informants if they have knowledge of a wildlife crime. Cumulatively, these activities are on track to strengthen enforcement systems in Liberia and in the region and contribute to the ongoing conservation of wildlife and sustainable development.

## **4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement**

To date, this project has supported the IWT Challenge Fund Objective to ***strengthen law enforcement***, and the 2018/2014 London Declarations and 2015 Kasane Statement by:

- Reviewing the wildlife law, drafting regulation for implementation of the law, and training law enforcement personnel on the law (LD18: 9, 14; KS15: 4, 5; LD14: VIII, X, XI, XIII, XIV, XVI).
- Collaborating with national and regional agencies to promote better coordination of action, through transboundary collaboration between Liberia, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone (through FFI's Guinea programme and regional partners WCF in Ivory Coast and SCNL in Sierra Leone), a regional resolution on combatting illegal trade in chimpanzees, a draft regional West Africa strategy, a draft MoU between the FDA and MOJ, and a draft national strategy for combatting wildlife crime in Liberia (LD18: 9, 15, 16, 18; KS15: 3, 7, 12, 14, 15; LD14: X, XI, XIII, XIV, XVI, XIX, XX).
- Raising public awareness of species conservation, IWT impacts and consequences to engaging in wildlife crime, with messaging communicated on radio shows, posters, and at events (LD18: 7, 13, 20; KS15: 1, 12; LD14: I).



## **5. Impact on species in focus**

The project is impacting focal species by:

- training enforcement personnel on the current wildlife law, providing resources to the FDA, assessing national capacity needs for training in Year 2, and developing an agreement between the FDA and MOJ. These activities will strengthen enforcement agencies ability to enforce legislation and develop, investigate and prosecute wildlife crime cases. The first year of the project saw the arrest of 32 individuals, including 6 from around Sapo National Park (0 women; 6 men), prosecution of 12 individuals, conviction of 10 individuals, confiscation of 616 specimens (2 elephant tusks, 425kg pangolin scales, 1 parrot), and 12 live chimpanzees that were transported to LCRP sanctuary.
- training 63 rangers from Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape on the use of SMART and CyberTracker to protect species in their habitats. This has led to more efficient deployment of patrols and systematic data collection in Sapo National Park, which has the largest population of chimpanzees in Liberia, and in the ZWW landscape (once the lockdown is lifted) where pangolin trade across the Liberia-Guinea border has been reported. This will enable better monitoring of wildlife populations and the IWT threat they face.

Improved patrolling, combined with enhanced ability to prosecute cases, will create a stronger law enforcement response to the threats posed by IWT, and improved enforcement will enhance deterrence of offenders from poaching and trafficking, effectively reducing the IWT threat on focal species.

## **6. Project support to poverty alleviation**

The project is working towards improving national capacity to address illegal wildlife trade so as to sustain wildlife populations as key indicators of biodiversity in forested systems. Healthy forests are imperative for sustained ecological services upon which humans depend, and provide important resources that contribute to community well-being and livelihoods. FFI's existing livelihoods and well-being programming in Liberia complements this project and works to create incentives for the legal and sustainable use of resources to support poverty alleviation. FFI and its partners will be monitoring how local use of natural resources changes in response to Covid-19, which, as lockdowns persist, may create increased pressure on forest and wildlife resources.

Though not envisioned in the project proposal, project partners are cognisant of the associated health implications of illegal and unmanaged wildlife trade in the current age of the coronavirus pandemic. As suggested by coronavirus and seen in previous zoonotic disease outbreaks, poor management and control of wildlife trade can have a detrimental impact on people and their livelihoods. By increasing public awareness, enhancing inter-agency and cross-border collaboration, and national capacity overall, the project will hopefully also contribute to reduced negative health and economic impacts caused by zoonotic disease transmission.

## **7. Consideration of gender equality issues**

The project considered gendered aspects within activities, recognising that the roles, perspectives and experiences of women and men in IWT can differ. In this respect, a conscious effort was made to equally include women in training activities, workshops, surveys and assessments, to the extent that it was possible. Between July 2019 and March 2020, 8% of those trained, 13% of those assessed on their capacity needs, on average 30% of those attending LESC meetings, 38% of those participating in the national stakeholder workshop, 50% of those interviewed at the five key target audience sites, and 17% of radio callers were women. The communications strategy developed in Output 3.1 also considered gender-relevant messaging and platforms that would best reach targeted audiences, whether men, women, consumers, vendors, traffickers or hunters. 60% of FFI's project team are women, and 60% of project partners have female leads.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

To enable monitoring of the training delivered under this project, a baseline capacity needs assessment was carried out to understand current levels of capacity of national law enforcement personnel (Output 2.1). This assessment, and other previous assessments implemented under the WABICC grant, will be used to tailor national and transboundary training (Outputs 2.2 and 2.7), and will be compared with post-training assessments in Years 2 and 3 to monitor progress and identify additional gaps or barriers to effective law enforcement. Participants on the SMART/CyberTracker training (Output 2.10) were chosen based on their field-based role and had no or limited prior knowledge of using the software. Post-training self-assessments will be given to these participants in Year 2 to review to what extent they have been applying the training in practice. The relative quality of field data collected will also act as an indicator of achievement.

To monitor the impact and effectiveness of awareness raising activities, a baseline survey was started at five market and border point sites (Output 3.6). This will be continued at additional sites once the lockdown has lifted, analysed, and repeated at the end of Year 2 and 3. The results from the survey will monitor changes in public knowledge of wildlife laws, protected species and means for reporting wildlife crime. Qualitative data will also be collected and compared from callers on the radio shows in Output 3.4. Collectively this data will measure audience reach and the extent they have increased IWT knowledge.

Baseline data is being collected by FFI and project partners LCRP, WCF and the FDA to monitor overall progress towards the Outcome, by comparing annual figures of public reports, seizures/confiscations, arrests, prosecutions and convictions. The availability and quality of these data is also an indicator in itself, as the project develops national capacity to collect these types of data.

## **9. Lessons learnt**

Several lessons have been learnt during the first year, but most notable among the positive outcomes is the learning from strong coordination with partners and government agencies and the benefits seen from the trainings. This project has been collaborating with several partners to support the government in addressing IWT and align objectives and targets. Getting all partners working on IWT to coordinate their response has been immensely valuable. At the same time, national coordination platforms such as the LESC and WCTF have enabled the FDA coordinate and collaborate better with other security agencies, combined with the development of protocols for arrest and confiscation, which have guided operations and enabled more arrests. Working together has also built trust between NGO partners and government, helping all parties to better understand the challenges faced. One main challenge on the NGO side was getting security agencies and judiciary to understand the severity of wildlife crime and convincing them to understand that IWT is a crime. This affected evidence gathering and discouraged follow-up of cases in court, thereby preventing conviction of those arrested. Generally, IWT was viewed as a felony, deserving no more than a warning. This also impeded prosecutions initially as offenders were only held for a short while and given a warning.

Participation of judiciary and security officials in meetings (such as at the TLETC and LESC meetings), workshops and trainings (particularly on the wildlife law) provided the opportunity for more exposure and understanding of IWT, and led to more prosecutions and convictions. However, political interference has remained a challenge, preventing wildlife and security agents from doing their jobs. For example, agents may have been pressured by an influential figure to release arrested offenders. Such interference impedes the number of cases taken to court and came through strongly as a significant challenge during the development of the national strategy. This workshop enabled different institutions to come together and brainstorm on these issues, culminating in the design of an operational roadmap going forward. It also provided an opportunity for junior officers who were directly impacted while on missions to highlight these issues to senior officials. Lastly, formal involvement of the MOJ more recently has built FDA confidence knowing that they have MOJ support. However, a delay in signing the MoU has slowed cementing of this relationship. We are hoping that this will be concluded in Year 2 and will enable more successful operations, especially in the area of prosecutions.

## **10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

N/A

## **11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

In addition to building the capacity of officers directly involved in tackling IWT, this project has enabled the training and mentoring of future conservation leaders through internships. Interns have been trained in biodiversity field data collection, questionnaire design, use of data collection tools, and the importance of data gathering for informing law enforcement and tracking IWT. In Year 1, the project supported four interns – one student and three school leavers (including one female) in the early stages of their career – to implement projects and receive hands-on training. They were trained and supported to implement various aspects of this project and in some cases to initiate their own projects. One of the interns, Meima Corneh, was trained in pangolin data collection and supported a short pangolin project from January - March 2020, funded under a different grant. She supported the planning of and actively took part in the World Pangolin Day celebration and is currently working on her report. Another, Abraham Varney, while on placement with FFI in August 2019 for his African Leadership course at the University in Rwanda, carried out an assessment of the level of awareness of wildlife and environmental laws by government institutions working in the forestry and environment sector, and summarised his findings in a report. He interviewed government officials from various government institutions and participated in a LESC meeting. David Dennis, a third intern - led the public survey and capacity needs assessment during March 2020 and produced two reports for these (Annexes 16 and 30). The fourth intern, Christopher Daylue, supported the design and interviews for the capacity needs assessment, and the wild meat survey under this grant. He has developed and submitted a funding proposal to carry out a human-wildlife conflict project. David and Christopher also supported the planning of and actively participated in the events on World Wildlife Day and the national strategy development workshop.

Worth noting, was the petrol shortage crisis in Liberia at the start of 2020 and before the lockdown. This did not have a direct impact on project activities, as project vehicles use diesel, but did cause severe traffic jams in Monrovia. This crisis was, and will be, monitored closely. Some activities have also been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and may be further delayed or negatively impacted. The project will review activities planned for Year 2 and 3, and prioritise those that can be carried out or planned remotely during the lockdown.

## **12. Sustainability and legacy**

The development of the national strategy for combatting wildlife crime included the drafting of a five-year workplan (Output 1.1). This enables the Liberian government to monitor its progress beyond the lifespan of this grant and compare efforts against the six objectives set out in the strategy. Liberia is the first country to develop a national strategy within the Mano River Union, in parallel to the regional West Africa strategy, and can therefore pave the way forward as an example to neighbouring countries. This strategy and the evolving partnerships in-country (between the FDA and MOJ, and within the LESC and WCTF; Output 1.2) and across borders (with Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone; Output 1.3) promote political engagement from and between government agencies, which will encourage further political attention and funding to address wildlife crime. The project has improved capacity of rangers in Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape to more efficiently collect and analyse data using SMART and CyberTracker, and consequently better plan patrol deployment for the protection of wildlife and detection of illegal activities. This training, and the project's approach to incorporating train-the-trainer learning, helps to create a culture amongst personnel at source sites to maintain learning, so that knowledge can be passed on to colleagues and SMART patrolling continued after the project end.

## **13. IWT Challenge Fund identity**

The project acknowledges the UK government as a donor by displaying the UKAID logo on event banners and IWT awareness materials. Support from Defra's IWT Challenge Fund has also been communicated verbally during meetings, workshops and in the newspaper articles. There is a general understanding of the IWT Challenge Fund amongst institutions working to address IWT in Liberia. A national conference was planned for 23 March 2020 to outline the

project, UK Government’s sponsorship via IWTCF, and present the national strategy to a wider stakeholder group inclusive of policy makers; unfortunately, this conference was postponed due to the quarantine announcement following the coronavirus outbreak.

**14. Safeguarding**

FFI has developed and follows policies around safeguarding children and adults, anti-bullying and anti-harassment, and whistleblowing. In terms of social safeguards, FFI has publicly available position papers on our approach to Free, Prior and Informed Consent Position, Gender in Conservation, Displacement and Restrictions on Access to Resources and Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance (links below). Our specialist Conservation, Leadership and Governance team support regional FFI staff and partners to take a holistic, people-centred approach to biodiversity conservation, and to ensure all project activity is strongly aligned with these principles (Annex 31). We monitor updates in Government and Charity Commission guidance and review our policies and procedures accordingly.

Partner due diligence procedures include checking whether any safeguarding concerns have arisen with the partner concerned and the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure forms part of contracts and agreements with third party contractors and sub-grantees. We are also currently researching LMS platforms (Learning Management Systems) which would enable online training in policies & procedures.

No safeguarding issues have been reported during the reporting year.

**15. Project expenditure**

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (July 2019-March 2020)**

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Consultancy costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Overhead Costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Travel and subsistence	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Operating Costs	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Capital items	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Others	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>TOTAL</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

\*Please note that the total budget for Year 1 is £ [REDACTED] as per the approved change request in February 2020. The project has spent within 10% of this budget.

**16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

Although in its first year of implementation, this project has made strides towards strengthening the capacity of law enforcement in Liberia and its neighbouring countries, for the protection of focal species – pangolins, chimpanzees, elephants, pygmy hippopotamus and the Timneh parrot – and protected species more broadly. As a key source and transit country for IWT in West Africa, Liberia has well-known trade hubs, porous international borders and is deemed to have poor wildlife legislation against international standards and CITES criteria. Law enforcement personnel lack the needed knowledge, skills and materials to detect and respond to wildlife crime, such as chimpanzees concealed in transit. In 2016, the wildlife law in Liberia was passed, however it is now being revised to ensure compliance with CITES. In addition, there is the need to finalise regulations to that law and disseminate it publicly. Generally, IWT has previously not been a high priority, with only a 1 in 50 arrests leading to successful prosecutions between 2010 and 2018. It is therefore noteworthy that between July 2019 and March 2020, Liberia had 10 convictions of wildlife offenders out of 32 arrests (an average of 1 in 3). This highlights that where arrests are being made, stronger cases are being developed, helped by improved collaboration with the Ministry of Justice. One high-profile example of this was the arrest, prosecution and conviction of an elephant poacher from Lofa County in September 2019. This was the culmination of several months of cooperation among partners and investment in capacity building of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). Following two FDA field missions supported by FFI, LCRP, WCF and SCNL, the poacher was identified, arrested while in possession of the ivory, and successfully prosecuted. This conviction was communicated nationwide through a radio show and newspaper article. The development of a collaborative national strategy for combatting wildlife crime in March 2020, the first for the Mano River Union countries, is also an indication of the willingness to strengthen collaboration and coordination nationally and regionally and will further enhance Liberia's capacity to respond to IWT.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Pangolin, parrot, chimpanzee, elephant and other species at risk of illegal killing and international trade are protected by stronger enforcement systems in Liberia and the wider region</p>		<p>The project has seen the strengthening of enforcement systems in its first year, through the development of the first national strategy on wildlife crime, two successful prosecutions of IWT offenders, increased collaboration with border agencies in Guinea and Ivory Coast, training of rangers in Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape, and overall through the collection of initial baseline data on IWT, national capacity needs and public awareness and perceptions.</p>	<p><i>NB: All activities planned for Years 2 and 3 will be revisited and the project's workplan will be adapted in accordance with what should be and can be done during the national lockdown.</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Liberia has the capacity to tackle IWT nationally and with neighbouring countries at its international borders, thereby disrupting trade routes and leading to reduced trade threats to focal protected species.</p>	<p>0.1 <b>Number of national and regional/transboundary agreements, strategies and action plans</b> that demonstrate increasing commitment to strategic collaboration to combat IWT in Liberia and across its borders increases between Yr1 to end Yr3.</p> <p>0.2 <b>At least 50% of trained enforcement personnel</b> report applying new skills to address IWT,</p>	<p>0.1 One transboundary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Liberia and Guinea border agencies, and one transboundary meeting has been held between Liberia and Ivory Coast with the TLETC. A MoU has also been drafted between the FDA and MOJ and reviewed and input into by FFI and partners. A Liberian National Strategy for combatting the wildlife crime has been drafted. The project also contributed towards the development of the draft West Africa Regional Strategy and Conakry Resolution on Combatting Illegal Trade in Western Chimpanzees.</p> <p>0.2 126 enforcement personnel have been trained in wildlife laws and application of SMART and CyberTracker to start recording</p>	<p>0.1 The Liberian National Strategy will be circulated amongst stakeholders and finalised in Year 2. The MoU between the FDA and MOJ will also hopefully be finalised in Year 2.</p> <p>0.2 An additional 40-50 enforcement personnel will be trained in Monrovia on techniques along the case development chain, currently</p>

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	<p>from baseline assessment to end Yr3.</p> <p>0.3 <b>50% of people surveyed</b> across the targeted IWT campaign distribution zones can recount information gained from exposure to targeted messaging; <b>qualitative analysis</b> of caller engagements denotes <b>improved comprehension of IWT environment</b> by end Y3; and the <b>number of public/informal reports of IWT via informant networks</b> increases between Yr2 and the end Yr3.</p> <p>0.4 <b>The number of focal species seizures, confiscations, IWT-related arrests and prosecutions</b> from detection of illegal activity at borders (protected areas, land borders and checkpoints, air/sea-ports) centrally recorded and responded to, increases from Yr1 to Yr3.</p>	<p>and monitoring baseline patrol data.</p> <p>0.3 44 people have been surveyed at five market and border sites. Initial results show that 14% are aware of restrictions to hunting and trade of wildlife and 64% had seen posters related to wildlife. Analysis of caller engagement from the “Radio Life 92.5” show indicated that 17% of callers were women, 67% were somewhat aware of wildlife laws, and none appeared accepting of these rules. In Year 1, no public reports of wildlife crime were recorded by the FDA due to there being no formal monitoring of information sources.</p> <p>0.4 Year 1 saw nationally 12 prosecutions of wildlife offenders, of which 10 were successfully convicted. These followed the WCTF protocols for arrests and confiscations and also reflects the start of such data being recorded in Liberia. Nationally there were 32 arrests and 616 specimens confiscated (2 elephant tusks, 425kg pangolin scales, 1 parrot and 12 live chimpanzees). In Sapo National Park, SMART records</p>	<p>planned for November 2020. This will include at least 4 personnel from the FDA Wildlife Confiscation Unit (Output 2.12). The 126 enforcement personnel trained in Year 1 will be surveyed to monitor the extent they have applied their training in practice.</p> <p>0.3 Follow-up and additional surveys will be carried out at the end of Year 2 to assess the reach of awareness raising materials at target sites. Further radio/tv shows are planned for Year 2, dependent on the lifting of the national lockdown, and caller engagement will be analysed from these to monitor the level of comprehension and perceptions of IWT by the general public.</p> <p>0.4 SMART/CyberTracker patrolling and data collection will be implemented in Wonegizi once the national lockdown is lifted.</p>

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		showed that 45 camps were destroyed, 5 guns confiscated and 6 poachers arrested.	
<p><b>Output 1.</b> National and regional political commitment to combat IWT is enhanced through better coordination and collaboration within Liberia, which creates a more enabling environment to respond to and prevent IWT of focal species in Liberia and across its borders.</p>	<p>1.1 <b>A national stakeholder workshop enables FDA and targeted Liberian law enforcement agencies and partners to mount a coordinated approach to tackling IWT, including by devising a collaborative national IWT strategy, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of enforcement authorities, and intra- and inter-agency protocols and dataflow systems by the end of Yr2.</b></p> <p>1.2 <b>Via national/LESC stakeholder platform meetings, partners coordinate to draft regulations to enable the new revised Liberian Wildlife Law to be operationalized; regulations are approved and adopted by FDA and targeted law enforcement agencies by the end of Yr2.</b></p> <p>1.3 <b>Via regional stakeholder platform meetings, representatives from at least two existing transboundary taskforces/committees are coordinating and effectively generating, sharing and taking action on IWT intelligence regionally by the end of Yr2.</b></p> <p>1.4 <b>At least one high-level, governmental law enforcement personnel per country participates in international</b></p>	<p>1.1 A national stakeholder workshop was held on 17-20 March 2020 and developed draft strategy with an operational plan. Arrest protocols were developed ahead of this workshop under another grant and presented at the LESG meeting in August 2019. These functioned as preliminary protocols leading up to the development of the national strategy. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annexes 5-6.</p> <p>1.2 Five LESG stakeholder meetings were held between July 2019 and March 2020. Participants at these meeting discussed the draft table of contents of the proposed regulations of the wildlife law in November 2019, which were drawn up by the law firm Heritage Partners and Associates. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of the report and Annexes 9-11.</p> <p>1.3 Representatives from the Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee (TLETC) met in 24-25 September 2019 to coordinate information sharing on IWT in the Sapo-Tai transboundary landscape between Liberia and Ivory Coast. A MoU was signed by the FDA and its counterpart in Guinea (CFZ) on the developing anti-poaching strategies across the ZWW transboundary landscape and its first meeting was held in Wonegizi in January 2020. The Zonal Warden of the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area, Samuel Freeman, was supported to attend the World Ranger Congress in Nepal in November 2019. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of the report and Annexes 12-14.</p> <p>1.4 This is planned for Year 2.</p>	



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	exchanges / learning events, gaining insight and motivation from exposure to established and successful approaches to combatting IWT elsewhere, by the end of Yr2.		
<p>Activity 1.1</p> <p>Run a national stakeholder workshop to develop a national strategy to tackle IWT in line with regional priorities, with 4 strategic outputs planned.</p>		<p>The national stakeholder workshop was held in March 2020, in line with regional priorities drafted in the West Africa strategy and the national strategy's six strategic objectives.</p>	<p>The draft national strategy will be circulated amongst stakeholders in Year 2 and finalised.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2</p> <p>Host four (LESC meetings and technical sessions) for stakeholders to develop the regulations for the new wildlife law and organise the national strategy workshop.</p>		<p>Five LESC meetings were held; participants drafted a proposed list of regulations and two table of contents for the new wildlife law.</p>	<p>The regulations need to be drafted and finalised.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3</p> <p>Via regional transboundary committee/taskforce platforms, develop transboundary IWT coordination agreements and information sharing plans to enable informed and coordinated action acting on regional intelligence</p>		<p>A transboundary MoU was signed between Liberia and Guinea. Cross-border plans made between Liberia and Ivory Coast for coordinated action and information sharing at the Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee (TLETC) meeting in September 2019. The Zonal Warden for Wonegizi was supported to attend the World Ranger Congress in Nepal in November 2019.</p>	<p>Transboundary collaboration will be continued in Years 2 and 3 of the project. The meeting of the TGKS Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee, was initially scheduled for March 2020 and postponed to April 2020 (Year 2), however, due to the coronavirus pandemic it has been postponed further until the national lockdown is lifted.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.</b></p> <p>Targeted law enforcement authorities have <b>strengthened capacity</b> to plan, monitor, and respond strategically to illegal wildlife trade within Liberia and across its borders in coordination with neighbouring law enforcement authorities.</p>	<p>2.1 <b>A comprehensive capacity gap assessment</b> of targeted IWT enforcement agencies (e.g. (FDA rangers, police, security and border customs, judiciary) is completed and informs the specific training needs of each agency operating at national and transboundary levels by the end of Yr1.</p>	<p>2.1 A capacity needs assessment was carried out with personnel from the FDA, National Fisheries &amp; Aquatic Authority, Transnational Organised Crime Unit, Liberia National Police, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice, INTERPOL, Liberia Revenue Authority and Immigration Service. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 16.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>2.2 <b>A suite of training modules</b> (to be delivered as a combination of cross-agency and specific agency focussed) and skills development tracking tools are developed, incorporating balanced gender and cultural inputs, by the end of Yr1.</p> <p>2.3 National and agency-specific training is delivered to at least <b>100 men and women</b> from at least <b>four targeted national law enforcement agencies/departments</b> (and border personnel from at least <b>two neighbouring countries</b>, actively encouraging and <b>monitoring gender representation</b>, by the end of Yr2.</p>	<p>2.2 A concept note and workplan for this training has been developed. This activity will be delivered in Year 2, in accordance with the change request submitted, and will be tailored to the needs identified in the national capacity assessment. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 17.</p> <p>2.3 63 joint security personnel and judiciary were trained in the ZWW landscape on the wildlife laws. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of the report and Annex 18. As above, the remainder of this activity is planned for Year 2.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1</p> <p>Design and complete a capacity assessment of key Liberian authorities and institutions responsible for law enforcement (e.g. FDA, border customs, security, police and judiciary).</p>		<p>A capacity assessment was designed using the 2012 UNODC Wildlife &amp; Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and carried out with 8 government departments.</p>	<p>This assessment will be repeated at the end of Year 2 to assess gaps in capacity and identify if there are any other barriers to law enforcement.</p>
<p>Activity 2.2</p> <p>Define and develop the suite of IWT training modules for law enforcement agency personnel at national and transboundary levels.</p>		<p>A concept note and workplan were developed to outline the training modules needed. A consultant from WildCrime was commissioned for this activity.</p>	<p>Training modules will be designed by the consultant from WildCrime, incorporating existing training resources available and tailored to the identified national capacity needs.</p>
<p>Activity 2.7</p> <p>Deliver a national training programme (both combined and specific agency focused) to at least 100 personnel across targeted law enforcement agencies.</p>		<p>As above. Additionally, 63 joint security personnel and judiciary received training the ZWW landscape on the wildlife laws.</p>	<p>Law enforcement agencies will be trained on CITES, species identification and case handling from source sites to court rooms.</p>

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<p>Activity 2.8</p> <p>Identify 2 key individuals from Liberian law enforcement authorities to receive additional applied training, mentorship and accompaniment to build their capacity.</p>		<p>Two government officers from the FDA have been nominated for this mentoring programme.</p>	<p>Once the nominations have been formalised, these officers will begin their mentorship programme in Year 2.</p>
<p>Activity 2.10</p> <p>Provide site-based training to &gt; 25 state and community rangers within two transboundary areas in anti-poaching, SMART patrolling, evidence-gathering, informant network development; the IWT database</p>		<p>63 personnel from Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape received site-based training on SMART and CyberTracker.</p>	<p>A post-training self-assessment will be given to trainees to review implementation of learning.</p>
<p>Activity 2.11</p> <p>Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.</p>		<p>Ranger teams in Sapo National Park received two computers and have been deploying patrols using SMART. A vehicle was also purchased for the Wildlife Confiscation Unit.</p>	<p>SMART patrolling will be implemented in the ZWW landscape once the lockdown is lifted.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b></p> <p>Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes compliance by the public and increases the likelihood of public/informal engagement with IWT detection and reporting</p>	<p>3.1 A suite of <b>campaign materials is produced</b> (e.g., posters/billboards/murals) that provide informational messages on IWT and promote public engagement in reporting, and is distributed strategically in <b>at least 10 transboundary border sites, two airports, two marine ports, five wild meat markets and three focal key species transboundary sites</b> by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>3.2 The <b>number of people (disaggregated by gender) listening to and calling in to media talk shows</b> providing current information and education on IWT issues and promoting public engagement in reporting, airing in Yr2.</p> <p>3.3 <b>The number of people engaged during at least three public opinion surveys</b> (researching awareness impact, IWT comprehension and willingness/barriers to reporting)</p>	<p>3.1 A communications plan was developed in February 2020 and is continually being adapted to reflect target audiences and messaging. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 24.</p> <p>3.2 Call-ins to the radio show in October 2019 have been analysed qualitatively and will be compared with upcoming media talk shows in Years 2 and 3. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 28.</p> <p>3.3 One public opinion survey was started in March 2020, collecting responses from 44 individuals at five sites, and will be continued once the lockdown is lifted, and compared with annual repeat surveys. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 29.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	conducted in targeted distribution sites by the end of Yr3.		
<p>Activity 3.1</p> <p>Design key IWT messaging and produce a series of awareness raising campaign materials (posters, info-graphics, billboards, murals, social media posts etc.) to promote public engagement.</p>		<p>A communications plan was created, key messages were agreed upon and used to produce relevant and targeted materials.</p> <p>Messaging on IWT was designed and distributed at a live canvas painting of a chimpanzee on World Chimpanzee Day (17 July 2019), an event on World Wildlife Day (3 March 2020), in three newspaper articles (one on 10 October 2019 – the Daily OBSERVER, and two on 3 March 2020 – the Daily OBSERVER and the INQUIRER), and via two radio shows (8 October 2019 and 13 February 2020).</p>	<p>The draft communications strategy will be revisited regularly to check that messaging is still relevant (referring to results gathered in the baseline survey) and that activities are likely to reach and resonate with target audiences, applying lessons learned from previous methods and materials.</p>
<p>Activity 3.3</p> <p>Commission at least one mural drawing communicating key campaign messaging at the Monrovia international airport.</p>		<p>As all potential spaces at Monrovia international airport were allocated, a poster space was commissioned instead, allowing for 3 side-by-side posters. These posters were designed with messaging on three focal species: pangolin, chimpanzees and the Timneh parrot.</p>	<p>The poster will be displayed in the Departures Terminal at Monrovia international airport for 6 months, once the airport is reopened after the lockdown.</p>
<p>Activity 3.4</p> <p>Develop and air content for radio and TV that capture gender and culturally relevant messages promoting understanding of wildlife restrictions and penalties, and IWT reporting</p>		<p>Two radio shows were aired on the 7 October 2019 (and retransmitted on 8 October 2019) and 13 February 2020.</p>	<p>Additional media talk shows will be planned for Years 2 and 3.</p>
<p>Activity 3.6</p> <p>Survey a random sample of campaign material distribution sites at least annually to gather information on outreach impact and monitor changes in perception.</p>		<p>A baseline survey was started in March 2020.</p>	<p>The baseline survey will resume once the lockdown is lifted and will be repeated at the end of Years 2 and 3 to review impact of awareness raising messaging on the public.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Output 4.</b>  <b>Output 4.</b> (Addressing regional priorities, <b>Collaboration</b> and <b>Resources</b>)</p> <p>Improved IT infrastructure and systems promote accurate, transparent and secure data management, enabling analysis and rapid responses to IWT detection by law enforcement agencies</p>	<p>4.1 A <b>centralised database</b>, housed within the FDA, is continually populated and analysed by trained staff from at least four law enforcement agencies in Liberia, providing secure, transparent data to inform dynamic national IWT action, by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>4.2 An increase in the <b>number of recorded, IWT-specific patrols and investigations deployed</b>, enabled by quality, accessible data.</p>	<p>4.1 This database will be developed in Year 2. Two FFI staff members have been identified to help with database design and training, and a consultant will be hired. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report.</p> <p>4.2 IWT-related data has been collected from the FDA's Wildlife Division and Sapo National Park. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of report.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1</p> <p>Design and develop a centralised national database for collecting, storing and disseminating information on wildlife crime and IWT, enabling access to coordinated and current intelligence.</p>		<p>This is planned for Year 2.</p>	<p>Two FFI staff members and a consultant will develop this database and design a framework around its use.</p>
<p>Activity 4.2</p> <p>Provide IT infrastructure and train specific IT support personnel within FDA for sustainable database housing and management.</p>		<p>This is planned for Year 2.</p>	<p>Two FFI staff members and a consultant will provide support and training on the national database.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3</p> <p>Work in partnership with FDA to determine an enforcement baseline</p>		<p>Information from Sapo National Park is managed by FFI and shared with the FDA. Ranger training on SMART/CyberTracker has improved the quality of this data.</p>	<p>Once the national database is established, information will be inputted from national sources and in partnership with the FDA.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4</p> <p>Collate monthly enforcement agency effort (days of ranger patrols, days of mobile unit patrols, days of FDA officer intelligence gathering effort)</p>		<p>Data has been collected from Sapo National Park on patrol effort. Some information is available from the FDA's Wildlife Division, but this is not currently systematic or comprehensive.</p>	<p>Once SMART is implemented in the ZWW landscape, data will be collected, analysed, and rolled up into national level data collection. Data will also be collected nationally once the national database is established.</p>

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> Pangolin, parrot, chimpanzee, elephant and other species at risk of illegal killing and international trade are protected by stronger enforcement systems in Liberia and the wider region.			
<b>Outcome:</b> Liberia has the capacity to tackle IWT nationally and with neighbouring countries at its international borders, thereby disrupting trade routes and leading to reduced trade threats to focal protected species.	<p>0.1 <b>Number of national and regional/transboundary agreements, strategies and action plans</b> that demonstrate increasing commitment to strategic collaboration to combat IWT in Liberia and across its borders increases between Yr1 to end Yr3.</p> <p>0.2 <b>At least 50% of trained enforcement personnel</b> report applying new skills to address IWT, from baseline assessment to end Yr3.</p> <p>0.3 <b>50% of people surveyed</b> across the targeted IWT campaign distribution zones can recount information gained from exposure to targeted messaging; <b>qualitative analysis</b> of caller engagements denotes <b>improved comprehension of IWT environment</b> by end Y3; and the <b>number of public/informal reports of IWT via informant networks</b> increases between Yr2 and the end Yr3.</p> <p>0.4 <b>The number of focal species seizures, confiscations, IWT-related arrests and prosecutions</b> from detection of illegal activity at borders (protected areas, land borders and checkpoints, air/sea-ports) centrally recorded and</p>	<p>0.1 Copies of agreements/strategic and planning documents, LESC attendance logs and meeting minutes, travel records of regional representatives.</p> <p>0.2 Training reports, final report(s) and analysis on capacity assessment log.</p> <p>0.3 Ongoing and final reports of survey statistics, discourse analysis, and database records.</p> <p>0.4 Database records</p>	<p>Target agencies remain willing to collaborate and share information.</p> <p>Political stability.</p> <p>Political will is maintained.</p> <p>National and international legislation governing wildlife trafficking are not weakened.</p> <p>Corruption is managed and does not hinder efforts to disrupt wildlife trafficking.</p> <p>Seizures, investigations and prosecutions are conducted and followed through.</p>

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	responded to, increases from Yr1 to Yr3.		
<p><b>Output 1: (Addressing regional priorities, Coordination &amp; Political Commitment)</b></p> <p>National and regional political commitment to combat IWT is enhanced through better coordination and collaboration within Liberia, which creates a more enabling environment to respond to and prevent IWT of focal species in Liberia and across its borders.</p>	<p>1.1 <b>A national stakeholder workshop</b> enables FDA and targeted Liberian law enforcement agencies and partners to mount a coordinated approach to tackling IWT, including by devising a collaborative national IWT strategy, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of enforcement authorities, and intra- and inter-agency protocols and dataflow systems by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>1.2 Via national/LESC stakeholder platform meetings, partners coordinate to <b>draft regulations to enable the new revised Liberian Wildlife Law to be operationalized</b>; regulations are <b>approved and adopted by FDA and targeted law enforcement agencies</b> by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>1.3 Via regional stakeholder platform meetings, <b>representatives from at least two existing transboundary taskforces/committees</b> are coordinating and <b>effectively generating, sharing and taking action on IWT intelligence</b> regionally by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>1.4 <b>At least one high-level, governmental law enforcement personnel per country</b> participates in international exchanges / learning events, gaining insight and motivation from exposure to established and successful</p>	<p>1.1 LESG meeting minutes/notes/attendance logs, LESG member TORs, photos, and action plans; draft and finalised national IWT strategy, enforcement agency TORs, data flow chart and protocols.</p> <p>1.2 Drafted and approved wildlife law regulation act</p> <p>1.3 LESG meeting minutes, attendance records and updates; anecdotes of information sharing and collaboration leading to effective law enforcement activities.</p> <p>1.4 Travel documentation, attendance documentation, photos and meeting minutes/reports, learning reflections.</p>	<p>Continued national and regional political will.</p> <p>Various law enforcement agencies in Liberia are willing and able to assume and/or concede jurisdiction over certain aspects to IWT in order to improve overall enforcement.</p> <p>FFI and partners are able to influence partners and the FDA sufficiently, through the LESG and related work, to develop and approve drafted wildlife regulations.</p> <p>Availability and willingness of appropriate personnel to participate in the national and regional coordination activities, including exchanges.</p> <p>Examples of best practice in combatting IWT exist in the region, offer relevant learning, and are logistically feasible to access.</p>

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	approaches to combatting IWT elsewhere, by the end of Yr2.		
<p><b>Output 2. (Addressing regional priorities, Training &amp; Resources)</b></p> <p>Targeted law enforcement authorities have <b>strengthened capacity</b> to plan, monitor, and respond strategically to illegal wildlife trade within Liberia and across its borders in coordination with neighbouring law enforcement authorities.</p>	<p>2.1 <b>A comprehensive capacity gap assessment</b> of targeted IWT enforcement agencies (e.g. (FDA rangers, police, security and border customs, judiciary) is completed and informs the specific training needs of each agency operating at national and transboundary levels by the end of Yr1.</p> <p>2.2 <b>A suite of training modules</b> (to be delivered as a combination of cross-agency and specific agency focussed) and skills development tracking tools are developed, incorporating balanced gender and cultural inputs, by the end of Yr1.</p> <p>2.3 National and agency-specific training is delivered to at least <b>100 men and women</b> from at least <b>four targeted national law enforcement agencies/departments</b> (and border personnel from <b>at least two neighbouring countries</b>, actively encouraging and <b>monitoring gender representation</b>, by the end of Yr2.</p>	<p>2.1 Capacity assessment tool and reports, training delivery plans for specific authorities.</p> <p>2.2 Training modules, records of reviewers and inputs.</p> <p>2.3 Training agendas, attendance records and travel documentation of trainees.</p>	<p>Relevant personnel are willing and available to participate in trainings and encouraged by supervisors to learn and integrate new skills.</p> <p>Mandates and regulations governing each law enforcement agency provide significant scope to apply new skills and techniques acquired through training.</p> <p>Personnel trained remain in force after training.</p> <p>Corruption and/nepotism do not undermine increased capacity to deter and detect cases of IWT.</p>
<p><b>Output 3. (Addressing regional priority, Awareness)</b></p> <p>Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes compliance by the public and increases the likelihood of public/informal</p>	<p>3.1 A suite of <b>campaign materials is produced</b> (e.g., posters/billboards/murals) that provide informational messages on IWT and promote public engagement in reporting, and is distributed strategically in <b>at least 10 transboundary border sites, two airports, two marine ports, five wild meat markets and three</b></p>	<p>3.1 Posters, flyers, billboards printed, photos of materials and murals in situ.</p>	<p>Greater national awareness translates into improved public support for and participation in law enforcement.</p> <p>Increasing community-based engagement in counter-IWT activities will prevent current and future offenders from engaging in illegal activities.</p>



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engagement with IWT detection and reporting	<p><b>focal key species transboundary sites</b> by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>3.2 <b>The number of people (disaggregated by gender) listening to and calling in to media talk shows</b> providing current information and education on IWT issues and promoting public engagement in reporting, airing in Yr2.</p> <p>3.3 <b>The number of people engaged during at least three public opinion surveys</b> (researching awareness impact, IWT comprehension and willingness/barriers to reporting) conducted in targeted distribution sites by the end of Yr3.</p>	<p>3.2 Radio and TV shows aired and viewed (recorded) featuring placed content on IWT, listener/viewer statistics and monitoring information available by communications median.</p> <p>3.3 Survey data, GPS logs, final survey reports.</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.</b> (Addressing regional priorities, <b>Collaboration</b> and <b>Resources</b>)</p> <p>Improved IT infrastructure and systems promote accurate, transparent and secure data management, enabling analysis and rapid responses to IWT detection by law enforcement agencies</p>	<p>4.1 A <b>centralised database</b>, housed within the FDA, is continually populated and analysed by trained staff from at least four law enforcement agencies in Liberia, providing secure, transparent data to inform dynamic national IWT action, by the end of Yr2.</p> <p>4.2 An increase in the <b>number of recorded, IWT-specific patrols and investigations deployed</b>, enabled by quality, accessible data.</p>	<p>4.1 Database established and active, management plan and usage protocols in place, training logs of database management and support personnel.</p> <p>4.2 Logs of patrols, missions, confiscations, seizures from law enforcement units, across sites and agencies.</p>	<p>IT infrastructure enables development of a sufficiently secure data management system that will be sustainable in the long-term.</p> <p>Agencies are willing to share information in a joint database and abide by protocols to protect and ensure integrity of data.</p> <p>Trained staff are managed and incentivised suitably to ensure appropriate quality and frequency of data entered into the database.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>1.1 Run a national stakeholder workshop to develop a national strategy to tackle IWT in line with regional priorities, with 4 strategic outputs planned.</p> <p>1.2 Host four LESC meetings and technical sessions for stakeholders to develop the regulations for the new wildlife law and organise the national strategy workshop.</p> <p>1.3 Via regional transboundary committee/taskforce platforms, develop transboundary IWT coordination agreements and information sharing plans to enable informed and coordinated action acting on regional intelligence</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>1.4 Design and implement an IWT learning exchange programme for 4 high-level law enforcement personnel from Liberia and its neighbouring countries.</p> <p>2.1. Design and complete a capacity assessment of key Liberian authorities and institutions responsible for law enforcement (e.g. FDA, border customs, security, police and judiciary).</p> <p>2.2. Define and develop the suite of IWT training modules for law enforcement agency personnel at national and transboundary levels.</p> <p>2.3 Deliver the modules developed under 2.2 (e.g. CITES, species identification, reporting, confiscation and handling, evidence-gathering, etc.) both for specific agencies and cross-agencies as needed</p> <p>2.4 Support the development of modules targeting the judiciary, which will be implemented by a LESC partner.</p> <p>2.5 Share the national training modules with the UoL and FTI for their adaptation for inclusion in their teaching syllabus'</p> <p>2.6 Develop and conduct pre-/post-training assessments, surveys, and manager interviews to capture change in knowledge, skills, and attitudes among trained enforcement personnel at all levels.</p> <p>2.7 Deliver a national training programme (both combined and specific agency focused) to at least 100 personnel across targeted law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>2.8 Identify 2 key individuals from Liberian law enforcement authorities to receive additional applied training, mentorship and accompaniment to build their capacity.</p> <p>2.9 Support trainees to become trainers of 2 further individuals in the subsequent year, overseen by the project expert.</p> <p>2.10 Provide site-based training to &gt; 25 state and community rangers within two transboundary areas in anti-poaching, SMART patrolling, evidence-gathering, informant network development; the IWT database</p> <p>2.11 Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.</p> <p>2.12 Provide customised training to at least 4 personnel under the FDA confiscation unit, including documenting and reporting resultant arrests and seizures in the database.</p> <p>2.13 Equip and support deployed of the confiscation unit to wildlife crime locations based on intelligence derived from the IWT database (output 4) and/or credible sources.</p> <p>3.1 Design key IWT messaging and produce a series of awareness raising campaign materials (posters, info-graphics, billboards, murals, social media posts etc.) to promote public engagement.</p> <p>3.2 Install billboards and distribute/post print campaign materials in/ near border control points, enforcement offices, targeted protected areas, and known/perceived market hotspots for wildlife trade crime.</p> <p>3.3 Commission at least one mural drawing communicating key campaign messaging at the Monrovia international airport.</p> <p>3.4 Develop and air content for radio and TV that capture gender and culturally relevant messages promoting understanding of wildlife restrictions and penalties, and IWT reporting.</p> <p>3.5 Establish listener and viewer statistics monitoring and recording of call-in sessions for qualitative discourse analysis to assess changing perceptions of and attitudes towards IWT.</p> <p>3.6 Survey random sample of campaign material distribution sites at least annually to gather information on outreach impact and monitor changes in perception.</p> <p>4.1 Design and develop a centralised national database for collecting, storing and disseminating information on wildlife crime and IWT, enabling access to coordinated and current intelligence.</p> <p>4.2 Provide IT infrastructure and train specific IT support personnel within FDA for sustainable database housing and management.</p> <p>4.3 Work in partnership with FDA to determine an enforcement baseline.</p> <p>4.4 Collate monthly enforcement agency effort (days of ranger patrols, days of mobile unit patrols, days of FDA officer intelligence gathering effort).</p> <p>4.5 Analyse database on information origins (informant networks/research officers/border customs/rangers etc.), and collate reports of arrests, seizures, confiscations and prosecutions, share with transboundary partners where appropriate.</p>			

**Annex 3 Standard Measures**

N/A

## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk">IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the subject line.	✓
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk">IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	✗
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	✗
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	