



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

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT065
Project title	Strengthening Liberia’s response to illegal wildlife trade
Country/ies	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 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2020 - March 2021 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Simon Burdett
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/strengthening-capacity-illegal-wildlife-trade-liberia">https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/strengthening-capacity-illegal-wildlife-trade-liberia</a>
Report author(s) and date	Innocent Ndikubwimana, Mary Molokwu-Odozi, Sarah Gluszek, Constant Ndjassi, Jenny Desmond, Simon Burdett 11 May 2021

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### 1. Project summary

Liberia’s transboundary forests especially the Northwest and Southeast forest landscapes cover more than 40% of the remaining forest blocks within the Upper Guinea Rainforest. It is home to

threatened and endemic species, including 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*), critically endangered African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*); endangered pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*); and critically endangered western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). These species are facing serious decline across their range due to habitat loss, habitat degradation and unsustainable levels of exploitation from entertainment and pet trade and trade in bushmeat and animal products. Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has worked with national and local partners in the last year to address illegal wildlife trade in Liberia and transboundary areas. Regionally there is an increasing focus on coordination of efforts across neighbouring countries, which may serve as sources of transit routes. With the support of the IWT Challenge Fund UKAID, FFI continues to raise the profile of Liberia’s biodiversity and the impact not only on Liberia’s wildlife, but also the country’s role in wider West African illegal wildlife trade efforts; and to catalyse systemic change by increasing national capacity and improving governance and pushing for tougher deterrence, before the trade intensifies further and multiple species are lost.

This project entitled **Strengthening Liberia’s response to illegal wildlife trade**, aims to address the current dramatic state of wildlife species by empowering the key players with tools, skills, knowledge and commitment necessary to tackle and handle the illegal wildlife trade related aspects. It intends to strengthen Liberia’s law enforcement capacity by improving coordination to combat national and transboundary Illegal Wildlife Trade, strengthening intelligence gathering and enforcement capacity, increasing public awareness; and developing data management systems to guide responses.

This report presents the activities carried out within the second year of its 3-year period, from April 2020 to March 2021.

The project is implemented by FFI with the support of IWT Challenge Fund, UKAID with co-funding from other donors, in particular the AG Leventis Foundation and USAID-WABICC (up to July 2020). It covers the entire country as well as the transboundary forest areas with Guinea (Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi - ZWW landscape), Ivory Coast (Tai-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo – TGKS landscape) and Sierra Leone (Gola landscape); (see figure 1 below).

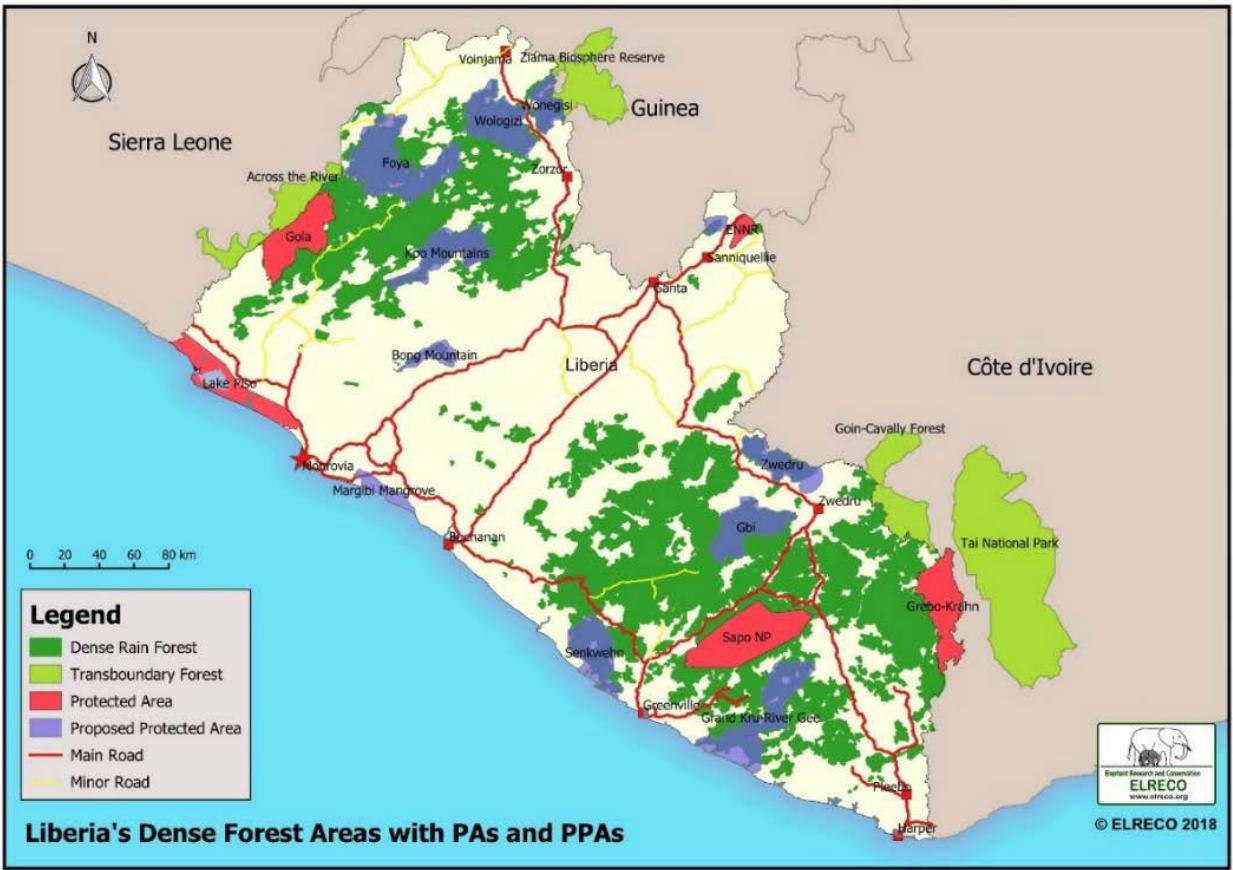


Figure 1: National and transboundary forest landscapes needing protection.

## 2. Project partnerships

This project which is implemented by FFI Liberia Programme, 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 and who are part of a Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF). Project partners have been involved in project planning from the outset, are in regular communication, and, depending on 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.

The members of the Law Enforcement Sub Committee (LESC) meet on a monthly basis with both physical and virtual meetings and keep in touch 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, during this year, two elephants crossed from Guinea into Liberia on their migratory routes, crossing further into Cote d'Ivoire and back to Liberia. A small (ad hoc) committee made up of some of the project partners, FFI, LCRP and WCF, and additional organisations such as Elephant Research and Conservation (ELRECO) was set up to provide funding and technical advice for the protection of the elephants, while in Liberia. The LESC 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, for example see section 3.1, activities 1.2 and 1.3 with reference to the crossing of the two elephants from Guinea into Liberia in September 2020. Significant results of positive collaboration are the national IWT strategy (indicator 0.1) and the development of a centralised national database (Activity 4.1) which could also bring a new partnership with ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute).

Besides the national and regional partners, some external bodies like the UK Embassy and European Union Delegation have played a major role in providing diligent guidance and attending the LESC meetings throughout the project.

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 fully achieved. Following the national stakeholder workshop which took place in March 2020 (Year 1) in which participants drafted a **five-year national strategy to address Illegal Wildlife Trade in Liberia (2020-2024)**, in Year 2, we have been working to further refine the strategy with inputs from partners.

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.

**Six LESC meetings of the Species Working Group in Liberia (SWGL) were held between April 2020 and March 2021.** FFI and LCRP attended all meetings. Participants joined these meetings either via Zoom or physically. The full proposed regulation (Annex 15) was drafted by a local firm Heritage Partners and Associates (HPA) and shared with the LESC and FDA in Year 2, currently pending approval. (See Annex 16 for minutes of meetings).

- **27 May 2020, Hosted by FFI – 12 attendees (6 women; 6 men)** – An emergency meeting, which was held on Zoom, to address issues between Sapou National Park staff and the Police. Organized by FFI, and attended by representatives of the FDA, FFI, WCF, and LCRP. The chair of the meeting, Hon. Joseph Tally (Deputy Managing Director for Operations of the FDA) emphasized the need for collaboration between Rangers and the Police to raise the morale of the Rangers and prevent conflicts. The minutes were not widely shared due to sensitive issues discussed.
- **9 July 2020, Hosted by WCF. 17 attendees (6 women, 11 men) from 13 institutions.** Updates were provided on the activities of the WCTF, funding proposals submitted, MOU between FDA and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and plans for the World Chimpanzee Day, 14 July.
- **13 August 2020, WCF hosted – 10 attendees (4 women; 6 men) from 9 institutions.** – A remote meeting was held over Zoom. Updates were given on a meeting between the FDA and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) to review and agree on marine species to be included in the protected species list. Further updates on the status of the MOU between FDA and MOJ and engagements had with the Market Women Association, specifically bushmeat traders for awareness creation.
- **1 October 2020, WCF hosted – 11 institutions, including MOJ, EPA, FDA, TCU, LCRP, WCF, FFI, UK Embassy, FIFES, SCNL, Interpol** were in attendance – The meeting was held in WCF office with some attendees joining virtually. Discussions included matters arising from previous meetings included updates on the status of MOU, WCTF activities, awareness raising activities and discussions around wildlife legislation between FDA and NaFAA.
- **10 December 2020, WCF hosted** – Two guests from Legal Atlas joined the meeting introducing their project funded by Arcus Foundation. Updates were provided on different issues, with the most significant being that the MOU between the FDA and MOJ has been signed. An update on several law enforcement trainings implemented by several organisations were also given, including the wildlife crime training implemented by FFI in November 2020 under this grant.
- **March 11, 2021, WCF hosted.** FFI and several institutions participated. Minutes of the meeting have not yet been finalised.

FFI supported the LESC of the Species Working Group of Liberia in securing close to \$50,000 from the African Elephant Fund, to support law enforcement activities across key elephant sites in Liberia. This one year funding, will support investigation mission related to wildlife crime, joint security training and law enforcement in key protected areas in Liberia.

Following the crossing of two elephants from Guinea in September, an emergency committee made up of Liberian, Guinean and Ivorian authorities and partners, was set up by the LESC to respond and ensure the safety of these elephants. Several meetings were held between the partners to organise monitoring missions and a WhatsApp group was set up and. A long-term monitoring plan was drawn up, and awareness created to prevent wildlife crime against these elephants and to avoid any incidents with communities (see Activities 1.3 and 3.1).

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.

The Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee (TLETC) meeting for Tai-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo was organised via Zoom on 7 July 2020 to discuss and validate the transboundary action plan at the national level. Furthermore, on the 31 August 2020 the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) received information from their counterpart in Guinea, Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré (CFZ) that two elephants had crossed the border from Guinea into Liberia, concerned about their safety as they often approached villages, raiding crops, on the Guinea side. Since these initial reports, the elephants have been moving between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and authorities in Côte d'Ivoire Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (MINEF) have also been collaborating with FDA and CFZ. This collaboration is a positive indicator of improving relationships and proactive communication between the three countries. As a result of shared information, a joint team of rangers from Guinea and Liberia was set up to ensure the elephants have been tracked on the Liberia side and awareness raised amongst communities to prevent incidents of human-wildlife conflict. FFI in collaboration with partners on the Species Working Group Liberia (SWGL) set up a temporary coordination platform, an Elephant Emergency Committee to coordinate the tracking of the elephants and provided technical advice in addressing issues such as human-elephant conflicts, to enable protection of these elephants and other elephant populations in Liberia, in the wake of recent elephant killings. The elephants returned to Guinea on 18 December 2020.

Reports of this story were covered by the media Front Page Africa (<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/rare-sighting-of-forest-elephants-from-guinea-brings-renewed-hope-for-elephant-conservation-in-liberia/>) and two press releases were published by FFI (<https://www.fauna-flora.org/news/elephants-without-borders-transboundary-collaboration-brings-hope-west-africas-wildlife/> and <https://www.fauna-flora.org/news/west-africa-walkabout-adventures-elephant-brothers>).

#### 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 was originally planned for the second half of year 2, however, due to Covid-19 and political context delaying international travel and an in-person training / meeting event, this has been agreed by approved change request to be during Year 3.

### **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)

This activity was successfully completed in Year 1. The results from the capacity needs assessment were used to inform the national training modules (Activity 2.2) developed in Year 2 for the implementation of a national training, which was held in Year 2 (Activity 2.3). Participants at the training sat a short exam at the end of the training and also completed a pre- and post-training questionnaire to measure changes and feedback on the week-long course (see Activity 2.6).

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

Modules for a national level training course were designed by a consultant from WildCrime ([www.wildcrime.com](http://www.wildcrime.com)) and (*consultants on species identification and Liberian wildlife law*) (Annex 5). The course modules were informed by the capacity needs assessment (Activity 2.1) and reviewed and approved by the LESC. A 'train-the-trainer' approach was incorporated into the modules to enable transfer of knowledge. A debrief following the training was facilitated by FFI on 11 December 2020 and a discussion held between FFI, LCRP, WCF and WildCrime. The general feedback was positive, with constructive ideas shared for future trainings. It was also recognised that the first week of training provided a valuable networking opportunity between agencies and created a more cohesive bond between participants in comparison to the second week, due to there being a larger diversity of agencies in the first week.

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.

Two trainings of joint security on countering wildlife crime, were carried out between 16-20 and 23-27 November 2020. A total of 42 law enforcement officers (10 women and 32 men) from Liberian Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), Liberia National Police (LNP), Customs, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) and Forestry Development Authority (FDA) were chosen from nine counties across the country, mostly trans-boundary and forest areas (Montserrado, Cape mount, Gbarpolu, Lofa, Sinoe, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee counties) attended. The training was facilitated by FFI in collaboration with the FDA, LCRP and WCF, with funding from the IWT Challenge Fund and support from the EU and partners).

Many of the law enforcement officers had limited skills and knowledge of wildlife crime as well as poor collaboration between agencies on IWT investigations prior to the training. The training provided the necessary tools and guidance over the course on building the capacity of joint security personnel. Topics covered during the training were: Introduction to wildlife crime investigation, smuggling and concealment methods, searching a crime scene, preservation of evidence and continuity, Introduction to surveillance, sources of information, managing human intelligence and completion of intelligence reports, operational planning and risk management. Participants took the opportunity to carry out 'practicals' on each of the course topics in the field, (see Annex 19 and figure 2 below), and were given completion certificates at the end of the training.



Figure 2: Group photo joint security training on combatting wildlife crime.

2.4 Support the development of modules targeting the judiciary, which will be implemented by a LESC partner.

This activity was carried out by Born Free and USAID-WABICC in October 2020, with support from LCRP. Prosecutors, judges and customs officers were provided training with participants attending in person and trainers remotely. FFI participated and was represented by the Technical Specialist IWT, Constant Ndjassi. Participants were not only instructed but had the opportunity to engage in practical exercises and develop networks. A report of this meeting is not yet available.

2.5 Share the national training modules with the UoL and FTI for their adaptation for inclusion in their teaching syllabus.

During the SWGL Plant and Animal Sub-committee (PASC) meeting held on 6th October 2020 at the Department of Forestry, University of Liberia, Fendell Campus, coordinated by the University of Liberia, discussions were held about incorporating the IWT training modules in the syllabus. It was agreed that further discussions will be held during the next meeting and with the

Forestry Department of the University. However, the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions meant that further meetings were postponed to 2021. Discussions will now be finalised in Year 3.

#### 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.

Pre- and post- training questionnaires were designed to complement the suite of IWT training modules to measure the level of learning and gain feedback on the training course itself. These were distributed among participants before and after the training. Results of pre-training evaluation showed that 90% of law enforcement personnel, excluding rangers, had no prior knowledge or technical skills outlined in on the 'countering Wildlife trafficking modules'. Post-training report showed significant improvement in the skills of participants – 9.1 was the average score (out of 10) to the question of if the modules provided them with new skills and knowledge to carry out their respective duties. Furthermore, a score of 9.5 (average out of 10) was recorded to the question of if participants believed the course will be useful in their workplaces. Further details are presented in the training report (Annex 19).

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

An additional 42 law enforcement personnel were trained in Year 2, under activity 2.3, totalling 105 personnel trained nationally and completing this activity.

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

Secondment agreements and terms of reference were agreed and signed for the two FDA officers seconded to participate in the mentoring programme under this project in December 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the secondment was delayed as field missions were suspended. The two officers, the MIKE focal point for Liberia who was trained under the CITES Masters programme in Spain (sponsored by WABiCC) and Wildlife Officer at the Wildlife Division of the FDA and WCTF member both participated in the wildlife crime training held in November 2020. Between December 2020 and March 2021, they supported an assessment to gauge the level of knowledge of the wildlife law amongst joint security, local markets, and communities around protected areas and border posts, including the International Airport. As part of the assessment, they created awareness on the wildlife laws and protected species, distributing wildlife posters and flyers and copies of the wildlife laws. During this period, they visited at least six counties across the country, including Lofa, Gbarpolu (north-west), Nimba, Margibi, Montserrado (central Liberia) and Sinoe Counties (south-east).

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

As the project enters Year 3, the officers (from activity 2.8) will be supported to pass on their learning to other staff at the FDA. Two further staff members will be identified to receive mentorship.

#### 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

This activity was fully completed in Year 1. However SMART refresher training was provided in Year 2.

#### 2.11 Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.

Following SMART training in Year 1 and development of field manuals, ranger teams in Sapo National Park, Wonegizi and Ziama have been collecting data directly into SMART. Refresher trainings were carried out in each protected/proposed protected area.

In Sapo National Park, between April and December 2020, a total of 32 patrols were implemented across the three zones of the park. The patrols covered 2,206.59 km, leading to the arrest of 6 individuals and prosecution of 4 individuals, with 1 conviction, confiscation of 2 single-barrel guns, and the rescue of 6 live animals (3 chimpanzees, 2 Sooty Mangabeys, 1 bushbuck) that would have been traded or kept as pets. The orphaned chimpanzee (named Mary after the FFI Country Manager) was taken to the Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection (LCRP) – see <https://youtu.be/bfBysdXlkUc>. During patrols, 49 hunting camps were destroyed and 66 snares and 268 spent cartridges were recorded.

In 2021, law enforcement patrols inside Sapo resumed in February, with one joint patrol and 4 regular patrols conducted across the park and in March 2 regular patrols were conducted across the park. The data from these patrols are currently being analysed.

At the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area (PPA), from April, 2020 to March, 2021, a total of 505 patrol days, giving a survey effort of 3,865 patrol man days and a distance of 4,403.677 km was covered by FDA rangers and community auxiliaries during law enforcement patrols. A total of 362 spent cartridge (gun shells) were collected, 365 traps/snares, and 92 poaching camps/shelters were destroyed, 1 firearm (gun) confiscated and 2 poachers were arrested.

The project vehicle purchased at the end of Year 1, was donated to the FDA in July 2020 once restrictions on movement were lifted.



Figures 3 and 4: Covid-19 safety precautions in place during the donation of the vehicle to the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), July 2020.

Changes during and since COVID-19 lockdowns affected several activities, including law enforcement missions carried out at national level. However, we were able to support the WCTF in several arrests, confiscations and court procedures during this period, including the confiscation of chimpanzee, spotty-nosed monkey etc. (and see section 5). This was only possible thanks to the collaboration between the FDA and the Liberia National Police at the central level.

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.

A total number of four staff from the FDA confiscation unit were trained during the wildlife crime training in November 2020. A total number of 8 arrests were made by the taskforce between April 2020 and March 2021.

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.

The confiscation unit was provided with the resources to conduct several missions during the course of the year (Activity 2.11), including fuel for vehicle, per diem and accommodation costs in case of travel outside of Monrovia. This activity will be further augmented in Year 3 as the IWT database is established.

**Output 3: Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes compliance by the public and increases the livelihood 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.



The communications plan created by FFI in Year 1, was updated based on the public survey results (Annexes 11 & 14). This plan has been used to guide awareness raising campaign materials. The rest of this activity was completed in Year 1.

### 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.

From September 17-18, 2020 and September 23-24, 2020: 2000 flyers of protected species were printed by partners under the LESC and distributed at market places in Monrovia during the World Chimpanzee Day. Protected species posters were printed and distributed in several border towns. The distribution is ongoing in rural areas along Liberia-Guinea border and around Sapo National Park.

As a direct result of this flyer and poster distribution campaign, we can mention the confiscation of an infant bushbuck by rangers in Sapo National Park, who were informed by a community member of a suspect keeping the animal as pet. The poster of Liberia's protected species and specific posters of elephant and chimpanzee were also distributed to the participants of the joint security training on countering wildlife crime, in order to improve their knowledge on the protected species and to contribute to the awareness in their different work place and border towns.

In collaboration with conservation partners, FFI supported the Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF) in the distribution of copies of the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law 2016 and the amended Penal Law on Environmental Crime 2012, in the different zones and depots of the Liberia National Police and Magisterial courts in Careysburg, Monrovia, Paynesville, Gardnersville and Brewerville Cities. 55 copies of the law were printed and distributed.

An article was published in The Daily OBSERVER Vol. 20, No. 156 of September 29, 2020, (<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/wildlife-protection-and-environmental-crime-law-distributed-to-law-enforcers-for-implementation/>) to inform the public about the collaboration between the FDA and the National Police and Ministry of Justice and to raise awareness. This article was republished in the following newspapers: The NEWS, VOL. 30. No. 300, The INQUIRER, Vol. 29 No. 146, Heritage, Vol. 23 No. 35082 and IN PROFILE DAILY, Vol. 12, No. 223, all published on 29 September 2020 (see Annex 3, Table 2).

For the period January-March 2021, awareness material were distributed to a wide range of communities (42 communities across 4 counties in NW and SE Liberia), bushmeat markets, Joint security checkpoints and the international airport. Materials distributed included, fliers of the protected species of Liberia (400 copies), brochures of protected species (100 copies), posters of chimpanzees (100 copies), posters of elephants (100 copies), copies of the law of Liberia and Penal Code (50 copies), Summary of the law for communities was printed and distributed to community heads and joint security personnel at the borders and checkpoints. The larger posters were placed at the front of local shops, town halls, and checkpoints. While the brochures were handed out to people in town halls.

The FFI team worked along with supporting partners in planning the World Wildlife Day (WWD) celebration on March 3, 2021, this celebration was for the second time in Liberia with the FDA as lead and other conservation partners since its inception globally. Donors and partner organizations as well as the SWGL were present at the celebration and higher learning institutions (Cuttington University, Stella Maris Polytechnic University and University of Liberia).

Between 10-12 March, 2021, FFI along with other members of the SWGL attended an information session on pangolins, organised by Dr Matthew Shirley and Dr Dan Challender of the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group, who were contracted by the CITES Secretariat (through IUCN) to implement CITES Decision 18.239 (Annex 17), which directs the CITES Secretariat to work with Pangolin SG, pangolin ranges states, and other stakeholders, to develop conversion parameters for pangolin scales in trade. A data collection protocol and data collection sheet (Annex 17) was shared with participants.

Some observation/recommendations were recorded: it is becoming clear that even with the pangolin, there is a poor understanding that all 3 species are protected, assuming only the large pangolin (Ground pangolin) is protected. So, ensuring that this is made clear in verbal

communications when distributing and discussing leaflets/posters/billboards is essential. Potentially design materials with all 3 pangolin species in the future/with co-finance.



This project supported the deployment of billboards in some cities to raise awareness among the general public. In co-funding with others projects (e.g., CEPF grant), 3 billboards have been deployed in Ganta, Buchanan and at the Roberts International Airport respectively. A fourth billboard was deployed in Monrovia at the Capitol Hill, under the WABICC grant. The billboards deployed in Ganta, Buchanan and Monrovia, feature all the protected species of Liberia. These billboards will be deployed for a duration of one year each.

Figure 5: Billboard deployed at Ganta (border with Guinea), November 2020.

Another significant output of this activity was a Chimpanzee Awareness poster and leaflet (Annex 20)

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

This activity has been fully achieved. As reported in Year 1, it was not possible to design a mural, instead a space was secured in the Departures terminal for three side-by-side posters, and designed posters on three target species: pangolin, chimpanzee and Timneh parrot. Each poster was accompanied by key messaging in line with the communications plan and will be displayed until July 2021 (Annex 7; Photo 5).

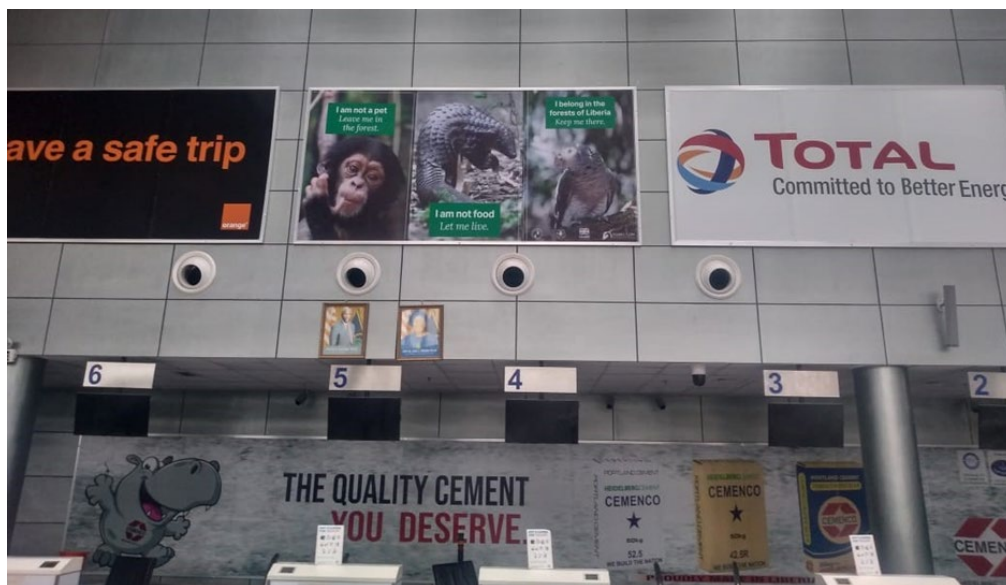


Figure 6: Billboard deployed at Roberts International Airport, Departure Terminal, August 2020

### 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.

Radio shows raising awareness were organised on September 4, and 8, 2020 with a two weeks announcement locally on Radio Nimba following the elephants crossing the border from Guinea into Liberia. Announcements were also made on Voice of Gompa in Ganta and Radio Sehnwai in local language for a wide dissemination of the information, respectively on September 5 and 6 2020. In collaboration with conservation partners, the Risk Communication (RC) Pillar of the Liberia COVID-19 Taskforce, known as the Incident Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), a radio show was organized on 14 July 2020 nationally on ELBC for World Chimpanzee Day.

A good example of a relevant approach to an awareness event, with developed and aired key messages, is provided in Annex 21: Mini report of the IWT CF awareness campaign to Gola.

### 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.

On 14 July 2020 for World Chimpanzee Day, statistics indicate that 20,000 listeners tuned in to Radio Nimba (with no radio callers) and 400,000 – 500, 000 listeners across the country for ELBC radio. Collection of caller statistics will be analysed across all 3 years at the end of the project (and see Annex 21 for an example).

### 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.

The baseline survey from Year 1 was cut short due to COVID-19 related restrictions. During the survey, 44 respondents were interviewed. In Year 2, the survey was repeated in two of the same locations as the Year 1 survey (Duala and Kuwait markets) and an additional 6 locations across Liberia. 156 persons were surveyed in Year 2.

From the surveys, of the 156 respondents surveyed across 8 markets and border point, regarding the **knowledge about illegal hunting and selling** wild animals, 79% of respondents are aware that it is illegal to hunt or sell protected animals, which is very encouraging (up from 9% in Year 1).

With regards to **Species Identification**, all respondents (100%) can recognize an Elephant, 58% can recognize parrot by their correct name, respondents knew the characteristics of the bird and mentioned local names; 98% of the respondent's response could identify the Chimpanzee due to the fact they have knowledge of the species. Also, 64% of respondents can recognize a Pygmy Hippo by its correct common name and other local names, while 74% of the respondents can recognize all three different species of Pangolin (compared to only 9% in Year 1).

Regarding the **locations of posters** of wildlife as awareness and visual aids for wildlife, 78.1% of respondents have either seen posters/listened to advert on radio (jingles) at different locations in Liberia, while 21.9% of respondents have never seen posters/listened to jingles on protected animals in Liberia.

Rating the **effectiveness of wildlife laws**, 21.3% of respondents believe that wildlife laws are effective, while 65.2% believe on the contrary that the laws are not being followed and implementation is not very effective.

## 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.

Due to difficulties of engaging a consultant due to the Covid pandemic, FFI has pursued an in-house solution, a staff-member is now engaged in this activity for database development and training and will continue in year 3. An approved change request Mar 2021 means the activities and associated budgets are included in Year 3.

Design and development of the database structure as well as the discussions with key stakeholders have been ongoing (see Annex 18), and will accelerate in Year 3.

A template of key information for IWT national database has been drafted, using data collected from arrest records, confiscation records and incorporating data heading required for the TWIX database format. Most information is collected by rangers (patrol data) and police (arrest data, although this is not always systematic or comprehensive). Several meetings were organised with partners to discuss the design of the national database, the role of each organisation

infrastructure and best-case solutions are being pursued. Two draft dataforms were developed that will feed into the national database, respectively for sanctuary and FDA wildlife Division and will be tested by sanctuary and FDA wildlife division.

Depending on FDA/GoL approval the best case solution in Year 3 is likely to be using the facilitation of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

We had discussions with ESRI in March 18, 2021, to understand how conservation organisations supported by FFI may successfully deploy and use ARC GIS software to tackle illegal trade of protected species for protected area management in the country, and on March 22, 2021 about how to make the application user friendly for rangers on patrols.

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

This activity was partially achieved. Some appropriate IT equipment was purchased in Year 2 and planning and development meetings and discussions were held with multiple stakeholders. Training of IT support personnel from the FDA will be carried out in Year 3 (as approved by change request).

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

This activity was completed in Year 1.

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

This information continues to be collected during the course of the year (see for example Activity 2.11 and indicator 0.4).

#### 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 activity will be carried out in Year 3 once the IWT National database is 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 second year of the project, the five-year national IWT strategic plan (2020-2025) in Liberia was drafted with six overarching objectives adapted from the objectives set in the West Africa strategy, and an operational plan detailing assigned actions and responsibilities, this draft strategy is currently being circulated to all collaborating stakeholders in Liberia for review (Activity 1.1); Once the review is completed, the next step will be the approval. Once approved, the document will become Liberia's key plan for IWT related actions.

From 16-27 November 2020, two national trainings of joint security on countering wildlife crime were carried out (Activity 2.3). Training modules endorsed by the LESC, were developed based on a capacity needs assessment carried out in Year 1 (Activity 2.1). This training organised for 42 LESC members has enabled them to acquire the skills needed in addressing IWT.

Six virtual and physical meetings of the LESC were held in Year 2 to share updates on national Law Enforcement activities, to discuss the progress of the MoU between the FDA and MOJ, coordination of training for law enforcement personnel, wildlife crime cases pending at the courts (Activity 2.4). The MOU was finally signed before the end of Year 2 and this has had a positive impact in the national collaboration among agencies in combatting IWT.

Only one virtual transboundary meeting was held during Year 2 (Activity 1.3). Plans for physical meetings were cancelled as a result of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19. However, an outstanding level of collaboration and coordination was exhibited by partners and the governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia, in a regional-level monitoring and protection of two elephants (brothers) migrating across the region from Guinea, between September and

December 2020. A remarkable multi-agency and multi-donor support action for the elephants emerged. This has shown that the level of national and regional coordination and collaboration has significantly improved in the last two years.

## **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.**

A total of 42 law enforcement personnel (10 women and 32 men) were trained in Year 2 (Activity 2.3). Pre-training assessments (Activity 2.6) carried out during the wildlife crime training showed that FDA staff have basic knowledge while respondents from other Law enforcement Agencies have less than basic knowledge of wildlife related issues. This therefore reinforces the importance of this project and other related interventions and the need for strengthening the capacity of the joint security in wildlife crime.

The establishment of the Illegal wildlife trade National database which is at the preparation phase (Activity 2.10), will be a valuable tool for IWT data storage from different sources, and access to IWT information.

SMART refresher training for rangers in Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area was held in August 2021 (Activity 2.10), has had a positive impact on the quality of work performed by rangers, and similarly in Sapo National Park, evidenced by the quality of data being collected and analysed. The training and resource support to FDA and CFZ in the various protected areas to address IWT indicates improvement in the effectiveness of capacity building efforts.

Support to the WCTF e.g., through the provision of a vehicle and other equipment and supplies has helped to boost efforts in mobilizing these teams for missions, including outside of Monrovia, to bushmeat and pet trade hotspots, this has yielded positive results.

Across both years, a total of at least 168 persons have received training (126 persons in Year 1 and 42 persons in Year 2; Activity 2.3 and 2.10) under this project. This satisfies the original target of training at least 100 personnel nationally and at sites.

## **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**

Awareness assessment surveys (Activity 3.6) were carried out this year in March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 related restrictions, we were unable to complete surveys planned before the end of Year 1, as such, we obtained a smaller sample size in Year 1 (44), compared to Year 2 (156). We were also able to visit more locations in Year 2 (8), as compared with Year 1 (5). Both Year 1 and Year 2 surveys show that there is a low level of awareness and knowledge of regulations governing the protection of wildlife. However, this was followed by a country-wide awareness raising campaign (Activity 3.1-3.5), which we expect will yield positive impact, and increase awareness of the general public, including traders of bushmeat. A comparison between results obtained in Years 1 & 2 and Year 3 will show whether any change has happened by the end of the project. The approach to raising awareness focused on the distribution of fliers, posters and hard copies of National Wildlife Conservation Law billboards, organising awareness raising sessions and installation of billboards, as well as publication of articles in the newspapers. Several radio shows were also organised in Year 2.

Anecdotal reports of communities in Sapo collaborating with IWT agencies include details being passed on of a Pygmy Hippo carcass (August 2020) and 2 Elephant Carcasses (2020 and 2021). In all these cases, communities reported information to the FDA and informed them of the identity of the suspects.

## **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**

The setup of IWT National database is at its early but promising stage of development, as the template of key information and the conservations with local and national stakeholders was initiated and is ongoing (Activity 4.1); the coming steps including the database design and training of different users will lead to major outputs for this activity.

### 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.***

Over the last two years of this project, progress has been made towards building stronger law enforcement capacity, targeting actions at the local, national and regional level, through:

- At local level, the awareness activities conducted have led to positive attitudes among community members. There is anecdotal evidence of Sapo and Wonegizi community members informing rangers about wildlife crime and providing intelligence, leading to arrests. There is a need to maintain such momentum by continued engagement with communities.
- Capacity building activities aiming to improve patrols and IWT data collection have positively contributed to seizure of a number of IWT related tools and improved patrol coverage (Indicator 0.4, Activity 4.4). However, there is still the need to provide continuous refresher training sessions and extend the training to a wider group of law enforcement personnel.
- At national level, several wildlife and security agencies and institutions strengthened their collaboration and coordination efforts. This was expressed through the signing of a MOU between FDA and MOJ. The country now has a national strategy for combatting wildlife crime, and one signed agreement between FDA and MOJ (central ministry for joint security) to work together in responding to wildlife trafficking.
- An awareness assessment in Year 2, which covered a wider area, completing the survey started in Year 1 demonstrated a somewhat similar level of understanding of wildlife related laws in both years. We are however confident that the awareness raising campaign launched during Year 2, which will be continued in Year 3, and will contribute to improving the knowledge of wildlife laws both locally and nationally.
- At regional level, a high level of collaboration and coordination was expressed during Year 2, with three Mano River Union countries – Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea collaborating on the protection of two migrating elephant. Year 2 showed a practical implementation of agreements signed in Year 1 and some promising coordination such that a baby chimp was rescued in Freetown, Sierra Leone (November 2020). This year, it was not possible to have transboundary joint patrols due to the COVID-19. We are hoping that ground-level collaboration at transboundary sites would be feasible in Year 3, once movement across borders is possible.

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.

All of these assumptions still hold true. The COVID-19 caused some delay in implementing project activities and in some cases resulted in some activities being approved to be moved to Year 3. This however did not affect achievement of the project outputs and outcome. For example, restrictions on gatherings and travel prevented physical / in-person meetings but we were able to overcome the impact by organising virtual meetings, and when restrictions were lifted in-country, we were able to organise the national IWT training with remote facilitation from the UK-based facilitator, given global travel restrictions were still in place at the time.

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

Impact: 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.

In Year 2, the project continued to contribute to the above impact building on the systems and structures established in Year 1.

Training and mentoring of enforcement officers (Activity 2.3) continued this year, with security operatives now armed with the skills to tackle wildlife trafficking. Strengthened law enforcement capacity in the country through training, and support for a coordinated effort, culminated with the signing of the MOU between FDA and MOJ (Output 2), has helped to boost the morale of law enforcement officers and will strengthen the country's ability to respond to and combat wildlife trafficking.

Awareness assessments showed clear progress: of 156 respondents surveyed across 8 markets and border point, 79% of the respondents said they are aware of regulations on the hunting and selling of protected animals – this was only 9% in Year 1 – 17% were not aware of regulations (73% in Year 1) and 2% were not sure (14% in Year 1) (Activity 3.6). Further awareness raising events organised and set up across the country, will continue to help to increase knowledge of wildlife related laws and regulations and will impact positively on the response to IWT.

Regional collaboration was sustained with remote communication, including one virtual transboundary meeting (Activity 1.3). A coordinated response by three countries of the MRU, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia in the protection of two elephants crossing the MRU from Guinea was remarkable (Activity 1.2/1.3). It was highly publicised, and attracted support from a cross-section of local and international NGOs, government agencies and donors. One of the partners Elephant Research and Conservation (ELRECO) was able to secure funding from the Elephant Crisis Fund as a result of this. FFI and partners were also able to support the LESC and FDA to secure additional funding from the African Elephant Fund (AEF) to strengthen law enforcement efforts at the current project sites, and additional sites within Liberia, including transboundary protected areas.

The project has contributed to addressing poverty because securing and strengthening the integrity of the protected areas, will lead to sustenance and improvement of ecosystem services that benefit local people. Furthermore, an improved strategy in addressing IWT that promotes community involvement as is the case in this project, has impacted communities positively as community members now willingly report instances of wildlife crime to the FDA.

## 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 (LD) and 2015 Kasane Statement (KS) by:

- Developing regulations for implementation of the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management law, and creating awareness among law enforcement personnel on the law (LD18: 9, 14; KS15: 4, 5; LD14: VIII, X, XI, XIII, XIV, XVI).
- National collaboration among agencies, through the signing of a MOU between FDA and MOJ, strengthened regional level collaboration to promote better coordination of action through a national training programme, reflected in the coordinated response to the protection of migrating elephants across the Mano River Union (Liberia, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire) and a 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:

- 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 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 enforcement will enhance deterrence of offenders from poaching and trafficking, effectively reducing the IWT threat on focal species.

Training enforcement personnel on the skills and protocols for combatting wildlife crime, providing resources for law enforcement and a finalised and signed MOU between FDA and MOJ; these activities will strengthen enforcement agencies' ability to enforce legislation and develop, investigate and prosecute wildlife crime cases. During the period July 2020 – March 2021, a total of 14 individuals were arrested, including 6 from Sapo National Park (0 women and 6 men) of which conviction of 4 individuals was achieved. Confiscation of live animals 80 live animals (with 6 from Sapo), including 10 chimps, 19 Sooty Mangabeys, 4 Timneh parrots was reported.

## 6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project, "*Strengthening Liberia's response to illegal wildlife trade*" contributes directly and indirectly to poverty alleviation for the entire country in general, and for communities neighbouring the protected areas in particular.

The project has improved 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. Support provided through this project to strengthen law enforcement at the protected areas creates an increased sense of security to communities, who are working closely with park management to provide and report information on wildlife crime, for example in Sapo National Park and Wonegizi PPA. In addition, different ecosystem services which benefit the communities are maintained because of increased natural resources' protection.

Increased awareness will also help to increase understanding of the consequences of wildlife trade, including the risk of disease outbreaks which could result from poor management and control of wildlife trade and this can have severe impact on people and their livelihoods, as suggested by the coronavirus outbreak and previous zoonotic disease outbreaks such as the Ebola virus outbreak which affected Liberia several years ago. The health and well-being of a population contribute to the livelihood conditions and economic development of the country. 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.

FFI is very aware of the links between IWT, law enforcement, human rights and impacts on people and in 2020 has released a public position paper ([https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FFI\\_2020\\_Position-on-rangers-and-human-rights.pdf](https://cms.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FFI_2020_Position-on-rangers-and-human-rights.pdf)).

## 7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Throughout the project, gender has been considered within activities as much as possible, with the recognition that the roles, perspectives and experiences of women and men in IWT can differ. As in the previous year, a conscious effort was made to equally include women in training activities, workshops, surveys and assessments, to the extent possible. Between April 2020 and March 2021, 24% of those trained, 41.6 % of respondents during the baseline awareness survey and on average 40% of those attending LESC meetings, were women. The communications strategy developed in Year 1 considered gender-relevant messaging and platforms that would



best reach targeted audiences, whether men, women, consumers, vendors, traffickers or hunters. Also, 50% of the project partners leading IWT related projects and activities (including FFI) are female.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

To monitor the impact and effectiveness of FFI's awareness raising activities, an on-going (annual) survey for Outreach Materials is being implemented on this project, targeting communities, markets and border points, to measure their knowledge and understanding of the 2016 National Wildlife and Protected Area Management Law, protected species and to understand the issue of sourcing wild animals for human consumption as a threat to Liberia's biodiversity (Activity 3.6).

The results from the surveys will monitor changes in public knowledge of wildlife laws, protected species and means for reporting wildlife crime, and will be used for further strategic and activity planning. Qualitative data will also be collected and compared from callers on the radio shows in Activity 3.4. Collectively this data will measure audience reach and to some extent, the degree to which IWT knowledge increased.

To monitor the impact of the training implemented, pre- and post- questionnaire surveys were carried out among participants before and after the training workshop. This helped to measure the level at which knowledge and skills in IWT protocols and tools had improved during the workshop. A further capacity assessment will be carried out some months after the training to measure how the participants have applied the skills acquired during the training and to identify any additional gaps or barriers to effective law enforcement.

To monitor the impact and effectiveness of IWT activities within the protected areas and elsewhere in the project working areas, 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, manage and report these types of data.

## **9. Lessons learnt**

A number of lessons have been learnt during the second year, but most worthy of note among the positive outcomes is the learning from strong coordination among 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. The signed bilateral MOU between Liberia and Guinea reported in Year 1 was fully activated in Year 2, leading to prompt communication among agencies of both countries. This was reflected in Guinea's prompt and effective communication to the FDA on the day two elephants crossed the border into Liberia from Guinea.

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. Security agencies and judiciary to a great extent now understand the severity of wildlife crime. However, evidence gathering still remains a challenge and needs improvement, as this has impacted successful prosecution and conviction of those arrested. We believe that some improvement will be recorded in Year 3, as evidence gathering and preservation were some of the topics addressed during the national training.

With regards to community level awareness in relation to IWT, the monitoring and evaluation exercise has revealed that awareness raising that target both law enforcement agencies and community people is necessary in combating the illegal wildlife trade in the country, because it increases the public interest and enhance the agencies' capacity. This could promote a more participatory approach to wildlife conservation and contribute to Liberia's transformation agenda through sustainable forest management.

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

Following the year 1 annual report review, we have addressed all comments from the reviewer. The first comment was to shorten the introduction section in the next annual report which we have done. The reviewer further asked that we discuss with LTS to request an adjustment to the project logframe to reflect adjustments in timelines for some activities that were impacted by COVID-19. The logframe has now been updated and change requests approved. For example, Activity 2.2 which was initially meant to happen in Year 1, was moved to Year 2 and this is now reflected in the logframe. Lastly, we were advised to make Indicator 4.2 SMARTer. This has also been addressed. It previously read as *“4.2. An increase in the number of recorded, IWT-specific patrols and investigations deployed, enabled by quality, accessible data.”* This has now been changed to **“The number of detailed reports produced from the centralised database to strategically inform field missions, investigations and case development, by end of Yr 3”**.

## 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 and mentoring.** The intern who conducted the awareness baseline survey in Year 1 secured a job with another conservation organisation at the end of his internship, as a result of his improved capacity. A new intern now **supports IWT project activities and also biodiversity activities at site level.** She led the awareness public survey and awareness raising campaign in Year 2, producing quality reports. She was supported by the **two seconded staff from FDA.**

**The major challenge which has occurred this year is the general impact of COVID-19 on activities.** However, the project is on course and set to meet its objectives. Since combatting Illegal Wildlife Crime is a process that requires joint and coordinated response, the signing of the MOU by FDA and the MOJ responsible for joint security shows that Liberia is on its way to achieving positive outcomes as a result of a strengthened and well-coordinated response to combatting wildlife crime.

In Year 2, during engagement with law enforcement personnel at trainings and other events, concerns were usually raised regarding the challenges law enforcement officers continue to face with regards to successful arrests and prosecution of wildlife crime suspects. This was initially due to limited capacity in evidence gathering and amongst prosecutors in the understanding of the law. However, these areas were addressed during the national wildlife crime and judiciary training implemented later in the year. In Year 3, we will monitor any improvements as a result of the trainings. There was also a call to provide training for senior officials and management at institution level, as it would help the superiors provide adequate technical backstopping to frontline personnel.

## 12. Sustainability and legacy

**This project has established a strong foundation for effective and coordinated response to addressing wildlife trade in Liberia and within the MRU. Assessments and trainings carried out for Law Enforcers will enable the Liberian government to establish baselines for the country and continue to monitor the impact of efforts to combat Illegal wildlife crime.** Tools, protocols, agreements and action plans developed, such as **the 5-year National Strategy** will help to guide actions addressing wildlife crime even after this grant comes to an end. **The outcomes of the training both at site- and national-levels will progress beyond the lifespan of this grant.** Collaborations established in Year 1, both nationally and regionally have gained traction and hopefully will continue to be maintained. Skills acquired, plus the related mentorship and training of trainer approach will help to create a culture amongst personnel to maintain learning, so that knowledge can be passed on to colleagues. The project has also established a permanent SMART based patrol programme at all three sites which this grant supports, which is an invaluable capacity building support at site-level.

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

The project acknowledges the UK government as a donor by displaying the UKAID logo on project materials. The logo is normally used on banners, during workshops and other events and on IWT awareness materials such as posters, fliers, and billboards to ensure adequate visibility in line with the requirements of the UKAID communication guideline. The logo is also placed on equipment such as laptops purchased under the project. Support from Defra's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund has also been widely publicised both verbally and in writing among partners and stakeholders during meetings, in press releases and radio programmes, and is visibly displayed along with the UKAID logo on the project vehicle (Activity 2.11).

There is a general understanding of the IWT Challenge Fund's strategic contribution amongst institutions working to address IWT in Liberia.

### **14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery**

For LESC, due to COVID-19 guidance and regulations, the organisation of physical meetings was avoided until restrictions were lifted. During the lockdown, meetings were held using virtual or conference calls among them Zoom, GoToMeeting, etc. Even after the lockdown, most meetings now have options for remote attendance to ensure social-distancing is achieved, and people not able to attend in person can still participate.

For Community awareness meetings that became possible only after restrictions were lifted, the government specified COVID-19 health and safety protocol / guidelines were strictly followed.

For the trainings of FDA rangers, these were only organised after restrictions were eased, and these also strictly followed laid down rules and guidelines for ensuring maximum safety for participants.

As for Law enforcement, patrol efforts were affected at the beginning of COVID-19, mostly for safety of the team. In terms of illegal hunting, it is difficult to measure the effect of COVID-19 without good data, as patrols were limited during the time.

In terms of field work, it was difficult to mobilize the team and to procure funds from the bank for field activities, especially in the beginning phase when we were not sure of the safety precautions and their duration. This however improved once guidelines were rolled out and after the restrictions were eased.

### **15. Safeguarding**

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have answered yes, please ensure these are reported to [ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk) as indicated in the T&Cs.

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 22, below). 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.

## 16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2020-March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

As per change requests of Dec2020 and Mar2021 the following changes to the budget were agreed and made:

**Year 2 budget (2020/21) reduced from £to £, and moved for Year 3 budget**

By:

- Consultancy costs, minus £ (and moved to Staff costs for Year 3)
- Travel and subsistence, minus £7 (moved to Year 3),
- Operating Costs, minus £ (moved to Year 3)

All changes were approved and discussed with IWT, and indicate an impact of Covid on the project.

**Staff costs** will be fully detailed in the financial reports however the +8% variance is partly due to Covid and having to rely on staff since consultants were not as available (or to travel). **Capital items** primarily consist of 'Database Development Infrastructure Cost' – equipment.

**Other costs** include: mainly Printing for IWT Outreach Campaign, Telecoms and IT costs Stationery and Printing - i.e., closely relating to communications – and Recruitment Costs & Work Permits and Bank Charges.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	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>This project, it has contributed significantly to strengthening law enforcement efforts in Liberia and regionally by; empowering national government Institutions like FDA, law enforcement, judiciary, customs, , immigration, transnational crime units etc.; improving collaboration with regional counterpart institutions 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; and raising awareness across the country. This model set up by FFI and its partners in Liberia will serve and inspire regional initiative to be able to do similar such that the protection of wild threatened animals will be improved.</p>	<p>All activities planned for Years 2 and 3 will be reviewed and the project's work plan will be adapted in accordance with what should be and can be done during the national lockdown.</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, from baseline assessment to end Yr3.</p>	<p>0.1 National strategy for wildlife crime was finalised. The MoU between the FDA and MOJ signed.</p> <p>0.2 4763 rangers (100%) trained in the application of SMART and CyberTracker, are applying the new skills, collecting quality data in Sapo, Wonegizi and Ziama.</p>	<p>0.1 Final refinement and dissemination of the 5 year IWT strategic plan for stakeholder's and public awareness.</p> <p>0.2 Continued training, mentoring and exchanges in Year 3.</p> <p>0.3 Ongoing surveys, in Year 3.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<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>0.3 Of 156 people surveyed at 8 market and border sites, 79% were aware of restrictions on hunting and trade of wildlife (vs. 9 % in Year 1), 78.1 % had seen posters related to wildlife (vs. 64 % in Year 1), and 21.3 % appeared accepting of these rules (an increase from none in Year 1). 1 public reports of wildlife crime were made, compared to no formal recording of this by the FDA in Year 1.</p> <p>0.4 Year 2 saw the confiscation of 80 live animals, including 10 chimps, 19 Sooty Mangabeys, 4 Timneh parrots; arrest of 14 suspects and 4 successful convictions of wildlife offences. This is a decrease overall compared to Year 1, attributed to reduced response to and monitoring of IWT during most of the year, as a result of the COVID-19.</p>	<p>0.4 Continued IWT M&amp;E</p>
<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</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</p>	<p>1.1 The national strategy document is being finalised with inputs from partners. Once approved it will serve as a guide for IWT related actions in Liberia.</p> <p>1.2 Several Law enforcement Subcommittee meetings were held this year, among them six major ones held between April 2020 and March 2021. The</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>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 <b>Yr3</b>.</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 approaches to combatting IWT elsewhere, by the end of Yr2.</p>	<p>wildlife regulation drafted in Year 1 is now awaiting approval as its finalisation is dependent upon the finalization and approval of the revised wildlife law.</p> <p>1.3 An ad hoc committee, the Elephant Emergency Committee (EEC) was set up temporarily by the Species Working Group Liberia to monitor the transboundary migration of 2 elephants between Liberia and Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, with governments Institutions from both countries, the CFZ in Guinea and the MINEF in Cote d'Ivoire, coordinating efforts with the government of Liberia in ensuring protection of the elephants</p> <p>1.4 This was not possible in Year 2 due to the COVID-19.</p>	
<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>This activity was successfully completed in Year 1.</p> <p>The national strategy was circulated amongst stakeholders for comment and is being finalised.</p>	<p>In Year 3, we will work for the approval and dissemination of the national strategy to tackle IWT.</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>Six LESG meetings were held; of which two were hosted by FFI.</p>	<p>LESC meetings will continue and the wildlife regulations will be further developed by members.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3</p>		<p>One TGKS Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee</p>	<p>Transboundary collaboration will be continued among the project countries.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
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		meeting between Liberia and Ivory Coast was held virtually.	The meeting of the TGKS Transboundary Law Enforcement Technical Committee, was initially scheduled for March 2020 and postponed to April 2020, however, due to the coronavirus pandemic it was held virtually in July 2020.
Activity 1.4 Design and implement an IWT learning exchange programme for 4 high-level law enforcement personnel from Liberia and its neighbouring countries.		As per change request Dec2020, deferred to Year 3.	Implementation of this activity is now moved to Year 3.
<b>Output 2.</b> 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.	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.  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 <b>Yr2</b> .  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</b>	2.1 This output was successfully achieved in Year 1.  2.2 This output was successfully completed in Year 2  2.3 This output has been successfully achieved. 42 national law enforcement personnel received training on combatting wildlife crime. Evidence is provided in section 3.1 of the report and Annex 19. This makes a total of 168 personnel trained in Year 1 and Year 2.	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<b>gender representation</b> , by the end of Yr2.		
<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>This activity was successfully completed in Year 1.</p> <p><i>The capacity assessment was repeated at the end of Year 2 to assess gaps in capacity and identify if there are any other barriers to law enforcement.</i></p>	None.
<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>This activity has been successfully completed.</p> <p>A set of IWT training modules was designed in Year 2.</p>	The training modules will be translated in Year 3 for use by the French speaking countries among the project countries.
<p>Activity 2.3</p> <p>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>This activity has been successfully completed.</p> <p>Two five-day national IWT training were delivered to 42 law enforcers in Monrovia between 16-20 November and 23-27 November 2020.</p>	None.
<p>Activity 2.4</p> <p>Support the development of modules targeting the judiciary, which will be implemented by a LESC partner.</p>		This activity was implemented by partners during Year 2.	Review
<p>Activity 2.5</p> <p>Share the national training modules with the UoL and FTI for their adaptation for inclusion in their teaching syllabus.</p>		Discussions were held with the University of Liberia during the Plant and Animal Sub-Committee in Year 2.	Discussions will continue in Year 3.
<p>Activity 2.6</p> <p>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>This activity has been successfully completed.</p> <p>Pre- and post- training questionnaires (Annex 10 &amp; 19) were designed and delivered to 42 participants at the national IWT training.</p>	None.
<p>Activity 2.7</p>		This activity has been successfully completed.	None.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Deliver a national training programme (both combined and specific agency focused) to at least 100 personnel across targeted law enforcement agencies.		A total of 42 law enforcement personnel were trained in Year 2, making it a total of 168 personnel trained during the first two years of the project (126 in Year 1 and 42 in Year 2).	
Activity 2.8 Identify 2 key individuals from Liberian law enforcement authorities to receive additional applied training, mentorship and accompaniment to build their capacity.		Two FDA officers were supported under the mentoring programme, and received training during the national training in November 2020; evidence in annex 19.	None.
Activity 2.9 Support trainees to become trainers of 2 further individuals in the subsequent year, overseen by the project expert.		This will be carried out in Year 3.	Two additional officers will be nominated to be mentored by the FDA officers.
Activity 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		This activity has been successfully completed in Year 1, with the training of 63 personnel from Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape on SMART and CyberTracker in Year 1; 26 of those trained were given refresher in Year 2.	
Activity 2.11 Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.		SMART patrolling has been carried out in Sapo National Park and the ZWW landscape.	SMART patrolling will be continued in Year 3.
Activity 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.		Database training now planned for year 3	National IWT training and database training will be carried out in Year 3
Activity 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.		Will follow training delivered in 2.12 in year 3.	Will be carried out in Year 3 once the IWT database is established
<b>Output 3.</b> Dissemination of information on wildlife laws and sanctions provides an enabling environment that promotes	3.1 A suite of <b>campaign materials is produced</b> (e.g., posters/billboards/murals) that provide informational messages on	3.1 A communications plan was developed in February 2020 and is continually being adapted to reflect target audiences and messaging.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>compliance by the public and increases the likelihood of public/informal engagement with IWT detection and reporting</p>	<p>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 <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 Several radio programmes were organised during Year 2, with wide listenership. Statistics indicate that 20,000 listeners tuned in to Radio Nimba and 400,000 – 500, 000 listeners across the country for ELBC radio. Evidence is provided in section 3.5 of report and Annex 21.</p> <p>3.3 Public surveys have been repeated in Year 2. Evidence is provided in section 3.6 of report and Annexes 11 &amp; 14</p>	
<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>The communications plan created in Year 1, has been continually updated to check that messaging is still relevant (informed by the results gathered in public surveys).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Activity 3.2</p> <p>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>This activity was successfully implemented and completed in Year 2.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.3</p> <p>Commission at least one mural drawing communicating key campaign messaging at the Monrovia international airport.</p>		<p>Three side-by-side posters were commissioned instead of a mural posting and are displayed in the</p>	<p>Displays continue until July 2021.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		Departures Terminal at Monrovia international airport for 12 months.	
Activity 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.		Various Radio shows were designed, arranged and aired e.g. Annex 21 (more evidence available upon request)	Additional media talk shows will be planned for Year 3.
Activity 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.		This activity was continued this year. Statistics indicate that 20,000 listeners tuned in to Radio Nimba and 400,000 – 500, 000 listeners across the country for ELBC radio.	Collection of caller statistics will be analysed across all 3 years at the end of the project.
Activity 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.		The initial survey for Year 1 was repeated in March 2021 following the pandemic lockdowns in 6 additional sites, Annex 14.	The survey will be repeated at the end of Year 3 to review impact of awareness raising messaging on the public.
<b>Output 4.</b> 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 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 <b>Yr3</b>  4.2 <b>The number of detailed reports produced from the centralised database to strategically inform field missions, investigations and case development, by end of Yr 3.</b>	4.1 Some appropriate IT equipment was purchased in year 2 and planning and development meetings and discussions were held with multiple stakeholders (see evidence in section 4.1)  4.2 <b>Database reports</b> N/A until Year 3	
Activity 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.		Design and development is proceeding (Annex 18) and continued into Year 3 (as per Change request March 2021).	Database design will be finalised in Year 3.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 4.2 Provide IT infrastructure and train specific IT support personnel within FDA for sustainable database housing and management.		Basic IT equipment procured and continued into Year 3 (as per Change request March 2021).	The FDA will be trained to set up, manage and maintain the system.
Activity 4.3 Work in partnership with FDA to determine an enforcement baseline		Completed in Year 1.	
Activity 4.4 Collate monthly enforcement agency effort (days of ranger patrols, days of mobile unit patrols, days of FDA officer intelligence gathering effort)		<p><b>In Sapo National Park</b>, between April and December 2020, a total of 32 patrols were implemented across the three zones of the park. The patrols covered 2,206.59 km, leading to the arrest of 6 individuals and prosecution of 4 individuals, with 1 conviction, confiscation of 2 single-barrel guns, and the rescue of 6 live animals (3 chimpanzees, 2 Sooty Mangabeys, 1 bushbuck) that would have been traded or kept as pets.</p> <p><b>At the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area</b> from April, 2020 to March, 2021, a total of 505 patrol days, of 3,865 patrol man days and a distance of 4,404 km by FDA rangers and community auxiliaries. A total of 362 spent cartridge collected, 365 traps/snares, and 92 poaching camps/shelters were destroyed, 1 firearm (gun) confiscated and 2 poachers were arrested.</p> <p><b>Guinea, Ziama:</b> From April 2020 to March 2021, a total of 1062 patrol days, i.e. an effort of 4084 patrol man-days and a distance of 10,961.317 km were covered by FDA guards and community auxiliaries in the Ziama Biosphere Reserve during control patrols. In total, 1050 cartridges were collected, 878 traps and nets were destroyed, 22 poachers' camps and shelters were destroyed, 0 firearms</p>	Continued M&E. Data will be collected until the end of the project and compared with the baseline in Year 1.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		were confiscated and 0 poachers were arrested.	

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

*N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk) if you have any questions regarding this.*

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.			
<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, 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</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>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>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p><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>0.4 Database records</p>	
<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 <b>Yr3</b>.</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</b></p>	<p>1.1 LEESC meeting minutes/notes/attendance logs, LEESC 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 LEESC meeting minutes, attendance records and updates; anecdotes of information sharing and collaboration leading to effective law enforcement activities.</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 LEESC 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>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p><b>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 approaches to combatting IWT elsewhere, by the end of <b>Yr3</b>.</p>	<p>1.4 Travel documentation, attendance documentation, photos and meeting minutes/reports, learning reflections.</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b> (Addressing regional priorities, <b>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 <b>Yr2</b>.</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>



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Output 3.</b> (Addressing regional priority, <b>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 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) conducted in targeted distribution sites by the end of Yr3.</p>	<p>3.1 Posters, flyers, billboards printed, photos of materials and murals in situ.</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>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>
<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 Yr3.</p> <p>4.2 <b>The number of detailed reports produced from the centralised database to strategically inform</b></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 <b>Database reports</b></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>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	field missions, investigations and case development, by end of Yr 3.		Trained staff are managed and incentivised suitably to ensure appropriate quality and frequency of data entered into the database.
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>1.4 Design and implement an IWT learning exchange programme for 4 high-level law enforcement personnel from Liberia and its neighbouring countries.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>2.2 Define and develop the suite of IWT training modules for law enforcement agency personnel at national and transboundary levels.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>2.4 Support the development of modules targeting the judiciary, which will be implemented by a LESC partner.</li> <li>2.5 Share the national training modules with the UoL and FTI for their adaptation for inclusion in their teaching syllabuses.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>2.7 Deliver a national training programme (both combined and specific agency focused) to at least 100 personnel across targeted law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>2.8 Identify 2 key individuals from Liberian law enforcement authorities to receive additional applied training, mentorship and accompaniment to build their capacity.</li> <li>2.9 Support trainees to become trainers of 2 further individuals in the subsequent year, overseen by the project expert.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>2.11 Equip and deploy teams on regular, coordinated patrols.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3.3 Commission at least one mural drawing communicating key campaign messaging at the Monrovia international airport.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<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

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

N/A

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals , manual, CDs)	Detail (author s, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Wildlife Protection and Environmental Crime Law Distributed to Law Enforcers for Implementation	Journal	September 29, 2020	Female	Liberia	The Daily OBSERVER Vol. 20, No. 156 , Monrovia	<a href="https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/wildlife-protection-and-environmental-crime-law-distributed-to-law-enforcers-for-implementation/">https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/wildlife-protection-and-environmental-crime-law-distributed-to-law-enforcers-for-implementation/</a>
	Journal	September 29, 2020	Female	Liberia	The INQUIRER, Vol. 29 No. 146 , Monrovia	The Inquirer has no online access for the public
	Journal	September 29, 2020	Female	Liberia	Heritage, Vol. 23 No. 35082 , Monrovia	Heritage has no online access for the public
	Journal	September 29, 2020	Female	Liberia	PROFILE DAILY, Vol. 12, No. 223 , Monrovia	Profile Daily has no online access for the public

**Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

**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.	Yes, report only
<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.	Yes, annexes
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need 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.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	