
IWTR6S2\1009

Combatting IWT in the Gola Sierra Leone-Liberia Transboundary Landscape

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is rapidly increasing in West Africa, with evidence of cross-border trading. The most frequently traded animals include Forest elephants, Western chimpanzees, Pangolins and Timneh Grey Parrots.

Building on robust cross-border partnerships we will promote an integrated approach for sustainable IWT prevention and reduction in the 400,000ha+ Gola Rainforest landscape of Liberia and Sierra Leone, through anti-trafficking activity (training project and eco-guards) alongside support to provide alternative economic benefits (honey, tourism) for vulnerable communities.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Richard
Surname Dixon
Organisation Royal Society for the Protection
of Birds
Tel [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Combatting IWT in the Gola Sierra Leone-Liberia Transboundary Landscape

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR6S1\100123

IWTR6S1/100122

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Sierra Leone	Country 2	Liberia
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date: 01 April 2020 **End date:** 30 September 2022 **Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):** 2 years and 6 months

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Amount:	£228,396.00	£107,655.00	£62,709.00	£ 398,760.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding arrangements are through the secured funding portfolio for the Greater Gola Landscape Transboundary Programme.

Total project costs are £ [REDACTED] with partners providing a total of £ [REDACTED]

Of this RSPB will provide £ [REDACTED]

GRC will provide a total of £ [REDACTED] (REDD+ will provide £ [REDACTED] and £ [REDACTED] from Rainforest Trust (not yet secured);

SCNL will provide a total of £ [REDACTED] (PAPFor £ [REDACTED] (Secured) and £ [REDACTED] Rainforest Trust (not yet secured)

Partners matched funding will be provided in the form of staff costs.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost (total cost is the IWT Challenge Fund request plus other funding required to run the project). 26

Section 3 - Project Summary & Objectives

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is rapidly increasing in West Africa, with evidence of cross-border trading. The most frequently traded animals include Forest elephants, Western chimpanzees, Pangolins and Timneh Grey Parrots.

Building on robust cross-border partnerships we will promote an integrated approach for sustainable IWT prevention and reduction in the 400,000ha+ Gola Rainforest landscape of Liberia and Sierra Leone, through anti-trafficking activity (training project and eco-guards) alongside support to provide alternative economic benefits (honey, tourism) for vulnerable communities.

Q8. What will be the Outcome of the project?

This should be an action orientated statement e.g. training provided to the judiciary results in increased successful prosecutions of poaching.

This should be the same as the Outcome statement given in Question 34.

Across the Sierra Leone-Liberia Greater Gola Landscape, transboundary partnerships and collaboration between civil society, government and communities mitigates the rapid increase of the Illegal Wildlife Trade in West Africa.

Q9. Which of the four key IWT Challenge Fund objectives will your project address?

Please tick all that apply.

- Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people affected by IWT
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade

Q10. Which of the commitments made in the London Conference Declarations, the Kasane Statement and/or the Hanoi Conference does this project support?

Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments and some brief information on how your project will contribute to them. There is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

Internationally, the seriousness of wildlife and forest crime threats are recognized at global and regional

levels by fora such as the UN General Assembly Resolution on Tackling Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife , the London Conference Declaration , the Kasane Conference Statement , the Hanoi Statement , CITES and the London Conference in 2018. This project support the following commitments of these meetings:

Kasane Statement on the Illegal Wildlife Trade:

- Strengthening law enforcement, point 7, regional wildlife enforcement networks
- Sustainable livelihoods and economic development, points 10-13

Hanoi Conference:

- Strengthening cross-border co-ordination and support for regional wildlife law enforcement networks;
- Engaging communities living with wildlife as active partners in conservation, through reducing human-wildlife conflict and supporting community efforts to advance their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and their habitats.

London Conference Declaration (2018): (To which Sierra Leone is a Signatory and attended and endorsed by Sierra Leone's First Lady)

- The project primarily addresses key points under 'Working in partnership' specifically points 13-18; Livelihoods, capacity building, government partnerships, and cross border partnerships. The project also addresses the challenges under 'Impact of illegal trade in wildlife' specifically points 3-8, on impacts on threatened species, cross border security and local livelihoods

Q11. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

SDG1-End poverty in all its forms everywhere

(1.1,1.4) The project will contribute to poverty reduction by employing Forest Guards/Rangers from communities, supporting livelihoods through beekeeping and boosting tourism in forest edge communities, the poorest of the poor.

SDG4-'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education.....for all'.

(4.4,4.5,4.7) Community members trained as rangers and Eco guards. Developing skills in beekeeping and tourism ensuring gender balance in training and equal opportunities.

SDG5-Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

(5.5) We will encourage women to leadership roles in project, i.e. farmer groups, honey species experts and ensure that training events have female participation.

SDG8-Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.....for all

(8.9) Promoting sustainable tourism and employment for forest edge communities.

SDG12-Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

(12.2) project interventions will contribute to the sustainable management of the Gola Forest Landscape through the protection of threatened species.

SDG15-Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems....and halt biodiversity loss

(15.5,15.7,15.c) project is specifically targeted to combat the illegal wildlife trade in the landscape and protect threatened species.

SDG16-Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development..... at all levels

(16.3) we will promote adherence to wildlife and protected area laws whilst ensuring wildlife using

communities play a part and have alternative livelihood option where needed.

SDG17-Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

(17.9) The wider Gola programme is funded by multiple international sources and collaborations involving south-south (Sierra Leone/Liberia governments/NGOs), and international donors (north-south).

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q12. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded an IWT Challenge Fund or Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
24-013	Chris Magin	Balancing water services for development and biodiversity in the Tana-Delta
22-015	Dr Paul Donald	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
2031	Nicolas Tubbs	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest.
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship
19-012	Dr Rob Sheldon	Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction
19-028	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Addressing the threat of invasive species in Pitcairn Overseas Territory

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

📄 **RSPB Accounts 17-18**

📅 11/11/2019

🕒 11:58:04

📄 pdf 4.08 MB

📄 **RSPB Accounts 18-19**

📅 11/11/2019

🕒 11:57:49

📄 pdf 2.13 MB

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q13. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project, and how local institutions, local communities, and technical specialists are involved as appropriate. Please provide Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Website address: www.rspb.org.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of autonomous national conservation organisations. As part of BirdLife, and one of Europe's largest conservation charities, the RSPB extends its impact globally as a BirdLife partner, stemming the loss of global biodiversity and contributing to a more sustainable world.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: As a key partner in the Gola landscape and the only one with the capacity and the presence on the ground in both countries, the RSPB will lead and support the project research and financial management and coordinate with local partners (GRC, ISAT SCNL, CSSL, UOF, Rory's Well and PAD).

Capacity to engage: RSPB has five Technical Advisors (TA) in-country. One TA supporting livelihood and community development work and one TA building local capacity in research and monitoring. The RSPB has worked in the landscape for almost 30 years (Sierra Leone, and 10 years in Liberia). RSPB has also delivered many Darwin projects over the years and other completed and large, multi-donor projects.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? (Note: this can be uploaded at the bottom of the page) Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? (Note: this can be uploaded at the bottom of the page) Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: The Gola Rainforest Conservation (GRC-LG)

Website address: www.golarainforest.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Description: The GRC-LG is a not for profit Sierra Leonean company, limited by guarantee established in 2012. The GRC-LG manages the Gola Rainforest National Park and the Gola REDD project. GRC-LG is a partnership between Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, CSSL, RSPB and Communities of the 7 Gola Chiefdoms.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: The GRC-LG manages the Park Rangers in the Gola Rainforest National Park, Sierra Leone and the ranger training venues. GRC-LG has been working with Forest Edge Communities (FEC's) through the REDD project and will be responsible for community engagement, research and monitoring and the honey income generating component.

Capacity to engage: GRC has been working in the project area for over seven years. The organisation has experienced staff with administration, finance and operational support in place. GRC has strong links to the forest edged communities, many staff are employed from those areas and has implemented livelihood programs directly and in partnerships through the REDD programme.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Do you have more than one partner involved in the Project?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)

Website address: <https://www.facebook.com/conservations/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Description: CSSL, established in 1986 is a national non-governmental, non-profit organisation with technical expertise in conservation and wise use of Sierra Leone's natural resources. CSSL provides policy advice, undertakes environmental education, facilitates learning and advocacy about good conservation practices, implements conservation and sustainable livelihoods projects and facilitates biodiversity research.

CSSL are a partner in GRC-LG and as such have a Director on the board. The board makes managerial and strategic decisions for GRC-LG.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: will lead on eco-tourism and environmental education and communications. CSSL will begin to take up supervision and fieldwork roles with guidance from RSPB/GRC-LG technical and managerial staff. Over the first year of the project the GRC-LG will train and build capacity of CSSL staff, so that they can gradually take over responsibility for environmental education, communications and shared responsibility for ecotourism and will have greater involvement in research activities by year three.

Capacity to engage: CSSL has been involved in multiple site-based conservation programmes across the country developing innovative ways to protect sites through the active engagement of local communities that depend on these sites. Sites include key IBAs (and thus KBAs) such as Gola, the Western Area Peninsular Forest, Yawri Bay.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) Sierra Leone

Website address: *No Response*

Letter of Support:

Description: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests are responsible for wildlife laws and law enforcement. The NPAA sits within the Ministry. The Minister of Agriculture and Forests is a GRC-LG board member and the NPAA is a GRC-LG partner. It has a Director on the GRC-LG board and is central to decision making and capacity building. They have expertise in GIS mapping, which assists GRC-LG in forest monitoring.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: NPAA will provide guidance for capacity building of rangers, who will deliver the integrated project approach. The NPAA will not have staff on the ground involved in direct implementation of this project but will provide political support for the project.

Capacity to engage: NPAA have been involved in Gola since its inception and were instrumental in its gazettelement and in developing the GRNP management plan. NPAA has been at the centre of the efforts through the USAID Funded WABiCC project to promote greater collaboration and cooperation between Liberia and Sierra Leone to develop transboundary agreements for joint training and patrols for Park Rangers.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

No

If no, please provide details

Framed under the GRCLG partners agreement and the Mano river agreement

4. Partner Name:

Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia (SCNL)

Website address:

<https://www.scnlliberia.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Description: SCNL is Liberia's leading civil society conservation organisation and the Liberia partner of BirdLife International. It has a 30-year history of promoting responsible stewardship of Liberia's outstanding natural resources. SCNLs Vision is that biodiversity is effectively managed and wisely used. This is delivered through their mission to educate, encourage and assist the public to understand the need to conserve nature, build consensus on the effective management of biodiversity, and to ensure that the use of natural resources is sustainable.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: will lead on community engagement and research.

Capacity to engage: While SCNL works throughout Liberia, it was responsible for the recent gazettelement of Liberia's second national park; the Gola Forest National Park and is working towards the gazettelement of Foya Nature Reserve. Currently carrying out 11 different projects, activities will be carried out by SCNL staff already working for the EU funded GolaMA Project who will be able to expand their roles to meet this grant objectives. Ongoing monitoring/evaluation will be expanded to include the impact of the Darwin project. SCNL staff have solid experience in community forestry, livelihoods support, and research. SCNL has worked in partnership with RSPB for many years.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Liberian Government

Website address:

<http://www.fda.gov.lr/>

Letter of Support:

Description: FDA is a state corporation established by an act of Legislature in 1976, mandated to sustainably manage and conserve all forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations. FDA are responsible for wildlife laws and law enforcement. Sustainable Forest Management in Liberia is based on the 3Cs approach which provides a poli-cy platform for the forest sector: Commercial, Community and Conservation Forestry. The 3’Cs approach provides a policy platform for Liberia’s forest sector. Integrating these pillars, FDA works to Conserve and sustainably manage all forest resources to enable them to continue to provision of a complete range of goods and services for the benefit of all Liberians and contribute to poverty reduction.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: They will provide guidance for capacity building of rangers, who will deliver the integrated project approach.

Capacity to engage: FDA manages the Gola Forest National Park and supported its gazettment and developed the GFNP management plan. FDA has been at the centre of efforts to promote greater collaboration and cooperation between Liberia and Sierra Leone to develop transboundary agreements for joint training and patrols for Park Rangers.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? No

If no, please provide details

Framed under the GRCLG partners agreement and the Mano river agreement

6. Partner Name:

International Security Advisory Team (ISAT)

Website address:

<https://www.gov.uk/world/sierra-leone>

Letter of Support:

Description: International Security Advisory Team (ISAT) provides practical support to the international community in its efforts to improve security and justice, primarily in conflict-affected and fragile states. It does this by working with a group of member states and institutions to develop and promote good security and justice reform practices and principles, and by helping its members to build their capacity to support national and regional security and justice reform processes.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: ISAT will provide training for Park Rangers in the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP), Sierra Leone and Gola Forest National Park (GFNP), Liberia

Capacity to engage: ISAT is part of DCAF an international foundation established in 2000 on the initiative of the Swiss Confederation, as the 'Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces'. In May 2019, DCAF was officially renamed DCAF- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. DCAF contributes to enhancing security sector governance through security sector reform.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.

Universal Outreach Foundation Liberia. <https://universaloutreachfoundation.org/>

Description: Universal Outreach Foundation is a humanitarian organization developed with a purpose to serve vulnerable children and their communities. The Foundation works to ensure that students—young and old— have access to education.

Roles and Responsibilities in project: Universal Outreach Foundation implement the Beekeepers and ecotourism livelihood interventions.

Capacity to engage: The organisations focus is the production and marketing of honey by small rural producers. They had been successfully piloting the promotion of honey in the GolaMA and WABiCC project and other areas in Liberia.

Rory's Well and a local NGO, Peoples Agenda for Development (PAD). <http://www.roryswell.org/>

Description: Rory's Well is a UK Charity working sensitively and co-operatively within Sierra Leone, empowering local people and transferring skills for future independence, 'helping those in need to help themselves in a truly sustainable way'

Roles and Responsibilities in project: Rory's Well through a local NGO, PAD in Sierra Leone, implement the Beekeepers and ecotourism livelihood interventions.

Capacity to engage: Rory's Well has an established presence in the project area with multiple projects ongoing and collaborating with GRC-LG since 2018, training farmers and marketing honey produced. They have strong market development capacity and can easily expand their present programme.

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

[RSPB Support Letter and Stage 1 feedback response Final](#)
📅 12/11/2019
🕒 21:14:40
📎 pdf 127.42 KB

[IWT Support letter GRC](#)
📅 12/11/2019
🕒 21:10:40
📎 pdf 82.67 KB

[GRC PARTNERS-AGREEMENT](#)
📅 12/11/2019
🕒 17:26:02
📎 pdf 2.24 MB

[IWT Letters of Support](#)
📅 12/11/2019
🕒 17:25:34
📎 pdf 4.59 MB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q14. Key project staff

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Richard Dixon	Project Leader	10	Checked
Francis Massaquoi	Project Leader (GRC)	20	Checked
Pamela Braham	Finance Manger RSPB	10	Checked
New position	Project Coordinator (CSSL & SCNL)	50	Checked

Do you require more fields?





Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
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Bjorn Horvath	TA Community Development	15	Checked
Fomba Kanneh	Monitoring & Evaluation (GRC)	25	Checked
Alessandro Albani	TA Research & Monitoring (RSPB)	20	Checked
Abdulai Dauda	Biodiversity Officer (CSSL)	30	Checked
Jerry Garteh	Science and Conservation Officer (SCNL)	30	Checked
Mohamud Lumeh	Eco-tourism officer (SCNL & CSSL)	50	Checked
Mariama Kargbo	Environmental Education Officer (CSSL)	30	Checked
Emmanuel Smith	Community Mobilisation Officer (SCNL)	30	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 **Gola all-CVs**
 12/11/2019
 22:04:11
 pdf 455.16 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

No

If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.

There are more staff listed on the Budget template, but these are the key staff. Further CVs and Job Descriptions can be supplied, but only if essential!

Section 7 - Species & Project Statement

Q15. Species project is focusing on

Where there are more than 4 species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more fields using the selection option below.

Giant ground pangolin (<i>Smutsia gigantea</i>)	White-bellied pangolin (<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>)
Black-bellied pangolin (<i>Uromanis tetradactyla</i>)	Forest Elephant (<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>)

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Western chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes verus</i>)	Timneh Grey Parrot (<i>Psittacus timneh</i>)
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q16. Problem the project is trying to address

What specific aspect(s) of the illegal trade in wildlife will your project address? Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned.

Please also explain which communities are affected by this issue, and how this aspect of the illegal trade in wildlife relates to poverty or efforts of people and/or states to alleviate poverty.

The integrity of the Sierra Leone/Liberia Gola Forest Landscape and its unique wildlife is threatened by the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and bush-meat hunting. In recent years IWT has drastically increased all over West Africa. Recent investigations identified evidence of cross border trading, prominent trafficking routes from Liberia and that animal trophies from Liberia and SL were repeatedly seized at Brussels airport. In 2017, over ten pangolins (for Chinese medicine) and over twenty chimpanzees (pets) were confiscated in Liberia and Sierra Leone, without arrests or prosecutions. Greater numbers of endangered species are sold illegally on the streets of the capitals without consequence. Forest Elephant (Ivory/body parts) and Timneh parrot (pets) are widely traded. Bush meat remains the major protein source in Liberia, despite most forest species being protected.

There is general lack of awareness about wildlife and protected area laws in both countries, in the public and in most government authorities including forestry and wildlife agencies. Regulations to put Wildlife Law into practice have not yet been developed leading to insufficient law enforcement, no effective law enforcement networks and little risk attached to committing wildlife and forest crimes. Forest communities are unaware of the long-term impacts of unsustainable management of forests and wildlife.

Without effective systems and procedures to deal with forest and wildlife crime, illegal activities will continue or increase. In the long-term, this may put the community-based conservation initiatives at risk, as communities will question the need for their efforts if the law is not enforced. Only if community engagement and law enforcement complement and support each other can wildlife and forest crimes be addressed.

Section 8 - Method, Beneficiaries & Exit Strategy

Q17. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on:

- **How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design, Please cite evidence where appropriate.**
- **The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.**
- **How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).**
- **How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).**

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.

This project is informed by our/partners extensive experience in the project area over the past decades and an awareness of the growing IWT challenge across West Africa. The RSPB supports/leads the following projects with the listed partners: The completed EU funded Across the River Project and USAID WABiCC transboundary projects laid foundations for effective collaboration through cross-border training of ranger patrols, research technicians and community support teams and established the Gola Forest Bilateral Coordination Committee. Research through the Gola SL REDD+ programme and Darwin grants confirmed high biodiversity and presence of globally important key species and funds Ranger salaries. Gola REDD+ and WA-BiCC fund livelihood activities for Forest Edge Communities (FEC's) including support for a producer organisation. In Liberia the EU-funded GolaMA focuses on developing Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) and financially sustainable business plans to ensure communities benefit from sustainable, alternative income generating activities (honey, cocoa). EU IWT project, Liberia training all parts of the law enforcement network.

This project will prevent and reduce IWT in the Greater Gola Landscape by taking an integrated approach, promoting collaboration among all stakeholders, and building on a theory of change (TOC) developed by IIED. Understanding the Drivers for forest and wildlife crime and their Prevention are crucial. Focal areas are context analysis, research, wildlife and forest management, and community engagement/benefit in/from sustainable protection and management of natural resources and awareness raising.

Methodology:

Enforcement: this component comprises the involvement of enforcement agencies, human resources, intelligence, enforcement powers, investigation, cross border patrols transboundary cooperation and technical assistance. It starts with awareness raising about the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law in Liberia and the Wildlife Conservation Act in Sierra Leone, their content and ensuring that the offenses and penalties are known and that the law is correctly enforced.

Transboundary learning and collaboration will ensure exchange of experience between countries across all four sets of activities framed through an MOU and support collaboration on park management activities to ensure that disincentives for illegal behaviour are effective on both sides of the border.

Data and Analysis: The project supports Park Rangers, Community Eco-guard information gathering and will centralize the data collected by these units at FDA, NPAA and GRC, so that the use of the data for management purposes is more likely. The proposed project will collect data through various channels, especially the Community Eco-guards and Bio-monitors and Park Rangers

Engagement of community members: Community members will be identified, trained and then deployed as: (i) Community 'Species Champions' - Part-time workers who will build community awareness, work with park rangers to patrol the forest specializing on key focal species will be trained. (ii) Community eco-guards in biomonitoring, intelligence gathering and communication to assist rangers. Community engagement will

be through direct recruitment and community participants will receive a monthly stipend. Training will include: patrolling techniques using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, an internationally recognised best practice tool) and bi-monitoring techniques (e.g. line transects and camera trapping). Community members will be trained in species identification, threat data collection, and awareness raising techniques.

Awareness raising with community members: activities will focus on series of different techniques, i.e. messages about the sustainable management of forest resources, future regulations as well as protected species. Strong emphasis will be on training community members in raising the awareness in their own communities and using school children as future ambassadors for wildlife. Activities will include establishing nature clubs in schools, community meetings and meetings in markets, drama, theatre and radio.

Wildlife based or conflict reducing Livelihoods:

The project will boost the emerging ecotourism sector in the project area. It will achieve this by establishing links to private sector tour operators, hotels and universities, rehabilitating existing tourism infrastructure in Gola (Sierra Leone), establish tented permanent camps, platforms, latrines and equipment in pilot sites and training local staff in service provision and guiding

The project will support beekeeping and honey marketing. This will be focused in strategic focal communities where Human Elephant Conflict is a problem as bee hives help reduce elephant raids. The project will assess market in Sierra Leone, train lead bee keepers and train 150 bee-keepers in Sierra Leone and expand the beekeeping network in Liberia

Roles and responsibilities of partners detailed in Question 13.

Q18. Beneficiaries

- **Who will benefit from the work outlined above, and in what ways?**
- **How will this contribute to sustainable development for the reduction of poverty?**
- **How many people are likely to benefit from this intervention e.g. number of households?**
- **How do you intend to monitor the benefits they accrue?**

If your project is working in an Upper Middle Income Country, please explain how benefits will be delivered to people living in poverty in Low and/or Low Middle Income countries.

Include, where possible, information on whether and how there are ways to support the most vulnerable communities, including women.

Demand reduction projects should clearly demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction, for example, by identifying impacts in the source countries for the products concerned.

The project theory of change focuses on engaging local communities in fighting the IWT which destroys the natural resources on which they depend. Our core target group is the 162 Gola forest edge communities (FECs) (30,000 people, 40/60 women/men) in Liberia and Sierra Leone on the IWT frontline. Vulnerable community members engage in IWT due to financial need and a lack of ownership for wildlife.

The target group will benefit from improved wildlife stewardship and livelihoods that mitigate wildlife conflict. The impact of these benefits will be measured using a wellbeing index . We expect 30% of target group to consider their wellbeing-rank to have increased by at least one level compared to baseline as a

result of this project. The REDD project will implement a qualitative survey to assess well-being in the FEC's in January 2020 and is considered a better measurement than the often unreliable income data. The REDD programme recently collected useful baseline income data for households in FECs in Sierra Leone. The ranking has five levels and measures a wide range of livelihood indicators from access to health, education, food security and natural resources, as well as assets.

Key beneficiaries:

- 1) 75 Park Rangers in Liberia and Sierra Leone will benefit from professional training from ISAT. Liberia and Sierra Leone National Police will receive state of the art training dealing with the IWT.
- 2) Honey producers: In SL the project will work in 36 Gola villages in Koya (12), Makpele (12) and Tunkia (6) chiefdoms. RW are currently working in Barri chiefdom (12). They will work with 3 HH in each village. By EOP takes the project to village self-sufficiency. The interest cascades to other villages as there is a great deal of interest being shown. In Liberia, Universal Outreach targets 36 villages in Sokpo and Kposo clan building on the WABiCC project and Jawayeh clan (GolaMA project area).
- 3) Ecotourism: 30 staff hired from forest communities for service provision in existing tourist centres of Lalehun and Siletti in GRNP: cooking, maintenance, cleaning and tour guides. Campsites will be identified and set-up with local staff in GFNP and staff hired and trained. Community eco lodges in four villages to provide cultural experience.
- 4) Community members (especially those involved in IWT and those in Forest Edge Communities). Assisted with support and conservation training in 30 villages. 20 Species champions and 30 ecoguards will be trained.
- 5) FDA and NPAA Staff, will benefit from the establishment of a training centre of excellence for Park Rangers.
- 6) NGOs (SCNL, CSSL, RSPB, etc) staff will gain valuable practical experience in engaging with Education and research in combatting IWT. CSSL will also gradually secure a greater role on the management of the Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone
- 7) Students/school children in the project area will be given the opportunity to join and learn from project support Nature Clubs.

Q19. Gender Equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

Achieving gender equity remains challenging in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Women have limited access/control over resources and little involvement in decision-making processes. Food insecurity is often more prevalent in women-headed households. GRC/CSSL/SCNL are committed to reducing gender-based inequality and are developing institutional gender policies to mainstream gender into all activities and develop a framework for integrating gender concerns into organizational development. The objective is to create equal opportunities and a conducive environment for women and men in the work place and to increase women's participation in decision making.

We will focus on the most vulnerable members of the communities, i.e. unemployed youth (women and men) who are most likely to engage in illegal activities. They will be engaged as 'Species Champions' and eco-guards, and thus will significantly benefit from the project, while continuously increasing their capacity.

Women are more disadvantaged in rural areas and successful project implementation will require their active involvement. Female Species Champions will be supported to raise awareness in communities and participate in the enforcement of hunting regulations. 50% gender balance will be targeted in ecotourism training and beekeeping livelihoods component of the project.

When implementing this project, partners will ensure that gender considerations are appropriately addressed, e.g. through Gender Action Learning System Tools developed through the REDD project with AGALS, a local gender empowerment organisation. Currently, we know that while most hunters and traders are male, marketers are usually female. Therefore, we will need to consider the specific effects of the project on both men, women and other marginalized groups in order to ensure that they are fully engaged in project activities and that no individual group bears greater burden in this. We will also track and promote equality between the number of men, women and youth engaged with the project partners to implement work.

Q20. Impact on species in focus

How will the species named in Question 15 benefit from the work outlined above? What do you expect the long-term impact on the species concerned to be?

Giant ground, White-bellied and Black-bellied pangolin: Pangolins are the most traded mammal globally, and are at risk of extinction, before their population in the wild has even assessed. The project will identify populations and build awareness within communities.

Forest Elephant: elephants have been subject to serious decline, but information on the population in the project area is insufficient. This project will build on existing data to better identifying populations and migration routes and assess areas and extent of Human Elephant Conflict.

Western chimpanzee: Farmers blame most crop damage on chimpanzees, especially on cocoa farms. However, recent research shows that: only 1% of crop raiding is due to chimpanzees; 20% to squirrels and rodent's; and, 80% to other species of monkey. The environmental education component will address this misconception.

Timneh Grey Parrot: Surveys conducted with external researchers confirm numbers are decreasing around Gola. Further research will help to understand behaviours and feeding/seasonal patterns in the landscape to better protect them.

Camera traps and patrol records (SMART) will confirm species presence and distribution, ultimately helping inform enforcement needs and prioritisation. Dung sampling and DNA analysis will identify populations and monitoring will record incidents of contact and corridors.

Q21. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

(see attachments for table version)

The project has 4 key pathways:

1. Strengthen law enforcement by making it more difficult for people to hunt wildlife by putting in place better trained and better equipped Park Rangers and community eco-guards. Facilitating strong cooperation, intelligence sharing and greater cross border collaboration and cooperation between government, civil society and local communities. This will lead to: Stronger action against illegal activities from within and outside communities

2. Communities are more empowered to manage and benefit from wildlife through community engagement and awareness of IWT and conservation goals. This will lead to: Communities value conserving wildlife more.

3. Costs that wildlife bring to the communities through conflict are reduced due to better mitigation strategies. This will lead to: Communities less dependent on IWT as a source of revenue.

4. Supporting non-wildlife-based livelihoods to increase household incomes and reduce dependence on wildlife. This will lead to: Source of income derived from conserving wildlife.

Collectively these will contribute to the Impact: Decreased pressure on four key species from illegal wildlife trade across the Gola Landscape by improving collaboration and cooperation between civil society-government-communities.

Q22. Exit Strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

The project partners are committed to finding strategies to sustainably finance conservation and livelihoods across the 350,000 ha Gola Rainforest Landscape. Core is REDD financing. Sierra Leone's Gola REDD project, (VSC verified in 2015) secured c 50% of project income needs in its first full year of carbon sales (2018) and we expect that will grow as the market evolves. Liberia's national REDD programme is complete, and projects are needed to move this to the market.

Other sustainable income streams across the landscape are needed. We are exploring sustainable production of tropical commodities and developing the Conservation Centre on the edge of the Gola Rainforest National Park.

Tourism is a priority in both governments' development strategies. Sierra Leone targets tourism to foreigners working in Freetown and Kenema. The Ministry of Tourism is promoting eco-tourism supported by the World Bank and the project will align with this policy. The project will develop packages to appeal to a range of tourists from bird watching, to nature trails, river trips and linking to other tourist locations on the coast and in neighbouring forests of Tiwai and in Liberia. The project will train communities to provide services: guides, cooking, camp maintenance and cultural experiences.

if necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the file upload below:

📄 [2019 Reference list](#)

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 15:52:54

📄 pdf 102.8 KB

📄 [Project map](#)

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 13:14:04

📄 pdf 0 B

📄 [Q21 pathway to change diagram](#)

📅 11/11/2019

🕒 12:11:49

📄 pdf 57.06 KB

Section 9 - Funding and Budget

Q23. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the IWT Challenge Fund budget.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

Please refer to the [Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance](#) for more information.

N.B: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The IWT Challenge Fund cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed IWT Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

📄 [Budget St2 Darwin R26 IWT R6 V2](#)

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 22:05:51

📄 xlsx 68.73 KB

Q24. Funding

Q24a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

This new initiative builds on existing work.

REDD+ project, established 2015, developed benefit sharing agreements with communities to protect the GRNP and to support sustainable livelihoods in FEC's. Research through the REDD+ programme and Darwin

grants have confirmed high biodiversity and presence of global-ly important key species.

WABiCC and the earlier EU Transboundary Peace Park Project laid the foundation for effective cross-border collaboration through training of: ranger patrols; research technicians; and, community support teams. Established the Gola Forest Bilateral Coordination Committee between partner organisations.

The REDD+ programme in SL and WA-BiCC funded livelihood activities for Forest Edge Communities including support for a producer organisation. The vision is to develop a viable business that produces forest friendly commodities, e.g. shade varieties of cocoa, coffee, wild pepper and honey.

EU-funded GolaMA: Focuses on developing Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) and financially sustainable business plans to ensure communities benefit from sustainable, alternative income generating activities (honey, cocoa).

EU IWT project, Liberia training all parts of the law enforcement network specifically eco-guards in community forests.

The Rainforest Trust project in Liberia focus is on the management of community forests. A network of eco-guards will be established. A similar project is being developed for SL.

Q24b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

- EU funded IWT national project in Liberia focus is on enforcement and developing a network of trained eco-guards 20 around GFNP
- FFI and Conservation International in Liberia on IWT in Wonegizi Forest Reserve
- Tacugama in Freetown focus on chimpanzees and enforcement.
- WABiCC and the Mano River Union: transboundary agreements for enforcement and park ranger training. They have shown interest in using Gola as a centre of training for Park Rangers and working with ISAT
- Pan African Sanctuary Alliance focus on law enforcement training in West Africa.

In general the main difference is that these projects are not working on livelihoods to the same degree as the Gola programme. The Gola programme has been working with forest edge communities over a long period.

Q25. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q25a. Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
EU PapFor	██████	GBP	Part of a larger grant to the partners for transboundary work. Begins January 2020. There is also another £██████ from the EU IWT project for an RSPB Technical Advisor position to develop training curriculum for eco-guards. SCNL managing and training eco-guards in Liberia. Not included in this budget.
USAID WABICC	██████	GBP	Part of an existing Grant via the RSPB, expires September 2020
Gola REDD Carbon	██████	GBP	Carbon sales are generated throughout the year via Stand for Trees and ClimateCare who have both been contracted by the GRC-LG to sell credits for 2+years now. This is forecast income but based on high levels of confidence and if not secured will be met by the RSPB.
RSPB	██████	GBP	Committed core budget through core staff and other activities.

Q25b. Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
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01 November 2019	Rainforest Trust	██████	GBP	SECURED (but no space above. For SCNL work in Liberia)
01 March 2020	Rainforest Trust	██████	GBP	For CSSL to work in Sierra LEone. Eco-Guards. Liberia grant already secured and we are confident CSSL will get this one.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Capital Costs, Value for Money & Ethics

Q26. Outputs of the project and Open Access

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from the IWT Challenge Fund to fund this.

All information collected by the project will be made publicly available and freely accessible, except for personal information which will only be available anonymously and if consent is provided by the individual (for example in the sharing of case studies). Project information will be made available through several methods including:

Online media: Progress reports, lessons learned workshop reports, photographs and communications will be made available through partner websites. Partners may also use social media to promote project progress, lessons learned and achievements in relation to their involvement. This may be tailored specifically for the audience they are trying to reach.

Journals: We would expect this project to result in several peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals detailing: 1. spatial distributions and habitat correlates of target species; 2. Methods of detecting deforestation; 3. Impact of work to increase biodiversity awareness amongst forest-edge communities. In order to make these accessible to scientists in developing countries who often do not have access to institutional journal subscriptions but might be the most likely to benefit from this work, RSPB will budget separately for this.

We plan to share the biodiversity data we collect from the Gola project area through the Wildlife Insights portal <https://wildlifeinsights.org/> We will need to consider data protection and sensitive species, but this will be a common concern to most camera trap projects and we will ensure a mechanisms are in place to

deal with this.

Q27. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risk of fraud or bribery.

See corruption section although this is also requested in this section

The most significant financial risk to the success of this project is exchange rate fluctuation, but over the last few years the pattern has been for the value of the local currency in Sierra Leone to fall with respect to the pound, which is more likely to lead to an underspend than a short-fall in project funds. We have taken this into account in our budgeting. As the partners are already working together, we have already dovetailed our organisational financial management systems and financial staff have good relationships. RSPB finance staff are involved in building financial capacity of all partners through visits and by phone and email.

Regarding project financial management, RSPB/GRC/CSSL/SCNL use normal financial practices to avoid misuse of funds e.g. separating expense approval from preparation; two signatures on cheques; regular external audits. Normally these would avoid significant fraud or bribery, but Sierra Leone and Liberia have a reputation for corruption. We address this by gradually building trust, entrusting individuals with small sums before incrementally increasing amounts; by scrutinising expense justification documents in Sierra Leone and in UK; by ensuring community-based transactions are carried out in public fora.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

We plan to purchase a four motorbike and a 4x4 vehicle, camera traps, a PA system and computing equipment. At the end of the project these will stay with in-country partners and will be used to further the long-term objectives of the IWT project, i.e. the conservation of the Gola forest and the research programme; facilitating training events for Park Rangers and eco-guards; improving livelihoods for FEC's, specifically eco-tourism for continued capacity building of employees involved in service provision to tourists and the movement of tourists between tourists sites within Gola, plus the expansion of training to honey producers.

Q29. Value for money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The budget was worked out by the RSPB and partners. Key budget items were firstly agreed, human resource inputs debated and then the budget calculated. This was then commented on and refined with RSPB inputs. The main reason this project is good value for money is because it builds on a framework that has already been created at the project site. We already have many staff in place who can deliver this project. We will only have to recruit the species champions and eco-guards, outreach officer and driver, and so can avoid recruitment costs and get on with implementing activities straight away.

We already have benefit sharing agreements and can mainstream IWT into them. The Conservation Centre owned by GRC-LG is well situated and known within the area. Whilst we have needed to budget for

refurbishment and maintenance work to the centre to make it fit for purpose, the fact that it is already in use and has existing support staff (cooks, cleaners, security etc) means that this represents very good value for money.

The vast majority of the grant will therefore be spent in country, on activities that allow us to harness what we are already doing to tackle IWT.

Q30. Ethics and human rights

Outline your approach to meeting the IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the Guidance Notes. Additionally, if there are any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project?

If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

This project is the product of long-term collaboration among RSPB, and all partners.

The principle of strong Sierra Leonean/Liberian leadership and participation underlies all the work that RSPB, carries out with partners in country if it be through the GRC-LG, CSSL, SCNL and community and government, partners

This project will be implemented mainly by GRC with technical support from CSSL and RSPB. GRC staff have along-standing relationship of trust with the FDA and local communities and all field staff are from the local area.

GRC places high priority on strong community engagement in day-to-day work and project governance. Staff engage with communities in many ways to ensure all sections of the community are aware of/have opportunity to participate in activities. Choice and design of activities, especially livelihoods activities, will be determined through community input. Monitoring by participatory methods e.g. focus group discussions/individual questionnaires ensure community feedback informs evolution of these activities.

RSPB's Centre for Conservation Science will ensure research methods are credible. Household surveys will comply with ethical norms/regulations, respect principles of the Helsinki Declaration on research. Informed written consent obtained from all participants and interviews conducted as privately as possible. Participants (i) may chose not to answer questions/stop participating at any time, (ii) information collected will be confidential and destroyed after evaluation, (iii) they will not receive material remuneration (iv) non-participation will not impact their access to other initiatives.

RSPB has strong health and safety policies and supports CSSL and GRC to develop appropriate safeguarding measures.

Q31. Corruption

Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this.

GRC rangers are recruited from local communities and don't carry weapons. They receive intensive training and there are strict codes of conduct. If there is a risk of confrontation, staff are requested to alert local police, who also have clear rules of engagement.

Robust complaints procedure is in place, for anybody to raise concerns over the conduct of individual staff. This procedure is widely publicised and approved by the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance Standard.

Illegal child labour and slavery is strictly forbidden and includes whistle blowing procedures.

We have strict financial control mechanisms in place. The project is audited annually by a reputable, internationally accredited firm.

In 2018, the RSPB initiated an international Safeguarding Group. This group developed a set of guidelines that all supported BirdLife Partners are contractually obliged to follow.

Safeguarding Policy for the organisation which includes these policies

- Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Dealing with Safeguarding Reports
- Disclosure of malpractice in the workplace (whistleblowing)
- Anti-bribery guidelines
- Anti-slavery guidelines
- Complaints procedure
- Procedures for reporting and response to safeguarding concerns
- PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by staff) policy

Q32. Use of data

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience of the organisations involved in managing this information in your project.

If any aspect of your project relates to informant network data please also explain what measures are in place to ensure it is properly controlled.

All information collected by the project will be made publicly available and freely accessible, except for personal information which will only be available anonymously and if consent is provided by the individual (for example in the sharing of case studies). As noted in Q30 Household surveys will comply with ethical norms/regulations, respect principles of the Helsinki Declaration on research. Project information will be made available through several methods including:

We are hoping to share the biodiversity data we collect from the Gola project area through the Wildlife Insights portal <https://wildlifeinsights.org/>

We will need to consider data protection and sensitive species, but this will be a common concern to most camera trap projects so there should be a mechanism in place for dealing with this.

Q33. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We have shared our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Unchecked
We have a whistle blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q34. Logical Framework

IWT Challenge Fund projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

The Outcome statement in your logframe should be the same as the Outcome statement given in Question 8.

Impact:

Long-term transboundary partnerships between civil society, government and communities decrease the pressure on species from illegal wildlife trade across the Sierra Leone-Liberia Gola Forest Landscape.

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
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Outcome:

Across the Greater Gola Landscape, transboundary partnerships and collaboration between civil society, government and communities mitigates the rapid increase of IWT in West Africa.

0.1 By end of project (EOP) illegal hunting reduced by 30% in Liberia (LIB) and 20% in Sierra Leone (SL) in at least 70 out of the target 147 forest edge communities (FECs; 30,000 people) around the National Parks compared with baseline levels.

0.2. The Gola Rainforest training centre is recognised as a regional training hub for IWT prevention and the protection of threatened species/effective protected area management by EOP.

0.3 10% of households in 72 target FECs consider their well-being rank to have increased by at least one level compared to the baseline as a result of engagement in one or more of the project activities (Tourism, beekeeping, employment) by EOP.

0.4. IWT incidents reported to GRC-LG and the FDA (Liberia) increase post training, reflecting greater capacity to detect, and subsequently reduce at each reporting monthly interval, reflecting greater capacity and greater community support.

0.5 Increase in public awareness reflects changes in opinions and behaviours from baseline surveys with 50% increase in

0.1.1. Reports from hunting sign surveys and ranger patrols (LIB and SL).

0.1.2. Informants' system (SL)/ranger patrol/community species champions' reports (LIB and SL) on illegal activity and siting of key species.

0.2.1. Long term ISAT/GRC training curriculum endorsed by specialist institution (e.g. IIED/MRU/IUCN specialist groups) focusing on the integrated approach to fight IWT (e.g. training for rangers and SMART).

0.3.1. Comparison of baseline/end of project representative household surveys.

0.4.1 Park Ranger incident reports and GPS tracking data base.

0.4.2. Reports from hunting sign surveys and ranger patrols (LIB and SL).

0.5.1. Education feedback forms/interview reports in communities from baseline and endline surveys

IWT drivers in the Greater Gola Landscape are the same as those in the rest of West Africa's Upper Guinea Forest Biodiversity Hotspot.

This should hold true because it was shown that in the project area and across West Africa, the main threat to forest biodiversity is bushmeat hunting , which is linked to IWT, driven by high poverty in the rural population, who are largely dependent on forest-based livelihoods.

understanding of IWT in
communities between
baseline and end of
project

Output 1:

Disincentives for Gola Forest Edge Communities (FECs) to engage in the illegal wildlife trade are strengthened.

1.1 75 rangers all hired from local communities (50 in SL, 25 in LIB) complete training to required standard and are strongly collaborating with eco-guards, species Champions and other enforcement agencies by EOP.

1.2 One boat station site selected, and a riverboat patrol station established by end of year 1.

1.3 Ten River Rangers trained with the park rangers and in boat maintenance by end of year two.

1.4 20 males and 20 females are engaged as 'Species Champions' in 40 FECs (20 in Lib and 20 in SL) and are supporting enforcement of wildlife regulations by end of Year 1.

1.5. Select and train community 30 eco-guards in biomonitoring, intelligence gathering and communication to assist rangers by end of year one.

1.6 A reliable and effective eco-guards' network is established in/around the Greater Gola Landscape in SL and LIB by end of Year 1 and triggering successful law enforcement responses before end of year 2

1.1.1. Ranger training reports from the Gola Rainforest Conservation training centre and activity reports from rangers' patrols in SL and LIB.

1.1.2. Ranger patrol reports documenting collaborative efforts with eco-guards and species champions

1.2.1 Rangers reports from river patrols

1.3.1 River ranger training report and feedback.

1.4.1 Registry of Species Champions and their activity reports.

1.5.1. Eco-guard training registry

1.6.1 Reports from intelligence network on IWT

1.6.2. Rangers are utilising the intelligence to adapt patrol runs and Law enforcement response reports.

Community members actively engage in the implementation of wildlife and hunting regulations.

Whilst this will be challenging, we believe it will hold true for community Species Champions that are supported during and beyond the end of the project by mentors (i.e. through the International Ranger Federation). We also believe that targeted education and greater awareness of wildlife laws will help combined with livelihood support provided by this project and ongoing sustained support from the Gola REDD project carbon sales and other initiatives.

Output 2:

More empowered communities engage in and benefit from diversified conservation-sympathetic livelihood options.

2.1 Key sites (3 in Sierra Leone and 1 in Liberia) for a rainforest ecotourism circuit are identified by end of year 1 and with private sector technical advice existing and/or new infrastructure is rehabilitated and/or set up to meet ecotourism standards by end of year 1.

2.2 Four private sector partner links for tourism are established in Sierra Leone and Liberia for GRNP/GFNP through SCNL and CSSL by end of year 1.

2.3 Market assessment (SL and Liberia) and resulting materials to inform the development of a sustainable ecotourism strategy.

2.4 Four ecotourism sites meet standards as advised by private sector partners.

2.5 Three Beekeeping extension workers have been trained and are delivering basic training to communities in SL

2.6 180 beekeepers in Liberia (90 from 30 FEC's) and Sierra Leone (90 from 30 FEC's) are participating in the programme by EOP.

2.1.1 Site selection report, tourism sector meeting reports and renovation and construction plans.

2.2.1 Private sector partner assessment reports

2.3.1 Market assessment report, which feeds information into tourism strategy and business plan.

2.3.2 Sustainable ecotourism strategy

2.4.1 Eco site reports

2.5.1 Beekeeping extension training registry

2.6.1 registry of honey production kept for each farmer enrolled in the programme.

2.6.2 Annual report.

Engaging people in the scheme and other livelihood activities reduces their participation in IWT.

We expect this to hold true in SL because we already have benefit sharing agreements with all 122 FECs in which they agree to be better environmental stewards in return for support to develop new livelihood activities, so in SL we just need to raise FECs awareness of the environmental damage done by IWT and embed measures to tackle IWT in our day to day operations.

In Liberia we think it will hold true as information from people engaged in bushmeat hunting (those most likely engaged in IWT) in LIB shows that even though income from hunting is currently higher (a mean of \$300 dollars a month), it is seen as a disadvantage because of its uncertainty, risky and arduous nature. An agreement comparable to the one in Sierra Leone will be signed with the communities in Liberia.

Livelihoods can be diversified and improved sufficiently to allow people to manage IWT sustainably.

We think this will hold true because we have evidence from SL that when HH adopt new income generating

activities significant gains in income and food security can be made. This project will not work in isolation. The REDD project has a range of livelihood activities and benefit sharing agreements in place.

Output 3:

IWT and species research informs the execution and monitors the impact of the project.

3.1 Project partners have a better understanding of the drivers of IWT and the role of men and women in IWT within the project area by EOP compared to baseline.

3.2 Project partners have a solid baseline understanding of the impact of IWT on species in the project area by end of Yr 1

3.3 Project partners understand the impact the project has had on hunting and illegal wildlife hunting/trading in the project area by EOP.

3.4. The project will develop a better understanding of Pangolin and timneh grey parrot populations and distributions across the landscape by EOP

3.5. Populations and migration routes of elephants in the landscape and areas of HEC are mapped and better understood by EOP.

3.6. Community awareness of Chimpanzee ecosystem function and understanding or their impact in crop raiding is improved by EOP with 50% fewer interview respondents implicating chimps in crop raiding.

3.1.1 Reports of socio-economic surveys across at least 20 of the targets 147 FECs in SL and LIB (ca.15% of households.)

3.1.2. Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) reports (SL/LIB).

3.2.1. Biannual analysis of monthly hunting sign surveys (recorded on SMART).

3.2.2 Reports of Baseline and EOP camera trap surveys (frequency of IWT species being captured).

3.3.1 Monthly Ranger patrol reports.

3.3.2 Monthly reports on illegal hunting/trade from intelligence gathering network.

3.3.3 Monthly reports of verbal reports from species champions.

3.4.1. Ranger data, SMART Data and peer review journals.

3.5.1. Ranger data, SMART Data and peer review journals. Project workplans focus ranger effort and education effort in conflict areas.

3.6.1. Community feedback forms from awareness raising activities at baseline and end of project.

The external pressure promoting IWT in the region will not increase significantly over the course of the project (i.e. easy gain, low cost verses high benefit for perpetrators).

We believe this is true because the activities of the project will help to ensure that the IWT will not expand/will reduce, not encouraging the demand and that no risk will arise for the project staff to conduct their work whilst ensuring the benefits from alternative livelihoods outweigh those from IWT.

No other major threat affecting a significant decline to IWT species populations occurs during the lifetime of the project

We believe this will hold true because despite the first and largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded impacted the project area, there was no indication of any significant population decline for these species

Output 4:

Forest edge communities and the wider public have a greater understanding of IWT and the importance of conservation

4.1. Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) or Forest Management Committees (FMCs) in 36 FECs in SL and 36 FECs in Lib have developed, promoted and adopted IWT regulations and bylaws by EOP.
4.2. 70 FECs have a greater understanding of wildlife laws reflected in feedback from community consultation meetings by end of year 2
4.3. Nature clubs established in 15 schools in SL and 12 in Liberia by year 2 and continue throughout project.
4.4. General public express greater support for wildlife conservation as reflected in an increase call in's to radio shows, press articles, interest from university students to conduct field research.

4.1.1. Endline survey comparison with baseline, bye laws.
4.2.1. FEC baselines education and endline education surveys
4.3.1. Nature club correspondence and materials shared.
4.4.1. Project record of radio shows, press cuttings, project records of student enquiries and field work.

No Response

Output 5:

Recommendations for best practice approach to fighting IWT with the support of local communities shared through the Gola Rainforest Conservation Centre (GRCC) with other projects and relevant institutions.

5.1 One workshop for partners is held with stakeholders from LIB and SL to develop a best practice model to fight IWT nationally and in partnership by EOP.
 5.2 Lessons learnt shared with West African IWT constituency (e.g. at appropriate conferences and through throughout the project).
 5.3 IWT findings are presented to the Transboundary Technical Advisory Group meetings
 5.4 Lessons learnt available online by EOP.

5.1.1 Workshop reports.
 5.2.1 Conference proceedings.
 5.3.1 Gola transboundary technical group meetings
 5.4.1 Online resources, website address.

Cross-border movement remains possible during the project period, i.e. restrictions are not put in place due to political instability or epidemiological outbreaks.

We think this will hold true because both countries have been politically stable for 15 years and both have already gone through several democratic elections. Mano River union agreement signed by both countries. WHO and related agencies are putting mechanisms in place to prevent/rapidly respond and isolate any future epidemiological outbreak building on the experience from the 2013-2015 Ebola outbreak.

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

- Yes
 No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.

Output 1

1.1. An 8-week British Military Short Term Training Team (STTT) STTT to train 75 SL and Liberian rangers in low level skills to improve baseline stand-ards and bring Liberian rangers in line with their Sierra Leonian counterparts. A Showcase training event to demonstrate the utility of joint training between enforcement agencies working on either side of international borders.

1.2. Phase 1 An initial 3.5-week rotation of 25 SL and 13 Liberian rangers through a basic field craft training

course delivered in the SL half of the Gola Forrest. This training package would also include intelligence, medical, navigation, communications and community policing and outreach training.

1.3. Phase 2 A second 3.5-week rotation of 25 SL and 12 Liberian rangers

1.4. Phase 3 A two-week assurance/instructor package, including accompanied patrolling.

1.5. Phase 4 Subsequent (after 1 year), British ISAT instructors to conduct an assurance/top up visit.

1.6. Facilitate the signing and adaptation of MOUs in the wider MRU Sub-Region to facilitate joint training events, allow joint patrolling and to improve border security.

1.7. Develop Gola (Lalehun) as a centre of excellence for ranger training and cooperation/collaboration with national security forces

1.8. Pilot one river boat patrol stations and develop a training package for river rangers

1.9. Awareness training for local communities about the project and IWT issues in general.

1.10. Hold community meetings in 10 FECs in SL and 10 FECs in LIB to ask communities to select 'Species Champions' (1 female and 1 male Species Champions in each community).

1.11. Train Species Champions: 2 training sessions at the GRCC (4 days each) at the start of project and one refresher training as required, Species Champions from SL and LIB to be trained together.

1.12. Women Species Champions (mentored by the project Outreach Officer, Community Mobilisation Officer) raise their communities' awareness of the value of species threatened, IWT, community hunting regulations. Men Species Champions (mentored by rangers from the National Parks) patrol forest outside of the National Parks, reporting signs of illegal hunting to rangers.

1.13. Plan with the project managers of the Rainforest Trust community forest project and the EU IWT project (RSPB and SCNL are partners) to plan eco-guard network geographical coverage and training curriculum.

1.14. Hold community meetings in 15 FECs in SL and 15 FECs in LIB to ask communities to select 'eco-guards' (50% female) in 30 communities.

1.15. Train eco-guards: 2 training sessions at the GRC (4 days each) and 2 in Liberia at the start of project and one refresher training as required.

Output 2. Wildlife based or conflict reducing Livelihoods:

2.1. Establish links to private sector tour operators, specifically Visit Sierra Leone (VSL) and Libassa Lodge in Liberia.

2.2. Create public private agreements that include the private sector in day to day operation of ecotours around Gola

2.3. Rehabilitation of Silletti Lodge, Sierra Leone.

2.4. Establish tented permanent camps, platforms, latrines and equipment in pilot sites

2.5. Train Local staff in service provision and as guides

2.6. With the private sector tour operators hire and train staff in tourism service provision (gender, guiding, cooking health and safety, customer care).

2.7. Hold tourism awareness meetings in communities about benefits and negative impacts of ecotourism and to assess opportunities to add cultural value trekking and nature-based tours.

2.8. Plan the development of a transboundary rainforest circuit with private sector, CSSL and SCNL.

2.9. Assess beekeeping market in SL

2.10. Train 180 beekeepers in Sierra Leone and expand the beekeeping network in Liberia

2.11. Distribute beekeeping equipment to producers.

Output 3. Research and monitoring

3.1. Hold GALS training and use GALS tools to understand involvement of persons from different gender (women and girls but including other vulnerable groups e.g. those with a disability) in IWT process and reduce gender inequality/promote gender balance through identified suitable alternatives to IWT Analysis of new camera trap surveys in selected areas focusing on IWT species.

3.2. Conduct monthly field surveys of signs of hunting of IWT target species across the project area in SL and LIB and constantly review trends.

3.3. Conduct camera trap baseline and end of project surveys of IWT target species across the project area

in SL and LIB and analyse data.

3.4. Compile/analyse information from the pilot informants network, species champions reports and community meetings to identify IWT target species, identify trends in hunting, and evaluate the different methods of collecting information.

3.5. Collect genetic samples to support transboundary efforts to control IWT.

3.6. Pilot the Wild Scan and SMART monitoring systems

3.7. Socio-economic research on the drivers of IWT,

3.8. Recording of illegal activity through the eco-guard information gathering network.

3.9. Share all data with organisations on the Technical Advisory Group.

Output 4 Community awareness

4.1. Hold community meetings with Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) or Forest Management Committees (FMCs) in 36 FECs in SL and 36 FECs in LIB to develop, promote and adopt IWT regulations and bylaws.

4.2. Establishment and support of nature clubs and school programs

4.3. Awareness raising around protected areas through community meetings drama and theatre

4.4. Development of awareness raising strategy and materials with project partners

4.5. Conduct awareness raising campaigns with general public and stakeholders in market areas

4.6. Conduct general awareness raising activities through radio shows and production song

4.7. Lecture events held at the Universities about IWT, bushmeat and updated law and regulation

Output 5. for best practice approach to fighting IWT

5.1. Hold a workshop to share information about the legislation and organisations supporting the fight against the IWT, project progress and results and develop a best practice model to fight IWT nationally and in partnership with others internationally.

5.2. Present project results to the West African IWT constituency at a suitable conference.

5.3. Develop Standard Operating Procedures for setting up and coordinating an Informants Network, based on the experiences from the small-scale trial in SL.

5.4. Develop and publish online resources (free access).

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q35. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

📄 **IWT Stage 2 - Implementation Timetable FI**

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Section 13 - M&E and FCO notification

Q36. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe, referring to the indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

IWT Challenge Fund projects will need to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT).

Project M&E will be the responsibility of the project leader and field team. The M&E plan will be established at a project inception workshop. Planning will have its own session of ½day with each indicator reviewed and planned for including roles of each project partner (all will have some responsibility), methods/tools and data collection frequency agreed and part of the implementation plan. The key indicator types to be monitored for this project are:

At impact level (post-project) we would expect lessons from our demonstration project being adopted at other forests across SL/LIB/other West African countries. We will monitor this through our connections with the technical advisory group, and through the Birdlife International network.

At the outcome level we will monitor/evaluate project impact:

- On illegal hunting by analysing reports of hunting signs from ranger patrols/surveys. We will also analyse information from the informant's network/species champions. This will be undertaken by GRC-LG, supported by CSSL (in SL) and SCNL (Liberia)
- On the IWT species of the project area by comparing the results of baseline and end of project camera trap surveys which will record...
- On the FECs of the target area: We will compare the results of the baseline/end of project wellbeing household surveys that will be carried out in a representative sample of FECs. Tourist numbers and satisfaction. Led by GRC-LG and CSSL, Rory's Well and Universal Outreach and SCNL
- On building the capacity of the GRC as a regional training hub for fighting IWT through the endorsement of the centre by specialist institutions (e.g. IIED/ISAT/IUCN specialist groups). Led by GRC-LG

Overall Project progress will be monitored/evaluated through annual meetings of National Project Implementation Committees (NPICs), supported by the project manager, and by the annual overall steering committee (which will meet annually, between the NPICs). The project manager will take feedback from both team reports and NPICs to determine if adjustments will be needed on the M and E plan and indicators.

The progress/performance of the informant's network is of special interest and will be a fixed agenda item on the weekly senior staff managers meeting in SL.

The project team will hold regular discussions with beneficiaries which will allow them to identify any

problems which are likely to prevent us from meeting our targets as soon as possible.

Livelihoods will be monitored using: extension monitoring forms and extension reports; the baseline and end line surveys; and, qualitative wellbeing surveys using wellbeing ranking.

Training effectiveness will be monitored through individual trainee reports (for rangers) and supported through follow-up sessions.

Education effectiveness will be monitored through proxy indicators such as increases in calls to radio shows, increase in press coverage and enquiries at project locations and to partner offices from members of the public.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	425
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Q37. FCO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the IWT Challenge Fund competition in the host country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see [Guidance Notes](#)) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Certification

Q38. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of


£398,760.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Dr Dieter Hoffmann
Position in the organisation	Head of Global Land
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 DH sign  12/11/2019  17:27:31  jpg 5.11 KB
Date	12 November 2019

Section 15 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start page of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all key project personnel identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 13, or an explanation as to why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation.	Checked
I have checked the IWT website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the IWT Challenge Fund and our sister grant scheme, the Darwin Initiative. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to the illegal wildlife trade and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).