



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

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance:  
(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report  
will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

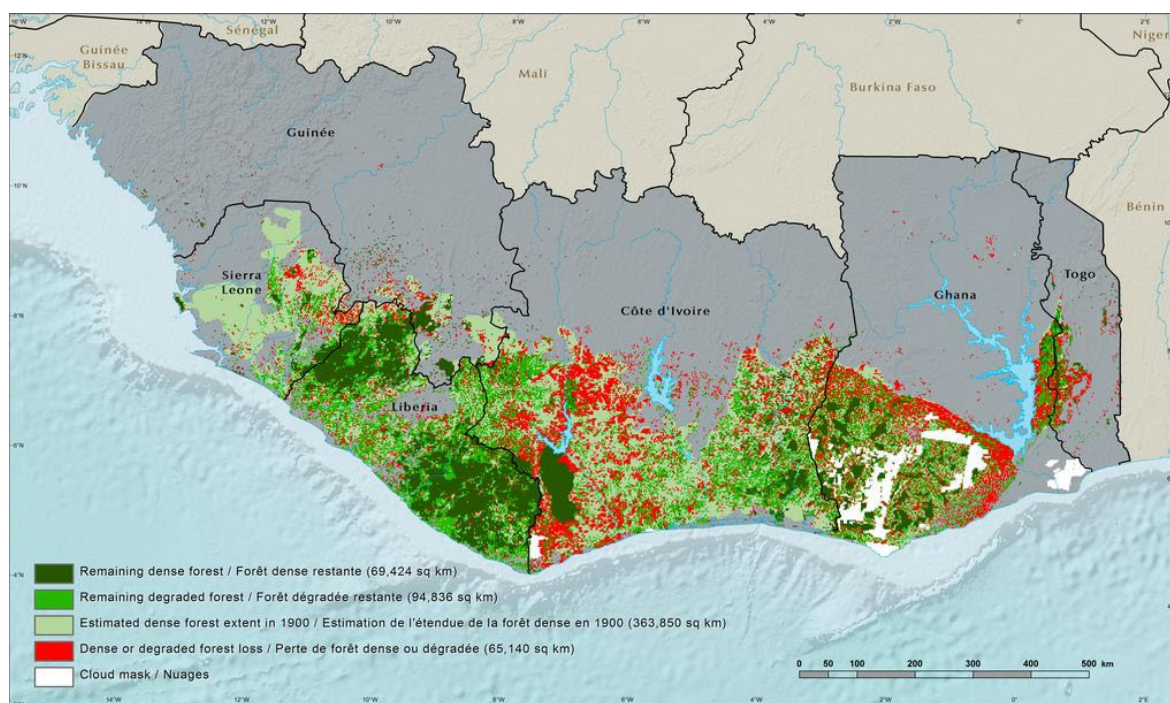
Project reference	IWT078
Project title	Combatting IWT in the Gola Sierra Leone/Liberian Transboundary Landscape
Country/ies	Sierra Leone and Liberia
Lead organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Partner institution(s)	Gola Rainforest Conservation (GRC) Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia British high Commission in Sierra Leone National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) Sierra Leone Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Liberia Communities in Sierra Leone and Liberia Universal Outreach (UO) Liberia Rory’s Well (RW) Sierra Leone
IWT grant value	£398,760.00
Start/end dates of project	01/10/2020 to 31/03/2023
Reporting period (e.g. April 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	First Annual Report (01/10/2020 to 31/03/2021)
Project Leader name	Richard Dixon
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://golarainforest.org/new-page">https://golarainforest.org/new-page</a> <a href="https://golarainforest.org/partners-support">https://golarainforest.org/partners-support</a> @RSPBScience Twitter
Report author(s) and date	Richard Dixon / Andy Brock-Doyle (with key contributions from Alessandro Albani (RSPB), Fomba Kanneh (GRC), Bjorn Horvath (RSPB), Bobson Kobba (CSSL), Sheku Kamara (CSSL), Michael Taire (SCNL), Michael Garbo (SCNL) and Jerry Garteh.

## 1. Project summary

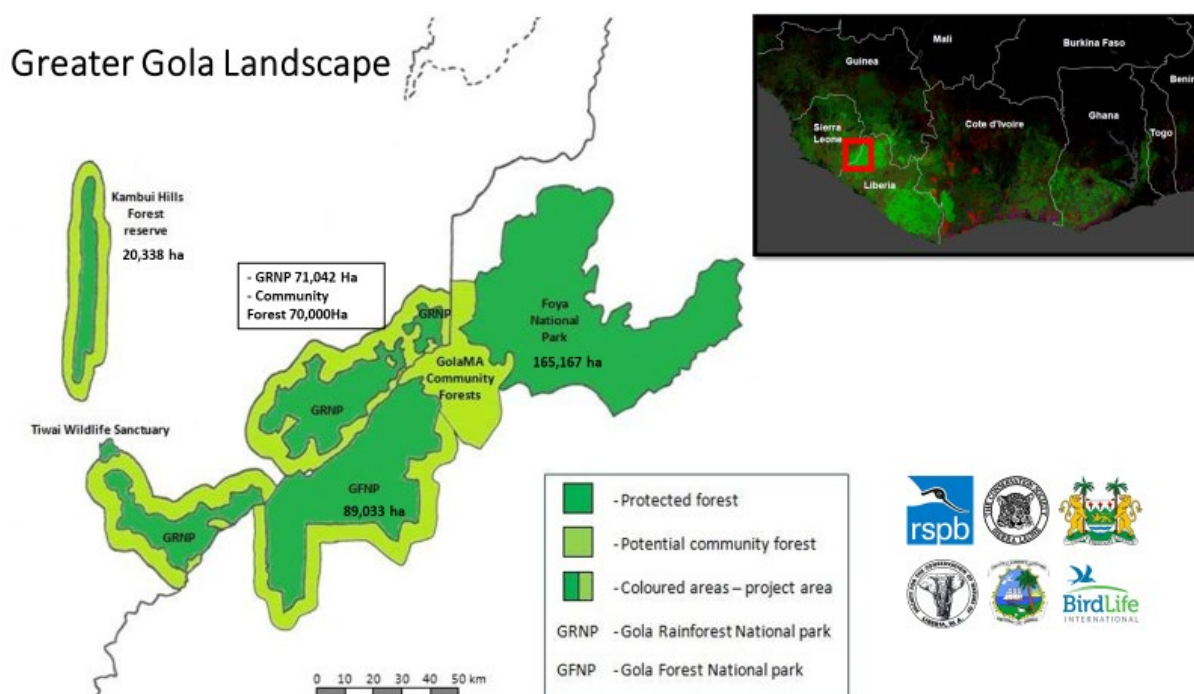
The Upper Guinean forest of West Africa is a “global biodiversity hotspot” and an Endemic Bird Area due to its exceptional concentrations of endemic species. Much of the forest has been lost (see Figure 1) while the remaining forest fragments are under serious threat from commercial activities (logging, mineral mining and conversion to agricultural plantations) and subsistence activities of a growing population.

The Gola Forests, straddling the Sierra Leone-Liberia border, cover an area of 350,000 ha and form the largest remaining block of the Upper Guinea Forest. In Sierra Leone, it encompasses the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP, created in 2010), the Kambui Hills Forest Reserve, and the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary. In Liberia, it covers the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP, created in 2016) and the Foya Proposed Protected Area (FPPA). The protected areas on both sides, including the surrounding community forests with about 160 communities (c. 50,000 people), is managed as the Greater Gola landscape (see Figure 2).

It is home to about 60 threatened species including Zebra Duiker, Red Colobus, Western Pied Colobus, Pangolin, Pygmy Hippo and Forest Elephant. It holds the world’s second largest population of western chimpanzee, 31 species of fish, 600 species of butterflies and 43 amphibian species. Over 300 bird species have been recorded in GRNP and its buffer zones, including White-Necked Picathartes, White-Breasted Guineafowl, Rufous Fishing-Owl, and the endemic and globally endangered Gola Malimbe.



**Figure 1 Map of the Upper Guinea forests showing dense and degraded forests**



**Figure 2: Map of the Greater Gola Landscape**

RSPB's support to the Greater Gola landscape has enabled ground-breaking conservation action. In Sierra Leone, the Gola forest promotes the reduction of carbon emissions through West Africa's first **Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)** scheme. In Liberia, the Gola forest is key to the delivery of the country's intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under obligations to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Greater Gola Landscape is also a flagship project of BirdLife's 'Forest of Hope' and 'Trillion Trees' programmes, showcasing best practices of forest conservation for climate and people.

Subsequent forest surveys identified the good condition of the Gola Forest on the Liberian side of the border and RSPB initiated cross-boundary collaboration with the Presidents of Sierra Leone and Liberia signing an agreement in 2008 to create a cross-border Peace Park. The Peace Park currently comprises the Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone, and in Liberia, the Gola Forest National Park and the Foya Proposed Protected Area.

The **Gola Rainforest Conservation-Limited by Guarantee (GRC-LG)** was established in Sierra Leone as a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (as representative of the GoSL), CSSL, the RSPB and the local community (represented by the Paramount Chief who serves on the Board of Directors). GRC is responsible for managing the Gola Rainforest National Park. GRC's staff come from the surrounding chiefdoms and are supported by four RSPB technical staff in-country. GRC is also able to trade carbon to ensure that funds generated from carbon credits sales are used to deliver its financial commitments.

In Liberia, **SCNL** focuses its work on Gola, which has helped build its reputation as a national conservation organisation. Activities that build on SCNL's strengths include community engagement in land use planning, community forest and natural resource management, livelihoods activities of forest communities, research, and landscape management.

Although the capacities of both organisations have improved substantially in the last few years, RSPB's support is still needed to develop their capacity to undertake the management of the Gola programme, assist in transboundary work to promote the Peace Park and realise short term and long-term financing options. Assistance is also needed to improve governance, strategic planning, financial management, fundraising and membership development.

## Protecting the forest and its species

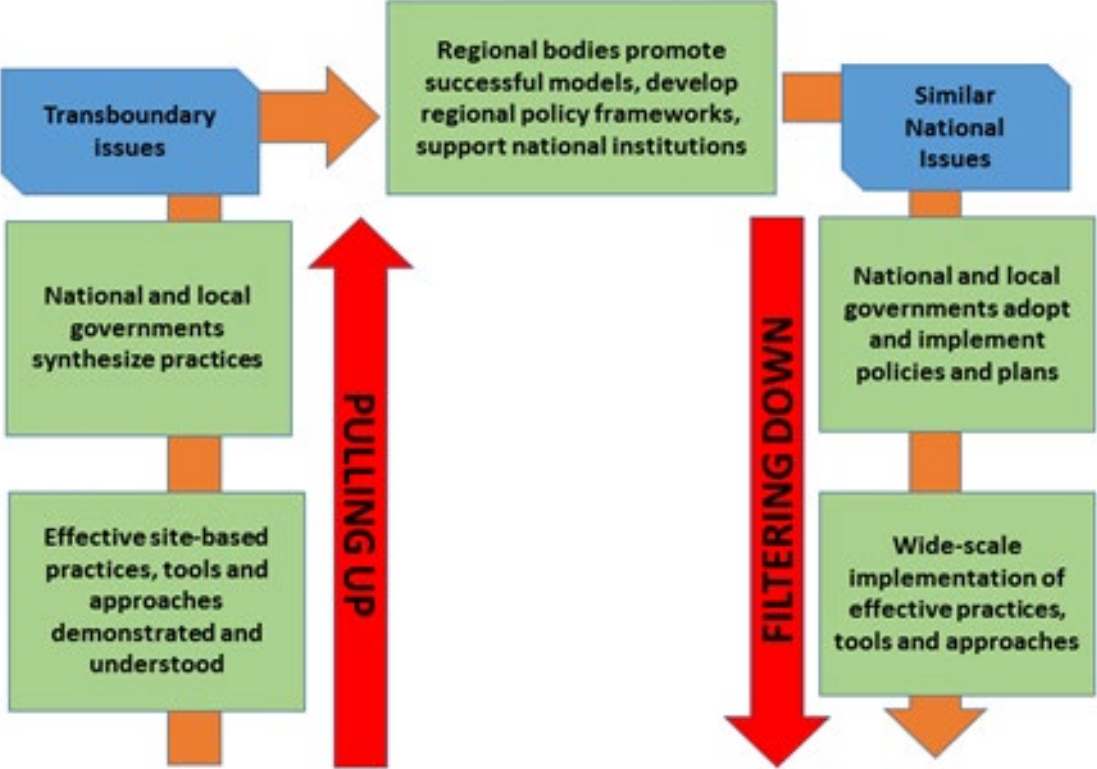
The primary driver of deforestation in Gola is the conversion of forest for subsistence agriculture in the buffer zone. Forest degradation also occurs due to selective logging and artisanal mining (for gold and diamonds), particularly through the creation of access roads. Deforestation reduces the size of forest blocks and increases fragmentation, which has a direct impact on plant biodiversity. Additionally, many threatened species of fauna and Critically Endangered species have narrow ranges and are predominantly restricted to undisturbed primary forest. Others such as the Vulnerable White-necked Picathartes, the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus and Forest Elephants are susceptible to even small levels of disturbance.

Bushmeat hunting is also a significant threat to biodiversity as it is a vital source of protein for rural communities. Species that are hunted illegally include those that are protected, such as Zebra Duiker, Red Colobus, Black Colobus, Pangolin, Forest Elephant, and Chimpanzee. Additionally, hunting within the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP), Liberia is undertaken for commercial purposes, delivering bushmeat to the markets in Monrovia. Hunting is generally poorly regulated as the Forest Development Authority does not have the staff capacity to enforce relevant laws.

The threats to the forest are being addressed mainly through the community work described below. However, we are also running projects designed specifically to protect the wildlife it supports. The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund transboundary Project partners with the UK Security Advisory Team to provide excellent training for Park Rangers to improve patrolling, information gathering and community engagement. This is part of the vision to encourage greater cooperation and collaboration between Liberia and Sierra Leone for joint training and patrols, including river patrols along the border. The Gola programme is developing a network of eco-guards - community members trained to patrol and gather information in Community Forests and inform Park rangers of any illegal activity occurring in the protected area. The eco-guards also inform the programme of key species sightings. A new IUCN Rapid Action Grant has helped increase patrols to hotspot areas and we have created a rapid action force to react quickly to any reported incidents. We also work with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, who carry out their own patrols in the forest. The intention is to work more closely with local police, especially if any arrests or gun confiscations are necessary. In addition, we will engage with Bushmeat hunters and traders directly, informing them of endangered species and of the species that can be hunted. The programme also provides training in alternative livelihoods such as honey production and eco-tourism.

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 2018, 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

The Gola Programme Theory of Change focuses on strengthening the feedback loop at regional, national and local levels so that more relevant policies filter down from the regional level. Meanwhile, better practices developed at local and national levels are pulled up by regional institutions and subsequently integrated into relevant policies and disseminated through that same feedback loop. This fundamental approach—to identify, inform, and make explicit linkages between policy and practice, and increasingly applied research—underpins the Goal Programme activities and is central to its Knowledge, Management and Learning (KML) approach.



**2. Project partnerships**

The **Gola Rainforest Conservation-Limited by Guarantee** (GRC-LG) was established in Sierra Leone as a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (as representative of the GoSL), CSSL, the RSPB and the local Forest Edged Communities (FEC’s), represented by the Paramount Chief who serves on the Board of Directors). GRC is responsible for managing the Gola Rainforest National Park.

The Gola programme’s strategy is to promote greater involvement of the local Birdlife partners in implementing and managing the programme. **CSSL** is now leading, alongside GRC, community engagement, environmental education, national promotion and building better relations with government agencies ((such as the Ministries of Agriculture & Forestry, Trade and Tourism as well as the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)). The Gola Programme can build CSSL capacity to become a strong, financially independent organisation implementing conservation projects, including supporting conservation efforts of BirdLife partners.

In Liberia, **SCNL** manages all grants in Liberia and work in partnership with other local and international organisations.

GRC implements the Gola REDD+ project working in close collaboration with the 7 chiefdoms around Gola and has Community Development Relationship Officers working within each of the

Chiefdoms. The philosophy and approach is one of inclusivity, with funding for community projects decided by the communities themselves.

A key strength of the Gola programme comes from the fact that RSPB, SCNL, FDA, CSSL, GRC and NPAA have worked together for a significant period of time and can bring this understanding and different strengths to the delivery of the project.

#### Overview of Partnership Achievements this Year

Over the course of the last year the partnership has been constrained in its evolution because of the coronavirus pandemic which resulted in all RSPB staff being repatriated and therefore having to work from a distance. In addition, restrictions from the corona virus pandemic in-country made it more difficult for travel and co-operation opportunities. However, despite this some significant achievements were made this year in the development of the partnership, including:

- Increasing focus on a broader Gola landscape approach that includes partners on both the Sierra Leonian and Liberian sides of the border. This has included not only the first year of implementation initiation of a new three year cross-border project to support the management of protected areas (PAPFor) funded by the EU (started in Jan 2020) but also a cross-border project that has gained initial approval from the IUCN Rapid Action Grant both of which complement the work being undertaken through the IWT CF project.
- The development of a new 5-year strategic plan by CSSL. This was done using an external strategic planning expert and had input not only from across CSSL but also from external advisors including both RSPB and BirdLife International.
- A joined-up response to the coronavirus pandemic that saw emergency food security relief from GRC, CSSL and SCNL for 2020 being co-ordinated across the 7 Gola Chiefdoms and Liberian target area using both agreed donor funds as well as core funds from GRC operations. This joined up response was supported in the planning phase by RSPB Sierra Leone personnel and was significant in reinforcing trust between the partners and local communities in the Gola area.
- Greater agility between GRC and CSSL in the movement of resources which saw several GRC staff move across to CSSL to implement the new EU funded trans-boundary Protected Area management support project. It is expected that this will give opportunities to staff to be able to develop their capabilities and is an important component in CSSL and GRC partnership working relationship.
- Continued implementation of the REDD programme with a focus on forest friendly conservation enterprise support.
- Continued implementation in partnership with local communities of a number of projects focused on improving community capability around conservation of natural resources, both within the GRNP and the GFNP but especially in community managed forest areas.
- RSPB's strengthening of its support of Social Science so there will now be, going forward, an increasing capability to develop a new social science position in GRC. Perhaps, more importantly, it has also already started to have an influence in terms of understanding of the impact of the work being carried out with local communities.
- The deployment of a new RSPB Finance Technical Advisor in March 2021 which will see a new accounting system installed within 6 months and the development of a new accounting structure and a thorough review of finance policies, processes and controls to ensure improved access to information and the ability to report on a more timely basis.
- Supporting development in other areas that has seen key governance improvement in policy areas such as DSA and travel allowances and in field operations. This is key in terms of building trust and co-operation with local communities as it drives improved standardisation of the way that different teams work with communities and reduces potential issues around equity in the way that communities are working with GRC.

#### Role of the IWT CF Project in Developing Partnership and Collaboration

The IWT CF, is only starting played a role in the development of the partnership as it has only been running for six months through:

- 1) Improving the way in which, partners collaborate on the ground. For example:
  - The RSPB Research TA has spent half of the reporting period out of Sierra Leone and Liberia due to Covid. However, the ability for the team to work virtually, although it had its challenges the partnership between RSPB, CSSL, SCNL and GRC was still able to function and become better once the new norm was established. However, project activities have definitely not moved as rapidly as the had previously.
  - Work with communities on how the impact of messaging from roadshows and radio programmes is cascaded down through communities has been improved by linking up and learning from the Darwin project. Generally, community engagement has improved.
  - Increased understanding of how to operationalise information gathering work with communities. Then to understand how this information can be utilised to assist with decision makers managing the Park rangers.
- 2) Strengthening partner co-operation in project planning and project monitoring through the implementation of good practice that is increasing capability and will have a knock-on effect on other projects, through:
  - Delegation of project responsibilities through the establishment of workstream leads in GRC, CSSL and SCNL to instil greater ownership and leadership of the work being undertaken
  - Monthly management meetings involving IWT CF workstream leads from SCNL, GRC, CSSL, Universal Outreach, Rory's Well and RSPB that is helping to improve co-ordination across different work areas and improve general project management protocols
  - Alignment and agreement of annual plans and budget approval processes for activities taking place on the ground with greater emphasis on value for money

In all of these areas both the Darwin and the IWT CF projects are improving project management fully expected to have knock on impacts on the way that other work is approached and managed
- 3) Improved partnership understanding of what a successful approach to combatting wildlife crime looks like in the Gola context, even though many of the activities have yet to really get going. The planning and discussions have been very fruitful. This will become more evident once we go through the lessons learned review in year 2, which will allow tactical improvements in implementation and be used to inform the identification of follow on work and the way that this is being structured
- 4) Working together with communities in establishing information networks for the project that through a clear participatory bottom up approach is strengthening the way the programme and communities work together and through which it is hoped that improved outcomes will be achieved.

### Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges and lessons during the reporting period of the project included:

- Challenges faced by the coronavirus pandemic were central to IWT CF work during this year in both Sierra Leone and Liberia, with periodic restrictions put in place in terms of travel. At times GRC was limited to only 4 travel passes. Given that GRC also had fundamental operational priorities in terms of protecting the National Park this meant that it was not possible to implement a lot of activities.
- Another challenge from coronavirus impacting the project has been restrictions that were put in place in terms of the number of people who were allowed to gather in one place. This had a particular impact on getting out the message of the project objectives to communities, as the standard way of operation around this was to kick off with community meetings that in some villages were not possible and again meant that there were further delays in starting this work.

- A further challenge of the coronavirus pandemic was the challenges of working as a virtual team with RSPB resources being repatriated (RSPB Country Manager and Research and Community development TAs) or being unable to deploy. Whilst this has at times been difficult especially with poor internet connection / electricity interruptions in Kenema and Monrovia, there has been a significant increase in capability and the use of new communication channels (e.g. teams, zoom and WhatsApp) in getting work done and is, for example, leading to the establishment of a conference room in GRC and for the BirdLife partners to enable improved project conferencing not just locally but with national and international partners.
- Delayed deployment of the Finance TA. Due to coronavirus RSPB took a decision not to recruit any new staff for a period of 6 months. This effectively delayed the deployment of a Finance TA to support GRC in inputting a new system and addressing capability around budgeting and reporting and has meant that this programme has effectively been delayed for 6 months. However, the Finance TA is now in place along with a new budget that will allow this work to be undertaken over the next 6-12 months.
- Lack of capability around project management within GRC. The IWT CF Project has very limited project management capacity embedded into it. During Year 1 this gap was to be filled by the RSPB Country Manager in effect stepping in and running the project on the ground. However, the Country Manager was repatriated in March 2020 and the position has not yet redeployed. Therefore, as part of the strategic reorganisation that was agreed by the Directors there was a decision to increase local capacity in GRC for both Project Management and Project Financial Management.
- The impact of other work / issues on IWT implementation include:
  - A tightening up of the policy around transport allowances led to issues with implementation in both Research and Monitoring and IWT, as local expectations about the way communities are being compensated for working with the project ran up against a standardisation of the policy. The issue was resolved after a few weeks and an updated Field Operations policy has been put in place to ensure that there was a transparent and even playing field across all work being carried out by GRC in Gola, this problem did not exist in Liberia.
  - In September 2020 the government of Sierra Leone brought in legislation that significantly increased the cost of employment for staff. This included a 30% increase in basic salary levels, new travel and rent allowances of 25% and 30% of basic salary and increased medical allowances. This has not only put considerable strain on core funding but from a point of view of IWT has meant that along with dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, the strategic reorganisation of GRC, addressing challenging issues with the cocoa component, this has been another area that has stretched the focus of the senior management team and RSPB advisors.
- Community expectations. Communities have high expectations of the project and there is a clear need to continue to address those expectations and to channel them to strengthen the link between park management and community ownership.

### **3. Project progress**

This project was anticipated to begin on 1 April 2020, but due to Liberian and Sierra Leone government restrictions (e.g. on travel) put in place due to the Covid-19 emergency meant that RSPB, SCNL, CSSL, GRC, Universal Outreach Rory's Well and The British Government Security training support were unable to carry out project actions. Therefore, the start date for this project was changed to 1 October 2020, with the main field activities beginning in November 2020. By October it was expected that COVID-19 would be brought under control in Liberia and Sierra Leone by both governments and that lock down measures would be relaxed, thereby creating a better environment for project implementation. It was hoped that starting in November would mean that operations could be initiated at the beginning of the dry season, making field activities much easier to implement. However, this wasn't the case as the impact



of Covid affected our and partners ability to provide technical and management support due to the implementation of extensive lockdowns in UK and in other countries where project partners are based.

Covid also contributed to delays in procurement and transporting equipment from UK. Camera traps GPS, compasses, etc. were all delayed and means of delivery were difficult to find. The vehicle only arrived at the end of the second quarter, resulting in field implementation being delayed. The six-month reporting period has been spent setting the project up with the hope that in the second year Covid restrictions will all be lifted and working conditions will return to normal.

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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

#### **Output 1: Disincentives for Gola Forest Edge Communities to engage in the illegal wildlife trade are strengthened.**

Many activities under this output focused on training Park Ranger's that patrol the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) in Sierra Leone and Gola Forest National Park (GFNP) in Liberia, to be organised and facilitated by the UK Ministry of Defence Security Advisory Team which is attached to the British High Commission in Sierra Leone. This output was developed as part of this project because of the effort to improve collaboration and cooperation between the two governments and to carry out joint training and cross border patrols to improve security and information gathering networks across the Gola Landscape protected areas. The vision is to form a transboundary Peace park, with a wider vision of developing Gola as a centre of excellence to provide Park Ranger training to all of the member states of the Mano River Union.

Due to Covid this has not been possible mainly because of the British government staff travel restrictions. The training staff facilitators are presently based in Kenya, Malawi and Southern Africa. They train Park Rangers in these countries from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Africa Parks. It has therefore been necessary to push activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7 and 1.8 to November of the second year, this was approved through the 2<sup>nd</sup> IWT change request submitted earlier this year.

*Activity 1.6* to sign an MOU to facilitate joint training between the countries of the Mano River Union sub region. Our vision is to move on from viewing the Landscape as two distinct Protected Areas (GRNP and GFNP) and work towards greater joint collaboration and co-operation between Sierra Leone and Liberia. To this end we are working towards improving governance and management of the landscape by developing a Gola Forest Bilateral Coordination Committee to provide effective oversight of all conservation-related activities in Greater Gola, involving key stakeholders from both countries. This will require crafting and signing effective agreements within a strong legal and policy framework to enable joint training and patrols by park rangers and establishing a Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) or Peace Park within the Greater Gola Landscape. As part of this we will develop a transboundary management plan to cover the GRNP and GFNP. To this end a technical MoU was signed at the beginning of 2020, it is this agreement that we will build on in greater detail through the IWT project, by providing evidence and information to help decision makers craft these agreements. Again because of travel restrictions between Sierra Leone and Liberia, which have only been lifted recently this activity will be completed in year 2.

*Activity 1.9* Awareness training for communities has begun but was initially slow due to the Covid restriction limiting the number of people who were able to gather in one meeting, however this activity is now fully underway in both countries. In Liberia we are finding a huge gap in local knowledge around the list of protected species, with respect to hunting.

*Activity 1.12* Women species champions have been selected but will only receive training in the second year, selection was based on a voluntary basis. An issue that is presently being discussed is whether the species champions and eco-guards should be brought under one name, e.g. all referred to as eco-guards and that these people should receive all of the extension training, i.e. the preference is to call them eco-guards and offer species training and

eco-guard training to one person, this would allow for a greater number of Eco guards patrolling community forest areas and therefore increasing our ability to cover a greater area. This would fit with other projects, e.g. the Darwin in the Malema District (SL) and the EU funded Rainforest Trust project in Liberia, the objectives of both is to train and build a network of Eco guards.

*Activity 1.13* Planning has begun between the IWT project and the Rainforest Trust community Forest Management project in Liberia (next year we hope to develop a similar RT Community Forest Management project in Sierra Leone) and the IWT EU funded project in Liberia, RSPB has now hired a Technical Advisor for the EU IWT project who will be based in Monrovia and will work on a national programme to develop a training curriculum, working standards for Eco guards and a data base to effectively manage information from Eco guards and park rangers. The information will then be used for real time management decision making to direct patrols and improve park management. The IWT CF project staff will work on this together with the TA to develop an effective management system for the Landscape as a whole.

Actual training of the Eco guards and species champions (activity 1.15) will begin next year.

## **Output 2. More empowered communities engage in and benefit from diversified conservation-sympathetic livelihood options.**

Links have been established between the project and the tour operators, namely Visit Sierra Leone (VSL) and Libassa Lodge in Liberia. To begin the process the project is developing an agreement between, the public sector (GRNP via GRCLG and SCNL) and private sector (VSL and Libassa), that includes: the day-to-day operation of ecotourism around the Gola Landscape; conduct market surveys with the private sector and potential tourists about the types of products they are interested in; develop a promotion and marketing strategy; create a lasting relationship between private sector and community run ecotourism operations within the Gola landscape; build a replicable model that allows for reinvestment of income into the Gola ecotourism business and community development projects linked to ecotourism/conservation.

Discussions have also outlined an assessment of current ecotourism infrastructure and agreed an action plan to update Investment in renovating existing tourism infrastructure and purchasing new equipment where needed to meet sustainability, safety and comfort standards around Gola. With a commitment to train and hire the workforce from forest edge communities to help develop an extensive track clearing/maintenance program to be implemented.

The tour operators are outlining ways they can provide support for tourism training to communities next year. GRC, CSSL and SCNL staff are working closely with the tour operators so that gender, guiding, cooking, health and safety and customer care are all included in the training programme. This will include tailored training for project staff at all levels and train appointed CSSL and SCNL staff to support their own ecotourism initiatives in the Gola Landscape. Community meetings have been held to increase tourism awareness for community members covering the potential benefits and negative impacts of ecotourism to help manage expectations and to get their ideas of the opportunities there are for adding 'cultural' value to trekking and nature based tours into the national parks. Also looking at the potential benefits and inclusion of cultural visits to villages.

*Activities 2.2. to 2.7* No activity scheduled in Year 1 – Work due to be undertaken in Year 2 & 3.

*Activity 2.8 Assess the Beekeeping market in Sierra Leone:* The aim of these activities is to establish and extend bee farming in 18 Small rural communities (see table 1 below) in the Gola Forest leakage belt in Pujehun District. This component will be delivered in partnership with Rory's Well (RW) and their partner in Sierra Leone, People's Agenda for Development (PAD-SL). PAD - SL will be the in-country delivery agent. The pilot will be based on the Bees Abroad (BA) model, supported with technical expertise by Rory's Well.

Knowledge of the honey sector has been acquired through the USAID funded, West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABiCC) project, to assess the viability of bee farming as a longer term livelihood initiative in the Gola forest, especially marketing options including the local, national and Sierra Leonean markets.

**Table 1. From the Market assessment the following Communities will be included in the project.**

Chief dom	Village	Population	Participants 50:50 Men:Women
Barri	Booma	200	8
	Gbegama	100	8
	Grima	350	4
	Komende	200	4
	Mbawoma Ngeyeya	150	4
	Memei	60	2
	Samatia	100	8
	Sembahun	750	12
	Teiyeawoma	100	2
	Tukpobu	60	4
	Yogunhun	50	4
Makpele	Bayama	TBA	4
	Gbekpa	TBA	4
	Jeneva	TBA	4
	Nyeyayama	TBA	4
	Pewa	TBA	4
	Vaama	TBA	4
Tonkia	Golawoma	TBA	4

*Activities 2.9 and 2.10* are being planned now in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and will include training, support, managing the honey harvest ,setting up honey processing facilities , identifying and training lead bee farmers within the communities. Rory’s Well will provide an option to buy the first honey harvested through their Bee Association (at a price to be negotiated according to quality, market price and cost to market) to ensure benefits are returned to the community. For sustainability, once this project completes/or does not continue RW/PAD-SL will incorporate the villages in their RW Bee Farming initiative.

A total of 88 bee farmers trained in 18 Gola Forest leakage belt communities will be able to pass knowledge on to their communities. A lead bee farmer within each village trained to support future initiatives, possible training of trainer(s) within these communities if appropriate person(s) identified. Links and a working relationship established with Rory’s Well, Gola Forest, Bees Abroad and PAD-SL. Depending on the harvest in Nov/Dec there is a potential for remuneration to the communities from honey sales.

In Liberia Training aims for village self-sufficiency, but each village will continue to be supported by the Barri Bee-farming Association trainer/supervisors beyond the years of the project funding.

Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) were sub-contracted in year 1 to carry out a feasibility assessment of beekeeping in 32 communities in Upper and Lower Sokpo. The assessment determined that beekeeping was feasible as a sustainable livelihood activity because the environment was suitable for beekeeping, communities were very interested in the opportunity, access to the area by car and motorbike overall is good, and there is demand in the market for honey. Two main challenges were also identified: 1). During the rainy season access to some of the villages will be difficult. 2). In mining communities many of the citizens are not permanent

residents. SCNL started to work with mining stakeholders under WABiCC to address the second of these problems.

Beekeeping has repeatedly been raised by community members during community meetings and learning events as something of value that they are keen to get involved in. Feedback in the livelihood follow up surveys supported this, with positive response that the training, materials and beekeeping as a livelihood activity overall is beneficial to communities.

SCNL already has experience working with UO and have been carrying out extension visits to provide support to beekeepers after the WABiCC project closed to keep this long-term livelihood investment progressing, the IWT CF provides an opportunity to expand this activity and build on its success.

Given the growing success of beekeeping in Gola Liberia, a pilot beekeeping activity was initiated in Sierra Leone through Rory’s Well. Rory’s Well held two trainings in 2019. The first was an introductory training for 99 male and 31 female participants covering an introduction to beekeeping, honey production and how to make an income, as well as bee suit and hive making. After the first training, 12 beekeepers were selected to take part in the second course which focused on hive management, harvesting and processing and created links between the producers and potential markets. Unfortunately, no work was continued after the training sessions to monitor beekeepers, as covid halted progress in 2020. Now that the opportunity is included in the IWT CF project this work can continue. Planning for this activity has taken place in year 1 in readiness for implementation in Year 2.

**Output 3 Socio-economic and species research and monitoring informs project execution to secure maximum impact.**

*Activity 3.1* Planning and community awareness has taken place in year 1 and Gender training using Access to the Gender Action Learning system (AGALS) tools will be carried out in year two. Although the GRC Gender Co-ordinator has discussed the gender plan with project partners in the honey production sector and with Tour Operators to ensure that they bring in gender to their work when training begins in earnest. The idea is to begin with a training for partner staff in the Access to Gender Action Learning System (AGALS).

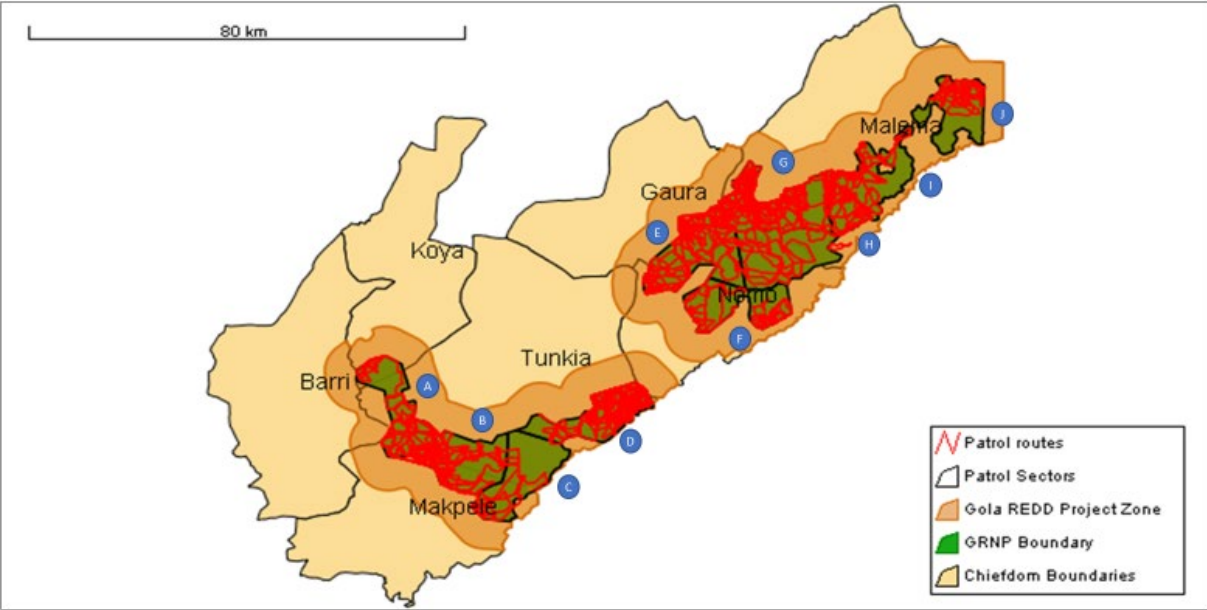
*Activity 3.2* Park Rangers have conducted surveys showing signs of illegal activity, Table 4., including signs of hunting. Please see table 3 below showing the number of patrols carried out in GRNP in FY20/21.

**Table 3. Patrols by Sector (Apr 2020 to Mar 2021)**

Sector	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)
Sector A - Baoma Koya	10	120	648.9
Sector B - Sileti : Pewa	7	98	703.50
Sector C - Wunde	3	45	287.33
Sector D - Baoma Nomo	39	528	2,150.52
Sector E - Lalehun	8	112	609.73
Sector F - Quadima Nomo	7	74	260.51
Sector G - Patama	23	332	1,486.90
Sector H - Kpandebu : Konnela	4	57	435.14
Sector I - Taiama : Wangikor	11	137	715.40
Sector J - Fobu	4	60	262.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>7,560.90</b>

Figure 3 shows the routes taken by the Park Rangers on patrol.

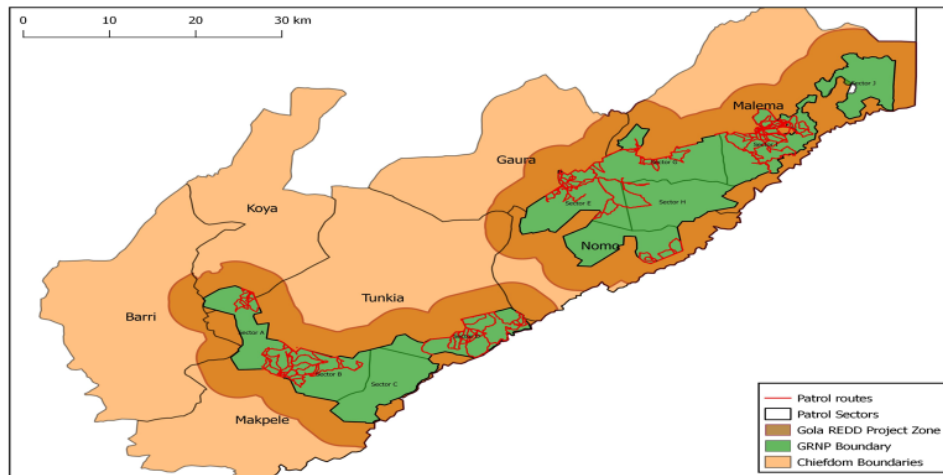
**Figure 3. Map of Patrol Routes (Apr 2020 to Mar 2021)**



**Table 4. Observations of Illegal Activity by Sector (Apr 2020 – Mar 2021)**

Sector	People encountered engaging in illegal activity	Signs of poaching with guns	Signs of poaching with snares	Signs of logging	Signs of recent mining	Signs of mining (recent & old)
Sector A - Baoma Koya	0	6	6	0	0	1)
Sector B - Sileti : Pewa	0	1	1	0	0	0
Sector C – Wunde	0	0	3	0	0	0
Sector D - Baoma Nomo	2	30	2	0	12	58
Sector E - Lalehun	0	4	0	4	2	7
Sector F - Quadima Nomo	0	4	2	5	0	0
Sector G - Patama	0	13	2	1	18	75
Sector H - Kpandebu : Konnela	0	7	0	0	0	3
Sector I - Taiama : Wangikor	1	13	1	0	0	3
Sector J - Fobu	0	2	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>147</b>

**Figure 4. Map of Joint Patrol Routes (Jan to Dec 2020)**



**Figure 5. Summary of Pillars Erected**

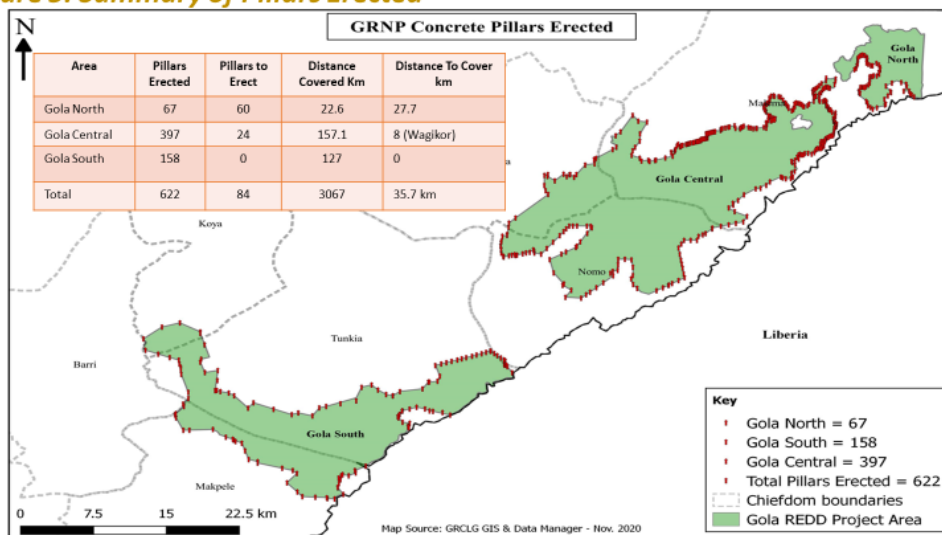


Figure 5 shows progress made with park boundary pillars, this is very important work as the boundary location often causes disagreements and conflict with communities, especially when establishing whether illegal activity has occurred.

The situation in Gola Forest National Park (GFNP) in Liberia is very different. There are approximately 25 Park Rangers in a forest of 81,000Ha. The Rangers are paid directly by the Government Forest Development Agency (FDA). Salary payments are often delayed, and rangers are under resourced and poorly trained. One of the aims of this project is to bring the Liberian rangers up to the standard of the Sierra Leone Rangers and to initiate joint patrolling along the border.

Working with the Liberia Park Rangers is difficult, and a comprehensive survey has not been completed, although it is well known that the integrity of Liberia's forests and unique wildlife is threatened by illegal activities such as IWT and hunting for bush meat. In recent years a drastic increase in IWT has been observed all over West Africa and in particular in Liberia. Recent investigations and research have identified prominent traffic routes from Liberia to EU. Increasing numbers of endangered wildlife, including 10 species of pangolin and chimpanzees are regularly sold illegally on the streets of the capital of Monrovia and elsewhere – again without any arrests or other legal consequences.

To gather more information in Liberia, a study was carried out to assess forest wildlife and threats in the project area. The survey methodology aimed to achieve the following:

- 1) Develop understanding of the bushmeat system from the perspectives of hunters and traders: with a focus on the livelihood role of bushmeat hunting and trading and peoples' incentives or disincentives.
- 2) Develop understanding of which species were affected by hunting and approximate levels of harvest.
- 3) Gain insights into who was engaged in hunting and trading, their livelihood profiles and variability in levels of resource use to help identify the target group(s) for project interventions.
- 4) Evaluate the prevalence of hunting and trading among households at the start and end of the project.
- 5) Develop tools that might be suitable for post-project monitoring of hunting and trading by community forest management bodies.
- 6) To fulfil the above criteria, three questionnaire-based surveys were developed, a household survey, a hunter survey and a trader survey, as well as a village-based offtake survey to record hunters catch. Focus group discussions were also carried out with hunters and traders to give broader context about these activities. Questionnaires delivered information for more than one purpose and were as short as possible to minimise the risk of respondent fatigue.

**Hunter survey:** n=205 hunters (>90%) Face-to-face questionnaire administered to hunters, eliciting information about livelihood activities, hunting behaviour and details of most recent hunting trip in terms of numbers and species killed.

**Trader survey:** n=50 traders (>60%) Face-to-face questionnaire administered to bushmeat traders, eliciting information about livelihood activities, trading behaviour and details of most recent trading transaction.

**Household survey:** Start of project: n=480 (>90%) Face-to-face questionnaire administered to households at the start of project interventions, eliciting information about household demographics and involvement in livelihoods, including bushmeat hunting and trading. The bean method was implemented along with direct questions.

**Village-based recording of hunters' catch** n=50 hunters (<25%) Village-based assistants recorded details of hunting trips of participating hunters, to be monitored over several weeks. Only trip duration and species killed will be recorded.

The household survey provides livelihood descriptions of hunting and trading households versus non-hunting or trading households, assessed change in prevalence in hunting and trading at the start of the project, and explores the bean method as a tool for monitoring these behaviours. The hunter survey explores the livelihood and demographic profiles of hunters, economic incentives and disincentives, key aspects of hunter-trader relationships, the range of species killed and harvest estimates. The trader survey explores livelihood and demographic profiles of bushmeat traders, economic incentives and disincentives for traders, key aspects of hunter-trader relationships, and the range of species sold along different trade routes. Village-based recording of hunters was designed to allow a comparative interpretation of harvest estimates from the hunter survey, and to trial this approach as a potential tool for community-based monitoring.

After a slight decrease in **bush meat** consumption in Monrovia during the Covid crisis, bush meat still remains the major protein source for the Liberian population, despite the fact that most forest species, especially primates, duikers and pangolins, are protected by law. In fact, if the law was strictly followed, all hunting activities in Liberia would be illegal in the absence of any official licensing or permit system. Though limited research has been done, it is evident that IWT as well as the uncontrolled hunting for bush meat have reached levels that require more resources and a significantly stronger response from government.

Because of the difficulties of working through the FDA and Park Rangers and obtaining reliable data or even setting up Ranger surveys, this project is focussing on the need for strong participation of local communities in the management of natural resources. The project partnership, including the FDA will support community-based conservation activities, especially

around protected areas, by building local capacity and providing direct benefits for those community members participating in conservation and monitoring activities.

This project has begun to train community members to conduct forest patrols and biodiversity surveys, alongside FDA staff whenever possible, recording illegal human activity and wildlife data as well as raising awareness among other community members. Furthermore, there are a number of livelihood programs being implemented with local communities and introducing more sustainable and conservation-oriented agricultural practices. Inevitably this will mean a delay in collection and analysis of reliable data from the GFNP

*Activities 3.4 to 3.9* all begin in year 2.

#### **Output 4. Forest edge communities and the wider public have a greater understanding of IWT and the importance of conservation**

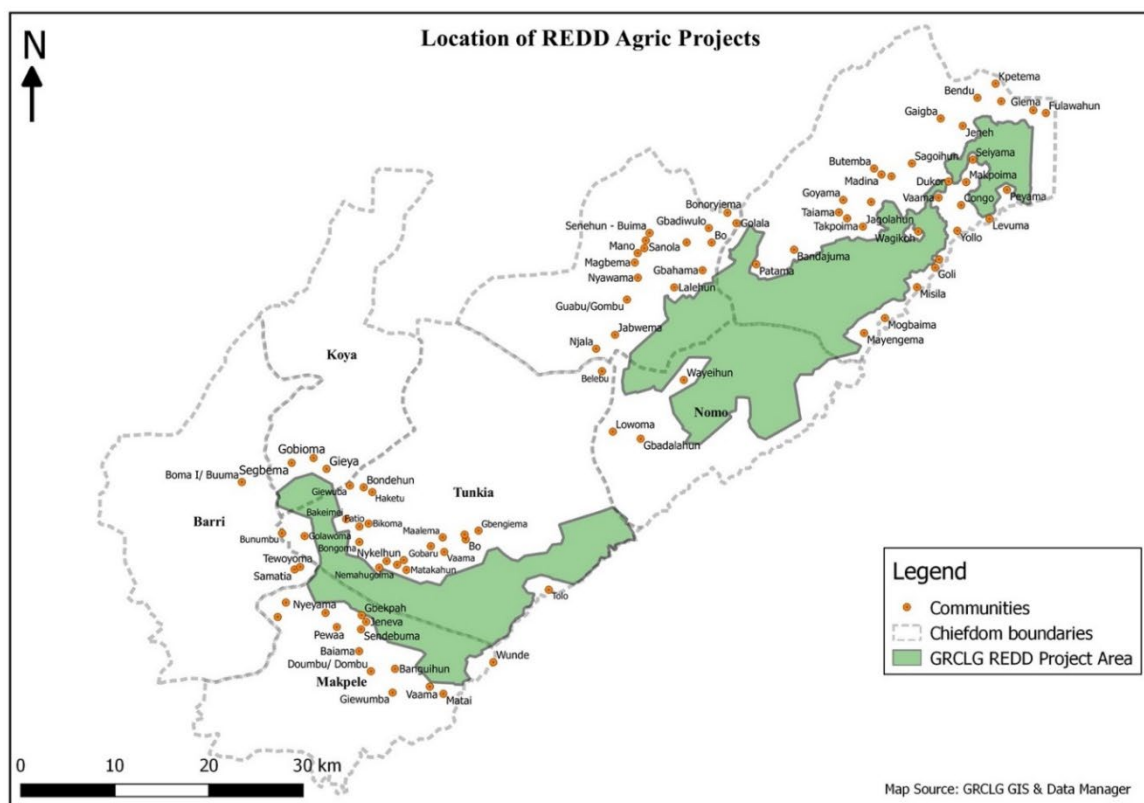
*Activity 4.1* Community meetings have taken place in 16 forest edged communities in Sierra Leone. Please see table 5.

**Table 5. Community meetings in GRNP Forest Edged Communities**

Chiefdom	Section	Village
<b>Tunkia</b>	Gorahun	Semabu
<b>Tunkia</b>	Gorahun	Vaama
<b>Tunkia</b>	Kuawuma	Belebu
<b>Tunkia</b>	Kuawuma	Tanyehun
<b>Koya</b>	Koyagbundohun	Gieya
<b>Koya</b>	Koyagbundohun	Gobioma
<b>Koya</b>	Koyagbundohun	Segbema
<b>Barri</b>	Dakona	Samatia
<b>Barri</b>	Dakona	Tewoyoma
<b>Barri</b>	Dakona	Tokpombu
<b>Barri</b>	Dakona	Youguihun
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Kanela
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Kpandebu
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Kponobu
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Peiyama
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Pelewama
<b>Nomo</b>	Njeiwoma	Waima



Figure 6. Map showing location of Forest Edged Communities



Gola Forest National Park in Liberia, meetings have been held in 15 communities in the buffer please see Table 6.

Table 6. Community meeting sin GFNP Buffer zone.

Name	Number of Children	Number of adult Women	Number of Adult Men	Total
Norman	248	139	134	<b>521</b>
Laine	36	23	21	<b>80</b>
ULC/Gola village	40	32	57	<b>129</b>
Smith	27	16	21	<b>63</b>
Wamgo	18	6	8	<b>32</b>
Tonglay	4	6	19	<b>29</b>
Daniel Camp	16	17	21	<b>54</b>
Kortee	14	4	10	<b>28</b>
Kongbor	363	182	272	<b>817</b>
Fallah	0	3	5	<b>8</b>
Fayamah	8	5	8	<b>21</b>
Gaylahum	27	19	24	<b>70</b>
Jawajeh	110	63	50	<b>223</b>
Bombahum	26	10	12	<b>48</b>
Camp Alpha	96	72	112	<b>280</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>2,403</b>

Community meetings were well received, and the concepts of the project were understood. Generally, project activities were welcomed especially honey production and the possibility of training in the tourism sector. There was also great interest in becoming Eco-guards and species champions. In terms of the messaging around protected species, some villages were aware of the restrictions on hunting while others were not. Liberia community members had limited knowledge about protected species and the punishments for hunting them.

*Activity 4.2 Establishment and support of nature clubs and school programs.* GRC, CSSL and SCNL have standing relationships with a number of nature clubs in the project target area, and engagement with those clubs continues under IWT. Engaging young people in climate change, sustainable landscapes and wildlife conservation is not only a way of ensuring the next generation are well equipped to lead more sustainable livelihoods, but it is also a great way to engage adults in the topics. Nature clubs often feature in engagement events such as roadshows, performing dramas to share key messages about these topics.

A nature club leadership training was held in Year 1 to raise the capacity of the nature club teachers. The main objective was to engage teachers, encouraging them to become ambassadors for the GRNP and GFNP, and to build their understanding of the conservation and climate change issue facing the Protected Areas so they are able to pass that onto their pupils. The session also covered discussion topics including 'what is a nature club?' and 'what is the function of a nature club?'. Pupils were also part of these sessions and example activities from the nature club workbook were carried out.

Each year GRC and SCNL takes members from 10 nature clubs to the forest to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the forest to support their classroom learning. This part of this activity is planned during year 1 for Year 2. The groups will be involved in identifying different species of plants and animals, listening to bird calls and thinking about the different environments within the forest compared to their home communities. Pupils will learn about the forest and to appreciate the difference between the forest and town, for pupils to know what activities are and are not allowed in the forest, and to encourage questions from pupils, triggering and interest to learn more.

The Nature clubs will be involved in the 2021 World Wildlife Week activities organized by CSSL, for which youth and school pupils are one of the main target audiences. A conservation quiz will be held with representatives from each of the nature clubs and films shown on conservation and climate change issues.

In the first year the IWT Project has targeted 10 schools in Gaura, Tunkia, Makpele, Barri, Malema and Nomo Chiefdoms. Some of the suggestions to come out of the sessions were for GRC and SCNL to work with schools to plant trees around the school, to engage the Ministry of Education and curriculum planners to include climate change in the curriculum and to open the educational session to whole communities.

*Activity 4.3 Awareness raising around protected areas through community meetings drama and theatre* will be carried out in year 2.

*Activity 4.4 Development of awareness raising strategy and materials with project partners:* a strategy has now been developed and focusses on Roadshows as being the key sensitization activity of GRC, CSSL and SCNL. Roadshows have proven successful for the REDD and the WABiCC projects and will therefore be carried on under IWT. Roadshows will be carried out once or twice yearly with a representative from the partner organisations traveling to project communities to explain the activities carried out since the previous roadshow so that each Chiefdom is fully aware and engaged in all of the project activities. In this reporting period a theatre group has been identified and planning begun so that In year 2 drama will be performed by nature clubs on topics of climate change and Wildlife crime, t-shirts will be provided to communities, and Q&A sessions will be held to give participants the chance to air any concerns or seek clarification on any of IWT work. The roadshows provide a platform for communities to interact with staff and each other, to learn about climate change and the IWT, and to build stronger relationships between communities and the project.

*Activity 4.5 Conduct awareness raising campaigns with the general public and stakeholders in market areas:* this activity has not yet taken place and has been postponed until year 2, we are confident that we can get back on track with this activity next year.

*Activity 4.6 Conduct general awareness raising activities through radio shows and production song:* SCNL began carrying out engagement and sensitization activities with the project target communities in Upper and Lower Sokpo from the outset of the project.

SCNL/CSSL with support from RSPB have begun planning for the development of a project leaflet to raise the profile of the IWT. The brochures will be distributed among representatives from INGOs, NGOs, government ministries & agencies, communities, radio stations, and newspapers.

To specifically engage youth in the project communities SCNL and CSSL have been planning for a football tournament in year 2. Information about the project will be shared with the teams before the match, with discussions steered to how young people could get involved in the project, particularly in relation to Eco-guards, species champions, information gathering and the conservation enterprise activities.

*Activity 4.7 Lecture events held at the Universities about IWT, bushmeat and updated law and regulation:* will be carried out in the second half of year 2.

### **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.**

*Activity 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.* Planned for year 2

*Activity 5.2 Present project results to the West African IWT constituency at a suitable conference:* Planned for year 3

*Activity 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.* Planned for year 3

*Activity 5.4 Develop and publish online resources (free access).* Planned for year 3

## **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

### **Outputs:**

#### **Output 1. Disincentives for Gola Forest Edge Communities (FECs) to engage in the illegal wildlife trade are strengthened.**

All Park Rangers in GRNP and GFNP have been hired from local communities giving a total of 78 (26 in Liberia and 52 in Sierra Leone), providing a link between the project and the communities and tapping into local knowledge of the area. In terms of skills and training the Liberia Park Rangers are far behind the GRNP Park Rangers.

The aim is to build on the training GRNP Park Rangers have previously received from the International Security Advisory Team (ISAT) and to transfer these skills to the Liberia Rangers through joint training exercises.

The objectives:

- a) increase skills and knowledge to carry out safe and efficient patrolling,

- b) to harmonise the expertise of National Protected Area Authority Rangers across all protected areas and across borders with neighbouring countries.
- c) to consolidate the involvement of law enforcement units and armed forces in national efforts to protect wildlife and tackle poaching and trafficking and tackle the IWT both nationally and across borders.
- d) to assess the model of mixed patrols including park rangers, community eco-guards, and law enforcement.
- e) to sensitize and engage the local communities and build local constituency for conservation around the protected areas.

Although the training has been postponed due to the UK Government Covid travel restrictions on certain military training staff facilitators, although this is a setback, we still believe that this output will be achieved even if the training is postponed until November of 2021. This will also allow for greater time to improve the capacity of the training facilities at Lalehun to accommodate a large number of rangers. Presently staff are preparing refresher training materials for each of the basic modules, which will include medical, basic communication and reporting, navigation, fieldcraft, bushcraft and patrol tactics.

Recruitment and initiation training for eco-guards and species champions is going ahead and will be continued into year two.

The strategy is to have greater involvement of the Armed Forces and Police in both countries in order to more effectively tackle wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trafficking across the landscape. Both government bodies are supportive of the strategy. To harmonize ranger skills across protected areas and create a centre of excellence in Gola is well supported.

The boat station site has not yet been decided but a number of sites have been surveyed, again once a decision has been made this will be relatively quick to set up. We need to finalise training of ten River Rangers who will be 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. Due to slower than expected start up and to lingering Covid restrictions and equipment delays this activity has been postponed. Species Champions and eco-guards have been selected from communities, but training will only take place in earnest in the second year. However, we will be able to get back on track with these activities and this will not hinder the completion of the follow-on elements such as the information network feeding into the decision-making process by end of project.*

**Output 2. More empowered communities engage in and benefit from diversified conservation-sympathetic livelihood options.**

The Ecotourism activities and indicators. A considerable amount of work has been completed in identifying sites and potential nature trails (please see Annex 4a) within the GRNP in Sierra Leone. However, we now need to concentrate on finding similar sites in and around GFNP in Liberia. We need to focus on potential sites there in the coming year. We also need to push the tourist operators, who have been slow to progress this forward due to the travel restrictions within the two countries and of course from outside. There have been almost no travelers from outside of the two countries. Ideas have been developed for tour circuits within each country and / or to link sites across the landscape.

In Sierra Leone the existing sites at Lalehun and Siletti are being rehabilitated, new solar panel electricity systems are being installed and a new well has been dug at Lalehun. Lalehun because of its 40-bed capacity will also be used for the Park Ranger training facility. Local staff have been trained in maintenance, meal preparation and trail guides. These activities will inevitably spill into year two but will be completed by end of project.

The two private sector tour companies have committed to carrying out a market survey with our support, but at the present pandemic hiatus there is little incentive at the moment to move this forward. The baseline for visitor numbers has been collected over the past three years and is

low, please see Annex 6 below. However, due to covid, it will be difficult to achieve a 10% increase year on year by end of project, but the main components to make it work will be in place.

Beekeeping: this was always planned as a year two activity, with the focus in year one being the training of three Beekeeping extension workers, this has taken place and they will deliver basic training to communities starting in October once all of the equipment has been sourced locally and distributed and the honey producer groups have been set up.

### **Output 3. Socio-economic and species research and monitoring informs project execution to secure maximum impact.**

Field surveys assess patterns in the abundance of wildlife resources, forest quality, and hunting pressure, during the implementation of the project. The research programme includes:

- Distance-sampling along line transects to evaluate abundance and distribution of arboreal primates, chimpanzees and medium to large-bodied terrestrial mammals.
- Camera trap surveys to assess species abundance and community composition.
- An assessment of forest cover change based on remote sensing data using the online platform Global Forest Watch.
- A household survey of bushmeat hunting and trading which used a specialised questioning format, developed as an appropriate tool for community-based monitoring
- Expert surveys of birds and amphibians to generate baseline records

Although the surveys outlined in the previous section have not yet been completed, we will be able to complete the report on Socio-economic drivers of IWT (including roles of men and women) in the Gola Forest to be available by end of month 18, i.e. end of year two.

Equipment has been procured in UK, because of the considerable difference in price, the equipment was then transported to Sierra Leone through the British High Commission (BHC). Unfortunately, again due to Covid there have been delays in getting the equipment in country, this in turn has delayed field deployment of camera traps, rechargeable batteries, GPS and compasses. The field survey in Sierra Leone has been delayed, however, there is information from the REDD and Darwin projects, which we can use for baseline data. Although, coverage isn't complete and will need to be supplemented by deployment of the camera traps purchased through the IWT project. This will be initiated early in year 2.

The surveys to identify population size and distribution of key species targeted by the IWT in the Gola Forest e.g. Pangolin, Timneh grey parrot and elephants will all be completed in year 2. Maps and recommendations for their future conservation will be available by year 3.

A study has been completed in crop raiding please see Annex 4b and messages covering the result from this study will be communicated to communities through roadshows.

### **Output 4. Forest edge communities and the wider public have a greater understanding of IWT and the importance of conservation**

Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) have been established in each of the seven chiefdoms with representatives from 34 section GCDC's of the FECs in Sierra Leone and 12 Community Forest management Committees (CFMC) in the buffer zone in Liberia. The GCDC's are the main point of contact for community engagement for all project activities in the landscape. The IWT regulations and bylaws will be developed in the coming year and discussed with the GCDC's and CFMC's by end of Year 2 and adopted by EOP.

All other activities under this output will be initiated in year two. We have a high level of confidence that this output will be achieved by end of project.

### **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.**

N/A in year 1. All activities under this output will be achieved by end of project

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**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.*

What is important is the collaboration between governments, civil society and communities and the project will go a long way to strengthening this cooperation and build on work being implemented through other projects and funding mechanisms. To move on from viewing the Landscape as two distinct Protected Areas (GRNP and GFNP) and work towards greater joint collaboration and co-operation between Sierra Leone and Liberia. To this end this project will work towards improving governance and management of the landscape by developing a Gola Forest Bilateral Coordination Committee to provide effective oversight of all conservation-related activities in Greater Gola, involving key stakeholders from both countries. This will require crafting and signing effective agreements within a strong legal and policy framework to enable joint training and patrols by park rangers and establishing a Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) or Peace Park within the Greater Gola Landscape. This project will provide evidenced base information to develop a transboundary management plan to cover the GRNP and GFNP. The agreement will be expanded to include the Foya Nature Reserve once the gazettelement of this area (160,000 ha) has been completed within the next five years. As with all illegal activities the baseline is very difficult to measure and therefore a reduction by 30% and 20% will be difficult to achieve in three years.

*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.*

With the highly skilled, experienced professional input from the British military advisory team partner, creating a centre of excellence for Park Rangers, Eco-guard training and community engagement to reduce IWT and protect threatened species will be achievable. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to move this forward in the six months of the first year and that it has been necessary to postpone the activities linked to this indicator, however, we are confident that this can still be achieved.

*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.*

This is achievable and will be reported on in the next Annual report once we have the baseline results report, especially once the opportunities are realised through the livelihood support in tourism and beekeeping. Although, it is unfortunate to have launched greater support for tourism in the time of Covid, which will reduce our ability to increase the visitor foot fall in Gola. Our focus will be the in-country tour market.

*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.*

This will be easier to achieve in Sierra Leone where GRC has greater control over information collection and data analysis gathered by Park Rangers in the protected area. However, in Liberia there will be good information networks in the community forests as more work has been implemented on community forest management and the network of Eco-guards is more established. This project will add and build on this information network. In Liberia there is less control of the Park Rangers working in GFNP, having said this SCNL do have a very close relationship with the FDA, however the FDA is under resourced and the Rangers don't always

have sufficient equipment to carry out their work efficiently. To improve this situation will be the focus of this project.

0.5 Increase in public awareness reflects changes in opinions and behaviours from baseline surveys with 50% increase in understanding of IWT in communities between baseline and end of project

Building awareness has already begun through roadshow and engagement with the GCDC's. Campaigns are run through meetings, participatory techniques, radio shows and theatre, generally people react positively to these messages and do change behaviours once the issues have been explained and how change can positively affect their lives. This objective will be achieved by EOP.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

#### Outcome level assumptions

**Assumption 1:** IWT drivers in the Greater Gola Landscape are the same as those in the rest of West Africa's Upper Guinea Forest Biodiversity Hotspot.

**Comments:** *This still holds true because it was shown that in the project area and across West Africa, the main threat to forest biodiversity is bushmeat hunting<sup>1</sup>, which is linked to IWT, driven by high poverty in the rural population, who are largely dependent on forest-based livelihoods. Bushmeat hunting is still the main driver, however, there has been an increase in the trafficking of species to acquire and income.*

#### Output Level Assumptions

**Assumption 1:** Community members actively engage in the implementation of wildlife and hunting regulations.

**Comments:** *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. This approach has already been tried to a certain extent through other projects we manage in the landscape.*

**Assumption 1:** Engaging people in the scheme and other livelihood activities reduces their participation in IWT.

*We expect this to hold true in Sierra Leone 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.*

**Comments:** *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 \$ 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. In Liberia people are not aware of the laws and possible punishments related to bushmeat hunting, when people are aware, they tend to move away from hunting endangered species and hunt species that are not protected. In addition, hunters and bushmeat traders do not understand the risks. Even through hunting is quite a hard way to earn a living there are few alternatives for young people.*

**Assumption 1:** Livelihoods can be diversified and improved sufficiently to allow people to manage IWT sustainably.

**Comments:** *We think this will hold true because we have evidence from Sierra Leone that when households 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.*

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<sup>1</sup> Hoyt, R (2004) Wild Meat Harvest and Trade in Liberia: managing biodiversity, economic and social impacts. ODI Wildlife Policy Briefing, Number 6, April 2004.  
IWT Annual Report Template 2020

**Assumption 1:** The external pressure promoting IWT in the region will not increase significantly over the course of the project (i.e. easy gain, low cost versus high benefit for perpetrators).

**Comments:** *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.*

**Assumption 1:** No other major threat affecting a significant decline to IWT species populations occurs during the lifetime of the project

**Comments:** *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. Initially during the Covid restriction there was an increase in hunting activities in the forest, also there are other potential threats to the forest and therefore to IWT species such as mining interests and logging in the community forest area which could restrict the movement of animals between protected areas.*

**Assumption 1:** Cross-border movement remains possible during the project period, i.e. restrictions are not put in place due to political instability or epidemiological outbreaks.

**Comments:** *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.*

**Comments:** *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. The experience of the Ebola outbreak resulted in a rapid response to the Covid pandemic, travel restrictions were quickly put in place and temperature testing at the airport started as early as January 2020*

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

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.

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

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 supports 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

As the reporting period is so short, there have not been notable achievements this year.

## 5. Impact on species in focus

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

After only six months we have not yet recorded an impact on species focus. Camera trap deployment has been delays due to equipment delivery issues.

## 6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project will contribute to the reduction of poverty, through income generating activities, beneficiaries include:

- a) Honey producers: In Sierra Leone the project will work in 36 Gola villages in Koya (12), Makpele (12) and Tunkia (6) chiefdoms. Rory's Well are currently working in Barri chiefdom (12). They will work with 3 Households in each village. By EOP will take the project to village self-sufficiency. Then interest will cascade to other villages as there is already a great deal of interest being shown.

In Liberia, Universal Outreach is targeting 36 villages in Sokpo and Kposo clan building on the WABiCC project and Jawayeh clan (GolaMA project area).

The concept has been proven in both Sierra Leone and Liberia through the USAID funded WABiCC project and we intend to build on and expand those successes through the IWT project.

- b) Ecotourism: 30 staff have been hired from forest communities for service provision in existing tourist centres of Lalehun and Siletti in GRNP: cooking, maintenance, cleaning and tour guides. We are now developing a plan to identify and establish Campsites throughout the park and create trails for nature walks. These will then be set-up with local staff in GFNP and GRNP and more staff hired and trained. Community eco lodges in four villages have been suggested by communities to provide a unique cultural experience.
- c) 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 20 Eco-guards will be trained. They will receive an incentive for their work. The vision is that communities will become the stewards of the forest.
- d) Once the training centre of excellence for Park Rangers has been set up in the GRNP, then the idea is to invite and attract Park Rangers from all protected areas in the Mano River Union countries and from other Protected Areas in Liberia and Sierra Leone. This will provide additional employment for local people.
- e) Students/school children in the project area will be given the opportunity to join and learn from project support Nature Clubs, which in turn will open up students to other opportunities offered by the programme, e.g. forest friendly cocoa, Non Timber Forest Products, honey production and ecotourism.
- f) Mainstreaming gender equity will also impact poverty through training and a greater involvement of women in programme activities, women have a greater responsibility for food security and household nutrition and the greater empowerment through training and education. There is a proven direct link between education and improvements in household nutrition and child health.

The project is in its initial stages (6 months in) so it is difficult to point to specific achievements that have impacted poverty so far.

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

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 workplace 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. To date we have not conducted the gender training, this task will be initiated in year 2.

From studies in Liberia, 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.

A key figure during launch events and the consultative meetings at the start of the project was the Mammy Queen, who acts as the representative for all women in the Chiefdom. As such getting her support was a key component in signalling the intent of the project in terms of gender inclusivity.

Both GRC and CSSL undertook gender training in Sep 2019 and as a result of that GRC has drafted a gender policy and is currently going through the process of approval so that it can be embedded in the organisation. GRC already has a Gender Co-ordinator in the organisation who works with the AGALS and she is also the supervisor for the work of the conservation enterprise team in the field. As such a gender inclusive approach is embedded in all community work undertaken by GRC and is also a cornerstone of this project given the critical role of women in terms of livelihoods in the project communities. However, as well as addressing gender equality issues through the focus of the project work on livelihoods, the project also directly addresses gender inequality through some key activities and indicators such as through:

- Selection of species champions and eco-guards
- Training farmers in honey production and marketing techniques and skills with 50% of the targeted producers being female.
- Eco tourism support, training will endeavour to include at least 50% female participation, specifically in the service providers and maintenance at eco lodges, tour guides, etc.
- Unfortunately, Park Rangers are selected through the NPAA and is very male dominated, mainly due to patrols lasting weeks at a time, which take women away from family obligations. However, this is changing slightly, and one or two Park Rangers are female.

Further significant progress will be made in supporting gender equality in Years 2 and 3.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

In terms of project reporting, as we are only 6 months into the project a half year report was not submitted, and this is the first annual report to be submitted.

A separate detailed financial report is also being submitted for Year 1. In addition, where there has been a need for a significant change to resourcing or redirection of expenditure a Change Request has been submitted and approved in December 2020.

At the project management and workstream management level project kick-off activities departmental meetings were held in October 2020. This was followed up by a meeting that was held by the RSPB Conservation Science team to familiarise GRC staff with the planned research and to establish research protocols. A full project kick-off meeting was then held with GRC and partner in October 2020.

An IWT Working Group was also established towards the end of Jan 2021 bringing together staff working on the project from the Community Development Department, the Conservation Enterprise Department and from CSSL, SCNL, Universal Outreach, Rory's Well and BHC Defence Attaché. This group has been meeting on a monthly basis (COVID-19 restrictions allowing).

As there are so many project partners it is very important to have close project management and co-ordination to address issues quickly and drive progress on the ground, underpinned by more detailed project planning to ensure that there is an alignment in

understanding how activities will be undertaken and clarifying responsibilities and timelines, as well as increased visibility around project progress and evaluation of project impact. This will be instituted from the start of Year 2. In addition to this more time will be spent on holding review meetings to understand not only what worked well or did not, but to provide more focus on understanding if the outcome of the project is being achieved and not just the outputs.

We need to develop a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan for the project as it was agreed that the project should continue to be implemented in line with the REDD+ monitoring framework under which significant elements of this work fits, particularly in research monitoring and conservation enterprise

Evidence is collated under the REDD+ monitoring protocols, on which project staff have been trained for the last 6 years, through activity reports that are submitted on any meeting, training or other interaction with communities and include an update of the purpose and outcomes of the activity, the participants per community as well as the gender split and any required actions where relevant. This is backed up for training by attendance sheets. A physical filing system has also been established to allow IWT evidence to be kept separate from other work to support reporting.

There is currently a push, in terms of building capacity, ownership and sustainability, to increase the level of monitoring undertaken by the communities themselves. A tool has been developed incorporating pictures so that it can be used where people cannot read or write.

## **9. Lessons learnt**

- Training of community species champions and eco-guards to effectively patrol and survey will need an ongoing programme to:
  - Increase knowledge around biodiversity, ecology and deforestation from a scientific point of view
  - Increase knowledge around how to patrol / survey effectively (including reporting)
  - Support the effective establishment of patrols / surveys through active participation of GRC staff as they are started
- There were delays in commencing fieldwork due to difficulties in importing camera traps, we are now aware of the difficulty and would incorporate more time for camera importation into our planning in the future. The old camera traps that we were forced to use due to a delay in importing the new models proved to be unreliable.
- Access to the project communities remains a significant challenge as the communities are remote, with half of them being across the other side of the GRNP and on the Liberian border from the main access points.

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

N/A

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

The report only covers 6 months and not a full year of activities. The Project management team is having an ongoing debate about whether the positions of Species Champions and eco-guards should be combined. This would then enable the expansion of the eco-guard and information network.

The main difficulties have been

- The repatriation, of 3 RSPB staff (of whom one was subsequently furloughed) who work with GRC staff on a daily basis in advisory positions.
- Limitations in terms of travel for GRC staff where passes are needed to travel between GRC headquarters in Kenema and the project communities in Malema
- New ways of working within GRC operational locations with limits to the number of staff in the office and meetings that can be held
- Increased challenges in terms of remote working as internet reliability is not always guaranteed in Kenema
- Stopping any activities where social distancing is not possible or there are likely to be large audiences
- A refocussing of GRC effort to ensure staff safety as well as COVID-19 awareness and conduct outreach

## **12. Sustainability and legacy**

### Project Profile

The project was discussed at the GRC AGM in 2021, when the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the President of CSSL and the Head of Global Land for RSPB along with the 4 GRC Directors were present and all were very supportive of the project and the approach to focus on enforcement and combatting wildlife crime.

The project design was also presented to the Members of Parliament and Paramount Chiefs (PCs) who represent the seven chiefdoms around Gola. The PCs and MPs offered assistance to improve awareness of the project with participating communities and to intervene if any misunderstandings arose. The project was also presented and discussed with the Resident Minister, an influential official in the area, who was very supportive, and updates will be included in an Annual Report to all stakeholders.

A number of key donors have been informed about the project, but not in detail. We plan to present project results through a workshop at the end of the project.

### Exit Strategy

The planned exit strategy is still valid, although the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak could impact the timing for the end of the project and mean that it is necessary to put in a request to replan the project.

There is no expectation of a change in outputs or outcomes at this stage and this is reinforced by the positive engagement with communities during Year 1. However in this regard Year 2 will be more informative as work will begin on the establishment of longer term solutions that will need to be sustained once the project is complete, such as community patrolling, establishment and running species champions and Eco-guards as well as more focused work to drive the achievement of Outcome Indicators.

One of the benefits of the partnership is that there is a long term commitment to working in the area and there will therefore be ongoing support for sustainable community forest development and improved livelihoods once the project has finished thereby allowing lessons from the project to continue to be implemented as well as outcomes to be measured.

Greater Gola Landscape strategy workshop will be held at the end of the year, how we can build in lessons learnt into the REDD programme going forward to incorporate systems and lessons learned in this project into community forest and park management.

### 13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

This is the first IWT CF grant that Gola has received, even though the UK is the biggest bi-lateral donor in Sierra Leone, it is likely that there is not wide recognition of the IWT CF in Sierra Leone. The following audiences are likely to be familiar with IWT. However, senior government officials, conservation and development organisations have been involved in regional and international IWT conferences and workshops, for example, the first lady participated in the London IWT conference in 2018. Mano River Union held a IWT conference in Sierra Leone for the four MRU countries to discuss ways of working together to tackle the problem.

Familiarity with the IWT issues
<p>Probable High Level of Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Government officials and International and local conservation and development NGO's</li> <li>• Local government officials (e.g. the Resident Minister, local MPs and Forestry Development Officer through participation in IWT project meetings)</li> <li>• GRC Directors, Senior Management Team and GRC / CSSL staff directly involved in the project</li> </ul>
<p>Probable Medium Level of Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local communities that are direct recipients of IWT funding</li> <li>• Ministry officials within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</li> <li>• GRC and CSSL staff not involved directly in the project</li> </ul>
<p>Probable Lower Level of Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs in Kenema</li> <li>• Forest edge communities in the 7 chiefdoms in SL and communities in the Liberian buffer zone</li> <li>• CSSL and SCNL members through meetings and newsletter</li> </ul>

The IWT CF and this project have been publicised in the following ways during Year 1:

- On the vehicle (although only arrived very late in the 1<sup>st</sup> year) and computers purchased with IWT funds. The project vehicle is the most visible publicity space not only in the project area but also for the general population in Kenema, Monrovia and for other communities that the programme works with on the way to Gola.
- The IWT CF has been acknowledged at all community meetings, including the consultative meetings in November/December and sensitisation meetings and on radio broadcasts in Feb and Mar 2021.
- The Gola Rainforest National Park website has been updated to include the IWT logo as one of the key donors for GRNP.
- An internal RSPB talk on the project took place in Nov 2020.
- Several meetings have taken place with local DFID and British High Commission (BHC) personnel in Freetown and with the British Ambassador in Liberia to update them on the overall work at Gola and on the IWT CF funding. The BHC was instrumental in securing the shipping of the camera traps, GPS and computers for the project.

The IWT project is recognised as a distinct project in its own right but is also contextualised in communication as part of a broader programme around the conservation of the Gola Landscape and specifically in terms of helping to deliver improved outcome on the REDD+ project.

Further work will be done on the project to ensure that the UK Government's contribution is recognised. This will be done in line with project achievement so that the impact is clear and discernible. In Year 2 channels for increasing awareness will include but not be limited to:

- Ensuring clear recognition on any conferences, seminars or workshops where the work is presented
- Working more closely with the BHC and DFID staff in Sierra Leone to ensure that they are able to discuss the contribution in any discussions they have.
- Developing a project page for the GRNP website, linking to social media as well as providing identification and acknowledgement on all partner websites and on the Gola Landscape website.
- Developing more articles for publication either internally through partner publications and/or externally.
- During any field trips by RSPB Conservation Scientists continue to use social media channels to promote the project.

## 14. Safeguarding

The RSPB Safeguarding policy was last updated in Dec 2019 (*see Annex 5a*). All staff (and appropriate volunteers) who join RSPB are required to undertake and pass Safeguarding Level 1 training within the first three months of joining and must refresh their training every 3 years. This includes the development of a plan of action around their jobs that needs to be agreed with their line managers. Staff who are in regular contact with children and vulnerable groups are required to undertake and pass Safeguarding Level 2 training. All RSPB staff involved in this project have undertaken and passed their Safeguarding Level 1 training but are not required to undertake Safeguarding Level 2 training.

The responsible roles in RSPB for safeguarding are defined within the policy and include:

### RSPB Safeguarding Group

The role of RSPB Safeguarding Group is to provide safeguarding strategy, policies, procedures and training that enable families, children and vulnerable and protected adults to engage with the RSPB free from harm/abuse, intimidation and bullying, where their dignity is respected. Through doing this we will also protect our staff from potential allegations of abuse/inappropriate behaviour.

### Safeguarding Advisers

The RSPB Safeguarding Group is supported in its role by a team of Safeguarding Advisers, with at least one in each country. The role of these advisers is to provide staff with training and advice on all matters connected with safeguarding families, children and vulnerable and protected adults.

### Safeguarding Team

The Safeguarding Team consists of the RSPB Safeguarding Group and the Safeguarding Advisers. Their contact details can be found on the Intranet under Safeguarding.

Overall responsibility for Safeguarding within the RSPB rests with the People Director who is the RSPB's Designated Safeguarding Officer supported by the Safeguarding Team.

The policy also covers:

- The clear definition of the scope of safeguarding the purpose of the policy
- The RSPB approach to safeguarding
- What the different safeguarding roles are responsible for
- An identification of different potential types of abuse

- A guide to identifying signs of harm and abuse
- The process for reporting abuse and incidents
- Dealing with the media
- Safe recruitment and running of events
- An identification of safe place considerations / requirements / procedures for different vulnerable groups of people and different situations, including social media and digital communication
- Safeguarding contacts

RSPB is also committed to ensuring that the partners it works with also have clear safeguarding policies and procedures in place. To this end a policy on safeguarding was developed for GRC (*Annex 5a*) in Mar 2019. An updated version of this has been developed by RSPB and is currently awaiting approval.

Additionally, GRC has a Code of Conduct (*Annex 5b*) in its staff handbook, covering safeguarding as well as other conduct, that all joining staff are expected to review. It is expected that over the course of Year 3 that a stand-alone safeguarding policy and a stand-alone gender policy (drafted) will be adopted by GRC



## 15. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

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

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

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by IWT?

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

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>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.</p>		<p><i>(Report on any contribution towards positive impact on illegal wildlife trade or positive changes in the conditions of human communities impacted by illegal trade e.g. steps towards alternative and sustainable livelihoods)</i></p> <p><i>This project will have a direct impact through establishing transboundary agreements for improved cooperation and collaboration between Liberia and Sierra Leone and indeed with the wider MRU countries.</i></p> <p><i>Promoting the GRNP training hub as a centre of excellence for Park Ranger training will promote stronger cross border relationships and establish networks for information exchange.</i></p> <p><i>The project, through the training of Species Champions and eco-guardians will provide a link with communities to protect the forest and build an information network between communities, Park Rangers and law enforcement.</i></p> <p><i>Showing hunters that there are consequences to their actions and that there are alternative livelihoods that are not as difficult but just as profitable.</i></p> <p><i>Improving knowledge of species occurrence within community forests (ongoing in Year 2) and to clarify where to effectively locate key species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Demonstrating, through biodiversity surveys and mapping undertaken,</i></li> </ul>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p><i>that this is a heavily forested area supporting a range of threatened species .</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Building awareness in communities about the species that are protected and the penalties of breaking the law.</i></li> <li><i>• Training community champions in ecology / conservation (ongoing in Year 2).</i></li> <li><i>• Providing alternative income generating activities to substitute income from hunting and IWT and linking producers to the local and international market.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p><b>Across the Greater Gola Landscape, transboundary partnerships and collaboration between civil society, government and communities mitigates the rapid increase of IWT in West Africa.</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>0.4. IWT incidents reported to GRC-LG and the FDA (Liberia) increase post training, reflecting greater capacity to</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline data to find rates of illegal hunting reported through ranger patrols in the national parks.</p> <p>0.2 Plan and contract prepared for the BHC Park Ranger training.</p> <p>0.3 Baseline designed for wellbeing survey</p> <p>0.4 Initiated hiring of eco-guards and species champions and developing the</p>	<p>0.1 Write up results of studies across the landscape.</p> <p>Meat market assessment in Monrovia and Liberia.</p> <p>Roadblock data on confiscations in Liberia.</p> <p>0.2 Training of GRNP and GFNP Park Ranger training at Lalehun.</p> <p>0.3 Implement wellbeing survey to be implemented before the livelihood interventions begin.</p> <p>Launch Beekeeping training for producers and deliver equipment for farmers.</p> <p>Finalise contracts with tour operators and launch plan</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>detect, and subsequently reduce at each reporting monthly interval, reflecting greater capacity and greater community support.</p> <p>0.5 Increase in public awareness reflects changes in opinions and behaviours from baseline surveys with 50% increase in understanding of IWT in communities between baseline and end of project</p>	<p>information network to better inform park rangers.</p> <p>0.5 Began roadshows and community meetings organised by the Gola Community Development Committees.</p>	<p>Launch training for ecotourism</p> <p>0.4 Train eco-guards and species champions.</p> <p>0.5 Broadcast radio messaging about the project.</p> <p>Develop a communication strategy</p> <p>Results will be used to identify ways that project activities can be improved</p>
<p><b>Output 1. Disincentives for Gola Forest Edge Communities (FECs) to engage in the illegal wildlife trade are strengthened.</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>1.2 One boat station site selected, and a riverboat patrol station established by end of year 1.</p> <p>1.3 Ten River Rangers trained with the park rangers and in boat maintenance by end of year two.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.5. 30 community eco-guards selected and trained in biomonitoring, intelligence gathering and communication to assist rangers by end of year one.</p> <p>1.6 An effective informant and eco-guards' network is established in/around the Greater Gola Landscape</p>	<p>1.1 All park rangers have been hired and the protected areas are now up to full strength. Groundwork has been laid with the NPAA and FDA for cross border training once the Covid restrictions have been lifted.</p> <p>Eco-guards and Species champion selection has been completed, planning and preparation for training has also been completed.</p> <p>Negotiations with law enforcement bodies, i.e. police and ASLAF have been initiated in readiness for greater collaboration and coordination when illegal activity is identified in the forest. Protocols for engagement are now being developed.</p> <p>1.2 A boat has been procured and the boat station site selected, the actual station has not yet been established.</p> <p>1.3 No progress to report for this indicator, now postponed to year 2.</p> <p>1.4 Selection of species champions has taken place in 20 of the FECs, training will begin in year 2.</p> <p>1.5 Selection of eco-guards has been completed, 15 in Liberia and 15 in Sierra Leone from the FECs and they will be trained in year 2.</p> <p>1.6 the information network will be established in year 2.</p> <p>1.7 Year 2.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>in SL and LIB by end of Year 1 and generating reliable information.</p> <p>1.7 Actionable information from the informants and eco-guards' network is being utilised in decision making resulting in successful law enforcement responses from rangers before end of year 2</p>		
<b>Activity</b>		Contract with the BHC has been signed, however, training postponed to year 2	Training has been planned for the third or fourth quarter of year 2
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 standards 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.		Contract with the BHC has been signed, however, training postponed to year 2	Training has been planned for the third or fourth quarter of year 2
1.2. Activity 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.		Training postponed to year 2	Training has been planned for the third or fourth quarter of year 2
1.3. Phase 2 A second 3.5-week rotation of 25 SL and 12 Liberian rangers		Training postponed to year 2	Training has been planned for the third or fourth quarter of year 2
1.4. Phase 3 A two-week assurance/instructor package, including accompanied patrolling.		Training postponed to year 2	Training has been planned for the third or fourth quarter of year 2
1.5. Phase 4 Subsequent (after 1 year), British ISAT instructors to conduct an assurance/top up visit.		Now planned for year 3	Planned for year 3
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.		The agreement is in development and negotiation	Face to face meeting to progress the signing of an agreement planned in year 2
1.7. Develop Gola (Lalehun) as a centre of excellence for ranger training and cooperation/collaboration with national security forces		The centre is being upgraded with solar power and a well.	Planned training to take place in Lalehun
1.8. Pilot one river boat patrol stations and develop a training package for river rangers		Boat station site selected Boat purchased	Station will be established Boat patrol rangers will be trained

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
1.9. Awareness training for local communities about the project and IWT issues in general.		Roadshow and communities have been held and the objectives of the project have been explained and discussed.	Radio show messaging for IWT Communication strategy developed for the project and materials produced
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).		Selection of species champions and eco-guards has taken place.	Further meetings to be held to complete the process.
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.		No action in year 1	Training planned for this period
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.		No action in year 1	Training and mentoring planned for this period
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.		No action in year 1	Training and mentoring planned for this period
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.		Selection of eco-guards has taken place in 20n communities	Further meetings to be held to complete the process.
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.		No action in year 1	Training planned for this period
<b>Output 2. More empowered communities engage in and benefit from diversified conservation-sympathetic livelihood options.</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.3 Market assessment (SL and Liberia) of the proposed circuit and resulting materials to inform the development of a sustainable</p>	<p>2.1 Sites have been identified and potential nature trails (please see Annex 3) with in the GRNP in Sierra Leone. Sites in Liberia will be identified in the next reporting period.</p> <p>Discussions with tour operators are ongoing to develop training plans and the development of a tour circuit</p> <p>Rehabilitation of two sites in Sierra Leone, upgrading to a solar electricity system and a water well. Potential camping sites have been identified.</p> <p>2.2 Two private sector tour operators have been engaged, one in Liberia and one in Sierra Leone.</p> <p>An ecotourism strategy is being developed and is near completion</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>ecotourism strategy by the end of Yr. 1.</p> <p>2.4 Four ecotourism sites (1 lodge, 3 tented sites) are operating to standards agreed with? as advised by private sector partners by when?</p> <p>2.5 A steady 10% year on year increase of visitors to Gola by the end of Yr. 3.</p> <p>2.6 Three Beekeeping extension workers have been trained and are delivering basic training to communities in SL by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Yr.1.</p> <p>2.7 90 beekeepers in Liberia (90 from 30 FEC's) equipment and/or training by end of Yr. 2.</p> <p>2.8 90 Beekeepers in Sierra Leone (90 from 30 FEC's) are have received equipment and/or training by end of Yr. 2.</p>	<p>Sites in Sierra leone have been identified, please see Annex 3.</p> <p>2.5 this will be difficult to achieve in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, however, the project will target the local market.</p> <p>2.6 The extension workers have been identified and training has begun which will be completed in year 2. Community training will begin in year 2.</p> <p>2.7 &amp; 2.8 N/A in year 1. Equipment will be purchased locally and distributed in year 2.</p>	
<p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>2.1. Establish links to private sector tour operators, specifically Visit Sierra Leone (VSL) and Libassa Lodge in Liberia.</p>		<p>Links have been established with VSL and Libassa and a strategy developed, which will be finalised in year 2</p>	<p>Roll out training plan. Discuss plans with the Ministry of tourism,</p>
<p>2.2. Create public private agreements that include the private sector in day to day operation of ecotours around Gola</p>		<p>Agreements are being negotiated</p>	<p>Market survey of tourist market.</p>
<p>2.3. Rehabilitation of Silletti Lodge, Sierra Leone.</p>		<p>Rehabilitation of Siletti and Lalahun has begun with a new solar power supply and a well for easy access to water within the compound</p>	<p>Further rehabilitation of the rooms and kitchen and improving comfort for guests.</p>
<p>2.4. Establish tented permanent camps, platforms, latrines and equipment in pilot sites</p>		<p>Locations have been identified and equipment purchased</p>	<p>Establish the trials between camps.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
2.5. Train Local staff in service provision and as guides		10 staff have been trained in the basics of maintenance, cooking and guides	<p>Refresher courses and involvement of the private sector tour operators.</p> <p>Grow the workforce and training new staff in guiding and service provision for tourists.</p>
2.6. With the private sector tour operators hire and train staff in tourism service provision (gender, guiding, cooking health and safety, customer care.		10 staff have been trained in the basics of maintenance, cooking and guiding.	<p>Refresher courses and involvement of the private sector tour operators.</p> <p>Grow the workforce and training new staff in guiding and service provision for tourists.</p> <p>Undertake activities and engagement to drive training that is 50% female including gender awareness training</p>
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.		Not in year 1	Community meetings will be held in this reporting period.
2.8. Plan the development of a transboundary rainforest circuit with private sector, CSSL and SCNL.		Not in year 1	Next step with the tour operators is to develop potential circuits, based on the results of the market survey.
2.9. Assess beekeeping market in SL		Not in Year 1	Market assessment in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
2.10. Train 180 beekeepers in Sierra Leone and expand the beekeeping network in Liberia		Not in year 1. Beekeepers have been identified during community meetings.	A year 2 activity
2.11. Distribute beekeeping equipment to producers.		Not in Year 1. All equipment to be sources or made locally.	A year 2 activity
<b>Output 3. Socio-economic and species research and monitoring informs project execution to secure maximum impact.</b>	<p>3.1 Socio-economic surveys of drivers of IWT across 20 of the targets 147 FECs in SL and Lib (ca. 15% of households) completed by end Year 1,</p> <p>3.2 Report on Socio-economic drivers of IWT (including roles of men and women) in the Gola Forest available by end month 18.</p>	<p>3.1 A household survey of bushmeat hunting and trading which used a specialised questioning format, developed as an appropriate tool for community-based monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study was carried out in Liberia, the same method will be used for a study in Sierra Leone.</li> </ul> <p>3.2 Due at the end of year 2.</p>	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>3.3 Monitoring programme to measure impact of illegal hunting and IWT in Gola Forest in place by month 3, baseline survey completes by end Yr. 1, Baseline report including analysis and recommendations available by month 18. Monthly reports on impact of IWT and biannual analysis of these available throughout years 2-3.</p> <p>3.4 Surveys to identify population size and distribution of key species targeted by the IWT in the Gola Forest completed by Yr. 1 (Pangolin,) Yr.2 (Timneh grey parrot) and Yr.2 (and elephants) in the gola Forest and maps and recommendations for their future conservation available by Yr.3.</p> <p>3.5 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.</p> <p>3.6 Socio-economic surveys of IWT across 20 of the target 147 FECs in SL and Lib (ca. 15% of households) completed by end Year 1.</p> <p>3.7 Project partners understand the impact the project has had on hunting and illegal wildlife hunting/trading in the project area by EOP.</p> <p>3.8. The project will develop a better understanding of Pangolin and timneh grey parrot populations and</p>	<p>3.3 The M&amp;E system is being developed and will be completed soon.</p> <p>3.4 All surveys will take place in year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake camera trapping study of key biodiversity hotspots</li> <li>• Identify areas of pangolin, Timneh parrot, forest elephant and chimpanzee activity</li> <li>• Identify potential elephant and chimpanzee migration routes</li> <li>• Identify sites vital for connectivity</li> <li>• Assess extent of cross-border migration</li> </ul> <p>3.5 A crop raiding study was completed in Sierra Leone and the findings are being used to develop specific messages for an awareness campaign with respect to chimpanzees.</p> <p>3.6 As above in 3.2</p> <p>EOP</p> <p>EOP</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>distributions across the landscape by EOP</p> <p>3.9. Populations of elephants in the landscape and areas of HEC are mapped and recommendations for future conservation action available by Yr. 2</p> <p>3.10 Migration routes of elephants in the landscape and areas of HEC are mapped and recommendations for future conservation action available by EOP.</p> <p>3.11. Community awareness of Chimpanzee ecosystem function and understanding or their impact in crop raiding is improved with 50% fewer interview respondents implicating chimps in crop raiding by EOP.</p>	<p>Year 2</p> <p>EOP</p> <p>EOP</p>	
3.1.	Hold GALS training and use AGALS 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.		<p>Qualitative, gender-specific surveys will be carried out across target household</p> <p>AGALS tools have been prepared and training in their use has been carried out. Gender work will be coordinated by the GRC Gender Coordinator.</p> <p>Plan intervention to ensure participatory, gender sensitive process</p> <p>Project meeting held to discuss how gender will be mainstreamed throughout all of the project activities.</p>
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.		Park rangers are collecting this information on a monthly basis and incidents recorded. Information is more consistent in Sierra Leone than in Liberia.
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.		<p>Cameras purchased, however, delivery problems have meant that we needed to use older cameras initially.</p> <p>Continue with the camera trap study of key endangered species hotspots to improve coverage in year 2</p>
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.		<p>Training of species champions and eco-guards is underway in year 1.</p> <p>Gathering of information and analysis of species champions reports to identify hunting trends will continue into year 2</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
3.5. Collect genetic samples to support transboundary efforts to control IWT.		Not yet initiated in year 1.	
3.6. Pilot the Wild Scan and SMART monitoring systems		<p>SMART training has taken place in Sierra Leone and Liberia for research technicians, this will be expanded to eco-guards and species champions in year 2.</p> <p>The preference going forward is to continue with SMART and not to use Wild Scan.</p>	
3.7. Socio-economic research on the drivers of IWT,		On-going	
3.8. Recording of illegal activity through the eco-guard information gathering network.		Presently the Park Rangers are gathering this information, shown in the body of the report. The eco-guard's information network will take time to develop.	
3.9. Share all data with organisations on the Technical Advisory Group.		Any information collected has been shared with partners including government. A more formal method of sharing information will be developed in year 2.	
<b>Output 4. Forest edge communities and the wider public have a greater understanding of IWT and the importance of conservation</b>	<p>4.1. Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) or Forest Management Committees (FMCs) in 36 FECs in SL and 36 FECs in Lib have developed IWT regulations and bylaws by end Year 1.5 and adopted them by EOP.</p> <p>4.2. 70 FECs have a greater understanding all wildlife laws which is reflected in feedback from community consultation meetings by end of year 2</p> <p>4.3. Nature clubs established in 15 schools in SL and 12 in Liberia by year 2 and hold 5-10 events annually throughout project.</p> <p>4.4. General public support for wildlife conservation in the Gola Forest increases year on year during the project period.</p>	<p>4.1 34 Section GCDC's have been established in the project communities in each Gola section of the GRNP. In Liberia these bodies are called Community Forest Management Committees and a 12 have been set up so far.</p> <p>Work has begun to Develop draft bylaws; In year 2 there will be a review draft bylaw with key representatives from communities, then these will be finalised and agreed bylaws. Awareness sessions on bylaws with local leaders will be the final step.</p> <p>4.2 Awareness campaigns and community meetings and workshops have taken place (these will continue into year 2) covering the Wildlife laws, protected species and penalties for hunting endangered species.</p> <p>4.3 15 nature clubs have been formed in Sierra Leone. Liberian nature clubs will be established in year 2. Events are being planned in year 2.</p> <p>Measured at EOP</p>	
<b>Activity</b> 4.1 Hold community meetings with Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) or Forest Management Committees (FMCs) in 36		Meetings have been held with all of the 34 Sections that the GCDC's represent in Sierra Leone to discuss the project objectives. Discussions related to developing by laws are only in initial stage of the process.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	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	A nature club leadership training was held in Year 1 to raise the capacity of the nature club teachers  Each year GRC and SCNL takes members from 10 nature clubs to the forest to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the forest to support their classroom learning. This part of this activity is planned during year 1 for Year 2.	
4.3	Awareness raising around protected areas through community meetings drama and theatre	In this reporting period a theatre group has been identified and planning begun so that In year 2 drama will be performed by nature clubs on topics of climate change and Wildlife crime, t-shirts will be provided to communities, and Q&A sessions will be held to give participants the chance to air any concerns or seek clarification on any of IWT work.	
4.4	Development of awareness raising strategy and materials with project partners	A comprehensive strategy is being developed to raise awareness and to improve communications.	
4.5	Conduct awareness raising campaigns with general public and stakeholders in market areas	In year 1 Roadshows have provided a platform for communities to interact with staff and each other, to learn about climate change and the IWT. Feedback form communities has fed into the communications strategy development.	
4.6	Conduct general awareness raising activities through radio shows and production song	The process has begun and will continue in year 2.	
4.7	Lecture events held at the Universities about IWT, bushmeat and updated law and regulation	Years 2 and 3	
<b>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.</b>	5.1 One workshop held by project partners for all IWT stakeholders from LIB and SL at which a best practice model will be developed to fight IWT nationally and in partnership by EOP.  5.2 Lessons learnt shared with West African IWT constituency using existing channels throughout the project including at, at least 1 appropriate conference.  5.3 Information on IWT collected by the project is shared with the Gola	5.1 EOP  5.2 EOP  5.3 Biannual reports will be shared with the Transboundary Technical Group, first meeting scheduled for Year 2.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
	Transboundary Technical Advisory Group at each of their meetings  5.4 Lessons learnt from project available online through partners websites by EOP.	EOP	
<b>Activity</b>			
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.	EOP	
5.2.	Present project results to the West African IWT constituency at a suitable conference.	EOP	
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.	Year 2	
5.4.	Develop and publish online resources (free access).	Years 2 & 3	

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

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

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<b>(Max 30 words) 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.</b>			
<b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words): <b>Across the Greater Gola Landscape, transboundary partnerships and collaboration between civil society, government and communities mitigates the rapid increase of IWT in West Africa.</b>	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 understanding of IWT in communities between baseline and end of project	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 <sup>2</sup> ).  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 end-line 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.  <i>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<sup>3</sup>, which is linked to IWT, driven by high poverty in the rural population, who are largely dependent on forest-based livelihoods.</i>
<b>Outputs:</b> <b>1. Disincentives for Gola Forest Edge Communities (FECs)</b>	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.	1.1.1. Ranger training reports from the Gola Rainforest Conservation training centre and activity reports from rangers’ patrols in SL and LIB.	Community members actively engage in the implementation of wildlife and hunting regulations.

<sup>2</sup> Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool

<sup>3</sup> Hoyt, R (2004) Wild Meat Harvest and Trade in Liberia: managing biodiversity, economic and social impacts. ODI Wildlife Policy Briefing, Number 6, April 2004.

<p><b>to engage in the illegal wildlife trade are strengthened.</b></p>	<p>1.2 One boat station site selected, and a riverboat patrol station established by end of year 1.</p> <p>1.3 Ten River Rangers trained with the park rangers and in boat maintenance by end of year two.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.5. 30 community eco-guards selected and trained in biomonitoring, intelligence gathering and communication to assist rangers by end of year one.</p> <p>1.6 An effective informant and eco-guards' network is established in/around the Greater Gola Landscape in SL and LIB by end of Year 1 and generating reliable information.</p> <p>1.7 Actionable information from the informants and eco-guards' network is being utilised in decision making resulting in successful law enforcement responses from rangers before end of year 2</p>	<p>1.1.2. Ranger patrol reports documenting collaborative efforts with eco-guards and species champions</p> <p>1.2.1 Rangers reports from river patrols</p> <p>1.3.1 River ranger training report and feedback.</p> <p>1.4.1 Registry of Species Champions and their activity reports.</p> <p>1.5.1. Eco-guard training registry</p> <p>1.6.1 Reports from intelligence network on IWT</p> <p>1.7.1. Rangers are utilising the intelligence to adapt patrol runs and Law enforcement response reports.</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>2. More empowered communities engage in and benefit from diversified conservation-sympathetic livelihood options.</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.3 Market assessment (SL and Liberia) of the proposed circuit and resulting materials to inform the development of a sustainable ecotourism strategy by the end of Yr. 1.</p> <p>2.4 Four ecotourism sites (1 lodge, 3 tented sites) are operating to standards agreed with? as advised by private sector partners by when?</p> <p>2.5 A steady 10% year on year increase of visitors to Gola by the end of Yr. 3.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Site selection report, tourism sector meeting reports, renovation and construction plans, photos of renovation work.</p> <p>2.1.2 Agreements between GRC the communities and the private sector.</p> <p>2.2.1 Private sector partner assessment reports</p> <p>2.3.1 Market assessment report, which feeds information into tourism strategy and business plan.</p> <p>2.3.2 Sustainable ecotourism strategy</p> <p>2.4.1 Eco site reports</p> <p>2.5.1 Beekeeping extension training registry</p>	<p>Engaging people in the scheme and other livelihood activities reduces their participation in IWT.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>

	<p>2.6 Three Beekeeping extension workers have been trained and are delivering basic training to communities in SL by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Yr.1.</p> <p>2.7 90 beekeepers in Liberia (90 from 30 FEC's) equipment and/or training by end of Yr. 2.</p> <p>2.8 90 Beekeepers in Sierra Leone (90 from 30 FEC's) are have received equipment and/or training by end of Yr. 2.</p>	<p>2.6.1 Honey production registers (kept for each farmer enrolled in the programme).</p> <p>2.6.2 Annual report.</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Livelihoods can be diversified and improved sufficiently to allow people to manage IWT sustainably.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>3. Socio-economic and species research and monitoring informs project execution to secure maximum impact.</b></p>	<p>3.1 Socio-economic surveys of drivers of IWT across 20 of the targets 147 FECs in SL and Lib (ca. 15% of households) completed by end Year 1,</p> <p>3.2 Report on Socio-economic drivers of IWT (including roles of men and women) in the Gola Forest available by end month 18.</p> <p>3.3 Monitoring programme to measure impact of illegal hunting and IWT in Gola Forest in place by month 3, baseline survey completes by end Yr. 1, Baseline report including analysis and recommendations available by month 18. Monthly reports on impact of IWT and biannual analysis of these available throughout years 2-3.</p> <p>3.4 Surveys to identify population size and distribution of key species targeted by the IWT in the Gola Forest completed by Yr. 1 (Pangolin,) Yr.2 (Timneh grey parrot) and Yr.2 (and elephants) in the Gola Forest and maps</p>	<p>3.1.1 Socio-economic survey data?</p> <p>3.2.1 Report on the socio-economic drivers of IWT in the Gola Forest</p> <p>3.3.1 IWT Impact Monitoring protocols</p> <p>3.3.2 Reports of Baseline and EOP camera trap surveys (frequency of IWT species being captured).</p> <p>3.3.3 Report on the Impact of IWT in Gola Forest</p> <p>3.3.4. Biannual analysis of monthly hunting sign surveys (recorded on SMART<sup>4</sup>).</p> <p>3.4.1 Survey Reports</p> <p>3.5.1 Crop raiding report</p> <p>3.6.1 Report of socio-economic surveys across at least 20 of the</p>	<p>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).</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>No other major threat affecting a significant decline to IWT species populations occurs during the lifetime of the project</p>

<sup>4</sup> SL only  
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	<p>and recommendations for their future conservation available by Yr.3.</p> <p>3.5 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.</p> <p>3.6 Socio-economic surveys of IWT across 20 of the targets 147 FECs in SL and Lib (ca. 15% of households) completed by end Year 1.</p> <p>3.7 Report on the socioeconomics of IWT in the Gola Forest available by end Year 2.</p> <p>3.8 Project partners have a solid baseline understanding of the impact of IWT on species in the project area by end of Yr. 1</p> <p>3.9 Project partners understand the impact the project has had on hunting and illegal wildlife hunting/trading in the project area by EOP.</p> <p>3.10. The project will develop a better understanding of Pangolin and timneh grey parrot populations and distributions across the landscape by EOP</p> <p>3.11. Populations of elephants in the landscape and areas of HEC are mapped and recommendations for future conservation action available by Yr. 2</p> <p>3.12 Migration routes of elephants in the landscape and areas of HEC are mapped and recommendations for future conservation action available by EOP.</p> <p>3.13. Community awareness of Chimpanzee ecosystem function and understanding or their impact in crop raiding is improved with 50% fewer interview respondents implicating chimps in crop raiding by EOP.</p>	<p>targets 147 FECs in SL and LIB (ca.15% of households.)</p> <p>3.7.2. Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) reports (SL/LIB).</p> <p>3.8.1. Biannual analysis of monthly hunting sign surveys (recorded on SMART<sup>5</sup>).</p> <p>3.8.2 Reports of Baseline and EOP camera trap surveys (frequency of IWT species being captured).</p> <p>3.9.1 Monthly Ranger patrol reports.</p> <p>3.9.2 Monthly reports on illegal hunting/trade from intelligence gathering network.</p> <p>3.9.3 Monthly reports of verbal reports from species champions.</p> <p>3.10.1. Ranger data, SMART Data and peer review journals.</p> <p>3.11.1. Ranger data, SMART Data and peer review journals. Project workplans focus ranger effort and education effort in conflict areas.</p> <p>3.12.1. Ranger data, SMART Data and peer review journals. Project workplans focus ranger effort and education effort in conflict areas</p> <p>3.13.2. Community feedback forms from awareness raising activities at baseline and end of project.</p>	<p><i>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</i></p>
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<sup>5</sup> SL only  
IWT Annual Report Template 2020

<p><b>4. Forest edge communities and the wider public have a greater understanding of IWT and the importance of conservation</b></p>	<p>4.1. Gola Community Development Committees (GCDCs) or Community Forest Management Committees (CFMCs) in 36 FECs in SL and 36 FECs in Lib have developed IWT regulations and bylaws by end Year 1.5 and adopted them by EOP.</p> <p>4.2. 70 FECs have a greater understanding all wildlife laws which is reflected in feedback from community consultation meetings by end of year 2</p> <p>4.3. Nature clubs established in 15 schools in SL and 12 in Liberia by year 2 and hold 5-10 events annually throughout project.</p> <p>4.4. General public support for wildlife conservation in the Gola Forest increases year on year during the project period.</p>	<p>4.1.1. Baseline, midterm and endline survey reports of GCDC/FEC progress in developing and adopting IWT regulations.</p> <p>4.2.1. Baseline, midterm and endline survey reports of FEC baseline, midterm and s education and endline education surveys</p> <p>4.3.1. Biannual reports on Nature club activity.</p> <p>4.4.1. Project record of radio shows, press cuttings, project records of student enquiries and field work. as reflected in an increase call in to radio shows, press articles, interest from university students to conduct field research.</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>5.1 One workshop held by project partners for all IWT stakeholders from LIB and SL at which a best practice model will be developed to fight IWT nationally and in partnership by EOP.</p> <p>5.2 Lessons learnt shared with West African IWT constituency using existing channels throughout the project including at, at least 1 appropriate conference.</p> <p>5.3 Information on IWT collected by the project is shared with the Gola Transboundary Technical Advisory Group at each of their meetings</p> <p>5.4 Lessons learnt from project available online through partners websites by EOP.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Workshop report including the model for fighting IWT nationally.</p> <p>5.2.1 Copies of Newsletter articles, blogs, Conference proceedings.</p> <p>5.3.1 Minutes from Gola transboundary technical group meetings</p> <p>5.4.1 Weblinks to online resources.</p>	<p>Cross-border movement remains possible during the project period, i.e. restrictions are not put in place due to political instability or epidemiological outbreaks.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

Activities:

**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 standards 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 Community Forest Management Committees (CFMCs) 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).

### **Annex 3 Standard Measures**

In future years it is our intention to develop a series of standard measures in order to collate some of the quantitative measures of activity, input and output of IWT projects. These will not be measures of the impact or effectiveness of IWT projects but will contribute to a longer term dataset for Defra to draw upon. The collection of standard measures data will be important as it will allow us to understand the combined impact of all the UK Government funded Challenge Fund projects. This data will therefore provide useful information for the Defra Secretariat and for Defra Ministers regarding the Challenge Fund.

The standard measures for the IWT Challenge Fund are currently under development and it is therefore not necessary, at present, to complete this Annex. Further information and guidance about the IWT standard measures will follow.

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

This may include the Means of Verification material you listed in your project logframe. For example, the abstract of a conference, the summary of a thesis etc. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc.) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

If you are attaching separate documents, please list them here with an Annex reference number so that we can clearly identify the correct documents.

## Checklist for submission

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