

Applicant: **Hilers, Annika**
Organisation: **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation**
Funding Sought: **£599,998.00**

IWTR8S2\1042

Empowering local women to reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade in Liberia

The project aims to reduce the demand for bushmeat and other IWT products and to improve wildlife law enforcement in Liberia, through collaboration and awareness with female bushmeat sellers in major bushmeat hubs, support for local female community ecoguards for forest patrols and awareness, and capacity building for rangers, who will closely collaborate with the community ecoguards. These activities build upon successful pilot projects and are complementary to ongoing community engagement and law enforcement network activities.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

| Type | Other |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name | Wild Chimpanzee Foundation |
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Section 2 - Objectives, Species & Summary

Q3. Title:

Empowering local women to reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade in Liberia

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR8S1\1001

IWTR8S1\1069

Q4. Which of the four key IWT Challenge Fund objectives will your project address?

Please tick all that apply. Note that projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

- Reducing demand for IWT products
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

Q5. Species project is focusing on

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

West African chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*)

Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*)

Giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*)

Black-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*)

Do you require more fields?

Yes

White-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*)

Pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*)

Primates (e.g. colobus monkeys, Diana monkey, sooty mangabey, Campbell's monkey)

Duikers (e.g. Jentink's duiker, Zebra duiker, Brooke's duiker etc.) (*Cephalophus jentinki*)

Q6. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project aims to reduce the demand for bushmeat and other IWT products and to improve wildlife law enforcement in Liberia, through collaboration and awareness with female bushmeat sellers in major bushmeat hubs, support for local female community ecoguards for forest patrols and awareness, and capacity building for rangers, who will closely collaborate with the community ecoguards. These activities build upon successful pilot projects and are complementary to ongoing community engagement and law enforcement network activities.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

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

Country 1 Liberia

Country 2 No Response

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

31 December 2024

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

2 years, 6 months

Q9. Budget summary

| Year: | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | Total request |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| Amount: | £266,772.00 | £186,375.00 | £146,851.00 | £0.00 | £ 599,998.00 |

Q10. Proportion of IWT Challenge Fund budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding has been secured or is anticipated to be secured to support some community ecoguard teams and their missions in southeastern Liberia, specifically at Grebo-Krahn and Sapo National Parks and Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Area. The so far confirmed source of funding is Rainforest Rescue.

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

The proposed matched funding is largely confirmed. Additional, so far non-confirmed funding is expected from WABILED/USAID, the Great Ape Conservation Fund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Rainforest Trust. We hope to receive feedback on the pending funding applications prior to the start of this proposed project and are confident that at least one of these grant applications will be successful. Furthermore, the proposed matched funding so far is mainly focusing on expenses for community ecoguards and does not include potential contributions from partners. Other co-funding for staff costs, awareness events and equipment may become available.

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

Q12. Project stage

With reference to the application guidance, please select the relevant project stage.

Main

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of illegal wildlife trade and its relationship with poverty. Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned. Please also explain which communities are affected by this issue, and how this aspect of the illegal trade in wildlife relates to poverty or efforts of people and/or states to reduce poverty.

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

The project will address the immense threat faced by Liberian wildlife, including numerous threatened, endemic and protected species, through the persistent bushmeat and pet trade, as well as habitat destruction. Bushmeat remains a major source of protein and local income in Liberia, in particular for rural communities in the northwestern and southeastern forest blocks, and there is increasing international demand for wildlife pets and products from Liberia. Likewise, encroachment into forests, including (proposed) protected areas ((P)PAs) is putting remaining wildlife populations at risk. This brings some threatened and rare key species closer to extinction in West Africa and even the world, given that some of these species have their last viable populations in Liberian forests. Since 2019, the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA), with support from conservation partners, in particular from the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), has established a national Wildlife Crime Task Force and created a national wildlife crime database. Among a large variety of wildlife species being targeted as bushmeat and pets, figures show a very high number of primates, including critically endangered western chimpanzees killed for bushmeat and kept as pets. Over the past two years, the number of forest elephant killings has increased and ivory trafficking has reached an international dimension [1]. The database indicates the confiscation of ca. 500 live animals over the past three years, and bushmeat is being confiscated at checkpoints throughout the country on a daily basis. However, resources to support effective law enforcement remain limited and a high level of political interference and corruption of police officers is hindering successful law enforcement and legal prosecution. It is therefore necessary to reduce poaching and demand for bushmeat at the community level, and raise long-term awareness about Liberian and international laws on a countrywide scale. However, the lack of alternative income for local community members, especially female bushmeat traders, as well as ineffective law enforcement in (P)PAs and poor collaboration by law enforcement rangers with local community leaders, who have the power to influence behaviour change in their respective communities, are major factors contributing to the depletion of wildlife in Liberia. There has been an increasing attempt to engage local community members, often involving local hunters in forest and wildlife management through a national community ecoguard program [2]. However, the number of women (who traditionally lead the trade of bushmeat and other animal products) participating in programs providing alternative livelihoods and awareness raising programs, is still low. There is strong evidence from WCF's activities in southeastern Liberia that projects involving larger numbers of women have proved to be more efficient and successful, with a more sustainable impact in terms of reduction of illegal activities and increase in social status of women in their respective communities [3]. It is therefore crucial to ensure more women are involved in the fight against IWT at the national level, building upon WCF's successful pilot projects.

Q14. Gap in existing approaches

What gap does your project fill in existing approaches? Evidence projects should describe how the improved evidence base will be used to design an intervention and the gap the intervention will fill. Extra projects should also provide evidence of the intervention's success at a smaller scale.

A project implemented since 2020 in Monrovia trained female bushmeat sellers in relevant laws, protected species, zoonotic diseases, and how to raise community awareness of these issues. They were supported to change businesses, and were happy to do this given their new awareness of the risks involved in trading bushmeat. Liberia-wide, many

bushmeat sellers are unaware of existing laws and lack the means to exit the bushmeat trade. The project will expand on the proven successful collaboration with female bushmeat sellers, targeting major bushmeat hubs and allowing the women to shift to viable, legal businesses.

Community Ecoguard Programs operate in several (P)PAs, but only two sites include a significant proportion of women (mostly former bushmeat traders). Sites with more women show higher program success, with significant reduction of illegal activities, particularly poaching and bushmeat consumption [3]. The project will increase the numbers of female community ecoguards.

FDA rangers in (P)PAs are not regularly patrolling and capacity gaps exist in using standardized protocols for reporting, patrolling, wildlife law knowledge, protected species, and combating wildlife crime. Due to the lack of capacity, rangers are not fully collaborating with the CEP and local communities. The project will fill these gaps and increase collaboration.

Section 5 - Objectives & Commitments

Q15. Which national and international objectives and commitments does this project contribute towards?

Consider national plans such as NBSAPs and commitments such as London Conference Declarations and the Kasane and Hanoi Statements. Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments and some brief information on how your project will contribute to them. There is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

The project will contribute directly to the implementation of five existing regional and national conservation action plans; for the western chimpanzee [4], pygmy hippos [5], and forest elephants [6], following best practices published by the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Liberia is a signatory or member to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [7], the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) [8], the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [9]. At the 26th annual Conference of Parties (COP) Liberia committed to the Glasgow Climate Pact [10], signed up to the Forest and Land Use Declaration, and reemphasized their Nationally Determined Contributions in the framework of the Paris agreement. The Glasgow Climate Pact also emphasizes the importance of biodiversity conservation. The proposed project will contribute to these commitments. The project is directly addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [11] 15, 16 and 17, combating and ending the trafficking of protected species, strengthening national institutions, creating equal access to information, reducing corruption, and building effective partnerships as well as mobilizing funding for development countries.

Further SDGs addressed: 1 No poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 3 Good Health and Well-being, 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Good Jobs and Economic Growth, 10 Reduced Inequalities, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production, and 14 Life Below Water.

Liberia is not part of the commitments of the London Conference Declarations, nor the Kasane and Hanoi Statements.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q16. Methodology

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

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Major threats to wildlife through poaching and habitat destruction persist in all (P)PAs in Liberia, in particular where only a

small proportion of or no women from local communities are involved. Rangers are not regularly patrolling, are not using standardized patrol methodologies and are not fully collaborating with local community ecoguards and communities. Collaboration with local female bushmeat sellers and the community ecoguard program have been tested in smaller scale pilot projects and have yielded positive results [1] showing in particular that the involvement of local women, empowering them to change their IWT-based livelihoods to legal and viable alternatives, reduces the pressure on Liberian wildlife [3] and increases public knowledge about the law and protected species. Previous and current local and national initiatives to combat IWT have been reviewed and evaluated. WCF's experience and lessons learnt from the community ecoguard program (CEP) and community volunteer pilot projects conducted since 2014 and 2020 respectively, will guide the project design and methodology.

The project will specifically increase the involvement of local women in activities to combat IWT. This will be done through the engagement of 300 female bushmeat sellers in at least ten major bushmeat hubs throughout rural Liberia and an increase of female community ecoguards in the national community ecoguard program at seven (P)PAs.

A community volunteer pilot project with 34 female bushmeat sellers from 15 major bushmeat markets in Monrovia and Paynesville has shown that the majority of women are eager to change business given the risks attached to this illegal activity. When exposed to targeted awareness campaigns and mentored by the local Marketing Associations, most women found it easy to transfer to more sustainable and less risky legal business practices: this was true even for women who were not part of the volunteer program, and only sensitized by the volunteers.

Information obtained through the Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF) will help to identify at least ten bushmeat hubs to be targeted for the community volunteer program. WCF, FDA, and FTI will work with the local Liberia Marketing Associations (LMA) in order to conduct bushmeat surveys at the beginning and end of the project, including bushmeat sellers' income surveys. LMA will also help to identify 30 women at each bushmeat hub who will be trained and participate in the program which includes mentoring and payment of regular stipends (ten women for each bushmeat hub for a period of eight months for each group, three groups per bushmeat hub over the project period). Supervisors from FDA, WCF's Monitoring & Evaluation team and the respective Market Superintendents will regularly monitor the women and together with other partners (LiWiSa), support them in awareness-raising activities in their respective markets, as well as in local bushmeat restaurants and schools. The overall bushmeat market situation will be monitored and the location of community volunteers may be adjusted (e.g. in case all female bushmeat sellers in a particular market stop selling bushmeat or new bushmeat hotspots occur).

WCF has supported the establishment of a national CEP since 2019, based on the success of the CEP at Grebo-Krahn National Park (GKNP) in southeastern Liberia, where 11 women are part of the program. Except for GKNP and Krahn-Bassa PPA, where 11 female community ecoguards are also active in the CEP, the number of women in the program is still low at other sites (Sapo and Gola Forest National Parks, Cestos-Senkwehn and Foya PPAs, and Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve). WCF will work with FDA, FTI, SCNL and RSPB to increase the number of female community ecoguards to ten women per site, and will ensure regular monitoring of the community ecoguard teams by mentoring and strengthening the FDA community ecoguard unit, as well as centralized management of the SMART patrol data. Capacity of community ecoguard teams will not only be built and monitored based on existing CEP manuals, but also through additional training from LiWiSa on animal care, allowing them to follow up on animals released back to the wild, after confiscation and successful care at LiWiSa.

In order to improve collaboration between community ecoguard teams, community members around (P)PAs and the existing FDA rangers, WCF, with RSPB, SCNL, and FTI will build the rangers' capacity and establish a standardized system for how the rangers will use the information collected by the community ecoguards for targeted law enforcement missions. Similarly, the project will ensure full collaboration between rangers and community ecoguards for awareness-raising activities with a focus on Liberian and international laws, WCTF protocols and protected species.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

Capability and capacity will be built within local partner institutions and beneficiaries, in particular rangers and local women (either female bushmeat sellers in the community volunteer program, or women in the community ecoguard program). All those mentioned will also educate other community members who are not directly involved in the community ecoguard and community volunteer programs.

Capability and capacity will be built through development and promotion of standardized protocols, training and continuous mentoring, supervisors and exchange visits. For the community volunteer program, experience has shown that once a bushmeat seller has changed to another more sustainable and less risky business, there is no reason to return to the old illegal bushmeat business. This is also linked to the increased knowledge about the law, zoonotic diseases etc. and this knowledge will remain and continuously be shared by the transformed bushmeat sellers, even after the project.

The same is true for women trained as community ecoguards. The newly gained financial independence and increase in

social status will ensure that the women do not return to the illegal bushmeat business.

The national community ecoguard program, the mentoring of the FDA community ecoguard unit (and its strengthening by including graduates from the FTI), as well as the inclusion of the CEP in the national government agenda (currently being pushed by FDA) and the standardized inclusion of the CEP in the management plans for the various PAs will ensure the long-term viability of the program, including direct financing through the government and sustainable funding mechanisms, such as REDD+ in the long term. The CEP will also be part of FTI's teaching curriculum in the future.

Q18. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

In Liberia's male-dominated society, women, girls, and other vulnerable groups are often excluded from decision-making and natural resource management, including wildlife. However, women play an important role in the bushmeat trade and in managing their families' resources. WCF's community volunteer and community ecoguard pilot projects, and other female-focused initiatives show that if women are trained, supported, and empowered, they can become leaders in decision-making and role models for girls in the communities, and gain respect from all community members, including men.

The project focuses on empowering local women to reduce the demand for IWT products and improve law enforcement by supporting female bushmeat sellers to change their businesses to sustainable and legal alternatives, whilst raising community awareness, and training women (mostly bushmeat traders) from rural forest communities as community ecoguards. Preference will be given to single mothers in order to maximise poverty reduction and impact.

By showing that women can play the same role in protecting natural resources as men, creating more benefits for the families and the community as a whole, the project will help reduce gender inequality, positively impact social status and remove barriers to their participation in decision-making. The stable financial income will allow the women to invest in their own businesses, no longer depending on other family members or hunters.

All project activities will be closely monitored by the supervisors and the M&E Officer. Project indicators will be disaggregated by gender. Close monitoring will allow identification of any risks or unintended negative consequences, which can be immediately addressed and resolved, if necessary in consultation with local community leaders, market superintendents or the local FDA hierarchy. All project participants will be educated on the safeguarding policy and how they can contact the team in case of any grievance.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit, considering both people and species of focus a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. Demand reduction projects should demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction.

The project is expected to bring positive change for both wildlife and local community members, in particular women, in the short and long-term. It is expected to reduce demand for IWT products, develop sustainable alternative livelihoods for those involved in IWT, and improve law enforcement.

Those wildlife species mainly targeted by the bushmeat and pet trade (primates, incl. western chimpanzees, duikers, forest elephants, pangolins etc.) will benefit from the project in the short and long-term through reduced hunting pressure, helping to stabilise their populations and maintain Liberia's rich biodiversity. Bushmeat surveys carried out at the beginning and the end of the project, the national wildlife crime and CEP databases, as well as data from FDA ranger patrols will provide relevant information to monitor the impact of the project on key wildlife species. In the long-term, biomonitoring surveys at selected sites will give information on population dynamics.

The community volunteer program (CVP) will target 300 female bushmeat sellers from at least ten bushmeat hubs who will change to more sustainable and less risky businesses. The women will conduct regular awareness-raising activities in order to educate other bushmeat sellers, owners of bushmeat restaurants and schoolchildren. Each community volunteer will

educate and mentor at least 50 people. In total, the program will reach 15,000 people. This is expected to lead to more women (and men) changing businesses and to restaurant owners stopping serving bushmeat. Bushmeat market and bushmeat traders' income surveys conducted at the beginning and the end of the project will show the level of reduction of traded bushmeat and any changes in the income of bushmeat sellers. In the short-term, it is expected that the bushmeat trade in targeted markets will be reduced by at least 50% and the income of former bushmeat sellers will increase by at least 10%, besides eliminating/reducing the risk of being arrested and fined and of contracting zoonotic diseases. In the long-term it is expected that these figures remain stable, but this also depends on effectiveness of law enforcement at checkpoints and in bushmeat markets.

The CEP will support 70 female community ecoguards at seven (P)PAs. Each of the 35 teams will conduct at least six missions and will sensitize at least 200 people per year. It is expected that at least two women will be in the each team, thus 17,500 people will be sensitized throughout the project.

The impact of the CEP will be measured through regular SMART reports. While in areas where the CEP is already well-established only limited further reduction of illegal activities (10%) can be expected in the short-term, for new sites a reduction of 20% is targeted. In the long-term, the aim will be to reduce illegal activities to an encounter rate of less than 2 signs per km at each site. This also depends on the effectiveness of law enforcement at (P)PAs.

An estimated number of 100 rangers at 7 (P)PAs will benefit from increased capacity, specifically with regard to IWT-related protocols and effective collaboration with the CEP.

Q20. Pathway to change

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

The expected pathway to change will build on three project outcomes:

- 1) Nationwide community volunteer program with female bushmeat sellers based on education, training, and awareness-raising to reach the sellers and the broader community and to allow 300 female bushmeat sellers to change business;
- 2) Community Ecoguard Program in 7 (P)PAs, with the number of female increased to 70, to ensure the positive impact of the females' participation in conservation at all sites, while the community ecoguards are receiving regular benefits;
- 3) Increased capacity of FDA rangers at 7 (P)PAs, to ensure they are aware of existing protocols and are able to fully collaborate with the community ecoguards and other community members.

These components are complementary and will address IWT trade from different angles. The outcome of the project will be the reduction of IWT products with improved wildlife law enforcement through collaboration and awareness with bushmeat sellers, support for female community ecoguards for forest patrols and awareness, and capacity-building for rangers. This will lead to the overall project impact of Liberia's wildlife being effectively protected by all relevant stakeholders and poverty for local community members being reduced in the long term through increased capacity and sustainable incomes.

Q21. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

Our experience shows that all women who stopped trading in bushmeat now enjoy a better quality of life, with less stress and more income, and do not envisage returning to the bushmeat trade. Their new businesses allow them to involve other family members, whilst before they were fully dependent on the hunters or other bushmeat traders. The ongoing monitoring of bushmeat markets shows that those bushmeat sellers who stopped the trade are not being replaced by others.

The sustainability of the program will be ensured through continued awareness-raising, effective law enforcement, and oversight by donors and the international community, e.g. through the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee of the Liberia Species Working Group, which meets bi-monthly and is attended by key conservation partners, thus facilitating a high level of coordination and collaboration across projects.


While this project focuses on female community ecoguards, other projects are, and will be, supporting the national CEP, which currently employs 252 community ecoguards across Liberia (only 30 of whom are female). FDA has committed to including the program in the general government agenda, and reflecting it in standardized protocols for PA management and PA management plans. FDA is fully committed to the CEP as a sustainable employment scheme, allowing local community members to actively contribute to the protection of (P)PAs and supporting FDA to improve protection of (P)PAs and their biodiversity.


Currently, the CEP is funded through external donors and partners. But it is FDA's long-term plan to develop sustainable funding schemes to support the national CEP (e.g. REDD+ projects and trust funds).

If the ongoing success of programs against IWT can be linked to the involvement and empowerment of local woman, the promotion of female-led conservation activities will continue to be adopted at a larger scale, to cover all bushmeat hubs and (P)PAs in Liberia.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

 [List of references IWTCF Stage2](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding Risk, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register, using the [Risk Assessment template](#), and be prepared to submit this when requested if you are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

| Risk Description | Impact | Prob. | Gross Risk | Mitigation | Residual Risk |
|---|----------|----------|------------|--|---------------|
| Fiduciary Low financial management capacity of local partners can lead to (unintended) misappropriate use of funds that can lead to project targets not being achieved, while funds are being spent, for example if partners are handling funds to pay the community volunteers and community ecoguards | Moderate | Unlikely | Minor | WCF will be responsible for managing funds. Only project partners and individuals with proven capacity to handle funds will have access to cash. During project implementation financial management capacity will be built further. Constant monitoring of expenses and proofs of use of funds will allow to immediately flag any issues. | Minor |
| Safeguarding The implementation of joint field missions of female community ecoguards with their male colleagues could lead to sexual harassment, which would lead to an interruption not only of the forest patrol, but would question the whole concept of female community ecoguard program. | Moderate | Unlikely | Minor | The ecoguards are undergoing intense training, which includes relevant safeguard policies and the code of conduct. The latter will be signed by all ecoguards. The project grievance mechanism and WCF's zero tolerance for sexual harassment allow for discreet investigation and immediate exclusion of violator. This also serves as a deterrent. | Minor |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|-------|--|-------|
| <p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>The large number of partners involved can cause miscommunication and confusion among project partners, up to a situation where project activities are not correctly implemented and outputs and incomes are not achieved.</p> | Moderate | Unlikely | Minor | <p>Good project coordination and communication, and continuous monitoring and review of achievements is done. This allows for timely adjustments in case communication issues or lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities occur. Project implementation and performance of partners can be evaluated and improved if necessary, guaranteeing successful project implementation.</p> | Minor |
| <p>Risk 4</p> <p>Low capacity of partners or lack of interest and passion can cause delays in project implementation, up to failure of the project, if major components are not achieved.</p> | Moderate | Unlikely | Minor | <p>The project relies on strong partnerships and no activities are implemented by only one partner. Effective collaboration and coordination alongside thorough monitoring and evaluation are guaranteeing control, and possibilities for mentorship among partners. A trustful and inspiring atmosphere will allow all partners to benefit from each other's lessons learnt.</p> | Minor |
| <p>Risk 5</p> <p>The presidential elections in 2023 can cause limited possibilities for awareness in bushmeat markets during the election period</p> | Moderate | Possible | Major | <p>Awareness in the bushmeat markets will be carefully planned in close collaboration with the Liberia Market Association and the community volunteers, in order to avoid overlap with major campaign events and elections. With good planning, awareness activities can occur to the planned extent and reach the anticipated number of people.</p> | Minor |
| <p>Risk 6</p> <p>The presidential elections in 2023 can cause limited availability of FDA staff which may lead to less community ecoguard patrols than planned.</p> | Moderate | Possible | Major | <p>It is anticipated that at least 12 community ecoguard patrols will be happening during the lifetime of the project. Good planning with FDA and other stakeholders will allow to achieve the target while considering that no patrols can happen during the election period.</p> | Minor |

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable


Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

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

 [IWT-R8-Implementation-Timetable WCF](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

The main responsibility for M&E will be with the Project Coordinator and the M&E Officer who is expected to work full time on the project and conduct regular field visits. At the beginning of the project, all project partners will receive extensive M&E training, which will include M&E techniques, detailed training on the project logframe explaining the impact, outcome, outputs, and activities. The results chain and indicators will be discussed and the role of each partner in the M&E framework will be discussed.

The means of verification will be discussed and templates for attendance sheets, agreements, other data collection forms (including digital means, e.g. through the use of Kobocollect Toolbox software), and reports will be shared and explained. The reporting frequency will be determined with partners. The M&E Officer will give quarterly updates on progress and will ensure correct management and storage of M&E related data (as hard and soft copies/scans, including backups). On a bi-monthly basis, the M&E Officer will visit project beneficiaries and assess progress in the field. She/he will also be in constant contact with partners and supervisors, including FDA, FTI and LMA.

The M&E Officer and Project Coordinator will also be responsible to monitor the compliance with safeguard protocols and to ensure appropriate risk management.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)

██████████

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

██

Number of days planned for M&E

150

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q25. Logical Framework

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible.** Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

-  [IWT-R8-St2-Logical-Framework-WCF1069](#)
-  22/03/2022
-  23:20:18
-  pdf 210.26 KB

Impact:

Liberia’s wildlife is effectively protected by all relevant stakeholders and poverty for local community members is reduced in the long term through increased capacity and sustainable incomes

Outcome:

Reduction in IWT products with improved wildlife law enforcement through collaboration and awareness with bushmeat sellers, support for female community eco-guardians for forest patrols and awareness, and capacity-building for rangers

Project Outputs

Output 1:

A nationwide community volunteer program with female bushmeat sellers established with education, training, and awareness-raising to reach the sellers and the broader community

Output 2:

Community Ecoguard Program supported in 7 (proposed) protected areas, with the number of female participants increased

Output 3:

Capacity of FDA rangers increased at (proposed) protected areas

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

No

Activities

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

1.1 Carry out bushmeat market surveys including income surveys of bushmeat sellers in 10 major Liberian cities at the beginning and end of project

1.2 Identify 300 female bushmeat sellers in marketplaces and engage them to formally commit to changing business to legal enterprise

1.3 Train 300 female bushmeat sellers in relevant laws, protected species, importance of wildlife, risks of zoonotic diseases, and awareness communication methods based on successful pilot methods

1.4 Conduct at least 60 awareness-raising events targeting bushmeat markets, consumers, restaurant owners, and schoolchildren

2.1 Support 35 Community Ecoguard Teams in 7 (proposed) protected areas to carry out regular patrols

2.2 Train, equip, and support at least 70 female ecoguards to patrol in 7 (proposed) protected areas

3.1 Train 100 FDA rangers from 7 (P)PAs in Community Ecoguard Program methods, patrol planning, and wildlife crime law enforcement protocols

3.2 Establish and implement systems for rangers to use the CEP-collected data, and to conduct awareness-raising with the community ecoguards and other community members

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

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





Note that there are different templates for projects requesting under £100,000 and over £100,000. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

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

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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

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

 [Budget-for-IWT-R8-over-100k-Mar22-Final-WCF1069](#)
 22/03/2022
 18:35:56
 xlsx 100.84 KB

Q27. Funding

Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The project builds upon pilot projects implemented by WCF with FDA and partners.

WCF started the CEP at Grebo-Krahn National Park in 2014, with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. In 2018, with funding from WABiCC/USAID, women were included in the program and the number of teams was increased. Since then, with funding from Rainforest Rescue, GACF/USFWS, CEPF and the European Union, the program was established at various (P)PAs, but still with a limited number of women. Except for funding from Rainforest Rescue, all funding ended or will end prior to the start of the IWT CF project in July 2022.

The CVP was piloted in Monrovia and Paynesville in 2020-21, targeting 34 female bushmeat sellers from 15 major bushmeat markets (identified through a bushmeat market survey with FTI), funded by the European Union. The funding for the program ended in December 2021.

Some of the ex-bushmeat sellers formed a drama team to support awareness activities in bushmeat markets. A nationwide drama tour is currently being implemented with funding from the British Embassy. WCF is implementing the project with Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection and Fauna & Flora International.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

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

While the proposed project is entirely focusing on female community ecoguards, FDA, WCF and partners (RSPB and SCNL) are determined to continue seeking and providing support for the national community ecoguard program (CEP) in general, without considering support focusing only on female community ecoguards. The Liberia Forest Sector Project/FDA is providing limited support at sites where WCF, RSPB and SCNL are not present on the ground.

Any potential support, which is for example requested by WCF and partners from WABiLED/USAID, will directly complement the work proposed in this project. For instance, the proposed project is neither providing food rations and consumables, nor stipends to any male community ecoguards, who however represent the vast majority of the community ecoguards. Their support has to be provided through other sources.

As WCF is considered the lead organization for the CEP in Liberia and with RSPB mentoring FDA's national community ecoguard unit, WCF will be consulted by FDA and other partners concerning any further development of the CEP and will be able to share lessons learned and ensure full collaboration while avoiding any duplication.

Q28. Capital items

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

Two vehicles and seven laptops will be purchased for the bushmeat market surveys, monitoring of the community volunteers and supervision and monitoring of the community ecoguards, through the community ecoguard unit and partners. The amount requested for capital items goes slightly beyond 10% of the budget. They are needed as there are five partners in the project, who are expected to implement and supervise a variety of activities at the national level, covering the two major forest blocks in northwestern and southeastern Liberia.

The two vehicles will remain with the FDA Community Ecoguard Unit and the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) after the end of the project to be used for the continued monitoring of the community ecoguards.

The laptops will remain with four partners, WCF (1), SCNL (1), FTI (3) and FDA (2), who will continue to use them in line with the project, benefiting the fight against IWT.

Q29. Value for Money

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

The project will follow the principles of "Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity".

The project will have an impact on the national level, empowering 370 local women (300 bushmeat sellers in the community volunteer program and 70 community ecoguards) at a minimum of ten bushmeat hubs and seven (P)PAs, throughout Liberia.

The project is building upon pilot projects implemented by WCF, FDA, and partners and lessons learnt are guiding its design. Pilot projects are showing positive long-term impacts, with sustainable benefits for Liberian biodiversity and

wildlife, as well as local community members, in particular women.

Additional positive impacts are expected, e.g. larger numbers of female bushmeat sellers stopping the bushmeat trade after being educated by their peers. Similarly, we expect that female-led conservation activities will be considered best practices in the future to be replicated in areas not yet covered in this project.

WCF and partners, except for FTI and LMA, have jointly implemented similar projects in the past and are confident to have the needed capability and capacity to implement the project, according to project guidelines, including deadlines, milestones, and financial procedures.

Major project costs are linked to the support for local women and their activities. Robust payment systems will be put in place to manage these costs. Benchmarks for staff costs and overhead costs are being respected.

Matched funding is 10% of the project value. In the absence of other funding for this IWT and female-focused project, the project could not be implemented without funding from Defra.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

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

At the beginning of the project, safeguarding policies will be shared with all partners and beneficiaries to reduce the risk of

non-compliance with safeguards. Project stakeholders will be required to sign the safeguarding code of conduct and information sheets will be shared summarizing the grievance procedure and providing contact details for reporting safeguarding concerns. In particular the M&E Officer and the Project Coordinator will continuously monitor the compliance with safeguards, through field visits, regular communication with partners and review of progress reports. The Project Leader will support the review, identification and response to potential safeguarding issues.

Data collection on the project will include a registry of names and contact details of all bushmeat sellers in the ten selected bushmeat hubs, in collaboration with the local Marketing Associations. WCF and the FDA counterpart involved in the supervision of community volunteers have experience with the management of similar information through the previous community volunteer pilot project and ensure confidentiality and data privacy. The latter will be achieved through careful management of the data by project staff involved, strictly following safeguarding and data management procedures. With regard to personal data, a confidentiality clause will be signed by those who are managing this data.

Q31. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

The proposed project will not only follow WCF's ethics and internationally recognized best practices, but fully comply with all Liberian legal and ethical obligations.

Activities with local communities, i.e. the community volunteer program and the community ecoguard program will be implemented based on Prior and Informed Consent (PIC). All those involved will sign an agreement clearly outlining the program conditions, as well as the roles and responsibilities of each party.

The project team will proactively and regularly seek community views and aims to adjust programme delivery accordingly, particularly concerning those community members directly impacted by the project. Furthermore, the rights and privacy of those impacted directly and indirectly by project activities will be respected and treated with high priority.

Project implementation will fully consider health and safety aspects for all project staff, as well as local community members.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q32. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.


No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [FeedbackBritishEmbassyMonrovia_IWT CF WCF 1069](#)

 22/03/2022

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the

Finance Guidance.

| Name (First name, Surname) | Role | % time on project | 1 page CV or job description attached? |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Dr. Annika Hillers | Project Leader | 20 | Checked |
| Tarik Bodasing | Project Coordinator/RSPB | 40 | Checked |
| Zoro Gone Bi Irie Berenger | Field Coordinator/WCF | 30 | Checked |
| Princess Yormie | Field Supervisor/WCF | 50 | Checked |

Do you require more fields?


Yes


| Name (First name, Surname) | Role | % time on project | 1 page CV or job description attached? |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| NA | Monitoring & Evaluation Officer | 100 | Checked |
| Garyfox Gayflor | Administration & Finance Manager/WCF | 20 | Checked |
| Gordon B. Sambolah | Field Coordinator/SCNL | 30 | Checked |
| Rolland K. Warner | Field Supervisor/SCNL | 30 | Checked |
| Susan Wiper | Director/LiWiSa | 20 | Checked |
| No Response | No Response | 0 | Unchecked |
| No Response | No Response | 0 | Unchecked |
| No Response | No Response | 0 | Unchecked |


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

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

 [Project Staff cvs](#)

 22/03/2022

 14:21:18

 pdf 2.08 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

| | |
|--|---|
| Lead partner name: | Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) |
| Website address: | www.wildchimps.org |
| Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>WCF is the project leader and thus will be responsible for overall supervision, project management, including management of project funds, and reporting. WCF will be responsible for mentoring and coordinating with other project partners and direct project implementation, in particular the community ecoguard program and related training, coordination, and supervision of community ecoguards in the southeastern landscape, bushmeat market surveys and the community volunteer program, and ranger training. WCF has extensive experience with project implementation and management and the WCF Liberia team has successfully implemented projects of similar scope, set-up, and partners in the past. WCF implements all projects in close collaboration with FDA and local community members and strongly believes in an evidence-based approach using scientific surveys and constant project monitoring.</p> <p>WCF's technical expertise and experience qualifies it to take the lead on all community ecoguard initiatives in Liberia and beyond. WCF is also the lead institution for the community volunteer project with women bushmeat sellers, which was initiated by WCF in collaboration with FDA. Since 2016 WCF has coordinated the Law Enforcement and Biomonitoring Sub-Committees of the Liberia Species Working Group and has led on establishing Liberia's first Wildlife Crime Task Force with FDA and other partners.</p> |
| Allocated budget (proportion or value): | ██████████ |
| Represented on the Project Board | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |
| Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Website address: www.fda.gov.lr

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

FDA is the custodian of Liberia's wildlife and forests and will be fully involved in all project activities, in particular through the Awareness and Ecotourism Division, the National Community Ecoguard Unit, (P)PA staff, and the Wildlife Confiscation Unit. FDA will closely monitor all project activities and will ensure collaboration with local authorities. WCF in Liberia implements all projects in close collaboration with FDA to ensure FDA's ownership, capacity building and sustainability of projects. The FDA is the custodian of all wildlife in Liberia and the entity working with national and international partners to establish and manage protected areas. FDA is also the main entity responsible for the implementation of the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law (2016), as well as national species conservation action plans. In the proposed project, FDA will be fully involved in all project activities, in particular through the Awareness and Ecotourism Division, the National Community Ecoguard Unit, (P)PA staff, and the Wildlife Confiscation Unit. FDA will closely monitor all project activities and will ensure collaboration with local authorities.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: Forestry Training Institute (FTI)

Website address: <https://liberiafti.wordpress.com> <https://www.facebook.com/Forestry-Training-Institute-111947362293705/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Liberia's FTI is the lead institution in training forest practitioners, focusing on commercial use of forests, conservation, and community forestry. In the project, FTI will be responsible for bushmeat and bushmeat sellers' income surveys at the beginning and the end of the project. FTI students will be trained in data collection methods and will conduct the surveys in the selected major bushmeat hubs throughout Liberia, expanding on previous studies conducted in Monrovia and its surrounds. Two FTI staff will also become part of the National Community Ecoguard Unit, the monitoring of community ecoguard teams and the related database.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Website address: www.rspb.org.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

For more than a decade, RSPB has been working with SCNL, the Liberian BirdLife International partner, to support protected area and community forest creation and management, as well as improved livelihoods for local communities and wildlife protection. RSPB is currently implementing a project funded by the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund in the Gola forest transboundary landscape in Sierra Leone and Liberia. RSPB has also been a partner in a wildlife crime focused project coordinated by WCF, and through its Technical Advisor for Combating Wildlife Crime has been instrumental in the establishment and monitoring of the national community ecoguard program and the FDA community ecoguard unit. In the project, RSPB will assist WCF in all aspects of project coordination and liaise with partners as required. RSPB will provide technical advice, training, and supervision for the community ecoguard program (in collaboration with WCF) and will mentor the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) community ecoguard unit to build their capacity.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. Partner Name: Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)

Website address: www.scnlliberia.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Established in 1986, SCNL is Liberia's oldest conservation organization, implementing conservation projects throughout Liberia in collaboration with the Liberian government, national and international NGOs, and local communities. Since 2019, SCNL has been a partner in a project coordinated by WCF, focusing on the community ecoguard program in northwestern Liberia. SCNL field staff received the necessary training to supervise and report on community ecoguard patrols. In the project, SCNL will provide technical advice and supervision for the community ecoguard program in northwestern Liberia and the capacity building of FDA rangers. SCNL will take a supervisory role for the community ecoguard program in three (proposed) protected areas; Gola Forest National Park, Foya proposed protected area, and Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

5. Partner Name: Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary (LiWiSa)

Website address: www.libassa.com/wildlife-sanctuary

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): LiWiSa is Liberia's only sanctuary caring for confiscated and rescued wildlife (except chimpanzees) and releasing animals back to the wild after their recovery. For the past three years LiWiSa has worked with the national Wildlife Crime Task Force, WCF, and other partners to reduce wildlife crime in Liberia and increase awareness. LiWiSa's role in the project will be to participate in IWT awareness raising in the bushmeat markets and communities and training community ecoguards in supporting the monitoring of released animals.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

6. Partner Name: Liberia Marketing Association (LMA)

Website address: NA

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): LMA oversees more than 13,000 Liberian market sellers and has a well-established system for the monitoring of market sellers and their businesses. In the project, LMA will be fully involved in the planning, coordination and monitoring of the community volunteer program with the female bushmeat sellers in the bushmeat market hubs selected all over Liberia. LMA is represented through their market superintendent in each market, who will help to develop a registry of all bushmeat sellers, will help with the selection of the women who will be part of the program, will help to suggest alternative businesses, support awareness and will also help with monitoring the women in the program, as well as the bushmeat sellers in general, as it is expected that not only those bushmeat sellers in the community volunteer program will change business, but also some of those who will be sensitized by the community volunteers.

Allocated budget: 





Represented on the Project Board Yes





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

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

The budget amount allocated to WCF also includes the allocated budgets for FDA, FTI and LMA. The budget for these partners will be managed by WCF

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

 [All letters of support WCF-compressed](#)
 22/03/2022
 16:21:05
 pdf 2.4 MB

 [IWTcoverletter](#)
 22/03/2022
 15:13:35
 pdf 171.3 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead partner.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered? 01 January 2000

What is the legal status of your organisation? NGO

How is your organisation currently funded?

WCF Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire are primarily funded through grants from government and philanthropic conservation agencies and foundations. A small component of funding is acquired through private donations. The largest overall finance component for the entire organisation, however, contributes to the Guinea Moyen-Bafing National Park project in Guinea, which is mainly funded by two bauxite mining companies: Guinea Alumina Corporation (GAC) and Compagnie de Bauxite de Guinée (CBG) who fund WCF through their Moyen-Bafing Biodiversity Offset Program.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Aims | WCF's primary mission is to ensure the survival of West African chimpanzee populations and their tropical forest habitat of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem through evidenced-based, science-driven species and habitat conservation and research projects that integrate local communities and their livelihood needs. |
| Activities | Activities include the creation and sustainable management of protected areas, biomonitoring and bushmeat research, regeneration of degraded environments, supporting law enforcement, reducing habitat destruction and illegal wildlife trade, capacity building for local communities and partners, community engagement and environmental education, socio-economic and demographic surveys, livelihood support, ecotourism and infrastructure development. |
| Achievements | Creation of Grebo-Krahn and Moyen-Bafing National Parks in Liberia and Guinea, ongoing gazettelement of Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area in Liberia, and Outamba-Kilimi-Kuru-Pinselli-Soyah proposed national park in Guinea. Transboundary initiatives Tai-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo and OKKPS landscapes, supporting collaboration and exchange, law enforcement, protected area and community-based management, alternative livelihoods, and environmental outreach. |

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

| | |
|--|--|
| Contract/Project 1 Title | Strengthening Local Communities and the Law Enforcement Network to combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Liberia |
| Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) | ██████████ |
| Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months) | 3 years 6 months |
| Role of organisation in project | Lead Partner |
| Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project | The project works with local communities to empower them to be actively involved in the management and protection of forest and wildlife resources. It supports the national community ecoguard program and the pilot community volunteer program with women bushmeat sellers. Community-based efforts are complemented and supported by equipping Liberia with the legal framework and law enforcement capacity through the establishment of the Wildlife Crime Task Force to ensure a sustained fight against IWT in the country, working with all stakeholders across relevant sectors. IWT-related training and awareness activities are key to the project. |
| Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) | European Union Stephan Cocco (EEAS-MONROVIA): ██████████ |

| | |
|--|--|
| Contract/Project 2 Title | Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Management of the Tai-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo Transboundary Forest Landscape (TGKS) |
| Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) | ██████████ |
| Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months) | 3 years |
| Role of organisation in project | Project Leader (no other direct project partners) |
| Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project | <p>The aim was to support improved Multi-Stakeholder Management of the TGKS Transboundary Forest Landscape between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire to improve the connection between in-country forest blocks and across borders through: Interventions strengthening forest conservation, protecting biodiversity, securing connectivity, and building stakeholder capacity for transboundary biodiversity conservation;</p> <p>Supporting innovative policies and governance systems that empower key institutional partners to effectively implement transboundary conservation;</p> <p>Promoting livelihood activities that contribute to improved wellbeing of communities and reduce adverse impacts on the forest;</p> <p>Promoting learning and sharing of knowledge, attitudes, and best practices that strengthen local interventions or enhance national and regional policies.</p> |
| Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) | <p>West African Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABiCC)/ Tetra Tech Stephen Kelleher ██████████</p> |
| Contract/Project 3 Title | Support for Community Ecoguard Program and community-based Ecotourism in southeastern Liberia to protect Liberia's remaining critically endangered chimpanzees |
| Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) | ██████████ |
| Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months) | 1 year |
| Role of organisation in project | Project Leader (no other direct project partners) |
| Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project | <p>The project is an ongoing initiative supported for the past six years, which aims to reduce illegal activities in Grebo-Krahn and Sapo National Parks, as well as Krahn-Bassa and Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Areas, aiming at the long-term protection of chimpanzees and other biodiversity, while providing jobs to local community members through the community ecoguard program. At Sapo National Park, the project is supporting a community-based ecotourism initiative and the activities of the Sapo Ecolodge, in particular empowering local women. Outcome of the project is awareness raising, law enforcement, monitoring, creating sustainable livelihoods, reducing illegal activities and developing community-based ecotourism activities.</p> |

**Client/independent
reference contact details
(Name, e-mail)**

Rainforest Rescue / Rettet den Regenwald e.V.
Mathias Rittgerott: [REDACTED]
Dr. Bettina Behrend: [REDACTED]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

I apply for a grant of

[REDACTED]

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see [Financial Guidance](#)) are also enclosed.

Checked





Name

PROF. CHRISTOPHE BOESCH

**Position in the
organisation**

President





**Signature (please
upload e-signature)**

 [esignature_CBoesch](#)
 22/03/2022
 13:35:26
 pdf 21.11 KB





Date

22 March 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [WCF Audits 2019 2020](#)
 22/03/2022
 13:35:43
 pdf 1.23 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [WCF Liberia code of conduct and procedures and management policy](#)
 22/03/2022
 13:36:03
 pdf 1.13 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|---------|
| I have read the Guidance, including the "IWT Challenge Fund Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance". | Checked |
| I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund. | Checked |
| I have provided actual start and end dates for the project. | Checked |
| I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP. | Checked |
| I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application. | Checked |
| The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable). | Checked |
| I have attached my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided | Checked |
| (If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form. | Checked |
| I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not. | Checked |
| I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not. | Checked |
| I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant. | Checked |
| I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30. | Checked |
| I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not. | Checked |

I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, or provided an explanation if not. Checked

I have checked the IWT Challenge Fund website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates. Checked

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the IWT Challenge Fund website. Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).