Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information
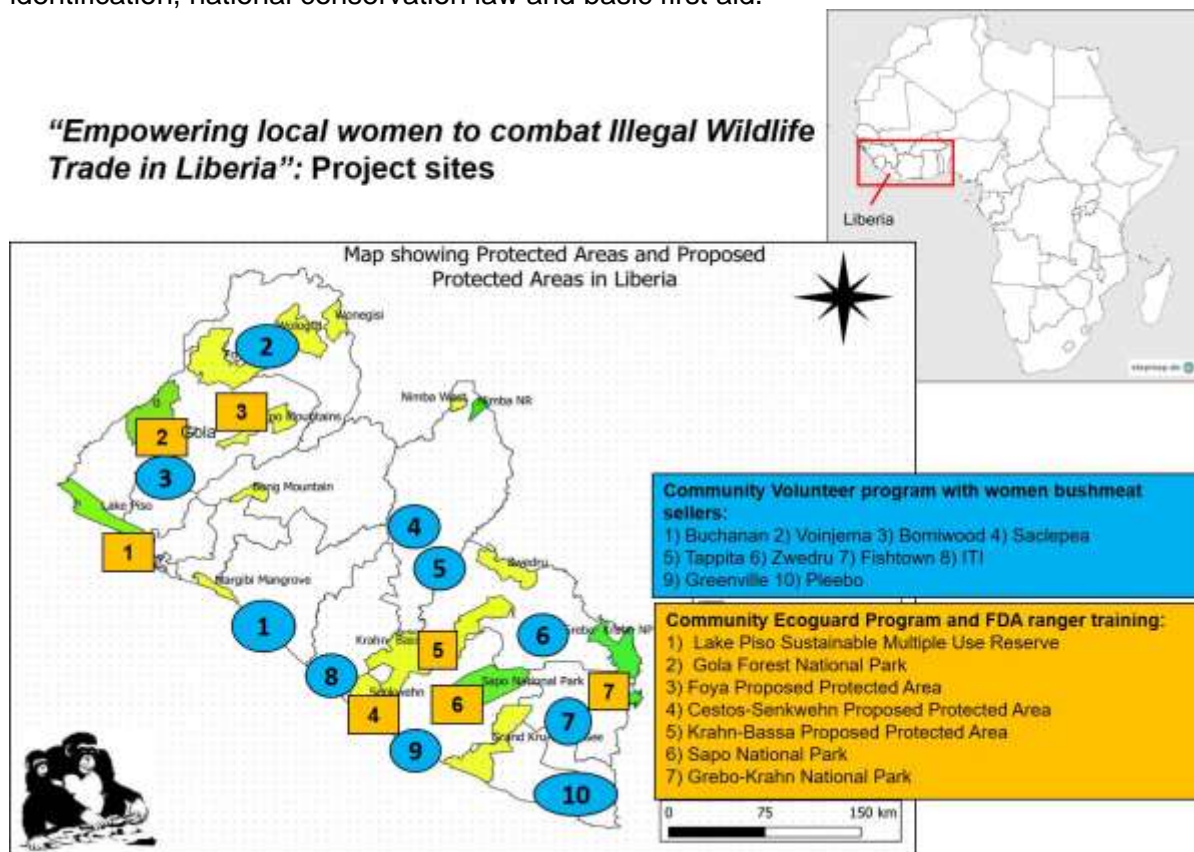
Project reference	IWT 118
Project title	Empowering local women to reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade in Liberia
Country/ies	Liberia
Lead Partner	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
Project partner(s)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary (LiWiSa)
IWTCF grant value	£533,278.00
Start/end dates of project	July 2022 – December 2024
Reporting period (e.g. April 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Hedwige Boesch-Acherman
Project website/blog/social media	www.wildchimps.org www.facebook.com/wildchimps www.linkedin.com/company/15740334
Report author(s) and date	Tarik Bodasing – 25/04/2024 Dr. Annika Hillers – 29/04/2024

1.   Project summary

The project aims to reduce the demand for bushmeat and other wildlife 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 collaborate closely with the community ecoguards. These activities build upon successful pilot projects and are complementary to ongoing community engagement and law enforcement network activities. The project expands on the proven successful collaboration with female bushmeat sellers, targeting major bushmeat hubs and allowing the women to shift to viable, legal businesses. Such interventions have previously been tested in smaller scale pilot projects and have yielded positive results showing in particular that the involvement of the local women, empowering them to change their IWT-based livelihoods to legal and viable alternatives, reduces the pressure on Liberian wildlife and increases public knowledge about the law and protected species.

The project specifically targets 300 female bushmeat sellers in at least ten major bushmeat hubs throughout rural Liberia. These hubs were identified through information obtained from the Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF), as well as additional bushmeat market surveys conducted during this project. The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) have been working with the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA) in order to conduct the bushmeat market surveys, including bushmeat sellers' income surveys. LMA is also helping to identify female bushmeat sellers at each bushmeat hub to be trained and participate in the program, which includes mentoring and payment of regular stipends, in return of regular awareness raising conducted at the respective markets.

The project also increases the number of female community ecoguards in the national community ecoguard program at seven (Proposed) Protected Areas (P)PAs in Liberia (Sapo, Gola Forest and Grebo-Krahn National Parks, Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve, and Krahn-Bassa and Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Areas). The number of women in the program was still low at some sites (Sapo and Gola Forest National Parks, Cestos-Senkwehn and Foya PPAs, and Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve). WCF is working with FDA, FTI, SCNL and RSPB to increase the number of female ecoguards to at least ten women per site, and ensure regular monitoring of the community ecoguard teams by mentoring, and strengthening the FDA community ecoguard unit. Sites with more female ecoguards show higher program success, with significant reduction of illegal activities, such as poaching for live trade and bushmeat consumption. The project provides training in SMART mobile, navigation, protected species identification, national conservation law and basic first aid.

Map depicting the areas of project intervention in Liberia

Rangers at the (P)PAs are currently not patrolling regularly, and are not using standardized protocols for patrolling, and for recording wildlife, and wildlife crime. Protected area rangers are also not fully collaborating with local community ecoguards and communities. In order to improve collaboration between the FDA Protected Area Division, local communities and law enforcement authorities, WCF and partners are building the rangers' capacity and establishing a standardized system for how the rangers will use the information collected by the community ecoguards for targeted law enforcement missions. Selected rangers are receiving additional training from Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary (LiWiSa) on animal care as well as the WCTF on wildlife crime case management, allowing them to follow up on cases of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and on animals released back to the wild, after confiscation and successful care at LiWiSa.

Overall, the project is creating opportunities for positive collaboration with local forest fringe communities through strengthening of relationships, direct employment for youth and marginalized groups and conservation of critical natural resources in the landscape.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project works with three direct project partners and three key stakeholders. The three partners are the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary (LiWiSa).

SCNL provides technical advice and supervision for the community ecoguard program in north western Liberia (Gola Forest National Park, Foya Proposed Protected Area, Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve) and contributes to the capacity building of FDA rangers.

RSPB is assisting WCF in all aspects of project coordination and liaising with partners as required. RSPB collaborates with WCF to provide technical advice, training, and supervision for the community ecoguard program (particularly in the north-west regions) and mentors the FDA community ecoguard unit to build their capacity. This also includes technical advice and training on the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).

LiWiSa's role is to participate in IWT awareness raising in bushmeat markets and communities and in training community ecoguards in supporting the monitoring of released animals.

The three key stakeholder of the project are the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the Forestry Training Institute (FTI), and the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA).

FDA is the main project key stakeholder and all activities are planned and implemented together with FDA. FDA staff are actively participating in all project activities, mainly as supervisors for key activities, and FDA is also benefiting from training and capacity building in the project. FDA's ownership and capacity building are invaluable for the sustainability and success of the project.

FTI graduates and interns are involved in the bushmeat market and community ecoguard activities of the project. With WCF, FDA and LMA, FTI is responsible for the bushmeat market and bushmeat sellers' income surveys. Twenty FTI students were trained in data collection methods and 12 then conducted the initial survey in 17 bushmeat markets throughout Liberia. Two FTI graduates are working as long-term interns with the National Community Ecoguard Unit, the monitoring of community ecoguard teams and the related database.

LMA is fully involved in the planning, coordination and monitoring of the community volunteer program with the female bushmeat sellers in the bushmeat market hubs selected throughout Liberia. LMA is represented through their market superintendents in each market, who helped with the identification of the female bushmeat sellers. They help to suggest alternative businesses, support awareness and 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.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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

Activity 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
Initial survey carried out at 17 markets across Liberia in September 2022. Ten of these markets were then selected for the community volunteer programme intervention which is still ongoing at the final two markets (Pleebo and Fishtown) but due to finish by June 2024.

Following the certification ceremony and final payment at these two markets a post-intervention survey will be conducted at all 10 target markets by FTI graduates.

Evidence: Final bushmeat market survey report, presentation on bushmeat market survey pre and post intervention, attendance sheets.

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

As of 31 March 2024, 300 female bushmeat sellers from all 10 target markets have been engaged in the community volunteer program, and so far 272 were observed to have converted to legal business enterprises (20 in Buchanan, 25 in Voinjama, 30 in Bomi Wood; 30 in Saclepea, 35 in Tappita, 30 in ITI, 20 in Greenville, 32 in Zwedru, 30 in Pleebo, and 20 in Fishtown). The only two markets, where non-compliances were observed, were Voinjema (10 women out of 35) and Zwedru (18 women out of 50). In Pleebo and Fishtown, the monitoring is still ongoing in order to confirm the long-term change, but the first monitoring visit showed full compliance.

For five markets (Buchanan, Bomiwood, Saclepea, Tappita, and Voinjema) certification ceremonies were held with 222 community volunteers who successfully changed to legal businesses. Except from Bomiwood, representatives from the British Embassy (the Ambassador, his Deputy, or the Programme & Political Liaison Officer) were part of the programs, during which also wider awareness was raised about the program, the laws and protected species.

In June 2024, the M&E Officer of the project will make a final visit to all markets, to evaluate the change in income of the community volunteers, which will allow to make a final evaluation of this program and help to make potential recommendations for the future.

Evidence: Community volunteer agreements with all women signed on to program; monitoring and compliance reports from program pre and post intervention.

Former female bushmeat sellers/community volunteers who have successfully transitioned into legal businesses and received certificates in Voinjema, with the British Deputy Ambassador.

Former female bushmeat sellers/community volunteers who have successfully transitioned into legal businesses and received certificates in Saclepea (left) and Buchanan (right), with the Programme & Political Liaison Officer and the British Ambassador, respectively.

Activity 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

As of 31 March 2024, 300 women have received training at 10 major bushmeat markets across Liberia (20 in Buchanan, 30 in Bomiwood, 35 in Voinjema, 30 in Saclepea, 35 in Tappita, 50 Zwedru, 30 in ITI, 20 in Greenville, 30 in Pleebo, and 20 Fishtown). Training was provided in protected species identification, zoonoses and the National Wildlife Conservation Act. Further training on awareness raising methods and platforms was provided with the expectation that the trainees would be able to conduct awareness raising in their respective communities.

Evidence: Attendance sheets of training and community volunteer agreements signed, pictures from training.

Female bushmeat sellers trained as community volunteers in Fishtown (left) and Pleebo (right) in January 2024.

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

The community volunteers (female (ex-) bushmeat sellers) are generating a positive attitude toward wildlife conservation through periodic awareness-raising events and behaviour-change activities. During the reporting period from April 2023 to March 2024, the community volunteers conducted at least 84 awareness raising events in 28 communities/local markets in Liberia, educating at least 3,501 people (1,970 women and 1,531 men). Additional awareness-raising was done by newly recruited community volunteers in Pleebo and Fishtown in February-March 2024, but due to the remoteness of these markets, and as the local market superintendents are not using emails or WhatsApp, it was not possible to get the full updates on the awareness activities in these two markets prior to the submission of this report. The complete update will be part of the next report, Community volunteer awareness-raising was supported by active centralized awareness-raising campaigns or events run by WCF and partners in Liberia, often to coincide with special days dedicated to biodiversity conservation. WCF and partners conducted five national awareness-raising events, including female bushmeat sellers and community ecoguards in Saclepea (200 persons), Zwedru (141), Jalay Town/Sapo National Park (120), Ziah Town/Grebo-Krahn National Park (75) and Kumah Town (75) over the reporting period as part of World Chimpanzee Day celebrations. Furthermore, the community volunteer certification ceremonies in Buchanan, Voinjema and Bomiwood were done in February and March 2024 and attracted additional community members who were educated through these special programs.

Evidence: Work plans, attendance sheets, and awareness events reporting forms.

World Chimpanzee Day Celebration in Saclepea, also led by the local community volunteers.
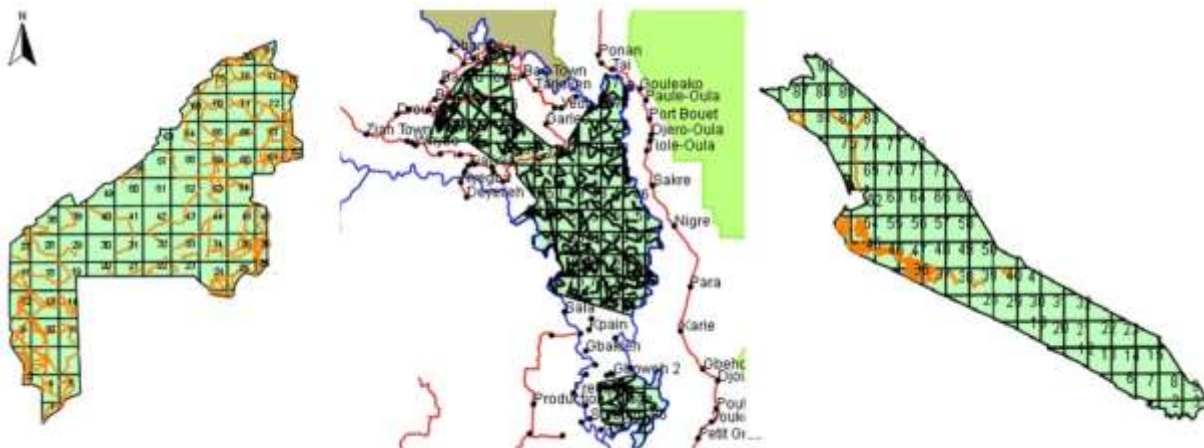
Awareness conducted by community volunteers in Saclepea market (left and middle), and World Chimpanzee Day Celebration in Zwedru, led by the community volunteers and with female ecoguards.

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

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

Thirty-seven community ecoguard teams with female community ecoguards are actively patrolling in six (proposed) protected areas: Grebo-Krahn National Park (8 mixed teams), Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area/Proposed Kwa National Park (10 mixed teams), Gola Forest National Park (10 mixed teams), Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve (2 female teams), Sapo National Park (4 mixed teams) and Foya Proposed Protected Area (3 mixed teams).

Evidence: SMART monthly or quarterly patrol reports and annual reports, patrol maps and community ecoguard stipend payment registers.

Examples of maps showing patrol coverage for Gola Forest National Park (left), Grebo-Krahn National Park (middle) and Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve (right) for the period April 2023 – March 2024.

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

As of 31 March 2024, 72 female ecoguards are supported by the project and are going on regular patrol in six (Proposed) Protected Areas: Grebo-Krahn National Park (15), Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area (14), Gola Forest National Park (10), Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve (10), Foya Proposed Protected Area (10) and Sapo National Park (13). Finally, it is expected that also in Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Area the community ecoguard will restart in May 2024, with additional female ecoguards.

Evidence: SMART monthly or quarterly patrol reports, patrol maps, and community ecoguard stipend payment registers.

Ecoguards on surveillance patrol at Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve (left), Foya Proposed Protected Area (middle), and Sapo National Park (right).

3. Capacity of FDA rangers increased at (proposed) protected areas

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

In addition to 57 rangers trained in year 1, from April 2023 to March 2024 (project year 2), 45 FDA rangers and 17 FDA (law enforcement) auxiliaries were trained in various topics. This brings the total number of rangers trained in the project to 102, and to 119 including the FDA auxiliaries. In August 2023, 15 wildlife crime focal persons (two per (Proposed) Protected Area and one ranger based at the Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary), and five other members of the Wildlife Crime Task Force participated in a 4-day training course on wildlife crime investigation and animal handling and release. Furthermore, FDA law enforcement auxiliaries active at Grebo-Krahn National Park were also trained for three days in January 2024. All were trained in evidence collection, handling and processing, wildlife crime laws, confiscation and safe handling of threatened species, and on wildlife crime electronic data collection using Survey 123 and the Wildlife Crime data entry form. In February 2024, another five FDA auxiliaries were trained in the community ecoguard methodology and SMART data collection, in collaboration with a new EU-funded project, which is also led by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and includes the same partners, with one additional local NGO partner.

Evidence: Attendance registers from training sessions and workshops, number of arrests and seizures deploying correct protocols, number of cases uploaded to ESRI Wildlife Crime database

FDA ranger focal points and Wildlife Crime Task Force members practicing use of the ESRI Wildlife Crime database on smartphone Survey 123 application in August 2023 (left), and FDA Law Enforcement Auxiliary training in Zwedru in January 2024 (right).

Activity 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

The project has continued to work with FDA to ensure that the SMART reports can help the ranger patrol planning for improved law enforcement. FDA rangers and law enforcement auxiliaries have been trained at six proposed and established protected areas, and are actively patrolling with community ecoguards in areas of restricted ranger capacity or staff shortages. At Grebo-Krahn National Park (GKNP), the FDA Law Enforcement Auxiliaries are patrolling with FDA rangers since September 2023, and their patrol planning is fully guided by the data collected by the community ecoguards and the respective SMART reports. This approach has already led to the first ever prosecutions and convictions of three arrested poachers at GKNP in early 2024,

since GKNP's establishment in 2017. Likewise, three poachers were arrested, prosecuted and convicted at Sapo National Park (SNP) in early 2024, following the information provided by the ecoguards patrolling in the SNP tourism zone. The two FTI graduates continue to work with the SMART Focal Unit of FDA twice a week and have established a functional centralized database at the headquarters with SMART data covering almost all of Liberia protected area network.

Evidence: *Community Ecoguard Patrol Manuals, SMART reports and database*

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Baseline	Change to date	Remainder	Indicator	Evidence source
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 – Already achieved				
No female bushmeat sellers signed up to intervention program and have received training outside of Monrovia & Paynesville	300 female sellers	-	300 women signed up to intervention program and received training	Community volunteer agreements female bushmeat sellers per market; stipend payment slips post training, awareness records
No markets outside Monrovia surveyed for bushmeat sales	17 markets surveyed	-	10 markets successfully surveyed at start of program	Bushmeat market survey report
No awareness events conducted	84 (additional events from 2 markets will be added in next report)	-	60 awareness raising events conducted	Attendance list; photos, awareness event forms
Output 2: Community Ecoguard Program supported in 7 (proposed) protected areas, with increased number of female participants – certainly to be achieved				
28 female ecoguards participating in ecoguard patrols	44 additional females ecoguards recruited	-	70 female ecoguards	Community ecoguard database; SMART reports
42 ecoguard patrols with females taking place the 7 protected areas per year (105 in 2.5 years)	203 patrols	7	210 patrols conducted (previous number of patrols doubled)	Community ecoguard database; SMART reports
Number of observed illegal activities in protected areas per each (proposed) protected area	Comparison with baselines for four out of six areas shows reduction of illegal activities between 9.1 and 43.7 % (Krahn-Bassa 9.1% reduction, Grebo-Krahn 17.4% reduction, Gola 35% reduction, Lake Piso 43.7% reduction)	Comparison for two areas without baseline prior to the project pending (Sapo and Cestos-Senkwehn); final reduction will only be known at the end of project	10% reduction in illegal activities in old areas and 20% in new	Community ecoguard database, SMART database and reports. Annual SMART reports
Output 3: Capacity of FDA rangers increased at (proposed) protected areas – already achieved				
7 rangers trained in community ecoguard methods, wildlife crime protocols and animal care	119	-	100 rangers trained	Attendance sheets; SMART reports from FDA, Wildlife crime database
Systems established for rangers to use data to conduct awareness and inform law enforcement	2	0	2 systems established	SMART reports, National Community Ecoguard database; ESRI Wildlife Crime Database

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

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

The outcome is likely to be achieved. At this stage the indicators still appear appropriate to evaluate the expected outcome.

Indicator	Baseline	Progress	Likelihood of delivery	Evidence
10 broader communities receive awareness on wildlife conservation issues and law	No communities around target markets receive awareness	Full achieved, as community volunteers in eight markets conducted awareness, and special events were conducted in at least three additional locations	Already delivered	Attendance registers for awareness events; photos, awareness record sheets
Bushmeat sales in markets reduced by 50% by sellers changing business	Bushmeat sales very high at target markets; all female sellers selling bushmeat	Unknown, will only be known after the post intervention market survey	High	Post market intervention survey report
Bushmeat sellers increase income by 10% after changing business	Current salary of bushmeat sellers before changing business	Unknown, will only be known from post intervention survey	Unknown	Post intervention market survey report
70 local community women provided with livelihoods alternative to bushmeat trade, through community ecoguard program	28 young females in communities around Protected Areas employed as community ecoguards	72 women currently employed as community ecoguards across 6 target (proposed) protected areas	Already delivered	Agreements with female community ecoguards; stipend payment slips
More effective wildlife crime law enforcement through 100 better-trained FDA rangers	7 rangers from FDA trained in community ecoguard methods, wildlife crime and animal handling protocols	102 rangers and 17 FDA (law enforcement) auxiliaries trained	Already delivered	Training reports; photos

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Local stakeholders are interested in awareness raising campaigns, are willing to participate, and are receptive to changing practices
Comments: Relevant for Outcome and Outputs 1 & 2. Successful recruitment of 300 female bushmeat sellers to intervention programme and employment of 72 female ecoguards to project indicates that this assumption is holding true and there is significant interest from women to participate in these conservation and alternative livelihood activities.

Assumption 2: Stability of the COVID-19 pandemic (national regulation dependent):
Comments: Relevant for Outcome and Output 1. No issues relating to project delivery as Covid-19 levels remain low and have not affected any activities across any of the Outputs.

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

The targeted positive impact of the project is the following: 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.

The engagement of 300 female bushmeat sellers as community volunteers is a significant step in reducing illegal wildlife trade and is a high-level intervention. Removal of these women from major bushmeat markets, as well as further positive impacts through the awareness activities conducted by them with their former colleagues and other bushmeat stakeholders will result in a considerable decrease in bushmeat sales (indicated in the initial bushmeat survey report) and potentially also reduce trade in wildlife between sellers and hunters. However, it remains to be seen whether the change is temporary due to the intervention program, or if it lasts beyond the implementation period of the project. The actual percentage reduction also will only be measured at the end of the final market survey (final bushmeat survey report). Nevertheless, the high level of collaboration with the Liberia Marketing Association and the fact that they are not allowing new bushmeat sellers to come in and fill the gap, is a source of optimism and hope, that this intervention is bringing long-term change.

Additionally, recruitment, training and support for 72 female ecoguards from the community is a major step in combatting local scale wildlife trade. Many young women may turn to selling bushmeat around protected areas and those employed as female ecoguards are now patrolling protected areas and reporting on illegal activities. This equates to more boots on the ground (support for FDA) and a greater presence of disruptive enforcement, which can reduce illegal wildlife trade. SMART reports indicate the level of enforcement on ecoguard patrols and disruptive influence on illegal activity.

Besides providing regular financial support to the community volunteers (US$ 60 per volunteer per month for six month) and the female community ecoguards (US$150 per mission, bi-monthly missions), the project is providing substantial skills training to young women, including training in advanced patrol protocols, wildlife identification and use of equipment (use of compass, GPS, SMART Mobile). The new skills and regular secure income are increasing the socioeconomic status of the women and their level of independence, as well as their overall wellbeing. Both program are helping those women involved in illegal bushmeat trade to change to legal, more sustainable activities, with less risk and stress.

The project also increases the capacity of several key partners including the Forestry Training Institute (FTI; recruitment of graduates to SMART Focal Unit and as FDA auxiliaries) and FDA (ranger, law enforcement auxiliaries, and SMART Focal Unit training as well as the WCTF), which will allow for more effective and more professional implementation of activities.

4. Thematic focus

The project is working to support all IWT Challenge Fund themes: 1) Reducing demand for IWT products, 2) Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents, 3) Strengthening law enforcement, and 4) Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT. An increase in female community ecoguards combined with more frequent patrols and awareness in and around protected areas supports themes 1, 2 and 3 by increasing awareness on the law and protected species, the deterrent effects on the ground and strengthening the law enforcement impacts by supporting ranger patrols and recording of illegal activity. Awareness attendance sheets, SMART patrol coverage maps and SMART reports provide evidence to support this action. Concurrently, the project is also supporting theme 4 by providing sustainable alternative livelihoods for those impacted by IWT in communities. This is being done through engagement of 300 female bushmeat sellers to the community volunteer intervention programme. The agreements signed by female bushmeat sellers at the different markets is evidence of this action. In addition, the 72 female ecoguards are receiving bi-monthly stipends to participate in a conservation friendly activity that also supports sustainable conservation practices. Stipend payment slips and SMART databases at the different protected areas are evidence of this support.

5. Impact on species in focus

The project is aiming to ensure a positive impact on not only one, but series of threatened species, such as critically endangered chimpanzees and forest elephants, the endangered pygmy hippopotamus, three different species of pangolins, threatened monkeys and duikers. In particular duikers, monkeys and pangolins are targeted by the bushmeat and pet trade.

The project is providing intense training for female bushmeat sellers, ecoguards and FDA rangers and law enforcement auxiliaries, and the WCTF on protected species and the wildlife law. Furthermore, community ecoguard patrols and the engagement of female bushmeat sellers are reducing the pressure from illegal poaching and the demand for bushmeat.

6. Project support to poverty reduction

The project has provided direct financial support to 300 female bushmeat sellers engaged as community volunteers over year 1 & 2, who raise awareness in their respective markets and committed to shift from selling bushmeat to sustainable and legal alternatives (Indicators 1.2 and 1.3). Furthermore, the project provided regular stipends for all 72 female community ecoguards for forest patrols and awareness (Indicator 2.2).

The project also supports two FTI graduates, who are working as long-term interns to support the national community ecoguard unit and are leading on the establishment of the national SMART database for the community ecoguard data at central FDA. Considering the average household size in Liberia, these figures can be multiplied by five, to estimate the number of indirect beneficiaries of the project. This would mean that on top of 374 direct beneficiaries (of which 373 are women), 1,870 indirect beneficiaries have been reached.

Besides the direct financial support, all community volunteers, community ecoguards, interns and FDA rangers and law enforcement auxiliaries involved in the project are obtaining new skills and knowledge on biodiversity and conservation, and their value for Liberia and beyond, through training, mentoring and awareness, which will further contribute to poverty alleviation in the short, medium and long term. The project directly targets the women in the communities located around the (proposed) protected areas who are involved in bushmeat trade, as well as female bushmeat sellers in Liberia. They all are not only exposed to a risk by engaging into a criminal activity, but also are most likely to be the first affected by potential zoonotic diseases such as Ebola.

The training for FDA rangers and law enforcement auxiliaries has already started to lead to an improved protection of the (proposed) protected areas and thus to an improved security situation, also for local communities. The training leads to improved skills and collaboration with the community ecoguards and host communities in general (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2). So far, already 102 rangers and 17 auxiliaries have received the relevant training.

The evidence for the achievements so far includes training attendance sheets, payment sheets for stipends, work plans, SMART reports, and pictures, as well as law enforcement outcomes such as number of seizures or arrests and number of new records over the last year of the project captured in the Wildlife Crime database.

7. Gender equality and social inclusion

The main focus of the project is on local women involved in the bushmeat trade and sale in the local communities around (proposed) protected areas and major bushmeat market hubs. The community volunteer program targets 300 female bushmeat sellers (Indicators 1.2 and 1.3), the community ecoguard program supports 72 female ecoguards (Indicator 2.2). The initially targeted number of 70 has been overachieved by the project. Training attendance sheets and reports, community volunteer and community ecoguard agreements, pictures, and the community ecoguard database give evidence.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	50%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	50%

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

8.   Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation plays a vital role in recording the successes of the IWT CF project. It provides quality data to inform management decisions that eventually lead to greater accountability and lessons learnt. To ensure an effective and efficient system for tracking the project indicators, a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan was developed for the project in November 2022. Subsequently, relevant stakeholders and project partners updated the plan on 19 January 2023 and a workshop was facilitated by the M&E Officer to train all project partners and key staff in the plan. The purpose of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan is to track and assess the project indicators and to ensure that activities and plans are going according to schedules. All indicators were disaggregated and units of measurement were established. This helps to ensure that project data are properly collected, stored, and used for decision-making, accountability (both to donor and local community/partners) and learning purposes. Additionally, an indicator tracking tool (ITT), and other output monitoring tools were developed to assist with tracking awareness raising events under the project. The training assessment exit questionnaire and attendance sheet were updated. The updated attendance sheet disaggregates the age ranges of participants to include youth (<35) and adults (>35) years.

All project-related data are collected from relevant partners and field staff on a monthly basis. Data relating to training attendance, ecoguard patrols, awareness, and community volunteers are entered into a database every month. Data collection during this reporting period is spread across different landscapes and partners. For example, 12 interns from the Forestry Training Institute supported the collection of the project baseline data using the KoboCollect toolbox in 17 targeted locations. Data from the field were imported appropriately into a database system. To validate the quality of the data, the M&E Officer ensures that both primary and secondary data are verified using a number of data verification standards. Where feasible, additional interviews or discussions were initiated to further validate particular information such as the number of participants at a training. In such cases, verification with training participants using simple random sampling is critical to ensuring that the project is registering the intended change or hitting the right targets. M&E processes during this project are expected to be participatory, integrating both the project beneficiaries and stakeholders to keep up to speed with the progress of the project indicators.

Under the IWT Challenge Fund project *"Empowering Local Women to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade in Liberia"*, 300 bushmeat sellers were recruited, trained and they formally committed to changing business to legal enterprises (Indicators 1.2 and 1.3). These bushmeat sellers have become part of the WCF's community volunteer program through signing agreements. As part of this agreement, community volunteers pledged their full support to conservation policies, particularly the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of Liberia (2016). Recruitment commenced in early February 2023 and was completed in January 2024.

Indicators of achievement are: **Indicator 1.1** Bushmeat market and bushmeat sellers' income survey conducted in 10 major Liberian cities at the beginning and end of the project. Interns from the Forestry Training Institute carried out the project baseline data collection in 17 targeted market locations in Liberia. **Indicator 1.3** Number of female bushmeat sellers trained in relevant laws, protected species, the importance of wildlife, risks of zoonotic diseases, and awareness communication methods (disaggregated by county and district). As of 31 March 2024, 300 female bushmeat sellers have been engaged in ten targeted market locations. Regular monitoring exercises showed a high level of compliance among the community volunteers, except from two locations, where in total 28 women did not comply. This indicates that in these locations the market leadership from the Liberia Marketing Association may also be less active and less interested in working with the community volunteers, to support them in changing to legal businesses. **Indicator 2.1** Number of patrols carried out annually by community ecoguards in 7 (proposed) protected areas disaggregated by landscape: Since the start of the project, in total 203 patrols were conducted in seven (proposed) protected areas: Grebo-Krahn National Park (65), Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area (35), Sapo National Park (24), Cestos-Senkwehn (3), Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve (18), Gola Forest National Park (46), Foya Proposed Protected Area (12). **Indicator 2.2** Number of female ecoguards trained, equipped, and patrolling in 7 (P)PAs (disaggregated by landscape). Currently, 72 female community ecoguards have been trained, equipped and are carrying out patrols in (proposed) protected areas.

Please refer to the SMART report for details. **Indicator 3.1** Number of FDA rangers trained in community ecoguard program methods, patrol planning, and wildlife crime law enforcement protocols: 102 FDA rangers and 17 FDA (law enforcement) auxiliaries.

9.   Lessons learnt

The design and implementation of the national bushmeat market survey and the follow up recruitment of female bushmeat sellers at various markets across Liberia worked extremely well. The response was better than expected in terms of number of women interested in participating in the program, and the project has recruited all targeted 300 female bushmeat sellers as community volunteers. In most markets, additional women were interested in participating, but could not be accepted, as the total number was limited to 300 in this project. In eight markets the program has been completed, and the monitoring has shown that in the two markets where the project is still running (Pleebo and Fishtown), all 50 women have changed to legal businesses, which will be fully confirmed through additional monitoring. If there are no further changes, the project would have helped 90.67% of the 300 to change to legal businesses and to stop selling bushmeat, which would be a great success. The 28 women who so far did not comply were found in only two markets (Zwedru and Voinjema), which indicates that also the leadership in these markets (the market superintendents) may have been less active in supporting and interacting with the community volunteers. Also, for big central locations in largely forested areas far away from the coast, as it is the case for Zwedru and Voinjema, reducing the demand for bushmeat may be more difficult. Possibly, more awareness, monitoring and closer supervision could have helped to achieve a better result. However, an overall success rate of 90.67% is seen as a big success, showing that the work with the female bushmeat sellers is very effective. The final market surveys and income monitoring will shed more light in the sustainability of this activity.

Also with regard to the community ecoguard patrols and the use of the SMART data for the planning of law enforcement patrols some progress could be made in year 2 of the project. Due to some restructuring within FDA, much improved collaboration could be established with the FDA Forest Law Enforcement Department, which now is also coordinating the Wildlife Crime Task Force.

In particular at Sapo National Park, at least in the tourism zone of the park, the situation has much improved, with a fully functional ecoguard program and an increased number of teams. Similarly, the number of teams has recently increased at Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple Use Reserve. It is expected that the community ecoguard program will also restart at Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Area.

Much of the initial blockage and delays in the project linked to FDA were caused by the low capacity and very limited leadership in FDA key positions. Some re-structuring and staff rotation have helped to improve the situation, and there is hope that more improvements will be seen with the new management of FDA.

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

The action taken in response to the feedback given for the first annual report was as follows:

1) ***Type and frequency of contact between project partners, and with stakeholders; comment on working relationship between partner organizations:*** The project partners are in constant exchange on project activities and progress, mainly through the project WhatsApp group. Three (SCNL, RSPB, WCF) out of four project partners are based in the same office building and are talking to each other and planning activities almost on a daily basis. Furthermore, regular meetings are held with project partners and key stakeholders. The FDA and the Liberia Marketing Association play vital roles in the project implementation and are regularly working with the project team, at least on a weekly basis. The field teams are regularly meeting and working with the ecoguards, community volunteers, rangers and auxiliaries, at least in a monthly basis.

    The relationship between project partners is very good, open and cordial. All partners worked together in a project before, and another big collaborative project started in January 2024.

2) ***Evidence of project progress:*** Supporting documents will be submitted with this report, including the initial bushmeat market survey report.

3) ***Details on support given to bushmeat sellers in finding alternative livelihoods:*** Together with the respective market superintendents, FDA and WCF are discussing with the women and helping them to change to legal businesses and activities. Most of the women want to stay in the market environment, and the market superintendents are able to give advice on the type of goods that can be sold without too much competition. The market superintendents are helping to mentor the women during the transition. Interestingly, the women so far found it easy to change, and it has not been identified as a major issue that the women do not find an alternative. The monthly stipend that they are receiving for conducting awareness, helps them to make a new start, though it is only a small amount.

11.   Risk Management

The risk register was submitted for this project. There is no update, as no new risk occurred.

12.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project partners are very much grateful for the high level of interest and engagement of the British Embassy in project activities and the willingness to participate in events. Being recognized by the British Embassy and directly interacting with the Embassy representatives has been very encouraging and motivating not only for project partners, but also for the key stakeholders, such as the female bushmeat sellers/community volunteers.

13.   Sustainability and legacy

Overall, there has been a continuously high level of interest in the project activities, not only from the side of the communities and market areas, but also from the Liberian government, lawmakers, civil society organizations and even donors. In addition, the strong support from the British Embassy in Liberia and the public presence of the embassy staff linked to our project activities has created a lot of additional awareness about the project. In particular the promotion of the female bushmeat sellers and female community ecoguards through increased skills and awareness have raised attention. FDA and WCF were asked to report on the progress directly to the Liberian Senate, and we have been contacted by a few other donors who are interested in supporting women-led conservation initiatives. We were contacted by a couple of journalists who are interested in portraying some of the women.

So far, we do not have any plans for any specific scientific publication and therefore did not take any action linked to the project's open access plan.

With regard to the sustainability of the project, except from an increased interest from other funding sources, and some additional funding secured from the European Union, including sustainable funding through payment for ecosystem services and REDD+, no changes have been considered for the sustainable post project benefits. However, the increased interest in sustainable and inclusive co-management systems for (proposed) protected areas, as well as formalized benefits for local community members are supporting the community-based conservation activities. This will help to improve both, biodiversity protection and the involvement and wellbeing of local community members, mainly those of women and other marginalized groups.

14.   IWT Challenge Fund identity

The IWT Challenge Fund and the UKAID logos have been displayed on all project equipment and materials, such as project vehicles and laptops. Banners have been produced showing these logos, the project title and partners. These banners have been used for all training sessions and other events. The community volunteer T-Shirts for the female bushmeat sellers are showing the IWT CF and the UKAID logos, as well as the training material.

In all communication, training materials, presentations etc. the contribution of the UK Government has been recognized. The funding of the IWT Challenge Fund has been identified as a distinct project with a stand-alone and clear identity.

There is a good understanding of the IWT Challenge Fund and its purpose within Liberia, in particular among those stakeholders who have been part of previous initiatives to combat IWT. For the past seven years, the FDA and partners have been collaborating well to ensure improved law enforcement in Liberia in particular considering the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law and the protected species of Liberia. The British Embassy in Monrovia is very active in the conservation sector, and has been highly supportive to the IWT CF grantees in the past and now, which has highly increased the knowledge of the Liberian government institutions and other key stakeholders in the IWT Challenge Fund.

WCF has active LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook accounts, as well as a Youtube Channel, where IWT CF project activities have been reported on. These accounts have been linked back to the IWT Challenge Fund/Biodiversity Challenge Funds and its social media channels.

15.   Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes, the M&E Officer (Elemuel Nenwah; ███████████████████ and the Project Coordinator (Tarik Bodasing; ███████████████████) are both responsible to monitor compliance with safeguard protocols.
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	The Project Coordinator has been integral in leading community ecoguard training, which includes relevant safeguard policies and the code of conduct.
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [11] Planned: 100% [11]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. There has not been any particular lesson learned and no particular challenge observed on Safeguarding in the past 12 months.	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. Safeguarding is integrated into every training that WCF conducts. As a major focus of this project is supporting female community ecoguards, relevant safeguard policies and the code of conduct are integral components of the ecoguards' training. An agreement is signed by all ecoguards that the code of conduct is understood and to be abided by. 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. All project participants are educated on the safeguarding policy and how they can contact the team in case of any grievance, thus safeguarding activities are ongoing throughout the project activity cycle.	

16.   Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2023-March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				Co-funding was secured for the WCF office rental and thus less funds were needed for rent.
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				More funds were spent as the project was able to advance faster than planned and most of the targets could already be achieved. Given the delays caused in year 1 and the fact that Southeast regions of Liberia are not very accessible during the rainy season, the project advanced much faster in year 2, and in particular during the dry season. This was dependent on the availability of co-funding during a certain period.
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				The tents and backpacks purchased were cheaper than expected, while additional raingears will have to be purchased during the rainy season.
TOTAL	197,402.53	221,071.95		

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.	███████	██████
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)	████████ (EU PROBIO)	

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

The outstanding achievement of this project is the great success of the community volunteer program with female bushmeat sellers in ten bushmeat hubs across Liberia. Out of 300 female bushmeat sellers trained and engaged, 272 changed to legal businesses (90.67%). This success was achieved through close collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority and the Liberia Marketing Association, who fully support and promote the program, and providing mentorship and guidance to the women who agree to change businesses. Post-action market surveys will help to evaluate the impact on the level of bushmeat trade in the targeted bushmeat markets.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023 - 2024

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
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*		• Recruited and trained more female bushmeat sellers on the community volunteer activity (now 300 in total) • Certificated 140 female ex-bushmeat sellers • Additional female ecoguards recruited (now 72 in total) • Reduced illegal activity in 5 Protected Areas through increased surveillance patrol effort (average reduction 21.04%) • Trained additional FDA rangers and auxiliaries in law enforcement protocols (now 102 rangers and 17 auxiliaries in total)	
Outcome ***Reduction in 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***	• 10 broader communities receive awareness on wildlife conservation issues and law • Bushmeat sales in markets reduced by 50% by sellers changing business • Bushmeat sellers increase income by 10% after changing business • 70 Local community women and youth provided with livelihoods alternative to bushmeat trade, through Community Ecoguard Program • More effective wildlife crime law enforcement through 100 better-trained FDA rangers	• 130% achieved (13/10) • Not yet achieved (survey to be conducted) • Not yet achieved (survey to be conducted) • 103% achieved (72/70 females) • 119% achieved (119/100 rangers and auxiliaries trained)	• Complete CV programme for female bushmeat sellers at remaining 2 markets (Pleebo and Fishtown) • Verify compliance of sellers who have been recruited during post-survey interview • Support ongoing patrols by female community ecoguards at key protected areas • Additional training will be done for rangers and auxiliaries
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**	1.1 Bushmeat market and bushmeat sellers' income surveys conducted in 10 major Liberian cities at beginning and end of project 1.2 300 female bushmeat sellers identified and formally committed to changing business to legal enterprise 1.3 300 female bushmeat sellers trained in relevant laws, protected species, importance of wildlife, risks of zoonotic diseases, and awareness communication methods 1.4 At least 60 awareness-raising events targeting bushmeat markets, consumers, restaurant owners, and schoolchildren	• 300 female ex-bushmeat sellers already recruited and given training at 10 major Liberian bushmeat hubs • 300 female ex-bushmeat sellers already recruited and given training at 10 major Liberian bushmeat hubs • All 300 women that have received training and carried out awareness raising initiatives have formally committed to changing to legal businesses (as per evidence). • A total of 84 awareness events carried out over Year 2. This exceeds the target of 60. Additional awareness was conducted by new community volunteers (further monitoring pending)	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 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		50% Achieved (initial survey)	Plan for end of project survey repeat for comparison (July 2024)
Activity 1.2 Identify 300 female bushmeat sellers in marketplaces and engage them to formally commit to changing business to legal enterprise.		100% achieved (300 bushmeat sellers have been recruited and trained.	None
Activity 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		100% achieved (300)	None
Activity 1.4 Conduct at least 60 awareness-raising events targeting bushmeat markets, consumers, restaurant owners, and schoolchildren		Already reached and exceeded (84)	Additional activities continue at 2 markets
Output 2. **Community Ecoguard Program supported in 7 (proposed) protected areas, with the number of female participants increased**	2.1 At least 210 patrols carried out annually by community ecoguards in 7 (P)PAs 2.2 At least 70 female ecoguards trained, equipped, and patrolling in 7 (P)PAs 2.3 Illegal activities in 7 (P)PAs reduce by 10% on old areas and by 20% in new areas	• 156 surveillance patrols completed in year 2 by community ecoguards in Grebo-Krahn NP, Krahn Bassa PPA, Lake Piso SMUR, Gola Forest NP, Foya PPA and Sapo National Park; in total 203 patrols completed since project start • 72 female ecoguards employed, trained and equipped under the project. • 72 female ecoguards actively patrolling and currently supported under the project • Illegal activities reduced in several PAs (on average 21.04% for 5 areas where baseline existed before project)	
Activity 2.1 Support 35 Community Ecoguard Teams in 7 (proposed) protected areas to carry out 210 patrols		37 ecoguard teams, partially achieved (203/210)	Complete remaining patrols and exceed target
Activity 2.2 Train, equip, and support at least 70 female ecoguards to patrol in 7 (proposed) protected areas		Achieved (72/70)	None
Output 3. **Capacity of FDA rangers increased at (proposed) protected areas**	3.1 100 FDA rangers from 7 (P)PAs trained in Community Ecoguard Program methods, patrol planning, and wildlife crime law enforcement protocols 3.2 Systems established for rangers to use the CEP-collected data, and to conduct awareness-raising with the community ecoguards and other community members	• 45 FDA rangers and 17 auxiliaries provided with training in basic law conservation principles and in wildlife crime and community ecoguard protocols. • SMART Mobile central database in place and updated with all relevant protected areas and latest SMART patrol data on a monthly basis • FDA rangers and WCTF officers trained in new ESRI Wildlife Crime database and Survey 123 data collection app.	
Activity 3.1 Train 100 FDA rangers from 7 (P)PAs in Community Ecoguard Program methods, patrol planning, and wildlife crime law enforcement protocols		Achieved (102/100 rangers + 17 auxiliaries)	None
Activity 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		Achieved	Possible further training in ESRI database

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

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
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 ecoguards for forest patrols and awareness, and capacity building for rangers	0.1 10 broader communities receive awareness on wildlife conservation issues and law 0.2 Bushmeat sales in markets reduced by 50% by sellers changing business 0.3 Bushmeat sellers increase income by 10% after changing business 0.4 70 Local community women and youth provided with livelihoods alternative to bushmeat trade, through Community Ecoguard Program 0.5 More effective wildlife crime law enforcement through 100 better-trained FDA rangers	0.1 Bushmeat survey report, photos 0.2 Bushmeat survey report, Agreement signed with volunteers, annual report 0.3 Bushmeat sellers income survey 0.4 Training report, stipend payment slips 0.5 Training report, Training attendance sheets, CEP database	Stability of the COVID-19 pandemic (national regulation dependent)
Outputs: **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	1.1 Bushmeat market and bushmeat sellers' income surveys conducted in 10 major Liberian cities at beginning and end of project 1.2 300 female bushmeat sellers identified and formally committed to changing business to legal enterprise 1.3 300 female bushmeat sellers trained in relevant laws, protected species, importance of wildlife, risks of zoonotic diseases, and awareness communication methods 1.4 At least 60 awareness-raising events targeting bushmeat markets, consumers, restaurant owners, and schoolchildren	1.1 Bushmeat survey and report, including pre- & post salary survey report 1.2 Agreement signed with volunteers, stipend payment slips 1.3 Attendance sheets, report including results from pre- & post project salary and outcomes surveys, Bushmeat survey report 1.4 Report and photos of the actions, Annual Report, photos, signed receipts	Local stakeholders are interested in awareness raising campaigns, are willing to participate, and are receptive to changing practices Stability of the COVID-19 pandemic (national regulation dependent)
2. Community Ecoguard Program supported in 7 (proposed) protected areas, with the number of female participants increased	2.1 At least 210 patrols carried out annually by community ecoguards in 7 (P)PAs 2.2 At least 70 female ecoguards trained, equipped, and patrolling in 7 (P)PAs 2.3 Illegal activities in 7 (P)Pas reduce by 10% on old areas and by 20% in new areas	2.1 Monthly field reports, CEP database, maps 2.2 Training report and attendance sheets, stipend payment slips, Monthly field reports, CEP database 2.3 SMART reports	Local stakeholders are interested in awareness raising campaigns, are willing to participate, and are receptive to changing practices
3. Capacity of FDA rangers increased at (proposed) protected areas	3.1 100 FDA rangers from 7 (P)PAs trained in Community Ecoguard Program methods, patrol planning, and wildlife crime law enforcement protocols 3.2 Systems established for rangers to use the CEP-collected data, and to conduct	3.1 Training attendance sheets and reports, CEP database 3.2 Monthly field reports, CEP database, Annual report	

	awareness-raising with the community ecoguards and other community members		

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 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

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1   Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Old project Code	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF - CO1	N/A	Number of people reported with changed behaviour in IWT post-intervention	Number of people with changed behaviour in IWT post-intervention	People	Gender: female Survey type: Structured direct observation	85	187	0	272	300
IWTCF – CO2	N/A	Number and type of IWT behaviour change materials produced / Number and type of IWT behaviour change materials distributed	Number of IWT behaviour change materials produced and distributed	Number	Typology of materials produced (protected animals flyers)	95	535	0	630	300
IWTCF – CO3	N/A	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message	Number	Type of communications channel (i.e. radio, television, internet, social media etc	5	2	0	7	6
IWTCF – A01	1.2	Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills	Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills	People	Gender: females	85	187	0	272	300
IWTCF – A02	2.2	Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after train	Number of community ecoguards reporting they are applying new capabilities after the training.	People	Gender: females Type of training: Community Ecoguard Patrol Protocol	61	11	0	72	70
IWTCF – A15	0.3	Number reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities	Number reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities	People	Gender: 198 females Type of practice: bushmeat selling	20	252	0	272	300
IWTCF – B01	3.1	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills	Number	Gender: 6 females; 113 males	57	62	0	119	100

					Types of law enforcement training: Sustainable Protected Area Management					
IWTCF – B09	2.1	Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project	Frequency of patrols carried out by community ecoguards supported through the project	Frequency		47	156	0	203	210
IWTCF – B10	0.5	Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project	Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project	Number		0	6	0	6	5
IWTCF – D02	1.3	Number of individuals benefitting from training (i.e. broader households of individual directly trained)	Number of individuals benefitting from training (e.g relevant laws, protected species, zoonotic diseases, and awareness communication methods.	People/Number	Gender: 372 females and 1 male	135	238	0	373	300
IWTCF – DO3	N/A	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of the project	Number of local/national organizations with improved capability as a result of the project.	Number of organisations	Type of institution	4	3	0	7	5

Old indicators

Project (Old) Indicator Code	Indicator name	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
0.1	Number of communities aware of wildlife conservation issues and law	Number	Location	17	0	0	17	10
0.2	Percentage of reduction in bushmeat sales by sellers changing business	Percentage	Geographic location	0	0	0	0	50%
0.3	Percentage of bushmeat sellers increase income after changing business	Percentage	Gender Targeted location/market	0	0	0	0	10%
0.4	Local community women and youth provided with livelihoods alternative to bushmeat trade, through Community Ecoguard Program	Number	Gender: female	61	11	0	72	70
1.1	Number of markets where Bushmeat and income surveys conducted in Liberian cities at beginning and end of project	Number	Location: targeted markets	17	0	0	17	10

1.4	Number of awareness-raising events targeting bushmeat markets, consumers, restaurant owners, and school children	Number	Types: Community ecoguards awareness.	0	84	0	84	60
2.3	Percentage of reduction in Illegal activities in 7 (P)PAs	Percentage	Landscape type (protected area and proposed protected area)	0	21.04 %	0	21.04 %	10% for old areas and by 20% new areas
3.2	Systems established for rangers to use the CEP-collected data, and to conduct awareness-raising with the community ecoguards and other community members	Number	type	1	1	0	2	1

Table 2   Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

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

Suppl. Material 1: Attendance Sheets training

Suppl. Material 2: SMART reports from community ecoguard patrols

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	Yes
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	