

National Elephant Action Plan Liberia

2020-2029



**STOP
IVORY**

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Cover photo: Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) in Sapo National Park, April 2016. © FFI

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Authorisation

This National Elephant Action Plan is intended to be an instrument to guide the conservation and protection of elephants in Liberia, in line with the African Elephant Action Plan and in response to Liberia's pledge to the Elephant Protection Initiative, taken in November 2015. The Action Plan has been developed with and approved by the Forestry Development Authority, Republic of Liberia.

The National Elephant Action Plan is hereby authorized for implementation by the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency, President George Manneh Weah.

His Excellency Mr George Manneh Weah
President of the Republic of Liberia

Date: _____

Foreword

The world is faced by ever-growing pressure on natural habitats from economic development, expanding human populations and demand for resources. In West Africa, the extent of forest cover has been drastically reduced due to logging, clearance for commercial plantations, smallholder agriculture and mining, while at the same time millions of local people depend on bush meat and other forest products to maintain themselves and their families. Liberia has, in addition, been affected by two periods of devastating civil war and most recently, the Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015.

Despite these manifold challenges, Liberia is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and other international agreements the country has signed, including the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI).

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) was created in 1976 to establish permanent forest areas managed by scientific experts to prevent destruction of forests and associated natural resources, and to administer the laws that protect wildlife and control the trade in forest products.

Liberia harbours the largest remaining blocks of the Upper Guinea Forest, a habitat that is essential to the survival of forest elephants along with many other species. Elephants require large spaces, so their survival depends on safeguarding sites and the corridors between them as well as landscapes that extend across national borders.

FDA is working in collaboration with key stakeholders to protect the forest elephant which is one of the most iconic species in Liberia. This Action Plan is an essential step in coordinating efforts at the national level, identifying key threats and outlining a programme of measures to coordinate short and long term activities needed to ensure the survival of the species in Liberia.

The National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) emphasises the need for us all to intensify our collective and collaborative efforts to better understand the issues surrounding the distribution and conservation of the elephant as well as its forest habitats. These conservation efforts will require various types of human interventions ranging from actions aimed both at the species, its habitat and at landscape level to safeguard and maintain the healthy forest ecosystems that also provide the social and economic resources of benefit to mankind.

We welcome the development of this National Elephant Action Plan and stand ready to work with local, regional and international partners to ensure its effective implementation.

Honorable Harrison S. Karnwea Snr.
Chairman, Board of Directors, Forestry Development Authority,
Monrovia Liberia.

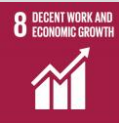
Abbreviations and Acronyms

AEAP	African Elephant Action Plan
AED	African Elephant Database
AfESG	African Elephant Specialist Group
ARTP	Across the River Project
CFMA	Community Forest Management Area
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Wild Species of Flora and Fauna
CMS	Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECOWAS	Economic Organisation of West African States
ELRECO	Elephant Research and Conservation
EPI	Elephant Protection Initiative
EPIF	Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information Service
FACE	Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
GOL	Government of Liberia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank)
LESC	LW Enforcement Sub-Committee of the Species Working Group Liberia
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MIKE	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MRU	Mano River Union
NEAP	National Elephant Action Plan
NIAP	National Ivory Action Plan
NP	National Park
PA	Protected Area
PAAB	Protected Area Advisory Board
PASC	Plants and Animal Sub-Committee of the Species Working Group Liberia
PPA	Proposed Protected Area
PIKE	Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SADS	Skills and Agricultural Development Services
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
SI	Stop Ivory
SWGL	Species Working Group Liberia
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WA-BICC	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change
WCF	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

Summary of Funds Required; Mapping the SDGs against the NEAP Objectives

Liberian NEAP: Summary of Funds Required and Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia	 	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	US\$ 1,960,000
Objective 2: Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate	 	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	US\$ 874,000

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
		15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	
Objective 3: Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)	   	1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	US\$ 324,400
Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation	   	4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and	US\$ 116,900

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
		appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life 12.8 by 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	
Objective 5: Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management	 	12.8 by 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	US\$ 3,638,700
Objective 6: Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding	  	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	US\$ 289,860

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
		16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	
Objective 7: Improve local community collaboration	       	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	US\$ 291,800

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
		5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	
Objective 8: Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented	 	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	US\$ 67,500

NEAP Objective:	SDGs	SDG Targets	Funding Required
		15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: US\$ 7,563,160

1. Introduction

A draft National Elephant Action Plan for Liberia (NEAP) was developed at a workshop held in Monrovia on 29 June - 1 July, 2016. The workshop was convened by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and financially supported by Stop Ivory (SI). More than 50 participants from Government, civil society organisations, NGOs, Universities and local communities attended the workshop.



The draft NEAP was developed according to the “Guidelines and Standards for National Elephant Action Plans” (Hedges 2014). The workshop draft was circulated to participants for comments and was amended. The final NEAP was revised in 2019 according to the “Guidelines and Standards for National Elephant Action Plans, Version 4” (EPIF 2019) and updated in 2020 (this document) with technical inputs from the FDA, FFI and the Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation (EPIF).

2. The African Elephant

2.1. Taxonomy

The IUCN /SSC African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) currently recognises two subspecies: Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana* (Blumenbach 1797)) and Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis* (Matschie, 1900)). Genetic evidence suggests that these may be two species (e.g. Grubb *et al.* 2000), but more extensive research is required to support the proposed re-classification, while premature allocation into more than one species may leave hybrids in an uncertain conservation status (IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group 2003).

2.2. Global status

The African Elephant is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, based on criterion A2a (An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of $\geq 30\%$ over the last 10 years or three generations, whichever is the longer, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased or may not be understood or may not be reversible), because some of the major causes for decline, such as habitat loss due to human population expansion, have not ceased and may not be reversible throughout the species' range (Blanc 2008). A reassessment of the species' status is pending.

This is Africa's largest land mammal and an iconic species with an important ecosystem role in dispersing forest seeds and maintaining open areas of bush. For the last few years, elephants have been declining at catastrophic rates. Levels of poaching and the illegal ivory trade began to increase in the mid-2000s, following an easing in the 1990s and then surged dramatically from 2009 onwards. There was also a shift in trade from small seizures to major shipments, indicating the involvement of commercial-level poaching and organised crime. The trend in 2012 appeared to be levelling off compared to 2011, but remains unsustainably high. Two publications summarise the recent situation: *Elephants in the Dust* (UNEP, CITES, IUCN, TRAFFIC 2013) and a report produced for the African Elephant Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana, in November 2013 (CITES, African Elephant Specialist Group, TRAFFIC 2013).

2.3. International policy and institutions

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES lists the African Elephant in Appendix I (except the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are presently included in Appendix II), prohibiting international trade in specimens of this species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial (e.g. for scientific research).

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC is a wildlife trade monitoring network specializing in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends and patterns and supporting and encouraging action by governments. It is governed by a steering group composed of members of the partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.

Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)

This is a CITES-mandated elephant programme, managed by the CITES Secretariat, to collect information on trends in elephant poaching across African (and Asian) range states. The objective of MIKE is to establish a standardised monitoring system (currently in place at 60 sites in 31 African elephant range states) and to measure trends in the illegal killing of elephants. The only current MIKE site in Liberia is Sapo National Park. Closely associated with MIKE, PIKE is an index that measures the proportion of illegally killed elephants among the total number of elephant carcasses found at MIKE

sites. Levels in West Africa are high, with the 2011 score at 0.8 (meaning 80% of carcasses encountered were elephants killed illegally).

African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP)

In 2010, at the 15th CITES Conferences of Parties in Doha, Qatar, all 38 African Elephant Range States agreed to an Action Plan that committed them to working together to protect the continent's elephants and combat illegal trade. <https://cites.org/common/cop/15/inf/E15i-68.pdf>

Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)

ETIS is managed by TRAFFIC to track illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products. Unlike MIKE, its aim is to record and analyse levels and trends in illegal trade, rather than the illegal killing of elephants.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

The African Elephant is listed on CMS Appendix II, which covers migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those that have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement. A West African Memorandum of Understanding was developed in 2005 and has been signed by all 13 elephant range states, including Liberia.

<http://www.cms.int/west-african-elephants>

IUCN Species Survival Commission African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG)

AfESG was established in the mid-1970s and since then has considerably grown in size and complexity, and consists of volunteer members drawn from all parts of the continent. The broad aim of the AfESG is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants and, where possible, the recovery of their population to viable levels and to provide tools and advice on managing human-elephant conflict. AfESG maintains the African Elephant Database. Six comprehensive updates have been published in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2013 and 2016 (<http://elephantdatabase.org>). AfESG is also responsible for assessing the status of African elephant for the IUCN Red List.

Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)

The Elephant Protection Initiative is an African-led, inter-governmental initiative to protect elephants and stop the illegal ivory trade. It was initiated at the 2014 London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade by the governments of Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania. It aims to provide both immediate and longer-term funding for the full and timely implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP 2010), closing domestic ivory markets and observing a moratorium on any consideration of future international trade. The EPI Foundation (EPIF) is the secretariat for the EPI. It is the legal entity charged with helping member states obtain the finance and technical expertise required for the implementation of National Elephant Action Plans. The EPI calls on elephant range states, partner states, NGOs, private citizens and the private sector to work together to:

1. Maintain the international ban established by CITES in 1989 to protect elephant populations.
2. Close all domestic ivory markets.
3. Put ivory stockpiles beyond economic use.
4. Implement the AEAP through the development and implementation of National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs).

Stop Ivory

Stop Ivory is an independent NGO which aims to protect elephants and stop the ivory trade by implementing the Elephant Protection Initiative. It was specifically set up to deliver the aims of the EPI.

West African Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BICC)

The aims of this USAID project (2015-2020) are to combat illegal wildlife trade, reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss, and improve coastal resilience.

3. West Africa: Regional Status

3.1. Historical background

In classical times elephants were found throughout West Africa, from the coastal forests to the fringes of the Sahara (Scullard 1974). During the 20th century human populations grew exponentially. Expanding roads, villages, towns, and farms have caused a rapid loss of the natural vegetation cover and widespread disturbance to remaining habitats. The growth of the logging industry opened up forests to settlement and other forms of human disturbance (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton 1991; Dougherty 1994). Between 1900 and the mid-1980s the elephant range is estimated to have decreased by 93% throughout West Africa (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton 1991).

3.2. Current status

According to the West African Elephant Conservation Strategy of 2005, forest elephants were still found in eight countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau) in 35 separate forest ranges scattered across the region (IUCN *et al.* 2005). Although information on their distribution throughout the West African region is available, some gaps remain.

West Africa has lost more than 93% of its elephant range during the 20th century, and today most elephant populations are small and isolated (IUCN *et al.* 2005). Existing population estimates, though guesses rather than results of scientific surveys indicate that most populations are small, with two-thirds consisting of fewer than 50 individuals (IUCN *et al.* 2005).

The 2016 estimate of the total West African elephant population is 11,489 +/- 2,583, with educated guesses 2,886 +/- 3,376 (Thouless *et al.* 2016). Therefore we may state that the true population for West Africa will be anywhere between 10,124 and 18,626 elephants.

The West African forest elephant has undergone a substantial decline as ivory smuggling, bush meat trade, and particularly habitat loss has reduced and fragmented populations. Little is known about their current status, especially in countries that have suffered recent civil wars. Human encroachment and, as a consequence, human-elephant conflict are pervasive problems throughout the region (Blanc *et al.* 2007). Compared to other regions in Africa, West Africa has the highest human population pressures and the highest levels of habitat fragmentation (Blanc 2008). It has been estimated that roughly 10 million ha of forest in West Africa may have been lost in the 20th century and around 80% of the original forest area is now an agriculture-forest mosaic (Norris *et al.* 2010). During the 1980s, ivory poaching increased in the sub-region, as it did also in Central and East Africa. There are few data illustrating the impact on West African elephants, but Côte d'Ivoire lost half of its forest elephants during that decade (Merz & Hoppe-Dominik 1991).

Ivory from West African elephants was for centuries traded across the Sahara to the ports of North Africa (Wilson & Ayerst 1976). Later, ivory was carried towards the Atlantic coasts and sold to European traders. Hunting for ivory increased during the 19th century, especially after 1870 when the colonial powers moved inland and established roads and railways that facilitated the transport of ivory (Alpers 1992). Ivory exports continued to grow in volume until about 1910 when the elephant population collapsed as a consequence of over-hunting (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton 1991). Elephant numbers did not recover in West Africa after World War I as they did elsewhere (Spinage 1973).

4. Elephant Status in Liberia

4.1. Distribution

Liberia Historical

Elephants were reported in the past throughout most of Liberia except the coastal region where human settlements were concentrated (Johnston 1905). Given the low population density of Liberia until the mid-19th century and the vast areas with high and secondary forest cover, especially in the south-east and north-west, elephants were presumably still widely distributed in Liberia. Interviews with older elephant hunters in the south-east also indicated that up to the 1950s elephants were found throughout most of the region and were not restricted to remote dense forest areas (Anstey & Dunn 1991).

Liberia Current

During the last few decades, the extent of forest cover in Liberia has been greatly reduced. High forest is now mainly restricted to two large blocks, in the south-east and north-west of Liberia. Although elephants occur in 9 out of the 15 counties in Liberia (Fig. 1 shows the 15 counties), almost all records of West African forest elephants since 2004 are in these two dense forest blocks (Figure 2). It should be emphasized that the map shows only sites where elephants were recorded at the time indicated. Many forest areas have not been surveyed, or not been surveyed recently, so the picture of current elephant distribution in Liberia is incomplete. A nationwide baseline survey is urgently needed. There are no reports of elephants in the forests around Mount Nimba in the north of the country. The centre of Liberia is occupied by an extensive area of agricultural land and commercial plantations, separating the forest blocks in the north-west and south-east and effectively preventing dispersal by elephants between them.



Fig. 1: Map of Liberia, showing the main cities, roads and 15 counties (Source: UT Libraries).

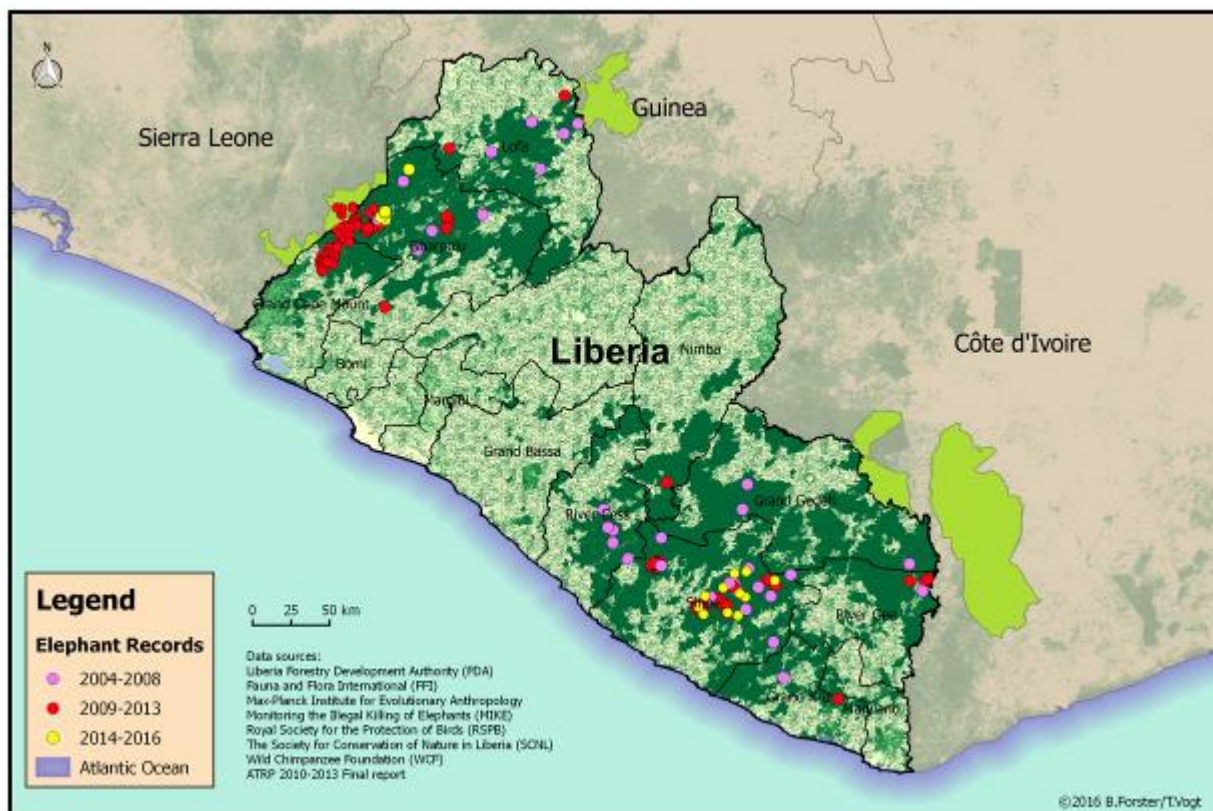


Fig. 2: Liberia elephant records 2004-2016.

North-West Forest Block (NWFB):

Elephants have been recorded recently in Wonegisi, Wologizi, Gola and the Kpelle-Lorma-Foya forest blocks. Additionally, elephants could still occur in other forests in three counties: Lofa, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount. Elephants in southern Gbarpolu County appear to be the most isolated in this region. Elephants were recorded at several sites within Gola National Forest and the adjoining central sector of Gola Rainforest NP (Sierra Leone) by the Across the River Project (ARTP) in 2010-2013 (Hillers 2013). It is important to maintain connections between all the Gola-Kpelle-Lorma-Wonegisi-Wologizi forest blocks. Wonegisi Proposed Protected Area (PPA) lies close to Ziama Man and Biosphere (MAB) Reserve in Guinea and these form an important trans-boundary site. A rapid biodiversity assessment in Wologizi PPA and Ziama MAB carried out by FFI, funded by USAID WA-BiCC recorded signs of elephants (Vogt *et al.* 2019). An elephant survey carried out around the same time by the Elephant Research and Conservation (ELRECO) suggested that strips of forests forming corridors between these forest blocks, particularly between Wonegisi and Ziama were important migratory routes for elephants. Gola Forest National Park is part of the Greater Gola Landscape and is contiguous with Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone.

South-East Forest Block (SEFB):

In the south-east, elephants have been recorded from many localities, but the most recent records are from Sapo NP, Grebo-Krahn NP and Kulu-Shaw-Boe. Surveys carried out by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) have confirmed elephant presence in Grebo-Krahn NP in each of the last four years, though signs were few and confined to the same area of forest. Sapo NP is the only formal PA where elephants occur and also the best studied site in Liberia. Elephants were recorded by FDA for the first time in Grand Kru in 2014. In addition, elephants are still likely to occur in other forest blocks and PPAs such as Senkwehn PPA (recorded in 1999), Gbi PPA, Krahn-Bassa and Barrobo forests within seven counties: Nimba, River Cess, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland. Forest cover within the block is not continuous and elephants in Maryland County appear to be the most isolated.

Corridors are needed to connect the Krahn-Bassa National Forest to Sapo National Park and from there to Grebo-Krahn NP. No signs of elephants were found in the Sapo-Grebo corridor by WCF (D. Dowd, pers. comm). Elephants also occur in Taï NP in Côte d'Ivoire which lies very close to the eastern border of Liberia. Grebo-Krahn NP adjoins or is very close to Goin-Débé and Cavally Classified Forests in Côte d'Ivoire. A project funded by the German Development Bank, KfW, to establish a corridor between Sapo NP-Grebo-Krahn NP-Taï NP is currently underway.

4.2. Population estimates

Given the few systematic studies of elephants in Liberia, reliable population estimates for the country do not exist. Apart from the most recent MIKE survey (Boafo & Sani 2011), which was restricted to Sapo National Park, no quantitative surveys have been conducted in Liberia since 1991, and even that one was incomplete due to civil unrest (Anstey & Dunn 1991). Hence the regularly updated estimates of elephant populations provided by the IUCN African Elephant Database (AED) have more or less remained the same for Liberia, and are highly speculative. The latest African Elephant Status Report (Thouless *et al.* 2016) gives an estimate of 124 +/- 99 elephants (Sapo) and guesses totaling 1,425 elephants (Freeman pers. com. 2015) for Liberia: Barrobo National Forest (educated guess: 125), Gola-Kpelle-Lorma National Forest (400), Grebo National Forest (300), Krahn-Bassa National Forest (550), Wonegizi National Forest (50) and Sapo National Park (124 +/- 99 in an area of 630 km² out of a total area of 1,505 km²). However, except for Sapo National Park, all these figures are based on the survey of Anstey & Dunn in 1989/1990, and slightly updated as an educated guess.



Forest Elephants captured via camera traps in Sapo National Park, FFI/FDA 2016.

4.3. Protected Areas

Currently Liberia has only five legally protected areas (PAs): Sapo National Park (established in 1983), East Nimba Nature Reserve (2003), Lake Piso Sustainable Multiple-Use Reserve (2013), Grebo-Krahn National Park (2018), and Gola Forest National Park (2018). Together these cover about 11 % of Liberia's total land area and roughly 10 % of the remaining forest, respectively. This is still a long way from the national goal, set in 2003, to establish "a biologically representative network of protected areas and conservation corridors covering at least 30% of the existing forest area" (MFA 2003).

Several large blocks of forest are designated as National Forests. In 2006 a set of appropriate Protected Forest Area types and categories was recommended for presidential and legislative approval (MFA 2006). Of these, 13 proposed Protected Areas (PPA) were identified (Fig. 3 & Table 1). Two of these, Gola and Grebo-Krahn National Forests, have gained National Park status in 2018. Between 2008 and 2012 the EU-funded project “Consolidation of Liberia Protected Area Network” (COPAN) was initiated to expand, consolidate and rationalize the Protected Area system in the North-West Forest Block. At the end of the project, only Lake Piso Multiple Use Nature Reserve had been formally approved by 2013. A follow-up project “Expansion of the Protected Area Network” (EXPAN; 2010-2015) operated in the South-East Forest Block to rationalize two PPAs (Grebo-Krahn and Grand Kru-River Gee).

Elephants are known to occur in Sapo, Grebo-Krahn and Gola Forest National Parks and six Proposed PAs. It is possible that they still occur in Senkwehn PPA (last surveyed in 1999) and in three others for which there is currently no data available (Table 1). Therefore, most areas in which elephants occur do not (yet) have formal protection.

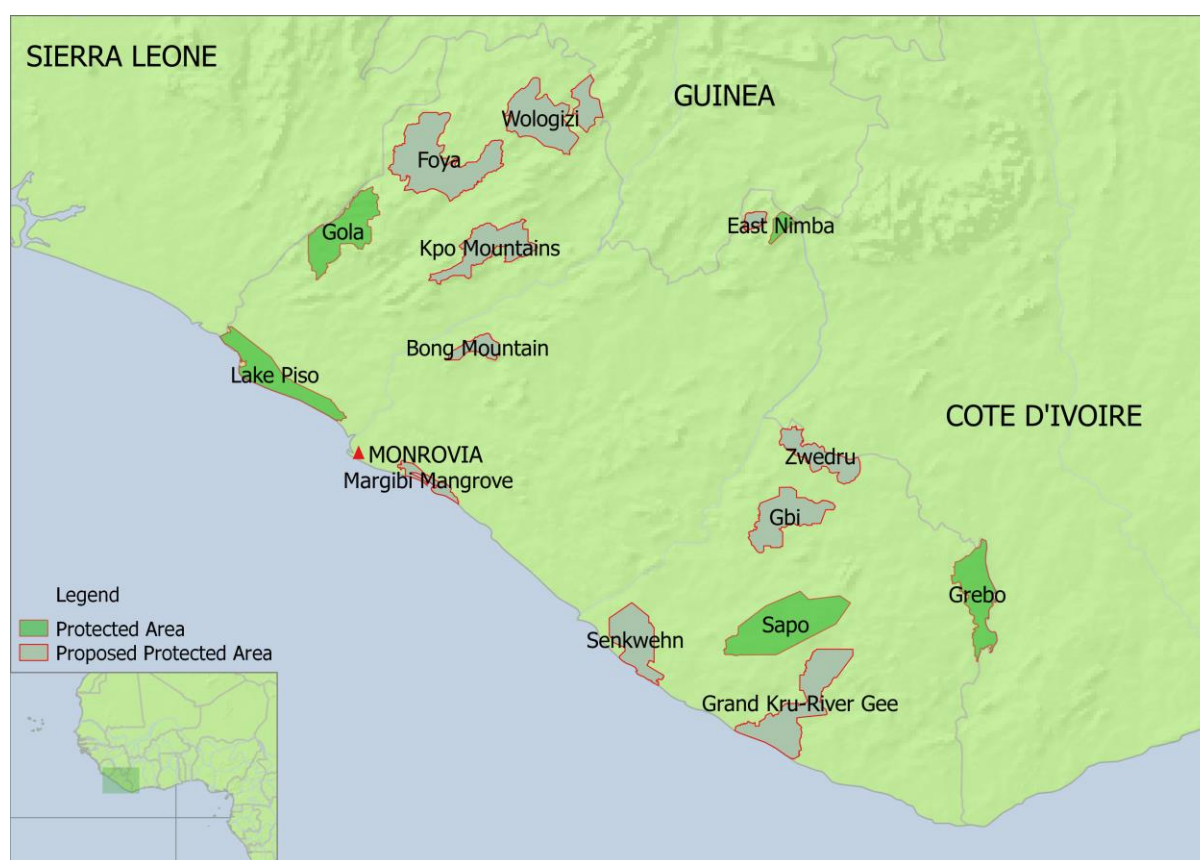


Fig. 3: Designated and Proposed Protected Areas in Liberia.

Table 1: Existing and proposed protected areas in Liberia

Site	Area (km ²)	Status ¹	Elephant occurrence
Sapo National Park	1505	NP	Confirmed 2016
Grebo-Krahn National Park	971	NP	Confirmed 2016

Gola National Park	880	NP	Confirmed 2016
Grand Kru-River Gee	1351	PPA	Confirmed 2008
Wonegizi	380	PPA	Confirmed 2015
Wologizi	995	PPA	Confirmed 2014
Gbi	884	PPA	Confirmed 2008
Foya	1646	PPA	Confirmed 2016
Senkwehn	804	PPA	Confirmed 1999
Zwedru	637	PPA	No data
Kpo Mountains	837	PPA	No data
Bong Mountain	248	PPA	No data
Lake Piso MUR	959	MUR	Absent
West Nimba	105	PPA	Absent
East Nimba Nature Reserve	136	NR	Absent
Margibi Mangrove	238	PPA	Absent

¹ NP - National Park; NR - Nature Reserve; MUR - Multiple Use Reserve; PPA - Proposed Protected Area



Elephant footprints in a closed dense forest in Shaw south-east Liberia. Photo credit: Tina Vogt

4.4. Legal status and conservation policy

Liberia is signatory to several international conventions concerning the environment and biodiversity conservation (CITES, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on the Conservation of

Migratory Species of Wild Animals etc.), while it also joined the Elephant Protection Initiative in 2015 (Table 2).

Table 2: *Relevant international conventions signed by Liberia.*

Convention	Year
Mano River Union	1973
CITES	1981
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2001
UNESCO World Heritage	2002
UN Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol)	2002
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	2004
VPA-Voluntary Partnership Agreement with EU	2013
Elephant Protection Initiative	2015

The Elephant is fully protected by Liberia's National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management Law, 2016. The penalties range from a fine of \$5,000-\$10,000 USD or 2-4 years in prison. The conservation and protection of elephants in Liberia fall under the responsibility of the following government agencies:

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

FDA was created by an Act of Legislature in 1976, with the mandate to sustainably conserve and manage the forest resources of Liberia for the benefits of all Liberians. The primary objectives of FDA comprise: establishing a permanent forest estate made up on reserved areas, managed by scientific forestry; managing all publicly owned forest land to their most productive use for all people; preventing needless waste and destruction of the forest and associated natural resources; ensuring sustainable use of forest products; correlating forestry to all other land use; adjusting the forest economy to the overall national economy; conducting essential research in forest conservation; providing technical assistance and awareness in forestry-related activities, and conserving the country's recreational and wildlife resources concurrently with the development of forestry programmes. FDA has the power to create, establish and administer the different forest estates (Government Forest Reserves, Communal Forests, Protected Areas etc.), enforce all laws and regulations for the conservation of forests, prescribe and control the issuance of all instruments dealing with the use of forest resources (licenses, permits, agreements etc.), control the transport and export of forest products and manage/oversee the timber trade (MFA 1976).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

In 2003, as a commitment to the environment, the Liberian Government ratified laws that dramatically reformed the country's natural resource management. One was the formation of the National Environmental Policy (NEP) for Liberia; its companion bill was the Environmental Protection Agency Act which established the EPA as the principal authority for implementing the NEP and a law for the protection and sustainable management of natural resources in Liberia. The Agency became a fully functioning entity in 2006 with a board of directors and Policy Council. As the lead government agency for environmental protection, the EPA has been charged with the executive authority over all environmental activities and programs relating to environmental management in Liberia. Its responsibilities include, but are not limited to, coordination, monitoring, supervision and consultation with relevant stakeholders (government, industry, business, communities) on all activities on the

protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources, to develop laws, regulations and policies, to monitor and evaluate compliance with those regulations, and respond to pollution incidents and emergencies.

4.5. Elephant conservation efforts

In 1989/1990, as a joint program of WWF and FDA, a nationwide elephant survey was carried out in Liberia (Anstey & Dunn 1991), which led to the development of the "Elephant Conservation Plan for Liberia" (FDA & AECCG 1991). Years of civil conflict, however, precluded its implementation. In 1999, the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group drafted a regional conservation strategy for the West African elephant, which was revised in 2005, and served as a reference tool for the development of elephant conservation projects and programs throughout the region (IUCN SSC, CMS & WWF 2005). This strategy also supported the development and endorsement of the CMS West African Elephant MoU signed in 2005. Since then, several countries holding forest elephants including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Guinea have developed national elephant action plans or strategies and are at various stages of implementation (Blanc *et al.* 2007; IUCN 2013). In Liberia, a strategic planning workshop was held in 2006 with financial support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and technical input from the AfESG, to build on the results of the West African Conservation Strategy and design a framework for elephant conservation in Liberia (Hoyt 2006). AfESG also assisted with the development of an Action Plan to establish an elephant corridor between Guinea and Liberia (Sebogo 2006). Though the planning workshop in 2006 identified a list of priorities and recommended actions, further steps such as the development, adoption and implementation of a National Conservation Strategy of Elephants did not follow. However, since then, due to unknown reasons (but most probably the lack of funding, ongoing technical assistance and coordination), no further actions have been taken towards elephant conservation in Liberia. A recent action taken with regard to elephant conservation in Liberia was an elephant survey in Sapo National Park, carried out by MIKE in 2009 (Boafo & Sani 2011) and even more recent was an elephant survey across parts of the north western landscape (ELRECO 2019).

Table 3: Overview of elephant conservation policy initiatives in Liberia.

Year	Activity	Reference
1988	Legal: Wildlife and National Parks Act introduced	FDA
1989/1990	Survey: National elephant survey (WWF/FDA)	Anstey & Dunn 1991
1991	Document: Elephant Conservation Plan for Liberia	FDA & AECCG 1991
1999/2005	Document: Strategy for the Conservation of West African Elephants	IUCN et al. 2005
2005	Document: CMS West African Elephant MoU	CMS 2005
2006	Workshop: Elephant Conservation Plan for Liberia	Hoyt 2006
2006	Document: Action Plan for the management of elephants in the Ziama-Wenegisi trans-frontier corridor Guinea-Liberia	Sebogo 2006
2009	Survey: Elephant survey in Sapo National Park (MIKE)	Boafo & Sani 2011
2010	Document: African Elephant Action Plan	AEAP 2010
2015	Policy: Liberia joins the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)	

2016	Workshop: Liberia National Elephant Action Plan	FFI & FDA 2016 (under revision - this document)
2016	Legal: National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Act	FDA 2016
2019	Survey: Elephant survey across north-west Liberia	ELRECO 2019

In March 2010, at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the Parties, including Liberia, adopted the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) as a consensus document among all African elephant range States, "an accurate reflection of the broad objectives and activities identified as being most urgently required by range States to protect and conserve elephants across Africa". The AEAP is the main framework document used by the Elephant Protection Initiative to develop National Elephant Action Plans. In 2015, Liberia joined the EPI (Table 3).

In addition, elephants also benefit from forest surveys and wider conservation activities carried out by NGOs such as FFI in Sapo NP and Wonegizi PPA; surveys and corridor planning by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and others. Several local NGOs and CSOs are also active, including the Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia, Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment, Forest Cry, and others (Table 4).

Table 4: Recent and current field conservation activities at elephant sites in Liberia.

Site	Activity	Dates	Implementers
Sapo NP	Management Plan		FFI/ FDA
	Biomonitoring	2005-10, 2014-2016 & 2017-2019	
	Camera trapping	2013 - 2016, 2019	FFI/ZSL/FDA
	Research Centre	Opened 2013	
	Training		
Gola Forest NP	Transect surveys	2010-2013	SCNL/RSPB/ARTP
	Camera trapping	2010-2013	
	Training		
	Corridor mapping		
Grebo-Sapo corridor	Field survey: no elephants detected	2015	WCF
Grebo-Krahn NP	Ecoguard patrols	2018	FDA
	Transect surveys		WCF
Wonegizi PPA	Biodiversity survey	2013, 2019	FFI/FDA
	Bio monitoring	2019	
	Camera trapping	2013-2015, 2019	
	Training		
Wologizi PPA	Biodiversity survey	2018-2019	FFI/FDA/ELRECO
	Camera trapping		
	Training		

5. Threats

Since its beginnings in the 1980s, the development of conservation action in Liberia has suffered many setbacks, mainly due to more than a decade of civil war, but also more recently by the biggest Ebola outbreak to date. Further, as Liberia emerges from conflict and reconstitutes its agricultural and economic sectors, the country's forests and biodiversity face increasing pressure by mining, logging and oil palm production.

5.1. Illegal killing

Elephants have traditionally been hunted in Liberia. During their survey in 1989/1990, Anstey & Dunn interviewed 16 elephant hunters, 15 in the south-east and 1 in the north-west. These indicated that from the 1940s to 1960s, most elephant hunters were specialists, considered elite hunters and therefore few in numbers. The purpose of hunting was for village benefit, meat, prestige and only secondarily for ivory. The basis of hunting shifted in the 1970s with notable hunters being contracted by the ruling elite or expatriates who provided hunting rifles or cash in return for ivory. All hunters agreed that the period from 1975-1981 was a period of intense hunting pressure, and most said that they ceased hunting within Liberia in the early 1980s, as low numbers of elephants and gun controls following the military coup in 1980 meant that it was no longer viable to do so. Hunting of elephants was legally banned in the mid-1970s. From 1980-1990 most elephant hunting appeared to be connected either directly or indirectly to the army and military power elite. Although, as in the 1970s, some notable hunters were contracted on a patronage basis, a greater proportion of elephant hunting appeared to have been undertaken directly by army personnel. This may reflect increased proportions of Krahn, reputed elephant hunters, in the army. From mid-1989 to mid-1990, the interview survey recorded incidents of elephant hunting in four areas of Liberia, in which 8 elephants were killed. The survey further reports that "it is probable that the total annual off-take in recent years was fewer than 50 elephants". The recent rise in the price of ivory however, may attract commercial poachers from outside.

It is not known how many elephant hunters are still actively hunting in Liberia today. At the 2006 Workshop, a former elephant hunter indicated that there were still 6 professional elephant hunters, and believed that pre-war there were 25 professional elephant hunters in Liberia. Many of the most experienced hunters died during the years of war. It can be assumed that the number of professional elephant hunters in Liberia will continue to decrease, since elephant hunting due to declining numbers and law enforcement becomes less attractive, especially among the younger generation. According to a bush-meat hunting study around Sapo NP in 2010, elephant hunters no longer exist in the Sinoe / Grand Gedeh areas and no elephants had been killed at Putu Town for over two decades. The dangerous nature of the species also deters hunters from killing them (Greengrass 2011). According to FDA information, hunters are still known in the following areas: Gbi Forest (2), Krahn-Bassa forest (3), Grebo National Forest (2) and Gola/Kpelle forest (2), but the majority of them are old and probably no longer active. In some parts of Liberia elephants are not hunted for cultural reasons. For example, in Chebioh Town (western Sapo), people believe that hunting elephants is wrong because they 'are their ancestors'. In 2019, elephants were sighted in Sapo NP close to Chebioh Town on several occasions during tours led by former hunters (S. Kerwillain, pers. comm.). On one occasion, 2 individuals were seen and captured on camera. Several elephant hunters attended the 2016 NEAP workshop and the views expressed by three of them are recorded in Box 1.

Box 1. Some elephant hunters' perspectives.

A hunter from Grand Gedeh County:

"I began hunting elephants in 1949 and hunted until 1980. We used to kill elephants as a sort of test, and to present to the father of our betrothed as a dowry...The elephants still exist. Just because we hunt them doesn't mean we are depleting the population...we are managing the population - there are too many of them. You people live in Monrovia and pass laws. You people only see the tracks, and the signs, and hear eye witness records. We know how elephants pass through the forest and how they walk. We who live alongside these giants have to tell our people that we can't hunt elephants any more. I haven't been into the forest since about 1980, but I know they are still there. We stop people from outside from hunting, but we need support".

A hunter from Lofa County:

"My parents died in the war. I was trained for four years to hunt elephants and that is all I know. This is my living. I have no means of supporting my family besides my trade. No one in my region kills elephants but me. I do not kill them for meat or for ivory. I don't care what they want the elephant for. I kill them for survival and because other people want them and I use the money to support my family. I am the only elephant hunter in my area and I have not heard of any elephant being killed in recent years. So we can stop the hunting. We are willing to work alongside you people".

A hunter from Gbarpolu County:

"The reason why some of us began hunting was because of the war. We were pulled out of school, lost our jobs, and we had no choice. Now we are fixed in our ways. There are only three of us in the area, so this is regulated and hunting is declining in the area. Any hunter that comes to my territory comes to me, no one dares otherwise. Taking guns away will not deter us. Hunting elephants is our trade, and we will find other means. You have called us all together, and we thank you. FDA can be our partners, but to stop the hunting of elephants we need monthly financial support. Gbarpolu County is holding up pretty well in the matter, as far as I know".

5.2. Ivory trade

At the 2006 Elephant Conservation Plan Workshop for Liberia, it was reported that elephant ivory sales were still conducted openly in Monrovia. A former elephant hunter reported that ivory was purchased by shops on Front Street, Monrovia, for US \$150/lb, and another workshop participant inspected two shops on Front Street and found large displays of elephant and pygmy hippo ivory. Action has been taken by FDA since then and it seems that ivory shops in Monrovia have disappeared altogether. Seizures of ivory by FDA between 2013 and 2015 are shown in Table 5.

The CITES Standing Committee classified countries with regard to illegal ivory trade into three categories of concern: parties of primary concern, parties of secondary concern and parties of importance to watch. Liberia is not listed in any of the three categories. However, for each elephant

range country, ivory trade is an ongoing issue and therefore will be addressed in the actual Action Plan of this NEAP.

Participants at the 2006 Elephant Conservation Plan Workshop in Monrovia reported that many poaching events occurred and more than 43 elephants were killed in the period 2001-2006. Six elephants were reported killed in Sapo NP in 2004 alone, symptomatic of the breakdown and weak management during/ after the civil war at Liberia's only fully protected area. Between 2006 and 2016 elephant hunting was still on-going in Liberia and reported to FDA. The most recent case was reported in 2015 from the Grebo National Forest area, when five elephant carcasses without tusks were found during a field survey carried out by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation; the ivory was reportedly sent to Cote d'Ivoire and elephant meat was found in the market at the border around the same time (D. Dowd, pers. comm.). No prosecutions followed the incident. More recently, in 2019, 6 elephant carcasses without ivory were found in 3 locations - 4 in Sapo NP, 1 in Krahn Bassa and 1 in Gola NP, reported at the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC) of the Species Working Group Liberia (SWGL).

Table 5: Overview of Ivory Seizures in Liberia 2013-2016.

Year	Seizure	Area	Authority
2013	Nine pieces of unfinished and two processed pieces of ivory	Monrovia (Chinese Supermarket)	FDA
2013	Processed pieces of ivory	Monrovia (Water street)	FDA, Cobra II (Operation WENDI)
2014	Two tusks	Bomi	FDA
2015	Two tusks	Lofa	FDA

5.3. Human-elephant conflict

Human-Elephant conflicts (HEC) have been poorly studied in Liberia. At the 2006 Elephant Conservation Planning Workshop in Monrovia, participants reported five incidents of HEC between 2000 and 2006: Lofa (3 incidents), Sinoe (1) and Cape Mount (1). Conflicts mainly occurred at remote villages, occasionally resulting in the destruction of property. There was also one report of a hunter being killed by an elephant. The village formed a committee to pursue and kill the elephant.

According to information gathered by FDA, only one more case of HEC has been reported since then, from Maryland County in 2015. However, another incident occurred in September 2016, after the NEAP workshop, in Gbarpolu County.

Because there is no formal HEC reporting process in place in Liberia, it can be assumed that more conflicts may occur that are not formally reported and followed up. The 2006 Workshop proposed placing Community Relations Officers in Sinoe, Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties to record all human-wildlife conflicts, and using the HEC Reporting Forms of the African Elephant Specialist Group as a standard operating procedure. These proposals have not yet been implemented.

Many methods, traditional and more modern have been used to deter elephants (Osborn & Parker 2002, Sitati & Walpole 2006, Hoare 2012) and these are listed in Table 6. Recently, chilies in various forms have been deployed (Hedges & Gunaryadi 2009). The Elephant Pepper Development Trust (EPDT) (www.elephantpepper.org) works with rural communities to develop practical solutions to conflict. EPDT runs training courses in elephant conflict management.

A training course on community approaches to mitigate HEC (Parker et al. 2007) is available from <https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/heccombaptmen.pdf> and the standardized reporting protocols prepared by AfESG are freely available (Hoare, no date). These protocols will be reviewed and developed to Liberia's national requirements by a National Elephant Sub-Committee (of the Plant and Animal Sub-Committee under the SWGL) to support implementation of the NEAP.

Table 6: *Overview of methods used to deter elephants.*

Type	Details
Traditional	Stationing watchmen at night
	Scarecrows
	Shouting
	Cracking whips
	Banging drums or tin cans
	Throwing stones or sticks
	Lighting fires
	Dogs
Disturbance	Firing weapons nearby
	Shooting with shotguns
	Thunder flashes
	Flares
	Broadcasting elephant alarm calls
Physical barriers	Placing sharp stones and rocks on the approach
	Trip wires with alarms
	Thorn fences
	Electric fences
	Stone walls
Chemical/Olfactory	Burning rubber
	Chemical deterrents
	Chili pastes
	Hives of African bees

5.4. Habitat loss and degradation

Deforestation represents the main threat to the quality, extent and continuity of habitat in the elephant range. In the past, and compared to its neighboring countries, Liberia's deforestation rates have been relatively low; e.g. from 1986 to 2000 the average deforestation rate was 0.2% per year, but this has increased in the last 16 years and was considered likely to continue to increase as security returned to the country and most of the remaining forest became readily accessible (Christie et al. 2007). According to the World Bank Database (<http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/3.4#>) average annual deforestation rates were 0.63% in 1990-2000 and 0.68% 2000-2015.

When projecting the designated and proposed protected areas onto the remaining forest cover, theoretically there appears to be space for the creation of buffer zones and corridors, to create large dispersal areas for elephants and other threatened wildlife species (Fig. 4). However, feasibility will depend on human population density and current land uses for forest blocks outside the protected-area system.

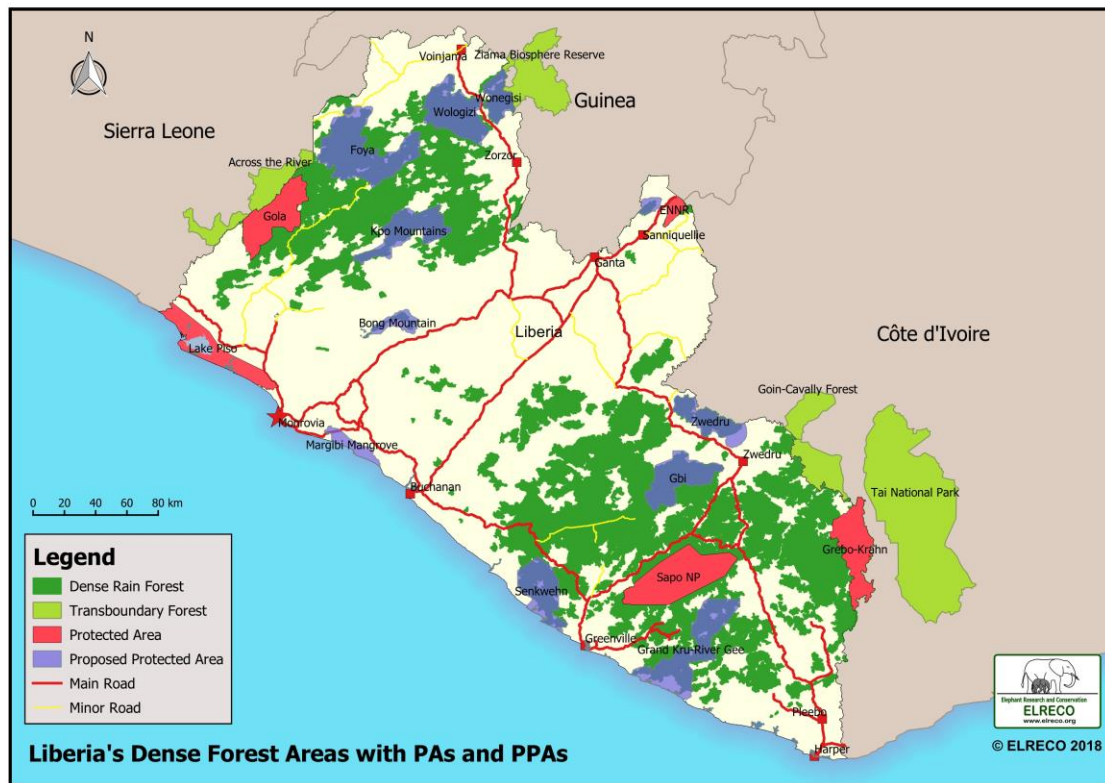


Fig. 4: Designated and Proposed Protected Areas within the remaining forest cover.

The main causes of deforestation are traditional slash-and-burn cultivation, agricultural expansion by smallholders, commercial logging, and commercial plantations of rubber, coffee, cocoa and oil palm (Christie et al. 2007, Norris et al. 2010). Conversion of forest to agriculture is expected to increase along with the growing human population (Fig. 5), with people residing in all of the designated and proposed PAs, albeit at different densities. Mining of iron ore, diamonds and gold has resulted in more forest clearance, pollution and increased sedimentation of water courses. A further negative effect is the potential reliance of miners and their families on bush-meat. An associated concern is that road construction for mining and logging operations opens up new areas of undisturbed forest to hunters. Artisanal mining (for gold and other minerals) is widespread and a growing threat affecting many areas. About one third of Liberia is under some kind of concession (logging, mining, commercial plantation).

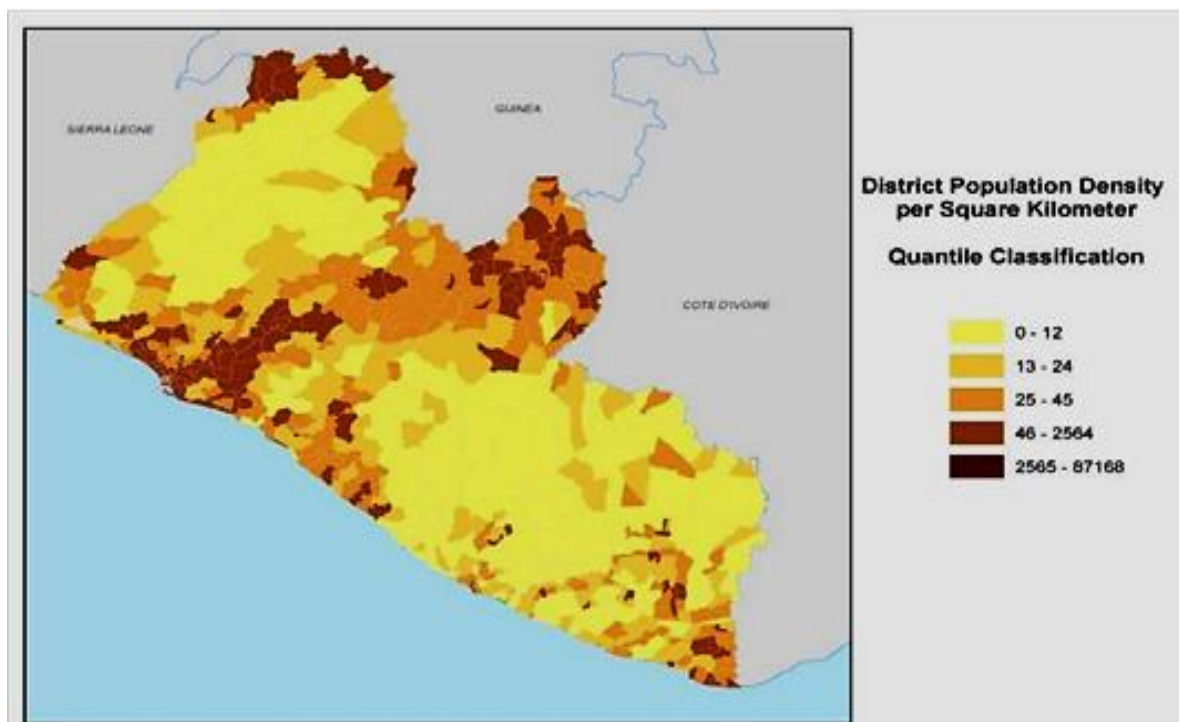


Fig. 5: Human population density/km² (Source: RoL 2017)

5.5. Fragmentation

As noted above in section 3.1, recent records of elephants are mainly restricted to the two remaining blocks of dense forest, in the north-west (NWFB) and south-east of the country (SEFB). There is no realistic prospect of dispersal by elephants between these two blocks and they are effectively isolated. Connectivity within the two blocks is a further issue and there is a risk of elephant sub-populations becoming isolated in smaller patches of forest. The extent of this potential problem is difficult to assess because of a lack of up-to-date information on elephant presence. It is possible therefore that some known elephant populations are more extensive, or closer to other populations, than currently believed.

Key potential trans-boundary elephant corridors are: Gola-Forest NP-Gola Rainforest NP (Across the River – Trans-boundary Peace Park Sierra Leone and Liberia); Wonegizi PPA-Ziama Man and Biosphere Reserve (Guinea); Grebo-Krahn NP-Goin-Débé and Cavally Classified Forests (Côte d'Ivoire) and Sapo NP-Krahn-Bassa PPA-Grebo-Krahn NP-Taï NP (Côte d'Ivoire).

To maintain and improve connectivity between PAs within the two main forest blocks, thereby creating large dispersal areas for the long-term conservation of forest elephants as well as other threatened species such as the Western chimpanzee, will require a national-level land-use planning exercise, primarily focused on areas with Forest Management Contracts (FMCs), Private Use Permits (PUPs) and Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs) (Fig. 6). Such an exercise will require full Government support, but also that of all the other relevant stakeholders involved.

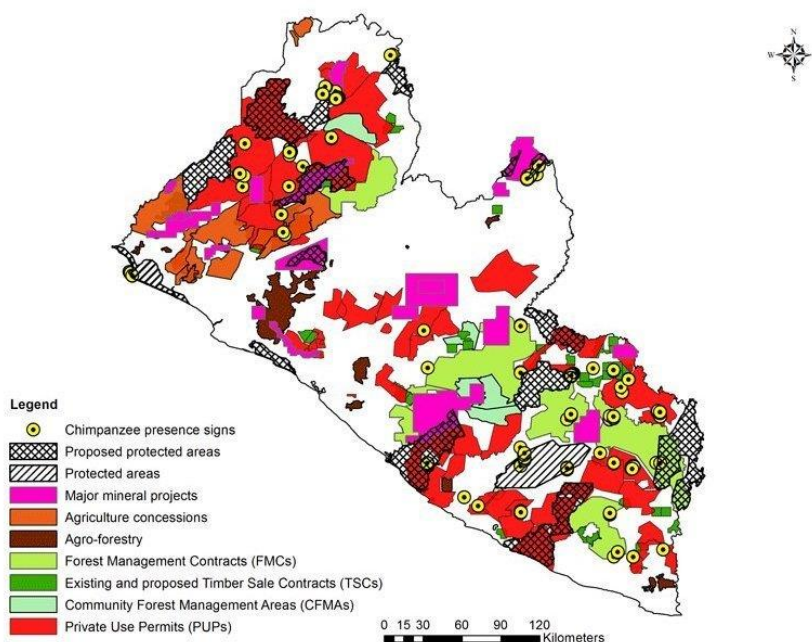


Fig. 6: Different land uses for Liberia's two main forest blocks (Source: Max-Planck Gesellschaft: *One of the last strongholds for Western chimpanzee*).

5.6. Civil war

Civil conflicts in West Africa have had negative impacts on biodiversity including deforestation, erosion, habitat destruction and pollution of land and water, and the presence of refugees may lead to increased bush-meat hunting (McNeely 2003). Civil conflict can also result in reduced funds for conservation, halting of conservation projects and reducing protection of reserves and national parks. However, in certain conditions some war zones may be effectively designated off-limits giving time for the vegetation and animal populations to recover (McNeely 2003).

The civil conflicts in Liberia during 1989-1997 and 1999-2003 prevented any conservation work from being undertaken and had an overall negative impact upon large mammals, as most of the forests were abandoned by government authorities, so combatants engaged in illegal mining and logging (Barrie et al. 2007; Christie et al. 2007). Elephants were also very likely impacted due to sales of ivory to finance the war and throughout much of the civil conflict elephant ivory sales were conducted openly in Monrovia (Hoyt 2006). The civil conflicts also had long-term negative effects on society, communities and the economy in general.

5.7. Lack of institutional capacity

Management effectiveness varies widely across PAs in Liberia. Some sites are relatively well-managed, others are not, and problems of agricultural encroachment, illegal mining and poaching in PAs are widespread. However, one positive development of collaboration of different authorities (ERU, FDA, Police) was accomplished in October 2010, by the eviction of several thousand miners from Sapo National Park. By 2014, reduced conservation activities during the Ebola crisis led to the return of illegal artisanal gold mining in Sapo NP. However, a collaborative effort started in 2017, with local communities at the center led to the removal of illegal mining camps, with the last camp cleared in 2018.

5.8. Main gaps and constraints

Based on the status review and further discussion during the workshop, the following gaps and constraints in knowledge on resources were identified:

Baseline data:

There is little information available on the status of elephants – or even their presence – in most of the sites in the elephant range. Many of the records shown in Figure 2 are from other surveys (i.e. not targeting elephants).

Information is also lacking on migration routes and basic ecology and biology. Elephants leave conspicuous field signs and local people are usually aware of their presence. There is an urgent need for a rapid assessment survey of all forests known or suspected to harbor elephants, using questionnaires and field signs, to establish a national baseline for future monitoring and action. This has started recently in 2019, with an elephant survey in north-west Liberia by ELRECO, aimed at covering the whole country.

Ivory trade:

No incidents have been reported to ETIS and the number of elephants killed annually is unknown. There is no central database or formalized data recording system. However, with funding from the UK Government's Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund and the European Union IWT grant to FFI and WCF respectively, a central database for wildlife crime incidences and confiscations is being developed in collaboration with other partners (M. Molokwu-Odozi pers. comm.).

Human-Elephant Conflict:

There is no central database or formalized incident recording system, although HEC reporting forms are available from AfESG. Conflict Mitigation Measures are available but have not been implemented.

Capacity:

There is a chronic lack of staff trained in elephant census, monitoring and management. A major initiative is needed to build capacity in FDA as well as in other government agencies and CSOs.

Community involvement:

Only a small proportion of the elephant range in Liberia is formally protected (Sapo National Park). Even with Gola and Grebo-Krahn NPs gazetted, most elephants still live outside PAs. It is therefore essential to engage communities in elephant conservation and co-management.

Funding:

Biodiversity conservation has to compete for funding with other government priorities such as economic development, housing, food production. Several other species in Liberia require attention and funding, such as Chimpanzees and others endemic to the Upper Guinea Forest (Pygmy Hippopotamus and three species of Duiker).

6. Threat Analysis

During the 2016 workshop, threats identified were classified into Direct (causing direct mortality) Indirect (affecting habitat) and Constraints (underlying factors). These were then reviewed and discussed in detail. Disease was proposed as an additional cause of elephant mortality, though little evidence of the potential effect of disease is currently available. A weakening of traditional attitudes was also cited as a factor.

The importance of these threats was then assessed through a prioritization exercise. Each threat was scored from 1 to 3 in each of three categories:

Severity – impact on elephant populations

Scope – the proportion of the country affected

Reversibility – how easy it would be to counteract the threat.

Each threat was scored 1-3 (low to high), giving a potential maximum total score of 9 (Table 7). Severity was first evaluated in 4 groups and an average of the 4 scores used. It was accepted that this should not be regarded as a scientific exercise, because the impacts of the threats have not been quantified. However, the workshop participants represented a good range of government, civil society, universities, Local NGOs and international NGOs. The collective wisdom, expert opinion and educated guesses from a wide range of stakeholders provided a useful overview of the relative importance of the different factors. The threats with the highest scores were: commercial poaching, fragmentation, artisanal mining, low support for rural livelihoods and low capacity and resources. Underlying all threat factors was a lack of information.

Table 7: Threat prioritization scores.

	Severity ¹	Scope ²	Reversibility ³	Total
<i>Direct</i>				
Killing - traditional	1.25	1	1	3.25
Killing - commercial	3	3	2	8.00
Disease	1	?	?	1.00
<i>Indirect</i>				
Habitat loss - logging	2.5	2	2	6.50
Habitat loss - commercial plantations	2.75	2	3	7.75
Habitat loss - commercial mining	2	1	3	6.00
Habitat loss - artisanal mining	3	3	2	8.00
Habitat loss - subsistence	2.25	3	1	6.25
Fragmentation	2.75	3	3	8.75
Low livelihood support	2.25	3	3	8.25
Human-elephant conflict	1.5	1	1	3.50
<i>Constraints</i>				
Lack of land-use planning	1.75	3	1	5.75
Low capacity - educational	2	3	1	6.00
Low capacity - resources/finance	2.75	3	2	7.75
Low awareness	1.75	3	1	5.75
Weakening traditions	1.25	2	3	6.25

¹ Severity: 1 = Low; 2 = Medium; 3 = High

² Scope: 1 = 0-33% of the range; 2 = 34-65%; 3 = 66-100%

³ Reversibility: 1 = Easy; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Difficult

7. How will the NEAP for Liberia be Financed?

Financing the NEAP in full can be challenging, given limited government resources and complex procedures for attracting donor funding. To help address the challenge of funding the NEAP, it should have a business plan, either as an Annex, or as a separate document. The business plan will not just lay out objectives, decision-making and execution arrangements, it will also outline the value added by the plan and how resources are to be attracted to meet the objectives.

The international donor community, private and public institutions, are under increasing pressure to focus funding to support the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets. Given the important role the NEAPs can play in implementing the SDGs, the plan must identify SDGs to which it contributes (see ANNEX 2, Mapping the SDGs against the NEAP Objectives). Central to the funding strategy, is the belief that creating sustainable wildlife economies is the only way forward to protect elephants and other vulnerable and endangered species in the long term. For this to happen, an enabling environment for tourism to take off must be established (sound infrastructure, accessibility, accommodation, security, etc.), then eventually, implementation of the NEAP must be project-based and must seek to do more than put in place an endless process of subsidies. Instead, each protected area must be governed by a business plan that brings public and private capital together, with positive rates of return, tipping the balance of economic transactions in favour of sustainable management over resource extraction. In some range States where wildlife management is at an advanced stage and the tourism industry is well developed, focus should be on improving the sustainable wildlife economy, including community conservancies, whereas for others where wildlife management is still in its infancy and the tourism industry underdeveloped, focus needs to be on creating an enabling environment for tourism first (which includes initiating concessions and conservancies).

7.1 Bilateral and Multilateral Agencies

Seeking finance with bilateral and multilateral agencies requires strong partnerships between national authorities, such as the Ministry of Finance, and traditional and non-traditional donors. Donors promoting elephant protection include the below, with examples of funding streams available to fill resource gaps for NEAPs:

- The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) – SDGs;
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF)- GEF-7 (focus on developing sustainable wildlife economies);
- The European Union (EU)- through the European Development Framework (EDF) or through the National Authorizing Officer (NAO) for the National Indicative Program (NIP) and Regional Indicative Program (RIP);
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)- project support through country programs;
- The World Bank (WB)- Global Wildlife Program;
- The UK Government- DEFRA & DFID through IWT Challenge Fund and Darwin Initiatives.

A NEAP Guidance Note for National Resource Mobilization is available that explains the various options, steps and processes in detail (EPI/Geopolicy 2018), though each country will have its own set of leading partners, among which national and international non-governmental organizations can be included. The Guidance Note is available online: <https://www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org/resources>.

Thus, resource gaps for the Liberian NEAP may be financed through either one or a combination of the following modalities: bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and World Bank, private funding, blended finance, and also through NGOs and philanthropic funding.

7.2 Linking the NEAP to the SDGs

As mentioned above, in the long term, wildlife conservation may only be successful when it has strong links to developing sustainable wildlife economies, implying that grants and subsidies will not be required forever, but instead, grants are being used to lay the foundation for revenue streams that can self-sustain the conservation effort. Links to revenue generation through park fees, development of attractions that generate jobs and financial flows, community development projects linked to other objectives such as education and health, and greater clarity on how to maximize wildlife-watching tourism through eco-tourist models, are frequently just as important as park management. Therefore it is vital that NEAP objectives link to AEAP objectives, and that the NEAP for Liberia supports the SDGs in order to attract finance so that resource gaps can be filled to guarantee planned investment levels (see Summary of Funds Required, page 8, ANNEX 2, Mapping the SDGs against the AEAP Objectives, and, ANNEX 4, Resource Mobilization Plan & Budget).

For various range States we have made an assessment of the costs and benefits to the economy of elephants' protection, based on a new method developed to forecast economic benefits arising from wildlife tourism over the next three decades, as well as capture wider economic impacts of tourism along the global value chain. This is important, as demonstrating value-for-money implies calculating environmental, social and economic impact. Simply put this means that every tourist not only contributes to the immediate local economy, but also the regional and national economy of the destination country and, the economy of the country of origin – the latter through a combination of airline tickets, insurance companies, car rental, accommodation, etc., thereby also contributing to generating revenue and creating jobs outside the African continent (along the global value chain). However, in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity into national accounts, little progress has been made and very little empirical data on the value of natural capital so far exists. What is generally required is a greater investment in protected area management, thereby contributing to improving the enabling environment for tourism, strengthening community involvement in wildlife management and the creation of alternative livelihoods through community-managed conservancies as well as human-elephant conflict mitigation, while modernizing the fiscal framework to increase tax returns that can be ploughed back into conservation.

Moreover, given the potential impact of the NEAP on SDG 1 (End Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and, SDG 17 (Partnerships for the SDGs), an integrated approach should be adopted to support conservation and to transform this into a viable business enterprise with long-term conservation impact rather than a poorly subsidized public good that has resulted in unsustainable losses of all natural resources, including elephants. The various logical steps and potential modalities, including blended finance (where public and private finances are combined to de-risk private investments, (see below) and conservation bonds (see below), constitute an innovation that is similar to an adaptive management cycle.

7.3 Funding Modalities Explained

Blended finance is the term given to the use of public or philanthropic capital to spur private sector investment in projects aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals. Given the focus on

building sustainable wildlife economies, government is encouraged to consider greater use of private capital in building such economies, either through long term park management concessions or by mobilizing private capital to upscale the wildlife tourist sector, which includes community-managed conservancies, as a means to increasing revenue flows.

Thus, innovative financial mechanisms such as blending and conservation bonds can be used to leverage private capital, possibly in addition to or in combination with some of the other financial opportunities available. Blended finance offers the possibility to scale up commercial financing for conservation in developing countries and to channel such financing toward investments with conservation impact. As such, blended finance is designed to support progress towards the SDGs. Conservation bonds are in essence contracts between the public and private sectors, in which a commitment is made to pay for improved conservation outcomes - that is government makes payments to the private sector parties when conservation outcomes are achieved. Simply put, these are private sector equity investments with a corporate social responsibility component and therefore a different risk profile than more conventional investments. Conservation bonds are rather similar to social impact bonds or pay-for-success financing.

These financing options are intended to complement existing government financing of the Liberian NEAP, though such support largely focuses on covering operational expenditures for wages and non-wage recurrent costs. Capital spending for conservation can only be increased once the rate of investment return is clearly justified, and the approach outlined above is therefore critical to securing future funding for such activities.

8. Vision, Goal and Objectives

Based on the information presented in the Status Review and the Threat Analysis, a Vision, Goal, Objectives and Actions were developed, forming the core element of the National Elephant Action Plan for Liberia.

8.1. Vision

Several values associated with elephants were identified and used to derive the Vision for Liberia's National Elephant Action Plan:

- Ecological role in the forest
- Traditional and cultural value
- Iconic species
- Largest Land animal
- Intelligence and strength make it respected
- Liberia is the best hope for survival of forest elephants in West Africa
- Commercial value (ecotourism)

During the 2016 workshop, four working groups were formed to develop a Vision statement that reflected the ideal future status of the species in Liberia. The four versions were compared and blended into a single Vision for the NEAP:

VISION:

Liberia remains a sanctuary for forest elephants in West Africa, where viable populations of this iconic species thrive in healthy forest ecosystems and in harmony with people, enabling future generations to appreciate their unique values.

8.2. Goal

The same process was followed to develop the long-term goal, namely drafting in four working groups, followed by presentation, discussion and agreement on the final version.

GOAL:

Protect the remaining elephant populations of Liberia and maintain their habitat and distribution in interconnected conservation areas, while ensuring peaceful coexistence between elephants and humans and increasing benefits of their conservation for local communities as well as the state.

8.3. Objectives/Activities

The eight Objectives set out in the African Elephant Action Plan, and recommended for use in NEAPs were reviewed and modified slightly to match the Liberian situation. Following that exercise, sets of actions needed to deliver each Objective were developed, discussed and agreed in the same four working groups.

NEAP Objectives:

- 1. Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia*
- 2. Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate*
- 3. Reduce Human-elephant Conflict*
- 4. Increase awareness on elephant conservation*
- 5. Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management*
- 6. Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding*
- 7. Improve local community collaboration*
- 8. Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented*

Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia

Target: By 2025, elephant numbers killed illegally per annum will be reduced by 75%, with zero ivory seizures.

To protect elephants from poaching and ivory trafficking, it is crucial to implement a law-enforcement strategy at the national level. The strategy is based on close inter-institutional collaboration, supported by modern technologies and the strengthening of international collaborations. Capacity building is essential at all levels of the law-enforcement chain, from capacity building of FDA to the strengthening of patrols and the initiation of investigations and intelligence.

The fight against poaching and ivory trafficking is also inseparable from a strengthening of legal proceedings. Effectively fighting elephant related crime is only possible with a sound criminal justice system, capable of repressing wildlife offenses, but also underlying offenses such as corruption. The Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit (UNODC 2014) will serve as a guide for achieving this goal. Strengthening the sanctions against poachers and ivory traffickers will be a major contribution to the protection of elephants in Liberia. Table 8 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 1.

Table 8: Targets and Activities for Objective 1

Objective 1	Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
1.1 National wildlife law-enforcement strategy developed.	1.1.1 Develop a national wildlife law enforcement strategy encompassing each existing Protected Area (PA), Proposed Protected Area (PPA), and existing forest blocks with a potentially viable elephant population and sufficiently intact habitat (elephant sites).	2020	All key elephant sites FDA/Consultant
1.2 Sufficient numbers of patrol staff	1.2.1 For each elephant site, assess needs in terms of staff and capacity building	2020	All key elephant sites

trained and available for deployment.			FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs (CI, AML, SCNL, WCF, FFI)
	1.2.2 Recruit adequate numbers of personnel to ensure the enforcement of wildlife law in elephant sites as well as national state security staff for joint operations and combating ivory trafficking	2019-21	All elephant sites/National FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs (CI, AML, SCNL, WCF, FFI)
	1.2.3 Establish/Develop a training school, training program and SOPs for wildlife enforcement personnel. NB: Conservation programs at Forestry Training Institute(FTI) should be improved.	2020	General FDA/Contractor/Consultant/relevant NGOs
	1.2.4 Implement staff training	2020-22	FDA/Consultant
	1.2.5 Develop a comprehensive program to strengthen capacity in FDA and CSOs	2020	FDA/Consultants/Training Institutions/CSOs/Relevant NGOs
1.3 All elephant sites operational with regard to law enforcement activities	1.3.1 Conduct a needs assessment in terms of transportation, equipment and communication in each elephant site	2020	FDA/Consultant/NGOs
	1.3.2 Provide the necessary equipment, including appropriate transportation	2020	FDA/Consultant/NGOs
	1.3.3 Monitor the effectiveness of anti-poaching measures by using SMART or alternative manual systems	2019-22	FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs
1.4 Increase awareness on wildlife laws and regulations as well as elephant conservation with employees of	1.4.1 Conduct awareness raising campaigns on the National wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law 2016 for the public and private sector employees working or living in contact with wildlife,	2019-29	FDA/relevant NGOs

the extractive industries	especially those of the extractive industries		
1.5 An intelligence and investigations network is operational to dismantle Ivory trafficking networks	1.5.1 Initiate an intelligence and investigations network to combat ivory trafficking	2019-20	National FDA/Police/Customs/Consultant
	1.5.2 Recruit and train personnel to develop and manage the intelligence and investigations network	2019-29	National FDA/Police/Customs/Consultant
	1.5.3 Train all staff in data collection and transmission	2020	National FDA/Police/Consultant
	1.5.4 Develop and manage informant networks within and around key elephant sites.	2020-29	All elephant sites
	1.5.5 Create an operations room with FDA in Monrovia to centralize information, including the use of specific software to facilitate the management of intelligence data.	2019-29	Monrovia FDA/Consultant
	1.5.6 Create and train a special intervention force with the FDA/Police/other enforcement agencies that can react rapidly to intelligence information and stop traffickers (Multi-Agency Taskforce). NB: This is in addition to the Wildlife Confiscation Unit that has already been established.	2019-29	National FDA/Enforcement Agencies/Consultant
1.6 Strengthen the ivory detection and management systems	1.6.1 Initiate ivory detection sniffer dog units for the main air- and seaports	2023	Coast FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs
	1.6.2 Train officers in the use of sniffer dogs for detection and identification.	2023	Coast FDA/Consultant
	1.6.3 Strengthen the national procedures for seized ivory management and marking, including a national data base and strict chain of custody	2021	National FDA/Consultant/SI/EPI

	1.6.4 Improve and maintain a highly secure central storage facility for the national stock of seized ivory, weapons and other illegal wildlife products	2019-20	Monrovia FDA/Consultant/NGOs
1.7 Dissuasive national legal framework and actors in the legal chain well trained	1.7.1 Review and if required amend existing wildlife laws (National Parks Act) in particular the provisions for penalties and sanctions. NB: Section 11 of the new wildlife and PA law is being reviewed for stiffer penalties	2019-20	FDA/Consultant
	1.7.2 Transpose international conventions into national laws, especially CITES regulations.	2019-20	FDA/Consultant
	1.7.3 Train magistrates in the fight against wildlife crime, the specificities of these types of crime, special investigation techniques, the use of evidence provided by forensic science and the fight against corruption.	2019-20	National FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs
	1.7.4 Develop guidelines on the applicable laws on wildlife crime to ensure maximum penalties.	2019-20	FDA/Consultant/relevant NGOs
	1.7.5 Monitor and evaluate prosecutions linked to wildlife crime and in particular elephants	2021-22	FDA/relevant NGOs
	1.7.6 Create a database on wildlife crime prosecutions.	2021-22	FDA/relevant NGOs
1.8 Reduce corruption	1.8.1 Implement strict rules regarding corruption cases amongst the wildlife authorities in line with government strategies	2021	FDA
	1.8.2 Create and train an anti-corruption unit for corruption cases examination	2019-20	FDA

Objective 2: Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate

Target: No measurable loss in the size of the elephant range, with connectivity improved for key populations by 2029.

The long-term maintenance of forest elephant populations in Liberia requires the provision of sufficient habitat to support a viable elephant population and allow their movement and dispersal. This requires strengthening habitat protection measures in dispersal areas larger than formally protected areas and connected by corridors. The legal recognition of these dispersal areas and their integration into national-level land-use planning will ensure the long-term presence of extractive industries and other land uses compatible with the presence of elephants. In Liberia there are two distinct elephant dispersal areas, the north-west forest block and the south-east forest block. Although each block contains a few protected areas, whether designated or proposed, these are not large enough to contain viable elephant populations by themselves. As such, the conservation of forest elephants in Liberia requires larger dispersal areas, where protected areas are surrounded by multiple-use buffer zones and are connected by corridors that include rivers and streams and preferred elephant habitat. State forests, community forests and timber concessions are some of the land uses that may be compatible with the presence of elephants and therefore suitable for range expansion and/or corridors. Table 9 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 2.

Table 9: Targets and Activities for Objective 2.

Objective 2	Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
2.1 All key elephant sites identified and the status of Proposed PAs formalized and co-management plans for community forests developed and agreed	2.1.1 Identify all key elephant sites in both dispersal blocks and ensure that all key sites within the larger elephant dispersal areas have been officially gazetted	2022	FDA/ELRECO/GOL/ Legislators/NGOs
	2.1.2 Develop co-management plans for Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs) located within the larger elephant dispersal areas	2024	FDA

2.2 Dispersal areas for elephants have been identified	2.2.1 Define and delineate dispersal areas for elephants, necessary to maintain viable populations, by using the results of studies on population densities, habitat use and movement patterns (see Objective 5). Larger dispersal areas may comprise formally protected areas, and sections of (buffer zones) or corridors within state and community forests (Forest Management Contracts (FMCs), Private Use Permits (PUPs), CFMAs and other land uses)	2022	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.2.2 Through legal documents, officially recognize dispersal areas, not only the formally protected areas therein, but also areas dedicated to other uses	2022	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
2.3 Elephant habitat in dispersal areas is sustainably protected	2.3.1 Evaluate the legal requirements to sustainably protect elephant habitat in dispersal areas, e.g. development and land use plans for all land uses found in the wider dispersal area	2022	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.3.2 Define the obligations for habitat maintenance in elephant dispersal areas and integrate them into the National Land Use Plan and legal documents of the land concessions in these areas	2020	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.3.3 Train managers to implement good management practices for elephant habitat preservation	2021	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.3.4 Train government officials to monitor and implement these obligations in the field	2020	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
2.4 Connectivity for elephants is maintained within wider dispersal areas	2.4.1 Identify potential corridors for elephants between conservation areas within the wider dispersal areas, including trans-boundary corridors, using predefined criteria and knowledge of the ecology of elephants and their responses to threats	2022	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	2.4.2 Formally classify corridors to maintain connectivity areas necessary for elephant movement	2020	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant

	2.4.3 Develop agreements between different actors for the protection and/or restoration of habitat in corridors	2020	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	2.4.4 Develop Memoranda Of Understanding with bordering countries for the creation of buffer zones and corridors to ensure the continuity of wider dispersal areas on the other side of the border	2021	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
2.5 National Land use planning considers elephant population ecology and distribution	2.5.1 Include wider dispersal areas, including buffer zones and corridors, in the National Land Use Plan to ensure the long term presence of extractive industries that generally cause the least damage and disturbance and deforest the least in these areas	2021	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.5.2 Examine existing and future roads and transport networks and assess their current and future traffic and the necessary mitigation measures	2021	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.5.3 Examine current planned and proposed land use projects and assess the mitigation measures needed to reduce their negative impacts on elephant populations	2022	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.5.4 Include mitigation measures for roads, railways and various land-use projects in the National Land Use Plan	2023	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
2.6 A monitoring and evaluation system is implemented	2.6.1 Implement monitoring of human activities and elephant populations in wider dispersal areas	2023	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs
	2.6.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of corridors using different techniques, such as trap cameras and radio collars.	2021	FDA/relevant NGOs

Objective 3: Reduce human-elephant conflicts

Target: Human-elephant conflict reduced to acceptable levels with zero loss of human life by 2029.

To mitigate human-elephant conflict and to change the perception of local communities towards elephants, it is crucial to implement a national strategy in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders (government institutions, private sector, and local population). Furthermore, this requires the establishment of a unit responsible for HEC management (Division of Wildlife is responsible for HEC management) – that is HEC monitoring, maintaining a database, application of HEC mitigation and testing a range of mitigation measures applicable under different circumstances.

Support should be sought with the agricultural sector to adapt agricultural practices, to settle crops in one place, plan agricultural sites zoning and increase productivity to compensate losses up to an acceptable level. These measures will have to be tested across Liberia to ensure their feasibility and effectiveness.

To ensure the sustainable management of HEC, it is essential to integrate local populations into the decision-making process and to make them accountable for the implementation of mitigation measures. Protected Area Advisory Boards (PAABs) need to be established (see Objective 4), not only to strengthen HEC management, but also to create awareness and to facilitate management of protected areas and resource use within buffer zones and proposed corridors. Table 10 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 3.

Table 10: Targets and Activities for Objective 3.

Objective 3	Reduce Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
3.1 The specialized unit to deal with human-elephant conflict is operational	3.1.1 Establish a specialized unit dealing with HEC within FDA (Division of Wildlife is responsible for HEC management)	2020	National FDA/relevant government institutions/NGOs
	3.1.2 Organize exchanges with counterparts in other countries and HEC specialists	2020-21	International FDA
	3.1.3 In consultation with various stakeholders, develop the national strategy for HEC	2022	National FDA/relevant government institutions/NGOs/Consultant

	management and provide the implementation decrees.		
	3.1.4 Assess extent of HEC through a nation-wide survey	2022	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs
3.2 Guidelines for the mitigation of crop depredation by elephants are available.	3.2.1 Identify mitigation methods to reduce the probability of harvest damage by elephants by compiling information from Liberia and around the world as well as available recommendations and tool kits (IUCN, FAO)	2021	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs
	3.2.2 Test the effectiveness of identified methods in several sites across the country	2020-21	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs
	3.2.3 Investigate the possibility of implementing local insurance policies with private companies or low-cost premium to compensate for the damage done by elephants to farmers	2022	National FDA
	3.2.4 Based on the results of the studies carried out, develop guidelines for the mitigation of crop depredation risks for farmers and local authorities	2022	National FDA/relevant government institutions/NGOs/Consultant
3.3 Local communities are actively involved in managing HEC	3.3.1 Assign local community guards to work closely with the HEC unit (Wildlife Division)	2021	National FDA/relevant NGOs
	3.3.2 Conduct regular awareness raising campaigns on wildlife law, established guidelines and complaint procedures	2020-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.3.3 Support local communities in the implementation of mitigation measures	2022-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
3.4 Simple and effective procedures are in place for conflict and damage reporting	3.4.1 Develop a simplified administrative procedure to report crop damage and encourage the reporting of all incidents	2022	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.4.2 In consultation with the ministry of agriculture, identify	2021	National

	effective and cheap methods to evaluate and quantify elephant damage		FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.4.3 Train relevant government officials in the assessment of crop damage, according to a standardized protocol	2020-21	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.4.4 Investigate the feasibility of a pilot crop damage compensation scheme	2021	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.4.5 Train field officers (FDA) in conflict management with villagers	2020-22	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	3.4.6 Create a national HEC database and rapid information transmission procedures to track the impact of crop depredation.	2020-21	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/consultant
	3.4.7 Evaluate and monitor change in local populations' and the general public's perception of crop damage by elephants	2023-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs

Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation

Target: All relevant stakeholders, including the general public are generally supportive of elephant conservation by 2025

Elephants can destroy an entire field in one visit. Loss of income and food resources can be dramatic for villagers, particularly because of the low productivity of village crops and the annual planting rate. Human-elephant conflict leads to negative and even hostile attitudes, posing a threat to conservation.

A prerequisite to changing attitudes is the establishment of Protected Area Advisory Boards (PAABs), comprised of all stakeholders but especially representatives of the local fringe communities, which consider the need for raising awareness and the rights of the local communities in the peripheral areas. Because tourism is not yet developed in Liberia, local communities do not yet benefit from economic rewards to compensate for the negative impacts of cohabiting with elephants.

Not only community members, but also the business community, politicians, relevant government officials, and officers of the enforcement agencies are frequently not aware of the seriousness of the situation – the declining elephant numbers, the potential economic importance of elephants for the country, the loss of integrity of the habitat, and the increase in trafficking and trade in illicit ivory. A country-wide sensitisation program is required, targeting each of these main stakeholders, but not excluding the general public. Table 11 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 4.

Table 11: Targets and Activities for Objective 4.

Objective 4	Increase awareness on elephant conservation		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
4.1 A communication awareness strategy centered around elephant conservation is implemented	4.1.1 Develop a communication awareness strategy centered on elephants aimed at all relevant stakeholders.	2020	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	4.1.2 Produce and disseminate awareness raising tools about the importance of elephant conservation, wildlife laws and government action. These awareness tools need to be tailor-made for each target group – that is school children and students for	2020-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant

	long-term conservation perspectives, communities and the general public, local and national politicians and enforcement agencies, and the business community, especially those working in the extractive industries.		
	4.1.3 Include elephant conservation outreach in all existing nature clubs within elephant range communities and establish new nature clubs	2021	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	4.1.4 Conduct annual workshops on elephant conservation for stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels	2020	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	4.1.5 Work with the Executive (GoL) to establish an annual National Wildlife Day	2020-29	National FDA
	4.1.6 Conduct a national awareness campaign on the law and penalties concerning elephant poaching, and the trade and sale of ivory	2020	National FDA/Relevant NGOs
	4.1.7 Organize awareness workshops for enforcement agencies, judiciary and prosecutors	2021	National FDA/Consultant
	4.1.8 Integrate elephant conservation into academic curricula, by revising UL biodiversity modules and providing teaching modules	ongoing	National FDA/Consultant/Relevant NGOs/University
	4.1.9 Promote elephant research, specifically survey techniques, through inclusion in field courses	2020 onwards	National FDA/Consultant/Relevant NGOs/University
	4.1.10 Identify international training opportunities in elephant conservation and research for Liberian students and professionals to ensure continued	2020 onwards	International FDA/Relevant NGOs/Universities

	availability of national elephant experts		
	4.1.11 Develop a communication strategy to regularly inform other government institutions and relevant stakeholders on management decisions pertaining to elephant conservation	2020 onwards	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
4.2 Create an enabling environment for ecotourism	4.2.1 Support national efforts to develop an economically viable ecotourism industry.	2020 onwards	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	4.2.2 Establish Protected Area Advisory Boards for each PA within the elephant dispersal areas	2020 onwards	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant

Objective 5: Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management

Target: By 2029, a scientifically based monitoring program is generating in-depth information on the status of the national elephant population as regular feedback for adaptive management.

Scientific monitoring and research programs play an important role in the field of elephant conservation and management (Jachmann 1998, 2001). They improve knowledge on forest elephant's ecology and the status of the population in Liberia. Priority is given to adaptive research programs to guide conservation actions, primarily focused on status, connectivity and seasonal distribution studies. Elephant research activities will be coordinated at the national level to harmonize methods and to avoid effort duplication.

Traditional approaches such as fecal techniques and new technologies, e.g. camera traps and acoustic monitoring will be combined and tested in order to effectively monitor the status of elephant populations, poaching levels and the extent of ivory trafficking.

This goal is closely linked to Objectives 1 and 2, to guide law-enforcement strategies and to define wider dispersal areas, buffer zones and corridors. Table 12 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 5.

Table 12: Targets and Activities for Objective 5.

Objective 5	Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
5.1 Conduct a national baseline study to determine elephant densities and distribution and/or records of elephant presence	5.1.1 Complete an inventory of elephant density and distribution at the national level (2 blocks), using a combination of traditional approaches and new technologies	2020 – 22	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs
	5.1.2 Compile the results of the national inventory and identify and map all forest blocks with known elephant presence	2020-22	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs
	5.1.3 Identify suitable areas for a field research station in NW and SE forest block	2020 - 22	National FDA/ELRECO

	5.1.4 Create a national database of all recent and old elephant data	Ongoing	National FDA/Consultant/Relevant NGOs
	5.1.5 Establish a genetic database of the Forest Elephants in Liberia	2020 - 22	National FDA/ELRECO/other NGOs
5.2 Elephant research is coordinated at the national level	5.2.1 Set up a research team under FDA in charge of developing key elephant research programs and coordinating the research projects at national level	2021	National FDA/Universities/Consultant /FFI
	5.2.2 Train FDA Central office staff, field staff and community forest managers in elephant conservation management. Establish and train monitoring team	2020-21	National FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EPA/FFI
	5.2.3 Recruit and train technical staff and community members to conduct field surveys	2019 - 22	National FDA/EPA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/FFI
	5.2.4 Develop a long-term elephant management and monitoring program for Liberia, using standardized methodologies, sites identified during inventory, and elephant monitoring integrated into existing bio monitoring program	2019 - 22	National FDA/EPA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/FFI
	5.2.5 Plan a research program on forest elephant ecology	2019-23	National FDA/Universities/Consultant /FFI
5.3 Ensure that research results help to guide conservation actions (adaptive research).	5.3.1 Implement major research programs such as population dynamics & structure in selected sites, genetic structure of populations (Genetic samples taken and sequenced for West African forest elephants), the study of seasonal movements through radio tracking and recognition, and extractive industries impact	2022 onwards	National FDA/EPA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/FFI
	5.3.2 Put in place mechanisms for research programs results to be regularly reported to the various actors involved in elephant	2019 onwards	National FDA/FFI

	management, while aligning information collected with the National Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)		
5.4 Research enables evaluation of the effectiveness of conservation actions	5.4.1 Test and compare the different forest elephant population inventory techniques available to establish an efficient methodology in terms of cost and time.	2020-22	National FDA/EPA/ Consultants/Universities/FFI
	5.4.2 Implement regular monitoring of the elephant population status in PAs, wider dispersal areas, buffer zones and corridors.	2021 onwards	National FDA/EPA/ Consultants/Universities/FFI
	5.4.3 Develop and implement indirect population monitoring indicators (standardized data collection on carcasses and ivory , genetic analysis of seized ivory).	2019 onwards	National FDA/EPA/ Consultants/Universities/FFI
	5.4.4 Review existing and develop new management plans for all PAs, ensuring compliance with elephant conservation in general and the NEAP	2019 onwards	National FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant
	5.4.5 Share the results with international databases (African Elephant database, MIKE, ETIS) to increase awareness of forest elephant status	2019 onwards	FDA

Objective 6: Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding

Target: MRU Enforcement Taskforce operational by 2020.

International collaboration in patrolling, investigations and prosecutions, particularly with border countries, but also with transit countries and countries importing ivory, are essential for the fight against organized poaching and international trafficking. Although there has been some trans-boundary collaboration in the past between the members of the Mano River Union (MRU), this needs to be revived and formalized into a MRU Enforcement Task Force. Table 13 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 6.

Table 13: Targets and Activities for Objective 6.

Objective 6	Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
6.1 Formal cooperation between MRU States strengthened to include elephant poaching and the dismantling of trafficking networks	6.1.1 Meetings with MRU States to formalize and strengthen existing trans-boundary initiatives to include elephant conservation, to plan joint cross-border patrols and to address illegal trade of ivory through exchange of intelligence information and joint initiatives (MRU Enforcement Task Force)	2019 – 2022	Regional (MRU) MRU Secretariat/GoL/FDA WABICC/All relevant enforcement agencies from the MRU
	6.1.2 Conduct regular joint cross-border patrols in two forest blocks	2020-23	Regional (MRU) MRU Secretariat/GoL/FDA WABICC/All relevant enforcement agencies from the MRU
	6.1.3 Revive the MRU conservation task force and include elephant conservation issues through regular meetings with the MRU Secretariat	2020 onwards	Regional (MRU) MRU Secretariat/GoL/FDA WABICC
	6.1.4 Work closely with international organizations (Interpol, CEEAC) and existing	2019 onwards	International MRU/FDA

	networks to promote collaboration for elephant conservation		
	6.1.5 Formalize the exchange of intelligence information with other MRU States on poaching and trafficking networks operating in the region	2020-21	Regional (MRU) FDA/Key MRU enforcement agencies
	6.1.6 Fulfill all CITES, CBD and CMS commitments	2019 onwards	International FDA/GoL

Objective 7: Improve local community collaboration

Target: By 2029, communities cohabiting with elephants receive considerable benefits from elephant-based tourism, have a positive attitude towards elephant conservation and collaborate with the authorities.

The development of elephant-based community tourism should be part of the government's strategy for community development as well as changing the attitude towards elephant conservation of those who need to cohabit with the resource. Moreover, local community involvement and their support are essential for the long-term conservation of forest elephants in Liberia. The role of the PAABs (see 4.2) should be strengthened, notably by deeper involvement in PA management, the management of human-elephant conflict and development of community tourism. The expansion of ecotourism in Liberia needs to be closely linked to education and awareness raising campaigns aimed at changing the people's perception of elephants. Table 14 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 7.

Table 14: Targets and Activities for Objective 7.

Objective 7	Improve local community collaboration		
Targets	Activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
7.1 Elephants seen as an attractive community-based ecotourism product in Liberia.	7.1.1 Develop a community-based tourism strategy, with focus on establishing community conservancies in PA buffer zones, corridors and CFMAs, with elephants and other key wildlife species as the key attraction	2020 – 22	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)
	7.1.2 Facilitate the development of community-based tourism products with PA fringe communities and those located within community forests by creating an enabling environment through legislative amendments and by encouraging private sector co-investment.	2020-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI) Private sector
	7.1.3 Train members of selected communities within the elephant range in tourism enterprise development and management	2021-22	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI Private sector

	7.1.4 Strengthen local community involvement in the decision-making process and the benefits of conservation generated revenue by incorporating community-based tourism into the agendas of the PAABs	2020-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI)
	7.1.5 Generate communication tools in order to promote Liberia as tourism destination for foreign tourists.	2019 – 29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI)
7.2 Local community collaboration strengthened	7.2.1 Train local tourism guides for private sector enterprises	2021 – 29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI)
	7.2.2 Develop co-management plans for community forests, incorporating ecotourism development, creation of conservancies or other (see 2.1.2)	2021-29	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI)
	7.2.3 Identify active elephant hunters, provide them with training and a benefit package, and create elephant ambassadorial teams locally, when feasible as part of a local nature club, but permanent members of the PAAB.	2019 onwards	National FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS)/CI/FFI)

Objective 8: Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented

Target: 90% of Liberia's NEAP effectively implemented by 2029.

NEAP implementation will require the appointment of a coordinator/coordinating committee. The coordinator will be responsible for broadcasting the NEAP and establishing and maintaining close relations with the various government partners. He/she will also be the focal point for all non-governmental partners and donors, who will have to tighten collaboration with the Liberian government for the implementation, financing and monitoring of all elephant conservation related activities.

In collaboration with the different partners, annual NEAP workshops will assess progress of NEAP targets and objectives implementation, adapt the strategy to new potential threats and define an annual work plan, including a series of priority actions.

The NEAP will be the framework for defining each government institution's and their partners' roles and responsibilities. Official memorandums of understanding between different institutions and private sector partners will coordinate actions, harmonize procedures, and set up communication and data management networks. Coordination among NGOs, donors, and government research institutions will also be strengthened, to avoid duplicating efforts across the country, facilitate national capacity building, and strengthen the links between scientific research and elephant population management.

Projects corresponding to the priority actions of the annual work plan, developed by the government and / or partners, will be submitted to the coordinator / coordinating committee and included in the annexes of the NEAP. The coordinator will work with donors to simplify the funding of priority projects.

The coordinator will also monitor and evaluate the implementation of priority activities. Reports and results will be collected in a central database and will contribute to an annual report. Table 15 shows targets and activities required to achieve Objective 8.

Table 15: *Targets and Activities required for Objective 8.*

Objective 8	Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented		
Activities	Sub-activities	Approximate Timeline	Scope & Responsibility
8.1 Establish a clear framework for NEAP implementation.	8.1.1 Appoint a NEAP coordinating committee (including a coordinator and central focal point)	2019	FDA

	8.1.2 Publicize the NEAP and establish close and consistent relationships with partners	2019-22	FDA
	8.1.3 Organize annual meetings between stakeholders	2019-29	FDA
	8.1.4 Define the priority actions for the Liberian government.	2019	FDA/GoL
	8.1.5 Define clear procedures for partners to coordinate activities and funding	2019-21	FDA/GoL/Relevant NGOs
8.2 Reinforce coordination between government institutions.	8.2.1 Define and clarify the roles and responsibilities of each institution in each NEAP objective, target and measure implementation.	2019-20	FDA/Relevant government institutions
	8.2.2 Establish official collaboration agreements for information exchange and coordinated action implementation for elephant conservation	2019-21	FDA/Relevant government institutions
8.3 Reinforce collaboration with non-governmental partners and the private sector	8.3.1 Establish Memoranda of Understanding with transport carriers and extractive industries	2020-22	FDA
	8.3.2 Encourage the sharing of data relevant to elephant conservation between government institutions and their partners	2019-22	FDA
	8.3.3 Coordinate activities carried out by Government institutions and NGOs to ensure results complementarity and circulation	2019-22	FDA
8.4 Follow progress on the implementation of priority actions	8.4.1 Work in collaboration with the funding bodies for the financing of priority actions	2019-22	FDA/Relevant NGOs
	8.4.2 Develop procedures for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of government and partners activities	2020-21	FDA
	8.4.3 Collect relevant reports and information for the NEAP and archive them in a central database	2020-22	FDA

	8.4.4 Provide an annual report of the implementation for the government and the funding bodies.	2020-22	FDA
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Conclusion

This integrated national strategy for the survival of forest elephant populations in Liberia is a comprehensive program that will be implemented by the FDA, in close collaboration with the relevant government institutions, NGOs/INGOs and other partners. The NEAP should be used to guide all strategies and decisions of relevant government institutions, including customs, transport, agriculture, justice and law enforcement forces.

This strategy aims at stabilizing the country's remaining elephant populations, improving protection and environmental law enforcement, defining large dispersal areas for elephants, reducing human-elephant conflict, promoting a positive image of elephants, and expanding the knowledge on forest elephants in Liberia. Moreover, the strategy aims at creating an enabling environment for involvement of local communities in wildlife management and to initiate community-based tourism.

The NEAP is an adaptive strategy that will be updated annually to integrate new information and define priority actions and an annual work plan. This current document is the final revision and update of the 2019 NEAP. To fully succeed with Liberia's commitment, considerable funding from international donors and the private sector will be required.

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Annex 1. Project Proposals

Project Proposal LIB1

Country: Liberia

Lead Institutions: FFI & FDA

Implementing Partners: Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection (LCRP), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) & Liberia Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC – subcommittee of Liberia’s Species Working Group)

Duration of Project: Five years

NEAP Objective 1, Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 & 1.7.

Project Title: Strengthening Liberia’s capacity to reduce the illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia

Rationale: Liberia is a key source and transit country for illegal wildlife trade in West Africa. Liberia’s forest elephants are high risk victims of the country’s wildlife crime networks, with six recorded killings in protected areas and national forests in 2019 alone. The actual number of elephants lost to wildlife crime is estimated to be much higher as networks become stronger and more organized. One convicted ivory trader admitted to being part of a ‘formal’ training program for elephant parts, including ivory, nationally and regionally. While Liberia took action to protect wildlife with the passage of Liberia’s Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Act in 2016, efforts to enforce it have been minimal due to lack of funding, capacity, expertise and political will. In addition, penalties are weak and rarely enforced and regulations have yet to be developed and implemented. Strengthening Liberia’s capacity to reduce the illegal killing of elephants will not only address the immediate threats facing elephants in the country but also provide long term and lasting solutions through improved legislation, enhanced and formalized training and capacity building, extensive and diverse collaborations and coordinated efforts and, ultimately high level expertise in the detection, prosecution and immobilization of elephant related criminal activities and syndicates.

Relation with the AEAP, NEAP: This proposal is fully in line with the AEAP’s and Liberia NEAP’s Priority Objective 1.

Project objective: Strengthen national capacity and collaborative efforts and actions in tackling elephant related wildlife crime and disrupting the criminal networks threatening their survival.

Methods: Strengthening Liberia’s capacity to reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory will achieve success by building on current national initiatives and activities and coordinating efforts with existing networks focused on tackling wildlife crime and trafficking, including Liberia’s Law Enforcement Sub-Committee (LESC) and Wildlife Crime Task Force (WCTF), coordinated by the project’s implementing partners Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection. The LESC falls under Liberia’s Species Working Group, a unique partnership made up of a diverse group of local and international wildlife protection and conservation organizations. LESC’s mission is to develop coordinated, comprehensive and effective law enforcement strategies to support the implementation of Liberia’s Wildlife Act of 2016. Liberia’s newly established Wildlife Crime

Task Force is a formalized action network deployed to enforce wildlife laws, increase capacity within wildlife crime related roles and positions, greatly increase public awareness and work collaboratively with joint security and judiciary systems to ensure elephant populations and other protected species are not at risk from the extensive illegal activities currently threatening their survival.

This project will allow for a coordinated response to illegal wildlife crime impacting elephants in Liberia, utilizing a three-pronged approach:

Strengthen legal frameworks: Liberia's Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Act of 2016 is currently being revised to ensure CITES compliance, strengthen its substance, review and improve content, increase penalties and develop formal regulations. An important component of strengthening legal frameworks in Liberia is related education and public awareness among law enforcement officials, joint security personnel, judiciary agents, communities and ministerial agencies. A standardized law enforcement strategy for protected areas will be developed and implemented, including integration of SMART monitoring technology in all protected areas throughout Liberia.

Building capacity within Liberia's law enforcement and legal networks: Capacity of wildlife, law enforcement, joint security, legal and judiciary agencies will be strengthened and enhanced through training and development of expertise in areas including detection, investigation, rapid response, communications, identification, confiscation, arrests, evidence gathering and prosecutorial methods. Participants will be provided with extensive trainings, complete technical and university coursework, attend relevant conferences and workshops and work alongside experts in the field. Examples include review and enhancement of the Forestry Training Institute's ranger program curriculum including needs assessment and collection of baseline M & E data and the development of a national database for wildlife crime and database management training.

Improve collaboration and coordination among national agencies: The LESC and WCTF will serve as national coordination platforms to facilitate effective collaboration in tackling IWT, including that impacting Liberia's elephants. The LESC is composed of local and international NGOs (including FFI) and wildlife, environmental and security agencies, and WCTF acts as an agent in support and guidance regarding confiscation/seizure of live animals and wildlife products, and the arrest and prosecution of wildlife criminals. The Committee and the Task Force provide unique and diverse associations allowing for effective collaboration and coordinated efforts and initiatives to tackle IWT. To date these networks have developed and implemented wildlife crime protocols and enhanced communication and consistency between key agencies including the FDA, Transnational Crime Unit (TCU), Liberia National Police (LNP), Interpol, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Liberia's two rescue centers LCRP (implementing partner on this proposal), Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Ministry of Justice. In 2019 alone, these networks have facilitated the successful prosecution of multiple chimpanzee traffickers, an ivory trader, a pygmy hippo hunter and others. Similar achievements will be targeted for increased detection and convictions in elephant related crimes, including specific task forces within the networks, specially equipped to deliver on the reduction of threats facing forest elephants throughout Liberia.

Expected Outcome: An effective and fully operational legal framework supporting a reduction in elephant related crime, strengthened capacity in the detection, arrest and prosecution of elephant related wildlife crime, development of a rapid and coordinated response to elephant related crime and criminal networks and ultimately a significant reduction in the killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory.

Target (Action)/Activities:

Target 1.1: National wildlife law-enforcement strategy developed

Target 1.2: Sufficient numbers of patrol staff trained and available for deployment (1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5)

Target 1.3: All elephant sites operational with regard to law enforcement activities (1.3.3)

Target 1.4: Increase awareness on wildlife laws and regulations and elephant conservation with employees in the extractive industries

Target 1.7: Dissuasive national legal framework and legal professional and key players trained (1.7.1, 1.7.2, 1.7.3, 1.7.4, 1.7.5, 1.7.6)

Timeline

Actions	Activities	Timelines	Indicators
Target 1.1: National wildlife law-enforcement strategy developed	Activity 1.1.1: Develop a national wildlife law enforcement strategy	2020-2021	A national LE strategy is developed, implemented, and fully functional throughout Liberia by end 2020
Target 1.2: Sufficient numbers of patrol staff trained and available for deployment	Activity 1.2.1: Capacity needs assessment for each site	2020-2021	Capacity needs assessment completed for five PAs and additional proposed PAs by end of 2020
	Activity 1.2.3: Establish/develop a training program & SOPs for wildlife enforcement personnel	2020	Training program and SOPs completed, implemented and fully functional by end 2020
	Activity 1.2.4: Implement staff training	2020-2024	500 officers (100/year) fully trained and functioning by end of 2024
	Activity 1.2.5: Develop a comprehensive program to strengthen capacity in FDA and CSOs	2020-2021	Program designed and completed by end 2021
Target 1.3: All elephant sites operational with regard to law	Activity 1.3.3: Monitor the effectiveness of anti-poaching measures using SMART or alternative manual systems	2020-2024	SMART technology operational in five PAs and additional proposed PAs by end of 2022.

enforcement activities			Data collected guiding law enforcement activities, enabling informed and targeted responses
Target 1.4: Increase awareness on wildlife laws and regulations and elephant conservation with employees in the extractive industries	Activity 1.4.1: Conduct awareness raising campaigns on wildlife laws and regulations for private sector targeting extractive industries	2020-2024	Develop and launch comprehensive multimedia targeted public awareness campaign throughout Liberia with 5000 individuals reached by end 2024
Target 1.7: Dissuasive national legal framework and legal professionals and key players trained	Activity 1.7.1: Review and if required amend existing wildlife laws (National Parks Act) specifically provisions for penalties and sanctions	2020	Current Wildlife Act 2016 is revised, completed and includes stronger penalties for wildlife crime by end of 2020
	Activity 1.7.2: Transpose international conventions into national laws, especially CITES regulations	2020	Current Wildlife Act 2016 is revised, completed and consistent with international conventions (including CITES compliant) by end of 2020
	Activity 1.7.3: Train magistrates in wildlife crime specifics, investigation, evidence, forensics and issues related to corruption	2020-2021	Key magistrates /judiciary armed with capacity, knowledge and jurisdiction to impose the law with full prosecutions in appropriate wildlife crime cases by end 2021
	Activity 1.7.4: Develop guidelines on the applicable laws on wildlife crime to ensure maximum penalties	2020	Guidelines/regulations developed, distributed and in use by all relevant agencies and partners by end 2020
	Activity 1.7.5: Monitor and evaluate prosecutions linked to wildlife crime specifically including elephant related crimes	2020-2024	M&E process in place and fully functional throughout Liberia by end 2024
	Activity 1.7.6: Create a database on wildlife crime	2020-2022	Wildlife crime database designed, developed,

	prosecutions specifically including elephant related crimes		and fully functional by end of 2022
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Budget

<i>Activities Description</i>	<i>Estimated budget (\$)</i>
Consultancy costs for development of National Law Enforcement Strategy & SOPs for law enforcement personnel	\$50,000
Consultancy to develop regulations / guidelines for the wildlife law (National Parks Act)	\$25,000
Capacity Needs assessment for each site (staff time, stationary and travel costs)	\$25,000
Workshops and meetings (incl. LESC/WCTF technical revision of wildlife law & regulations, workshops in NW and SE region for validation of wildlife and protected area management regulations, community consultations etc.)	\$60,000
Development of a training program for wildlife enforcement personnel, FDA & CSOs, incl. academic curriculum (staff time and travel costs)	\$25,000
Training program for wildlife and security personnel, border / checkpoint/airport officials, judiciary etc. (min. of 300 persons – 60/year) in identification of wildlife parts, crime investigation, evidence gathering, arrest protocol, wildlife law etc. (incl. trainer/consultancy fees, workshop & travel costs – local & int'l, etc.)	\$450,000
Law enforcement patrols using SMART Technology (incl. training costs for 200 rangers, purchase of equipment, travel costs, rations etc. in and around 5 PAs) @ \$30,000/year/PA.	\$750,000
M & E for prosecutions linked to wildlife crime specifically including elephant related crimes (incl. staff time, travel costs, communications, etc.)	\$40,000
Awareness raising campaigns on wildlife laws and regulations (incl. quarterly radio talk shows, mural paintings at strategic points, distribution of posters and flyers with messages targeting extractives, forest user groups, theatre troupes etc.)	\$375,000
Database on wildlife crime prosecutions (consultancy, IT infrastructure, training of IT personnel)	\$50,000
Total	\$1,875,000

Project Proposal LIB2

Country: Liberia

Lead Institutions: FFI & FDA

Implementing Partner: Elephant Research and Conservation (ELRECO)

Duration of Project: Three years

NEAP Objective 5, Target 5.1, Activity 5.1.1 – 5.1.5.

Project Title: Strengthening the current knowledge of forest elephant status in Liberia

Rationale: To effectively conserve biodiversity, conservation interventions and law enforcement need to be informed and guided by quantitative data about species population status, ecology and distributions. However, despite being considered as one of the strongholds for the remaining forest elephant populations across the Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa, little is known about the current population status, ecology and distribution of forest elephants in Liberia. As such, to optimize the conservation of the species in Liberia and to better understand its range, dispersal/migratory routes, it is important to first establish quantitative baseline knowledge of the species' status (distribution, population densities, threats etc.) in Liberia, the primary aim of this project.

Relation with the AEAP, NEAP: This proposal is fully in line with the AEAP's and Liberia NEAP's Priority Objective 5.

Project objective: Strengthen knowledge of elephant population status, distribution and threats to enable effective management

Methods: Building on previous elephant surveys implemented by FFI and based on current knowledge of the distribution of the species across Liberia, the implementation of this objective shall focus on the north-western (NW) and south-eastern (SE) regions of the country. Both regions constitute the largest remaining contiguous lowland rainforest in Liberia and provide suitable habitats for forest elephants and other species of global conservation concern. Using standardized survey protocols (see below), a detailed nation-wide survey focusing on the two regions of interest will be conducted to gather comprehensive quantitative baseline data (e.g., densities, population size) that would be used to inform effective conservation planning, management, and monitoring of forest elephant populations across Liberia and West Africa.

In 2019, ELRECO conducted several elephant status surveys in some parts of the NW region. This region encompasses two of the major transboundary forest corridors (the Gola forest between Liberia and Sierra Leone and the Wonegizi-Ziama between Liberia and Guinea) in the Manu River Union (MRU) basin and forest blocks forming corridors in-between (Wologizi, Foya, Kpo Mountain, Belle Forest). During the first project year, the surveys started in 2019 will be completed. Data from recent surveys in this region will be collated and incorporated in the inventory and sites already assessed in 2019 will not be included. The next one and half years will be dedicated to surveying the south-eastern region, encompassing the Sapo-Grebo-Krahn-Tai landscape (connecting SE Liberia and western Cote d'Ivoire) and other important forest blocks such as Krahn Bassa National Forest, Cestos-Senkwehn and Grand

Kru proposed protected areas. Quantitative data on elephant occurrences, population densities and spatial distribution, identification of critical habitats, baseline information on human-elephant conflicts and ivory trade and identification of active elephant hunters will be collected. In addition, the species' habitat characteristics will be accessed using remote sensing technology and evidence of poaching and other threats will also be assessed. Furthermore, dung samples will be collected, from which to extract DNA samples to assess genetic variation and gene flow within and among populations of elephants using new landscape genetics/phylogeographic approaches and metapopulation analyses. The remaining half year will be focused on finalization of an elephant database, feeding information into PA management plans and producing a detailed report and scientific publications.

Interviews, rapid field assessments and awareness raising: Based on the information gathered for the NEAP, a survey map has been created, matching up-to-date elephant records with potential suitable habitats. Taking several criteria into consideration such as elephants' potential range, communities' catchment areas, vegetation coverage, implementation feasibility and logistics, a 40x40km-Grid was superimposed and 33 cells have been identified to be included in the nationwide survey: 12 in the Northwest and 21 in the Southeast (see map below). The survey methodology will follow a stepwise approach, with each step building upon the latter. First of all, interview surveys will be carried out in all cells. Survey teams will be trained in the interview methodology and awareness creation. In each 40x40km-cell, one or two target communities will be identified for carrying out the interviews with selected focus groups, i.e. preferably long-term residents (e.g. ex-hunters). The number of selected communities per grid cell will depend on how much information is already available for the respective grid cell from desk/previous studies, as well as the number and size of potential elephant habitats left in that cell. A questionnaire will be used to cover most critical information such as elephants' latest occurrence, number, seasonal movements, habitat types, conflicts, hunting etc. Based on this initial information, rapid field surveys will be conducted for ground-truthing either by direct observations or indirect, preferably fresh or recent signs such as footprints, dung-piles, feeding sites, elephant pathways etc. Rapid assessments will be carried out in all areas where, according to the interviews, elephants still occurred within the past 12 months. The rapid assessment approach will follow the "Fecal concentration (FC) Survey Technique", as recommended by the CITES MIKE Programme as a relatively quick and easy pilot survey method to assess elephant distribution and relative abundance in areas with little or no information from previous systematic studies. Fresh dung samples will be collected for the establishment of a genetic database (see below).

The interview surveys at the same time will provide an element of awareness creation, not only by the activity itself, but by additional activities through the survey team's awareness focal person(s), such as distribution of awareness materials and presentations on forest elephant status amongst community members and schools.

After completion of the interview surveys and rapid field assessments in all cells, the gathered information will be used to (i) identify target areas for dung surveys, (ii) determination of suitable areas for the long-term conservation of elephants and (iii) determination of potential ecological corridors between isolated key elephant areas within Liberia and in transboundary areas.

Dung surveys and genetic analysis. Dung surveys are a standard method to assess population sizes and, through genetic analysis provide information on population composition and movements. Thus one main activity in the course of the project will be to establish a genetic database of the forest elephant population of Liberia, and to conduct faecal DNA based capture-recapture studies. However, this requires adequate numbers of fresh dung samples, i.e. dung surveys are quite extensive, in terms of time, costs, manpower, logistics, etc., and therefore might only be feasibly conducted in a few

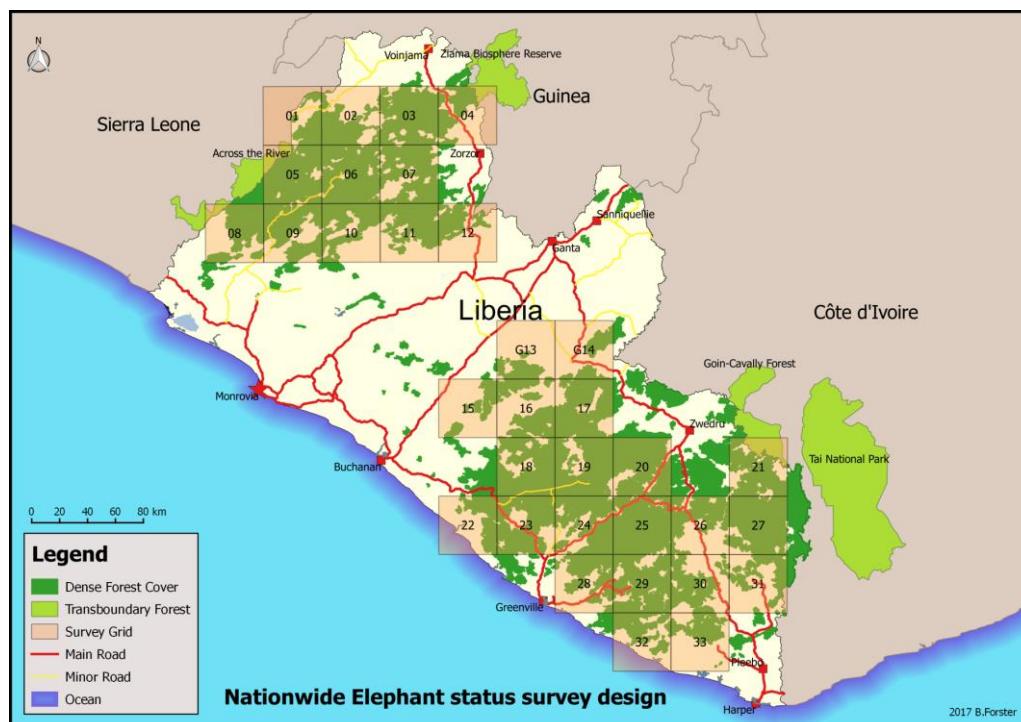
selected hot-spot areas, guided by the interviews and rapid field assessments. Fresh dung sample collection will be started during the rapid field assessments, and later intensified in the identified target areas. Existing data from recent surveys will be included in the database. Field staff both from “higher” levels such as FDA and students, as well as local people from the communities, will be trained in the survey methodology and included in the field work.

For the genetic analysis, FFI has established a research collaboration and recently signed an MOU with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) for genetic analysis of pygmy hippo and elephant populations. ELRECO has also established a collaboration with a wildlife genetic laboratory in Germany, who are interested in establishing a long-term collaboration and supporting the genetic analyses of the Forest Elephant population of Liberia. The single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers that recently have been developed and applied for the genotyping of African Forest Elephants of Gabon and Central Africa will be used, therefore allowing for comparison of different African Forest Elephant populations in the future.

Under this collaboration the project will work towards mutually beneficial aims of forest elephant identification in West Africa and contribution to the forest elephant ivory genetic database. The collaboration also aims to develop a strong capacity building element whereby West Africans will receive training in genetic analytic techniques.

Habitat estimation and forest threat analysis

Here we will characterize forest elephant habitats, assess and quantify impacts of illegal mining, farming, and logging on forest cover and structure in core forest areas across the species’ range using remote sensing technology. We will sample sites holding different combinations of primary and perturbed forest, and evaluate their qualities using drone-borne multispectral sensors. The multispectral data obtained will be integrated with Landsat/MODIS data across the entirety of the range of the species to assess the degree and distribution of perturbation and the species’ habitat characteristics.



Database Management

Data gathered from across the country under this project will be mobilized, processed and published on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) network to be used for further research and analyzed for national policy and conservation decision making. Liberia is a current GBIF participant and has a portal for publishing its biodiversity data. Data published onto the GBIF network are formatted and managed to meet international data management standards. By adding elephant data to this network, we will ensure appropriate data management and long-term storage. Additionally, local capacity (park biologists, researchers and other data collectors) will be enhanced to ensure appropriate field data management processing.

Expected Outcome: A scientifically based in-depth current knowledge of the population densities, distribution, corridors and threats of elephants established and inform elephant conservation and management in Liberia.

Target (Action)/Activities:

Target 5.1: To conduct a national baseline study to determine elephant densities and distribution and/or records of elephant presence

Activity 5.1.1: Complete an inventory of elephant density and distribution at the national level (2 blocks), using a combination of traditional approaches and new technologies

Activity 5.1.2: Compile the results of the national inventory and identify and map all forest blocks with known elephant presence

Activity 5.1.3: Identify suitable areas for a field research station in NW and SE forest blocks

Activity 5.1.4: Create a national database of all recent and old elephant data

Activity 5.1.5: Establish a genetic database of the Forest Elephants in Liberia

Timeline:

Actions	Activities	Timelines	Indicators
Target 5.1: Conduct a national baseline study to determine elephant densities and distribution and/or records of elephant presence	Activity 5.1.1: Complete an inventory of elephant density and distribution at the national level (2 blocks), using a combination of traditional approaches and new technologies	2020-2022	National inventory of elephant population density, distribution and threats completed by end year 2022.
	Activity 5.1.2: Compile the results of the national inventory	2020-2022	Distribution of known elephant populations,

	and identify and map all forest blocks with known elephant presence		their migratory routes (corridors) and anthropogenic threats mapped by end year 2022.
	Activity 5.1.3: Identify suitable areas for a field research station in NW and SE forest blocks	2021-2022	Minimum of 4 sites identified and assessed for establishment of field research stations by end 2022
	Activity 5.1.4: Create a national database of all recent and old elephant data	2020-2022	A national database of old and recently collected elephant data is designed, developed and fully functional by end year 2022
	Activity 5.1.5: Establish a genetic database of the Forest Elephants in Liberia	2020-2022	Genetic database of elephants in Liberia developed by end year 2022

Budget

Activities (2020-2022) – nationwide elephant survey	Estimated budget (\$)
Personnel / Admin costs / running costs (lead organisation and implementing partners)	
Staff costs, consultancies, communication, IT equipment, printing and stationaries, office & field site running costs, bank charges, overheads etc.	\$700,000
Sub-total	\$700,000
Travel and subsistence	
International and local travel, including vehicle purchase and maintenance, field subsistence and accommodation for project teams	\$500,000
Sub-total	\$500,000
Field data collection and analysis (NW & SE)	
Field Assistants (rangers, biologists, interns, community auxiliaries) per diem	\$45,000
Camping equipment, medical supplies, field rations and other consumables	\$42,000
Genetic analysis (laboratory costs, postage/shipping etc.)	\$50,000
Field equipment (GPS Units, cameras, smart phones, satellite phones, batteries, accessories, wet weather clothing etc.)	\$48,000
Sub-total	\$185,000
Training, consultations and awareness raising	
Training (FDA/students/community auxiliaries)	\$25,000
Awareness raising (posters, flyers, t-shirts, radio broadcast etc.)	\$30,000
Community consultation meetings	\$35,000
Stakeholder Meetings / presentations (e.g. SWGL)	\$2,500
Sub-total	\$92,500
Database and remote sensing technology	
Database (IT equipment, infrastructure etc.)	\$15,000
High resolution remote sensed imagery / data / GIS data map production	\$20,000
website maintenance (www.liberiafuanaflorea.org)	\$2,500
Sub-total	\$37,500
Total	\$1,515,000

Project Proposal LIB3

Country: Liberia

Lead Institution: FFI & FDA

Implementing Partners: ELRECO, Species Working Group Liberia (SWGL)

Duration of Project: Five years

NEAP Objective 5, Target 5.2, Activity 5.2.1 – 5.2.6.

Project Title: Strengthening elephant conservation and management through national coordinated networks

Rationale: Although there are current ongoing biodiversity research projects in Liberia to conserve elephants and other species, these projects are carried out by individual research groups with limited or no coordination between efforts. This lack of coordination leaves collected data scattered and poorly managed, making it a challenge to estimate the current population status of elephants in Liberia and to establish a national monitoring program for the species. To address these gaps, the aim is to coordinate elephant research efforts at the national level and to establish a monitoring program in elephant sites in the NW and SE Forest Blocks in Liberia (NWFB & SEFB).

Relation with the AEAP, NEAP: This proposal is fully in line with the AEAP's and Liberia NEAP's Priority Objective 5.

Project objective: Strengthen knowledge of elephant status to facilitate management

Methods: To ensure effective and integrated elephant research, population monitoring and conservation across Liberia, national stakeholders (including independent researchers, research and academic institutions, and NGOs) will be engaged to establish a national protocol on elephant research, management, and conservation in Liberia. These engagements will be carried out through workshops, seminars and national stakeholders' meetings under the auspices of the Species Working Group Liberia (SWGL).

Protocol Development: The SWGL is made up of three Sub-Committees (Law Enforcement Sub-Committee, Biomonitoring Sub-Committee and Plants and Animals Sub-Committee). The Biomonitoring Sub-Committee (BMSC) is responsible for reviewing and ensuring harmonization of survey protocols. The sub-committee is made up of conservation NGOs implementing biodiversity research and monitoring in protected areas across Liberia. Elephant specialists within the group will work together to develop monitoring protocols for elephant signs, threats and human-elephant-conflicts (HEC). These protocols will be reviewed and validated nationally and adapted for use in the various elephant hotspots identified during the national survey, including protected and proposed protected areas (PAs/PPAs), community forests, transboundary areas etc. Under the Plants and Animal Sub-Committee (PASC), an elephant technical committee will be formed to conduct a review of elephant conservation activities carried out in the country, at an agreed frequency e.g. on an annual basis.

Establishment of research and monitoring programs: Based on the results of the nationwide survey, key suitable areas will be identified for the establishment of permanent field stations for long-term elephant monitoring and research in Liberia. A long-term monitoring programme of the areas' key elephant populations will be initiated, including repeated dung surveys, camera trapping and GPS tracking. Existing research programs will be identified and reviewed to determine the feasibility of integrating elephant research and monitoring. Elephant-focused research will be formulated and international and local researchers will be encouraged to work in the field stations to conduct ecological research projects.

A pilot elephant monitoring program will be established at the Sapo Conservation Centre (SCC), the research and training center of the Sapo National Park in the SEFB, and the Wonegizi Proposed Protected Area in the NWFB, adjacent to Zياما Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) in Guinea. This will include establishment and training of elephant monitoring teams (made up of FDA and community auxiliaries) using the nationally validated elephant monitoring protocol, provision of equipment and other resources and conducting monitoring activities, including following target individuals within the PA and transboundary areas, monitoring of illegal activities e.g. hunting signs, monitoring of human elephant conflicts etc. FFI currently implements an elephant monitoring program at the Zياما MAB and will ensure lessons are shared between Liberia and Guinea.

Long-term monitoring will help to better understand elephant migration routes, key corridors between populations and demographic aspects and the overall ecology of forest elephants, which in turn will facilitate the protection of other populations in Liberia as well as tourism development planning. Furthermore, the field stations will create long-term job opportunities for the local communities, while the permanent presence of national and international conservationists will enhance awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Expected Outcome: National efforts on elephant research and conservation in Liberia coordinated and integrated protocols established and a monitoring program established to provide regular feedback for adaptive management.

Relation with the AEAP: This proposal is fully in line with Liberia's NEAP Objective 5.

Target (Action) /Activities:

Target 5.2: Elephant research and monitoring is coordinated at the national level

Activity 5.2.1 (a): Conduct a review of existing bio-monitoring protocols and develop an integrated protocol for elephant monitoring.

Activity 5.2.1 (b): Set up a research team under FDA in charge of developing key elephant research programs and coordinating the research projects at national level

Activity 5.2.2: Train FDA staff, patrol staff and community forest managers in elephant conservation management. Establish and train monitoring teams

Activity 5.2.3: Recruit and train technical staff and community members to conduct field surveys

Activity 5.2.4: Develop a long-term elephant management and monitoring program for Liberia, using standardized methodologies, sites identified during inventory, and elephant monitoring integrated into existing bio monitoring program

Activity 5.2.5: Plan a research program on forest elephant ecology

Activity 5.2.6: Establish and maintain a field research station in identified areas

Timeline:

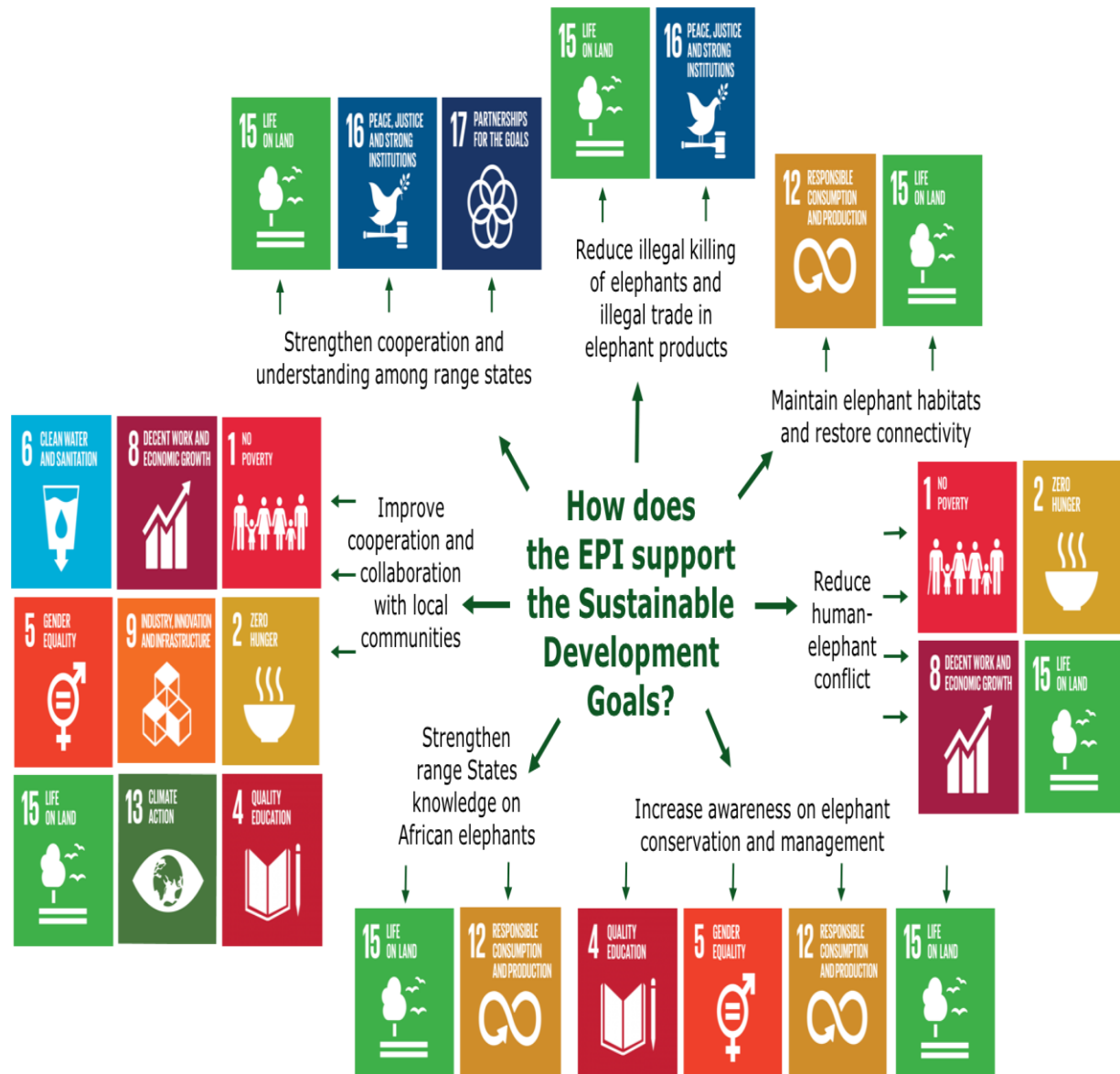
Actions	Activities	Timelines	Indicators
Target 5.2: Elephant research is coordinated at the national level	Activity 5.2.1 (a): Conduct a review of existing bio-monitoring protocols and develop an integrated protocol for elephant monitoring.	2020-2021	An integrated elephant monitoring protocol collaboratively developed by end year 2021
	Activity 5.2.1 (b): Set up a research team under FDA in charge of developing key elephant research programs and coordinating the research projects at national level	2021	A research and monitoring unit established at the FDA and functional by end year 2021
	Activity 5.2.2: Train FDA staff, patrol staff and community forest managers in elephant conservation management. Establish and train monitoring team	2020-2021	FDA forest and wildlife managers and rangers fully trained and collecting elephant data, following the monitoring protocol by end year 2021
	Activity 5.2.3: Recruit and train technical staff and community members to conduct field surveys	2020-2022	Community teams and technical staff effectively collecting elephant data including monitoring identified individuals in at least 2 elephant sites by end of 2022
	Activity 5.2.4: Develop a long-term elephant management and monitoring program for Liberia, using standardized methodologies, sites identified during inventory, and elephant	2021-2022	Elephant monitoring teams established and trained and monitoring protocols implemented in at least 2 elephant sites by end year 2022.

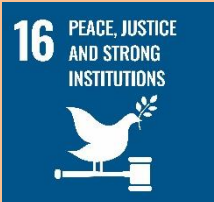
	monitoring integrated into existing bio monitoring program		
	Activity 5.2.5: Plan a research program on forest elephant ecology	2021-2023	Minimum of two research proposals developed and researchers identified and implementing projects by end of 2023
	Activity 5.2.6: Establish and maintain a field research station in identified areas	2021-2024	Four field stations with elephant monitoring teams established and functional by end year 2024.

Budget

Activities- national coordination and establishment of monitoring programme	Estimated budget (\$)
Personnel / Consultancies / Admin costs / office running costs for implementing organizations (2 years, as years 1-3 overlap with work under 5.1)	\$466,700
Stakeholder liaison meetings for development and validation of national monitoring protocols, presentation of project results etc. (SWGL, BMSC, PASC)	\$7,000
Establishment of research unit under FDA	\$100,000
Training on elephant monitoring for FDA and communities in 4 field sites	\$70,000
Fieldwork and field staff/community auxiliaries costs (per diem, rations, accommodation etc. for 5 years*4 field stations @ \$120,000/year)	\$600,000
Support to research students projects (int'l and local researchers) @ \$20,000/year*3 years	\$60,000
Construction of 2 field stations in NW and 1 in SE @ \$100,000/station (plus refurbishment of already existing field station in SE – SCC @, \$50,000), incl. purchase of furniture, capital equipment etc.	\$350,000
Field station maintenance (2 vehicle purchase @ \$100,000, communication, equipment running costs, internet, solar & generators etc.) @ \$17,500 / year*4 Field Stations*4 years	\$380,000
Total	\$2,033,700

Annex 2. Mapping the SDGs against the AEAP Objectives

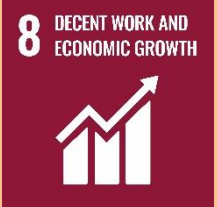


African Elephant Action Plan Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products		
Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
 	15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.	SDG 15 covers for all <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> related to combating poaching and trafficking: i.e. SOPs, training & capacity building, field staff (including intelligence & investigations) evaluations, inventories & recruitment, equipment (including transportation and communication), infrastructure (including roads, buildings & water), and maintenance. SDG 16 covers for all <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> related to Anti-corruption and Integrity work, reviewing and amending relevant legislation, training and awareness activities regarding prosecution and judiciary, training in investigative and forensic techniques, the strengthening or establishment of specialized institutions or committees, and database establishment and maintenance. In summary, SDGs 15 and 16 cover for all <i>Actions</i> under <i>Objective 1</i>.
	15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. 15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	

African Elephant Action Plan Objective 2: Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity		
Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes

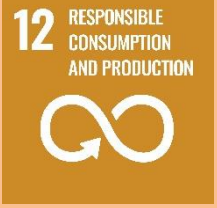
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. 12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	SDG 12 generally covers for sound management of natural resources, whereas 12.b strongly relates to developing sustainable wildlife economies.
15 LIFE ON LAND 	15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.	SDG 15 covers for all <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> under <i>Objective 2</i>, aimed at improvement and/or increasing the size of the dispersal area (habitat), which includes connectivity, land-use planning and development planning at both national and local levels.

African Elephant Action Plan Objective 3: Reduce human-elephant conflict		
Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
1 NO POVERTY 	1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	All <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> related to HEC mitigation, thereby at least safeguarding food production, as well as compensation for crop loss through insurance schemes.
2 ZERO HUNGER 	2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	In summary, HEC mitigation is covered under SDGs 1 & 2, while depending on the definitions of ‘environmental shocks’ and ‘maintenance of ecosystems’, in addition to some imagination, most of the other <i>Actions</i> under

 	2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaption to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. 15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.	<i>Objective 3</i> may actually be covered by these SDGs as well, in addition to SDGs 8 & 15.
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African Elephant Action Plan Objective 4:

Increase awareness on elephant conservation and management of key stakeholders that include policy makers and local communities among other interest groups.

Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
  	4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local	SDG 4, Target 4.7, SDG 5, Target 5.5, SDG 12, Target 12.8 and SDG 15, Target 15.c are especially valid in relation to developing sustainable wildlife economies and setting up community-managed conservancies, but may also cover some straightforward awareness activities related to conventional conservation of elephants.

	communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.	
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African Elephant Action Plan Objective 5:
Strengthen range states knowledge on African elephants

Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
 	12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.	Knowledge on Elephants primarily pertains to numbers, occupancy, and movement patterns, obtained through a sound monitoring program providing feedback to management – i.e. we need to know what is out there and what they are up to prior to any intervention (baseline), to then frequently determine what's out there following interventions. Most of the <i>Actions</i> under <i>Objective 5</i> are covered by SDG 15, especially Target 15.5.

African Elephant Action Plan Objective 6:
Strengthen cooperation and understanding among range states

Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
	15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.	All of the <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> under <i>Objective 6</i> are covered by SDGs 15 & 16, while SDG 17, Target 17.1 supports the development of tourism for sustainable wildlife economies.

 	15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	
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African Elephant Action Plan Objective 7: Improve cooperation and collaboration with local communities		
Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
 	1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. 1b: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions. 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for	All of the <i>Actions</i> and their respective <i>Activities</i> under <i>Objective 7</i> are covered by SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, & 15, including community involvement with wildlife management, setting up community-managed conservancies, skills training, legal and financial requirements, community tourism development, etc.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	adaption to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.	
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products. 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.	
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and	

	substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. 15a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.	
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African Elephant Action Plan Objective 8: African Elephant Action Plan is effectively implemented		
Sustainable Development Goals(s)	Relevant Target(s)	National Elephant Action Plan Actions – Notes
 	All Targets 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	SDG 15 with most of its Targets is ultimately the key SDG that relates to all AEAP objectives.

Annex 3. Implementation Plan and Budget (Medium Term)

Note: Most budget figures should be considered estimates rounded to the nearest US\$100, primarily based on extrapolation from expenditure incurred in Sapo National Park, whereby due to a generally poor infrastructure in both forest blocks (NWFB & SEFB), conservation costs are significantly higher than those experienced in other countries in the region.

LIBERIA NEAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN											
Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia											
Target 1: By 2025, elephant numbers killed illegally per annum will be reduced by 75%, with zero ivory seizures.											
#	Action <i>Description (Outcome)</i>	#	Activity <i>Description</i>	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility <i>(Implementers)</i>	Verification (Progress)	Funding <i>Secured/ Required (US\$)/proposal</i>	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
1.1	National wildlife law-enforcement strategy developed.	1.1.1	Develop a National Wildlife Law Enforcement Strategy (NWLES) encompassing each existing Protected Area (PA), Proposed Protected Area (PPA), and existing forest blocks with a potentially viable elephant population and sufficiently intact habitat (key elephant sites; see 5.1.1).	Contract consultant to develop NWLES as well as SOPs for LE staff (see 1.2.3)	1	FDA/Consultant	Law enforcement strategy available and communicated. Ongoing	\$1,875,000 Project Proposal LIB1	X	X	

1.2	Sufficient numbers of patrol staff trained and available for deployment.	1.2.1	For each elephant site, assess needs in terms of staff and capacity building	Inventory of each key site	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	Report available Ongoing	See above LIB1	X	X	
		1.2.2	Recruit adequate numbers of personnel to ensure the enforcement of wildlife law in elephant sites as well as national state security staff for joint operations and combating ivory trafficking	Based on inventory (1.2.1), and NWLES, recruit and train required numbers of staff	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	# law-enforcement staff recruited and trained Ongoing	See above LIB1	X	X	X
		1.2.3	Establish/Develop a training school, training program and SOPs for wildlife enforcement personnel.	Consultant See 1.1.1	1	FDA/Contractor /Consultant/rel evant NGOs	Training school operating and SOPs available and used for training purposes. Ongoing	See above LIB1	X		
		1.2.4	Implement staff training	Using newly developed curriculum and SOPs, recruited staff will undergo training	1	FDA/Consultant	# Law-enforcement staff trained. Ongoing	See above LIB1	X	X	X

		1.2.5	Develop a comprehensive program to strengthen capacity in FDA and CSOs	Consultant	1	FDA/Consultant s/Training Institutions/CSOs/Relevant NGOs	Report available and communicated. Ongoing	See above LIB1	X	X	X
1.3	All elephant sites operational with regard to law enforcement activities	1.3.1	Conduct a needs assessment in terms of transportation, equipment and communication in each elephant site	Needs inventory for each key site (transport, communication, GPSs, field kits, firearms, etc.)	1	FDA/Consultant /NGOs	Report available.	See above LIB1	X	X	X
		1.3.2	Provide the necessary equipment, including appropriate transportation	Purchase required equipment and transportation using government approved procedures	1	FDA/Consultant /NGOs	Number of sites provided with all required equipment, including transportation	See above LIB1		X	X
		1.3.3	Monitor the effectiveness of anti-poaching measures by using SMART or alternative systems	Initiated in several key sites by training staff in the use of SMART	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	Number of key sites using SMART	See above LIB1		X	X
1.4	Increase awareness on wildlife laws and regulations as	1.4.1	Conduct awareness raising campaigns on wildlife laws and regulations for		2	FDA/relevant NGOs	Number of country-wide campaigns conducted;	See above LIB1	X	X	X

	well as elephant conservation with employees of the extractive industries		private sector employees working or living in contact with wildlife, especially those of the extractive industries				Proportion of population or key target groups reached				
1.5	An intelligence and investigations network is operational to dismantle Ivory trafficking networks	1.5.1	Initiate an intelligence and investigations network to combat ivory trafficking	Set up informer’s network and train selected staff in intelligence and investigations practices using consultant	1	FDA/Police/Cust oms/Consultant	Network operating	See above LIB1	X	X	
		1.5.2	Recruit and train personnel to develop and manage the intelligence and investigations network	Recruit and train additional staff for network	1	FDA/Police/Cust oms/Consultant	# staff recruited	See above LIB1	X	X	
		1.5.3	Train all staff in data collection and transmission	Series of training sessions on monitoring (wildlife, law enforcement, etc.) for adaptive management	1	FDA/Police/Cust oms/Consultant	# staff trained	See above LIB1	X	X	

		1.5.4	Develop and manage informant networks within and around key elephant sites.	See 1.5.1	1	FDA	# informers; area coverage	See above LIB1	X	X	
		1.5.5	Create an operations room with FDA in Monrovia to centralize information, including the use of specific software to facilitate the management of intelligence data.	Set up communications with key elephant sites, as well as database(s) to collate local and national law-enforcement data, information related to intelligence and investigations, as well as prosecutions	1	FDA/Consultant	Operations room functional and database(s) available for all types of data	See above LIB1	X	X	
		1.5.6	Create and train a special intervention force with the FDA/Police/other enforcement agencies that can react rapidly to intelligence information and stop traffickers (Multi-Agency Taskforce).	Facilitate collaboration between the various law-enforcement agencies, including exchange of information, to set up a Rapid	1	FDA/Enforcement Agencies; Consultant	RRMA operational	See above LIB1	X	X	

				Response Multi-Agency Taskforce (RRMAT)							
1.6	Strengthen the ivory detection and management systems	1.6.1	Initiate ivory detection sniffer dog units for the main air- and seaports	Site visits and purchase of 4 fully trained detection dogs	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	# Sniffer dog units initiated	External \$27,000	X	X	
		1.6.2	Train officers in the use of sniffer dogs for detection and identification. Kennel construction, maintenance, equipment and veterinary costs.	Training and accreditation of 6 dog handlers. Construction of kennels, maintenance and regular veterinary care.	1	FDA/Consultant	# Officers trained	External \$46,000		X	
		1.6.3	Strengthen the national procedures for seized ivory management and marking, including a national data base and strict chain of custody	Apply Gold Standards (EPIF)	1	FDA/Consultant /SI/EPI	Database operational	External \$7,000	X	X	
		1.6.4	Improve and maintain a highly secure central storage facility for the national stock of seized ivory, weapons and other	Apply Gold Standards (EPIF)	1	FDA/Consultant /NGOs/SI/EPI	Central storage facility operational	External \$5,000	X	X	

			illegal wildlife products								
1.7	Dissuasive national legal framework and actors in the legal chain well trained	1.7.1	Review and if required amend existing wildlife laws (National Parks Act) in particular the provisions for penalties and sanctions	Contract consultant or UNODC team to review Act and advise on amendments	1	FDA/Consultant	Review report available. Act amended and penalties adapted	See above LIB1	X		
		1.7.2	Transpose international conventions into national laws, especially CITES regulations.	Laws reviewed and updates by legal consultants	1	FDA/Consultant	Laws updated	See above LIB1	X		
		1.7.3	Train magistrates and prosecutors in the fight against wildlife crime, the specificities of these types of crime, special investigation techniques and the use of evidence provided by forensic science.	Organize training courses for judiciary and prosecutors to raise awareness, and to facilitate successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife offenders using	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	# Magistrates and prosecutors trained	See above LIB1	X	X	

				specialized techniques							
		1.7.4	Develop guidelines on the applicable laws on wildlife crime to ensure maximum penalties.	Contract consultant to develop best practices manual	1	FDA/Consultant /relevant NGOs	Guidelines available and disbursed	See above LIB1	X		
		1.7.5	Monitor and evaluate prosecutions linked to wildlife crime and in particular elephants	Set up communication links with the courts	1	FDA/NGOs	Communications established	See above LIB1	X	X	X
		1.7.6	Create a database on wildlife crime prosecutions.	Set up database and provide regular feedback	1	FDA/relevant NGOs	Database operational	See above LIB1	X	X	X
1.8	Reduce corruption	1.8.1	Implement strict rules regarding corruption cases amongst the wildlife authorities in line with government strategies	Develop strategies and guidelines, communicate	1	FDA	Regulations available and communicated	See above LIB1	X	X	X
		1.8.2	Create and train an anti-corruption unit for corruption cases examination	Establish anti-corruption unit	1	FDA	Anti-corruption unit established	See above LIB1	X		
	Project Proposals Total:							\$1,875,000			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$ 85,000			
	Total Required for Objective 1 (Liberia NEAP):							\$1,960,000			

Objective 2: Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate											
Target: No measurable loss in the size of the elephant range, with connectivity improved for key populations by 2029.											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
2.1	All key elephant sites identified and the status of Proposed PAs formalized and co-management plans for community forests developed and agreed	2.1.1	Identify all key elephant sites in both dispersal blocks (see 5.1.1) and ensure that all proposed key sites within the larger elephant dispersal areas have been officially gazetted	Baseline data collection to identify key elephant sites in both protected and unprotected areas (see 5.1.1). Official gazettement of proposed PAs. Costs include purchase of vehicle and equipment, running costs and wages.	1	FDA/GOL/Legislatures/ELRECO/relevant NGOs	Number of proposed sites officially gazetted	External \$148,500	X	X	X
		2.1.2	Develop co-management plans for Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs) located within the larger elephant dispersal areas	For key elephant sites identified in CFMAs, stimulate and facilitate the development of conservation	1	FDA/ELRECO/relevant NGOs	Proportion of CFMAs with co-management plans	External \$23,500	X	X	X

				and ecotourism focused management plans as opposed to commercial (timber concessions). Costs include transportation , meetings and development of management plans.							
2.2	Dispersal areas for elephants have been identified	2.2.1	Define and delineate dispersal areas for elephants, necessary to maintain viable populations, by using the results of studies on population densities, habitat use and movement patterns (see Objective 5). Larger dispersal areas may comprise formally protected areas, and sections of (buffer zones) or corridors within state and	Primarily land-use planning desk exercise	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Two main dispersal areas defined	NA	X	X	X

			community forests (Forest Management Contracts (FMCs), Private Use Permits (PUPs), CFMAs and other land uses)								
		2.2.2	Through legal documents, officially recognize dispersal areas, not only the formally protected areas therein, but also areas dedicated to other uses	Collaborative process between relevant departments of the various Ministries to officially recognize dispersal areas and limit extractive uses. Meetings, negotiations and developing legal documents.	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Dispersal areas officially recognized through legal documents	External \$12,000	X	X	
2.3	Elephant habitat in dispersal areas is sustainably protected	2.3.1	Evaluate the legal requirements to sustainably protect elephant habitat in dispersal areas, e.g. development and land use plans for all land uses found in	Among others, legal counsel, meetings and negotiations with extractive industries, feeding into PA and CFMA	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Report available	External \$22,500		X	X

			the wider dispersal area	management plans.							
		2.3.2	Define the obligations for habitat maintenance in elephant dispersal areas and integrate them into the National Land Use Plan and legal documents of the land concessions in these areas	Updating NLUP and concession documents and communicating changes to stakeholders	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Habitat maintenance requirement incorporated in NLUP and legal documents	External \$6,500		X	X
		2.3.3	Train managers to implement good management practices for elephant habitat preservation	Develop training course on best practices and train managers at central county-level locations	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	# Managers trained	External \$29,400	X	X	X
		2.3.4	Train government officials to monitor and implement these obligations in the field	See 2.3.3, with additional curriculum on monitoring and enforcement	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	# Government officials trained; % of range outside PAs covered	External \$25,000	X	X	
2.4	Connectivity for elephants is maintained	2.4.1	Identify potential corridors for elephants between conservation areas	See 2.2.1. Primarily desk study with	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	Number of corridors identified; Proportion	External \$6,500	X	X	X

	within wider dispersal areas		within the wider dispersal areas, including trans-boundary corridors, using predefined criteria and knowledge of the ecology of elephants and their responses to threats	some field truthing			of dispersal area available to elephants				
		2.4.2	Formally classify corridors to maintain connectivity areas necessary for elephant movement	Integrate into NLUP	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	Proportion of corridors formally classified	NA		X	X
		2.4.3	Develop agreements between different actors for the protection and/or restoration of habitat in corridors	Meetings with relevant stakeholders active in key corridors identified during baseline studies. Negotiating MoUs for maintenance and protection.	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	MoUs available	External \$12,500		X	X
		2.4.4	Develop Memoranda Of Understanding with bordering countries for the	Visit with the relevant authorities of adjacent	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	MoUs with neighboring countries available	External \$21,600		X	X

			creation of buffer zones and corridors to ensure the continuity of wider dispersal areas on the other side of the border	countries that share a cross-border population to discuss cooperation regarding management of these populations and areas.							
2.5	National Land use planning considers elephant population ecology and distribution	2.5.1	Include wider dispersal areas, including buffer zones and corridors, in the National Land Use Plan (NLUP) to ensure the long term presence of extractive industries that generally cause the least damage and disturbance and deforest the least in these areas	Update NLUP and negotiate/discuss terms with extractive industry stakeholders	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Wider dispersal areas included in NLUP	External \$18,800		X	
		2.5.2	Examine existing and future roads and transport networks and assess their current and future traffic and the necessary mitigation measures	Desk study with some field truthing and discussions with authorities responsible for	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Report available	External \$6,400			X

				infrastructure and transportation							
		2.5.3	Examine current planned and proposed land use projects and assess the mitigation measures needed to reduce their negative impacts on elephant populations	Evaluation of various planned and proposed land-use projects in relation to required elephant habitat, including corridors. Propose and discuss mitigation measures with relevant stakeholders and authorities.	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Report available	External \$12,800		X	
		2.5.4	Include mitigation measures for roads, railways and various land-use projects in the National Land Use Plan	Adapt NLUP	1	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Mitigation measures included in NLUP	NA			X
2.6	A monitoring and evaluation system is implemented	2.6.1	Implement monitoring of human activities and elephant	Develop and initiate a simple, cheap and effective	2	FDA/Relevant Government Institutions and NGOs	Monitoring programs initiated	External \$480,000		X	X

			populations in wider dispersal areas (the two forest blocks)	monitoring system to determine human impact on the wider elephant dispersal areas, including corridors and buffer zones, as well as the use by elephants of these areas, including the officially established corridors.							
		2.6.2	Evaluate the effectiveness of corridors using different techniques, such as camera traps and radio collars.	See 2.6.1 Purchase of camera traps, radio collars and related equipment	1	FDA and NGOs	Reports available	External \$48,000			X
	Project Proposals Total:							0			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$874,000			
	Total Required for Objective 2 (Liberia NEAP):							\$874,000			

Objective 3: Reduce human-elephant conflict											
Target: Human-elephant conflict reduced to acceptable levels with zero loss of human life by 2029.											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
3.1	The specialized unit to deal with human-elephant conflict is operational	3.1.1	Establish a specialized unit dealing with HEC within FDA	Training of existing staff, equipment and misc.	1	FDA/relevant government institutions/ELR ECO/other NGOs	Unit operational	External \$7,500	X		
		3.1.2	Organize exchanges with counterparts in other countries and HEC specialists	Minimum of one study trip to range State successful in HEC (Travel/DSA, etc.)	1	FDA/Members HEC Unit/ELRECO	# of exchanges	External \$12,600		X	
		3.1.3	In consultation with various stakeholders, develop the national strategy for HEC management and provide the implementation decrees.	Workshop, meetings, communications and development of strategy by consultant	1	FDA/relevant government institutions/NGOs/Consultant	Strategy available and communicated	External \$12,500	X	X	
		3.1.4	Assess extent of HEC through a nationwide survey	HEC survey being part of ELRECO's elephant status survey (see 5.1.1). Budgeted for	1	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	Report available Ongoing	External \$9,500	X	X	X

				some additional costs only.							
3.2	Guidelines for the mitigation of crop depredation by elephants are available.	3.2.1	Identify mitigation methods to reduce the probability of harvest damage by elephants by compiling information from Liberia and around the world as well as available recommendations and tool kits (IUCN, FAO)	Desk study resulting in report with recommendations	1	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	Report available	External \$3,200		X	
		3.2.2	Test the effectiveness of identified methods in two sites, one in each forest block	Most effective methods identified during survey and desk study (3.1.4 & 3.2.1) piloted in two representative sites	1	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	Test results available	External \$36,000		X	X
		3.2.3	Investigate the possibility of implementing local insurance policies with private companies or low-cost premium to compensate for the	Investigate feasibility of involving insurance companies in HEC through meetings and	1	FDA	Report available	External \$2,500		X	X

			damage done by elephants to farmers	communication							
		3.2.4	Based on the results of the studies carried out, develop guidelines for the mitigation of crop depredation risks for farmers and local authorities	Desk study resulting in guidelines report	1	FDA/relevant government institutions/NGOs/Consultant	Guidelines developed and circulated	External \$2,500		X	
3.3	Local communities are actively involved in managing HEC	3.3.1	Assign local community guards to work closely with the HEC unit	Recruit, train and equip community guards (training, stipend and equipment for 50 guards for 3 years)	1	FDA/relevant NGOs	# local community guards deployed	External \$52,000			
		3.3.2	Conduct regular awareness raising campaigns on wildlife law, established guidelines and complaint procedures	Prepare pamphlets for general use and distribution and visit hotspots to educate people verbally (pamphlets, airtime, transportation	1	FDA/relevant NGOs	Number of campaigns conducted; Proportion of effected population covered Ongoing	External \$18,000	X	X	X

				accommodation)							
		3.3.3	Support local communities in the implementation of mitigation measures	Part of nationwide survey, complemented by regular visits to hotspots (transportation, equipment, accommodation, etc.)	1	National FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	# HEC incidents reported/year Extend of crop damage reported/year	External \$130,000		X	X
3.4	Simple and effective procedures are in place for conflict and damage reporting	3.4.1	In consultation with the ministry of agriculture, identify effective and cheap methods to evaluate and quantify elephant damage	Desk study and several field trips	2	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	Report available	External \$4,500		X	X
		3.4.2	Develop a simplified administrative procedure to report crop damage and encourage the reporting of all incidents	Desk exercise/meetings	2	FDA/Relevant NGOs	Procedure developed, reviewed and finalized	External \$1,200	X	X	
		3.4.3	Train government officials in the assessment of crop damage, according to a standardized protocol	Field trips to key areas for HEC to train selected officials	2	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	# Government officials trained; % elephant range covered	External \$24,000	X	X	

		3.4.4	Investigate the feasibility of a pilot crop damage compensation scheme	Using the two pilot sites (see 3.2.2), test crop damage compensation schemes	2	FDA/ELRECO/Relevant NGOs	Report available and communicated	External \$1,600	X		
		3.4.5	Train field officers (FDA) in conflict management with villagers	Training course on conflict management in central location for each of the two forest blocks	2	FDA/Relevant NGOs	# Field officers trained; % elephant range covered	External \$4,300			X
		3.4.6	Create a national HEC database and rapid information transmission procedures to track the impact of crop depredation.	Consultant to device database	2	FDA/Relevant NGOs	Database operational	External \$2,500			X
		3.4.7	Evaluate and monitor change in local populations' and the general public's perception of crop damage by elephants	Regular reports from community guards and government officials analyzed for HEC incidents, crop damage and trends in perception	2	FDA/Relevant NGOs	First monitoring report available	NA			X

	Project Proposals Total:					0			
	Remaining Budget Total:					\$324,400			
	Total Required for Objective 3 (Liberia NEAP):					\$324,400			

Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation											
Target: All relevant stakeholders, including the general public are generally supportive of elephant conservation by 2025											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
4.1	A communication awareness strategy centered around elephant conservation is implemented	4.1.1	Develop a communication awareness strategy centered on elephants and aimed at all relevant stakeholders.	Contract consultant to develop strategy (10 days)	1	FDA/relevant NGOs/consultant	Strategy available and communicated	External \$4,000	X		
		4.1.2	Produce and disseminate awareness raising tools about the importance of elephant conservation, wildlife laws and government action. These awareness tools need to be tailor-made for each target group – that is school children and students for long-term conservation perspectives, communities and the general public, local and national politicians and	Contract consultant to work with FDA and relevant NGOs to develop, produce and disseminate awareness raising tools addressing different target groups, including extractive industries. Tools may include study materials for schools,	1	FDA/ELRECO/other relevant NGOs/consultant	# Tools developed; Proportion of target groups reached; % coverage	\$24,000		X	X

			enforcement agencies, and the business community, especially those working in the extractive industries.	pamphlets, radio time and field visits to address local government, communities and industry stakeholders.							
		4.1.3	Include elephant conservation outreach in all existing nature clubs within elephant range communities and establish new nature clubs	Develop special awareness program for nature clubs and expand number of clubs in elephant range	2	FDA/NGOs	# new nature clubs; # of nature clubs that received awareness training	External \$16,500		X	
		4.1.4	Conduct three annual workshops on elephant conservation for representatives of relevant stakeholders at the national level and for each of the two forest blocks	Each year 3 awareness workshops will be organized, one at the	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	Number of workshops provided; # participants	External \$21,000		X	
		4.1.5	Work with the Executive (GoL) to establish an annual National Elephant Day	On 12/08 in 2019, Liberia celebrated World Elephant Day for the first time.	2	FDA	National Wildlife Day celebrated each year	External \$3,000		X	X

				Continuation by lobbying and turning this into a national holiday.							
		4.1.6	Conduct a national awareness campaign on the law and penalties concerning elephant poaching, and the trade and sale of ivory	See 4.1.2, but with focus on upcoming changes in wildlife laws and penalty structure	1	FDA/NGOs	Campaign conducted; % of target groups reached	NA See 4.1.2		X	X
		4.1.7	Organize awareness workshops for enforcement agencies, judiciary and prosecutors	Organize a series of 3 technical and awareness workshops in natural settings such as national parks (combined with 1.7.3/4) to raise awareness among judiciary and prosecution (national and for each forest block) and to make the	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs/Consultant	# Workshops; # Officers and members of the judiciary and prosecutors sensitized	External \$28,200	X	X	

				most of existing laws to achieve maximum sentencing							
		4.1.8	Integrate elephant conservation into academic curricula, by revising UL biodiversity modules and providing teaching modules	Long-term cooperation between universities and the conservation establishment	2	FDA/NGOs/Universities	Availability of curricula	NA			X
		4.1.9	Promote elephant research, specifically survey techniques, through inclusion in field courses	Provide training courses to FDA staff and students and have them participate in surveys	2	FDA/Universities	# field courses per year; # students participating	External \$2,200			X
		4.1.10	Identify international training opportunities in elephant conservation and research for Liberian students and professionals to ensure continued availability of national elephant experts	Seek opportunities for students to go abroad on scholarships	2	FDA/ELRECO/other NGOs/Universities	# Students trained and graduated in conservation related subjects	NA		X	X
		4.1.11	Develop a communication strategy to regularly	In-house development of	1	FDA/NGOs	Strategy developed, reviewed and	NA	X		

			inform other government institutions and relevant stakeholders on management decisions pertaining to elephant conservation	communication strategy			communicated; # Stakeholders informed				
4.2	Create an enabling environment for ecotourism	4.2.1	Support national efforts to develop an economically viable ecotourism industry by identifying key tourism sites in protected areas as well as corridors and CFMAs	This exercise will be part of the ongoing national survey by ELRECO	1	FDA/ELRECO/ other NGOs	# Tourism sites identified by land use	External \$2,000		X	X
		4.2.2	Establish Protected Area Advisory Boards (PAABs) for each PA within the elephant dispersal areas	PAABs need to have wide representation of all relevant stakeholders, but with focus on local communities	1	FDA/NGOs	# PAABs established; % of PAs with PAAB	External \$16,000	X	X	X
	Project Proposals Total:							0			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$116,900			
	Total Required for Objective 4 (Liberia NEAP):							\$116,900			

Objective 5: Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management Target: By 2029, a scientifically based monitoring program is generating in-depth information on the status of the national elephant population as regular feedback for adaptive management.											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
5.1	Conduct a national baseline study to determine elephant densities and distribution and/or records of elephant presence	5.1.1	Complete an inventory of elephant density and distribution at the national level (2 forest blocks, NW & SE), using a combination of traditional approaches and new technologies	Both forest blocks (NW & SE) divided into 40 x 40 km ² grid, with each cell covered with different techniques (interviews, questionnaire, rapid assessments by using the Fecal Concentration Survey Technique (CITES/MIKE), and dung collection for genetic analysis.	1	FDA/ELRECO/other NGOs/consultant	Inventory completed for both forest blocks, report available and communicated.	\$1,515,000 Project Proposal LIB2	X	X	X
		5.1.2	Compile the results of the national inventory and identify and map	Analysis of field data and production of	1	FDA/relevant NGOs/consultants/ELRECO	Report and maps available	See above LIB2		X	X

			all forest blocks with known elephant presence	report, including maps							
		5.1.3	Identify suitable areas for a field research station in NW and SE forest block and construct stations	At least 4 sites identified, 2 for each forest block. Construct and staff field stations.	1	FDA/ELRECO	# Field stations in place and operating	See above LIB2	X	X	X
		5.1.4	Create a national database of all recent and old elephant data	Develop database containing all information on elephant numbers and distribution	1	FDA/NGOs/ELRECO	Database operational	See above LIB2		X	X
		5.1.5	Establish a genetic database of the Forest Elephants in Liberia	Initiate database compiling genetic information	1	FDA/ELRECO	Database operational	See above LIB2		X	X
5.2	Elephant research is coordinated at the national level	5.2.1	Set up a research team under FDA in charge of developing key elephant research programs and coordinating the research projects at national level	Set up research and monitoring team by selecting existing staff	1	FDA/Universities/Consultant/FFI/ELRECO	Research team in place and operational	\$2,033,700 Project Proposal LIB3		X	
		5.2.2	Train FDA staff, patrol staff and community forest managers in	FDA staff from research unit, patrol staff,	1	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training	# (%) FDA staff trained; # (%)	See above LIB3		X	

			elephant conservation management. Establish and train monitoring team	and community forest managers trained in collecting elephant data following monitoring protocol		Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	community forest managers trained				
		5.2.3	Recruit and train technical staff and community members to conduct field surveys	Community teams and technical staff trained to collect elephant data in at least 2 key sites	1	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	# technical staff trained and # of community members involved and trained	See above LIB3		X	X
		5.2.4	Develop a long-term elephant management and monitoring program for Liberia, using standardized methodologies, sites identified during inventory, and elephant monitoring integrated into existing bio monitoring program	Research stations operating and elephant monitoring teams established, implementing standard protocols	1	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	Management plan developed, reviewed and circulated	See above LIB3		X	X

		5.2.5	Plan a research program on forest elephant ecology and further establish research stations in 2 forest blocks (see 5.1.3)	Minimum of 2 research proposals developed and staff identified	2	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	Research program available. # proposals implemented	See above LIB3		X	X
5.3	Ensure that research results help to guide conservation actions (adaptive research).	5.3.1	Implement major research programs such as population dynamics & structure in selected sites, genetic structure of populations (Genetic samples taken and sequenced for West African forest elephants), the study of seasonal movements through radio tracking and impact by extractive industries	Genetic sampling and database initiated under LIB2. Population dynamics studies will require separate proposals, while seasonal movements through radio tracking has a high priority regarding monitoring and modification of corridors	2	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	Number of research programs developed, reviewed and operational	External \$30,000 (radio-tracking program only)			X
		5.3.2	Put in place mechanisms for research programs results to be regularly reported to the	Set up reporting system for sharing research and	2	FDA/Consultants/Universities/Training Institutions/EP A/FFI/ELRECO	Reporting system in place	NA			X

			various actors involved in elephant management, while aligning information collected with the National Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	survey results with all relevant and secure actors							
5.4	Research enables evaluation of the effectiveness of conservation actions	5.4.1	Compare the different forest elephant population inventory techniques available to establish an efficient methodology in terms of cost and time.	Compare techniques used in Liberia with those used elsewhere and refine methodology to obtain the best results at the lowest time and cost expenditure	1	FDA/EPA/ELRE CO/ Consultants/Universities/FFI	Report available, long-term methodology developed and reviewed	NA		X	X
		5.4.2	Implement regular monitoring of the elephant population status in PAs, wider dispersal areas, buffer zones and corridors.	Based on the outcome of 5.4.1, apply most time and cost-efficient techniques to adapt and refine monitoring protocols and to set up a	2	FDA/EPA/ELRE CO/ Consultants/Universities/FFI	% PAs and other elephant sites with an established monitoring program	NA			X

				long-term monitoring program. This however requires a new proposal that falls outside of this medium-term implementation plan.							
		5.4.3	Develop and implement indirect population monitoring indicators (standardized data collection on carcasses and ivory tusks, genetic analysis of seized ivory).	Use CITES/MIKE/EIS guidelines to develop indicators. Once a sound set of indicators has been developed this requires drafting a new proposal for implementation.	2	FDA/EPA/ELRECO/Consultants/Universities/FFI	Monitoring framework developed, reviewed and communicated	NA		X	X
		5.4.4	Review existing and develop new management plans for all PAs, ensuring compliance with elephant conservation	Review and update existing plans or develop management plans for all protected	2	FDA/EPA/ELRECO/Consultants/Universities/FFI	# (%) management plans reviewed; # (%) updated	External \$60,000		X	X

			in general and the NEAP	areas as well as CFMAs with wildlife management and tourism components							
		5.4.5	Share the results with international databases (African Elephant database, MIKE, ETIS) to increase awareness of forest elephant status	Communication	3	FDA	AED, MIKE & ETIS received first monitoring results	NA			X
	Project Proposals Total:							\$3,548,700			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$ 90,000			
	Total Required for Objective 5 (Liberia NEAP):							\$3,638,700			

Objective 6: Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding Target: MRU Enforcement Taskforce operational by 2020											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
6.1	Formal cooperation between MRU States strengthened to include elephant poaching and the dismantling of trafficking networks	6.1.1	Meetings with MRU States to formalize and strengthen existing trans-boundary initiatives to include elephant conservation, to plan joint cross-border patrols and to address illegal trade of ivory through exchange of intelligence information and joint initiatives (MRU Enforcement Task Force)	One high-level meeting per year for 4 Transboundary landscapes (Air travel, accommodation, DSA for 3 people) complemented by regular digital communication	1	MRU Secretariat/Go L/FDA WABICC/All relevant enforcement agencies from the MRU	Number of MoUs with MRU States	External \$45,360	X	X	X
		6.1.2	Conduct regular joint cross-border patrols in two forest blocks	A minimum of 2 annual joint patrols in each landscape (8 per annum)	1	MRU Secretariat/Go L/FDA WABICC/All relevant enforcement agencies from the MRU	# Joint patrols per year	External \$240,000		X	X

		6.1.3	Revive the MRU Conservation Task-force and include elephant conservation issues through regular meetings with the MRU Secretariat	Communication by regular digital media	1	MRU Secretariat/GoL/FDA WABICC/All relevant enforcement agencies from the MRU	MRU Conservation Task-force revived and operational	NA		X	X
		6.1.4	Work closely with international organizations (Interpol, CEEAC) and existing networks to promote collaboration for elephant conservation	Regular communication using telephone, email and other cheap media	1	MRU/FDA	Regular communication established with key international law-enforcement organizations	External \$2,500	X	X	X
		6.1.5	Formalize the exchange of intelligence information with other MRU States on poaching and trafficking networks operating in the region	Combine with 6.1.1 without incurring additional costs.	1	FDA/Key MRU enforcement agencies	Intelligence information shared between MRU States	NA		X	
		6.1.6	Fulfill all CITES, CBD and CMS commitments	In-house	2	FDA/GoL	Reporting procedures standardized and submitted in a timely fashion	External \$2,000		X	X

	Project Proposals Total:					0			
	Remaining Budget Total:					\$289,860			
	Total Required for Objective 6 (Liberia NEAP):					\$289,860			

Objective 7: Improve local community collaboration											
Target: By 2029, communities cohabiting with elephants receive considerable benefits from elephant-based tourism, have a positive attitude towards elephant conservation and collaborate with the authorities.											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
7.1	Elephants seen as an attractive community-based ecotourism product in Liberia.	7.1.1	Develop a community-based tourism strategy, with focus on establishing community conservancies in PA buffer zones, corridors and CFMAs, with elephants and other key wildlife species as the key attraction	For community sites with tourism potential identified during previous exercises, the creation of conservancies and/or community-managed tourism enterprises needs to be incorporated in the strategy. A consultant needs to be contracted to assist with the strategy. Meetings,	1	FDA/Consultant/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	Strategy available, circulated and updated with feedback	External \$28,200		X	X

				series of small workshops (for each key site/area identified), travel and DSA.							
		7.1.2	Facilitate the development of community-based tourism products with PA fringe communities and those located within community forests by creating an enabling environment through legislative amendments and by encouraging private sector co-investment.	Review legislation related to land tenure, community rights, establishing conservancies and setting up community-based tourism enterprises. Adapt legislation and create an environment that makes it attractive for private-sector investment	1	FDA/Consultants/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI) Private sector	Legislative amendments finalized and circulated; novel financial mechanisms developed to attract private investment	External \$18,000		X	X
		7.1.3	Train members of selected communities within the elephant range in tourism enterprise	Select 5 pilot sites/conservancies to strengthen capacity by training	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI) Private sector	-Number of sites/conservancies involved -Number of community	External \$168,000		X	X

			development and management	selected community members in basic wildlife management techniques, tour guiding, enterprise development and management as well as financial management. Provide micro credit.			members trained; area coverage				
		7.1.4	Strengthen local community involvement in the decision-making process of PA management and the benefits of conservation generated revenue by incorporating community-based tourism into the agendas of the PAABs	For each officially established PAAB, incorporate revenue sharing and CB tourism in agendas	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	PAAB agendas adapted and communicated	NA		X	X
		7.1.5	Generate communication tools in order to promote Liberia as tourism	Assist private and community tourism	1	FDA/Marketing consultant/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	Number of foreign tourists visiting	External \$28,000			X

			destination for foreign travelers.	enterprises with website development, marketing their products, while promoting Liberia as a tourist destination			Liberia annually				
7.2	Local community collaboration strengthened	7.2.1	Train local tour guides for private sector enterprises	To facilitate community revenue streams, train 20 local tour guides for each forest block for employment with private enterprises	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	# local tourist guides trained and operational	\$13,600		X	X
		7.2.2	Develop co-management plans for community forests, incorporating ecotourism development, creation of conservancies or other (see 2.1.2)	Incorporate everything related to community tourism, whether conservancies or simple enterprise development in co-	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	Proportion of community forests with co-management plans	NA		X	X

				management plans for CFMAs							
		7.2.3	Identify active elephant hunters, provide them with training and a benefit package, and create elephant ambassadorial teams locally, when feasible as part of a local nature club, but permanent members of the PAAB	During ongoing survey work or other activities in the two forest blocks, identify active elephant hunters and provide them with the alternative of becoming elephant ambassador (training, stipend, membership, etc.)	2	FDA/Relevant NGOs (WCS/CI/FFI)	# elephant hunters identified, converted, and trained	External \$36,000		X	X
	Project Proposals Total:							0			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$291,800			
	Total Required for Objective 7 (Liberia NEAP):							\$291,800			

Objective 8: Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented Target: 90% of Liberia's NEAP effectively implemented by 2029											
#	Action Description (Outcome)	#	Activity Description	Methods	Priority 1 (high) 5 (low)	Responsibility (Implementers)	Verification	Funding Secured/ Required (US\$)	Timeframe Y1 = 2020		
									Y1	Y2	Y3
8.1	Establish a clear framework for NEAP implementation	8.1.1	Appoint a NEAP coordinating committee (including a coordinator and central focal point)	FDA to establish coordinating committee and appoint focal point	1	FDA	Coordinating committee formed and meeting regularly. FP appointed	NA	X		
		8.1.2	Publicize the NEAP and establish close and consistent relationships with partners	Print a limited number of hardcopies for circulation among key stakeholders and digitally send NEAP to other relevant governmental and NG actors	1	FDA	NEAP publicized	External \$1,200	X		
		8.1.3	Organize annual meetings between stakeholders	Organize annual review meetings with all key actors	1	FDA	# Annual meetings organized	External \$33,600	X		
		8.1.4	Define the priority actions for the Liberian government.	List priority actions from NEAP and circulate	1	FDA/GoL	Priority actions defined and communicated	NA	X		

		8.1.5	Define clear procedures for partners to coordinate activities and funding	Implementation of NEAP requires central-level coordination (Coordinating Committee and FDA)	1	FDA/GoL/Relevant NGOs	Protocols developed and circulated to key partners	NA	X		
8.2	Reinforce coordination between government institutions.	8.2.1	Define and clarify the roles and responsibilities of each institution in each NEAP objective, target and measure implementation.	Committee and FDA to organize meeting with institutional partners to discuss and formulate roles and responsibilities	1	FDA/Relevant government institutions	Intergovernmental meeting organized, roles and responsibilities identified and agreed, report available and circulated	NA	X		
		8.2.2	Establish official collaboration agreements for information exchange and coordinated action implementation for elephant conservation	Collaboration between government institutions formalized in MoUs (Meetings/communication)	1	FDA/Relevant government institutions	Collaboration agreements between key government institutions available	External \$4,000	X		
8.3	Reinforce collaboration with non-governmental partners and the private sector	8.3.1	Establish Memoranda of Understanding with transport carriers and extractive industries (Meetings, communication)	Collaboration and responsibilities of transport and extractive industries	1	FDA	Proportion of transport carriers with MoUs	External \$6,200	X		

				formalized in MoUs							
		8.3.2	Encourage the sharing of data relevant to elephant conservation between government institutions and their partners	Develop data sharing protocols	1	FDA	Data sharing mechanism developed and active	NA	X		
		8.3.3	Coordinate activities carried out by Government institutions and NGOs to ensure results complementarity and circulation	Coordinating Committee responsible for coordinating activities carried out by all partners, government or NG (regular meetings)	1	FDA	Coordination protocols developed and agreed	External \$18,000	X	X	X
8.4	Follow progress on the implementation of priority actions	8.4.1	Work in collaboration with the funding bodies for the financing of priority actions	FDA to source funding by sharing NEAP and individual project proposals with appropriate parties	1	FDA	NA	NA	X	X	X
		8.4.2	Develop procedures for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of	Develop M&E framework or use EPIF M&E framework, while	1	FDA	M&E framework developed	External \$2,500	X	X	X

			government and partners activities	compiling progress and updates during annual review meetings							
		8.4.3	Collect relevant reports and information for the NEAP and archive them in a central database	Use database to compile all papers related to implementation of the NEAP as well as technical information	1	FDA	Database initiated and used by key partners	External \$2,000	X	X	X
		8.4.4	Provide an annual report of the implementation for the government and the funding bodies.	FDA & CC to compile and write annual report after each review meeting	1	FDA/Relevant NGOs	# Annual reports circulated	NA	X	X	X
	Project Proposals Total:							0			
	Remaining Budget Total:							\$67,500			
	Total Required for Objective 8 (Liberia NEAP):							\$67,500			

	Required Objective 1						\$1,960,000			
	Required Objective 2						\$ 874,000			
	Required Objective 3						\$ 324,400			
	Required Objective 4						\$ 116,900			
	Required Objective 5						\$3,638,700			
	Required Objective 6						\$ 289,860			
	Required Objective 7						\$ 291,800			
	Required Objective 8						\$ 67,500			
	Total Required (LNEAP)						\$7,563,160			

Annex 4. Resource Mobilization Plan & Budget (Medium Term)

Liberia NEAP: Resource Mobilization Plan and Budget (Medium Term)									
Actions (Clusters) (Includes respective Activities)	Brief Description	SDGs	Relevant SDG Targets	Lead Partners	(Partially) Financed (amount & source, including Gov. Contribution) ¹	Budget (3 years)			Shortfall (US\$)
						Total Required (US\$)	Gov. Contr. (US\$) ²	(Partially) Financed (US\$) (other sources)	
Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and trafficking of ivory in Liberia									
Action(s)									
1.1 – 1.3	National wildlife law-enforcement strategy developed and sufficient numbers of patrol staff trained and available for deployment, with all key elephant sites operational with regard to law enforcement activities by 2023.	15	15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.	FDA/relevant NGOs/Enforcement agencies		\$1,960,000	-	-	\$1,960,000
1.4 – 1.6	Increase awareness on wildlife laws and regulations as well as elephant conservation with employees of the extractive industries. An intelligence and investigations network is operational to		15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.						

	dismantle Ivory trafficking networks, while the ivory detection and management systems have been strengthened								
1.7	Dissuasive national legal framework and actors in the legal chain well trained	16	16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.	FDA/Judiciary/Prosecution					
1.8	Reduce corruption	16	16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all of its forms	FDA					
Objective 1: Total						\$1,960,000	-	-	\$1,960,000
Objective 2: Maintain habitats and corridors and restore where appropriate									
Action(s)									
2.1 – 2.6	All key elephant sites identified and the status of Proposed PAs formalized and co-management plans for community forests developed and agreed Dispersal areas for elephants have been identified and elephant habitat in dispersal areas is sustainably protected	15	15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase	FDA/ELR ECO/relevant NGOs and government institutions		\$874,000	-	-	\$874,000

	Connectivity for elephants is maintained within wider dispersal areas, while national land use planning considers elephant population ecology and distribution A monitoring and evaluation system is implemented		afforestation and reforestation globally. 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.						
Objective 2: Total						\$874,000	-	-	\$874,000
Objective 3: Reduce human-elephant conflict									
Action(s)									
3.1 – 3.4	The specialized unit to deal with human-elephant conflict is operational and guidelines for the mitigation of crop depredation by elephants are available. Local communities are actively involved in managing HEC, with simple and effective procedures in place for conflict and damage reporting	1 2	1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs,	FDA/ELR ECO/NG Os		\$324,400	-	-	\$324,400

		8	knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaption to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.						
		15	15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.						
Objective 3: Total						\$324,400	-	-	\$324,400
Objective 4: Increase awareness on elephant conservation									
Action(s)									
4.1 – 4.2	A communication awareness strategy centered around elephant conservation is implemented, and an	4	4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable	FDA/ELR ECO/FFI/ Other NGOs and relevant governme		\$116,900	-	-	\$116,900

	enabling environment for ecotourism has been created	15	development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.	nt institutions					
Objective 4: Total						\$116,900	-	-	\$116,900
Objective 5: Strengthen knowledge of elephant status and management									
Action(s)									
5.1 – 5.4	Conduct a national baseline study to determine elephant densities and distribution. Elephant research is coordinated at the national level, whereby it is crucial that research results help to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation actions (adaptive research).	15	15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local	FDA/ELR ECO/NGOs		\$3,638,700	-	-	\$3,638,700

			planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.						
Objective 5: Total						\$3,638,700	-	-	\$3,638,700
Objective 6: Strengthen regional cooperation and understanding									
Action(s)									
6.1	Formal cooperation between MRU States strengthened to include elephant poaching and the dismantling of trafficking networks	15	15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. 15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.	FDA/NGOs/Enforcement agencies		\$289,860	-	-	\$289,860
		16	16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels.						

			16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.						
Objective 6: Total						\$289,860	-	-	\$289,860
Objective 7: Improve local community collaboration									
Action(s)									
7.1 – 7.2	Elephants seen as an attractive community-based ecotourism product in Liberia, and local community collaboration strengthened.	1	1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. 1b: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies,	FDA/NG Os/Relevant Government Institutions		\$291,800	-	-	\$291,800

			to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.						
		2	2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaption to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.						
		4	4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.						
		6	6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local						

		8	communities in improving water and sanitation management. 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products. 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.						
		9	9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.						
		13	13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.						

		15	15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. 15a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.						
Objective 7: Total						\$291,800	-	-	\$291,800
Objective 8: Ensure the NEAP is effectively implemented									
Action(s)									
8.1 – 8.4	Establish a clear framework for NEAP implementation, and reinforce coordination between government institutions and collaboration with non-governmental partners and the private sector.	16	16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	FDA		\$67,500	-	-	\$67,500

	Follow progress on the implementation of priority actions								
Objective 8: Total						\$67,500	-	-	\$67,500
Total NEAP Budget						\$7,563,160	-	-	\$7,563,160

1. Use local currency for Government Contribution
2. Use most recent exchange rate for Government Contribution and note date

