

RSPB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GOLA LANDSCAPE

Title	Location	Grade	
Technical Advisor Wildlife and Forest Crime	Monrovia, Liberia	9	
Line Manger	Position Supervised	Supervised Area	
RSPB Country Manager Liberia	None	Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime	

1. BACKGROUND

The Greater Gola Landscape straddles the Liberia/Sierra Leone border and comprises a mosaic of the largest remnants of Upper Guinea forest (protected areas (300,000 ha) community forest and agricultural land (>160,000ha worth of buffer areas), totalling >460,000ha across the two countries.

Liberia is the country with the highest remaining forest cover in West Africa, representing 42% of the global biodiversity hotspot Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem. Liberia thus is the last refuge for larger and viable populations of many endemic and threatened forest species, such as the critically endangered West African chimpanzees, endangered pygmy hippos and Timneh Grey Parrots, as well as vulnerable forest elephants, leopards and pangolins. The Liberian “Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law”, last updated in 2016, provides the framework for the sustainable management and protection of protected habitats and wildlife. However, this law is not yet a practical tool and strict implementation is largely lacking. Consequently, the integrity of Liberia’s forests and unique wildlife is threatened by illegal activities such as Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) and hunting for bush meat. In recent years a drastic increase in IWT has been observed all over West Africa and in particular in Liberia.

The Overall Project Objective: Combating Wildlife & Forest Crime.

To involve local communities in the management and protection of wildlife and forest resources and to ensure that Liberia is equipped with the legal framework and law enforcement capacity needed for the sustained fight against the country's Illegal Wildlife Trafficking, while working with all stakeholders across relevant sectors. Through community Eco guard Management

1. MAIN TASKS

1. To provide expert advice, strategic direction and technical support to the FDA and other government agencies in Liberia, working closely with a consortium of partners in the Liberia conservation sector (WCF, SCNL, RSPB, LCRP, LiWiSa);
2. To lead the establishment of a new FDA Community Eco-guard Unit, providing all relevant trainings and support;
3. To lead the establishment of a Community Eco-guard data base, based on the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool);

4. To promote and support the creation of a robust and effective capacity building and job creation program for forest communities in the management and protection of wildlife and forest resources;
5. To ensure that all operations effectively follow sound policies and procedures, developing these as required, and ensuring robust monitoring of implementation;
6. To provide technical and strategic advice towards strengthening Liberia's Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Law Enforcement Network with a particular focus on operational effectiveness and result delivery.

4. SPECIFIC TASKS

1. Develop, implement and monitor strategic work plans (i.e., management plan, risk logs, protocols), including all related logistics and infrastructure requirements, for the effective and ongoing delivery of the project;
2. Review and standardisation of currently existing community engagement schemes and IWT legislation and protocols for Liberia in close collaboration with all partners;
3. Development of a National Environmental Security Taskforce (NEST) and an IWT database (for CITES, IUCN, TWIX) with all relevant project partners and government support;
4. Train the FDA Units and partners in GIS, SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and (statistical) data analysis, e.g. of biomonitoring data and support the maintenance of SMART data base and SMART reporting as well as Monitoring & Evaluation activities (following specific project requirements);
5. Develop skills and strengthen capacity of local team members to complete financial reports, activity reports and mission/budget planning;
6. Develop, implement and monitor the data collected, establishing new or in maintaining existing databases, in close collaboration with partners and collaborators;
7. Advise on the analysis and reporting of all data collected (i.e. by the community officers), ensuring integration (i.e. with the research monitoring data base) to ensure effective function and integration between all partners to work towards national level objectives;
8. Advise on the use of collected data for effective management of protected areas and wildlife;
9. Advise relevant partners with planning, budgeting, reporting and internal evaluations.

Other duties may include:

10. Support for the new Wildlife Crime Taskforce, development of protocols and capacity building;
11. Monitoring & Evaluation, bush meat market & pet trade surveys;
12. Collaborate with key stakeholders, including other projects and NGOs to further develop and deliver the project strategically and effectively;
13. Program performance evaluations for relevant community teams and FDA units; Monitoring of operational expenditures specific to relevant Units to ensure their alignment with approved budgets
14. Support the planning of awareness raising campaigns in close collaboration with
15. Provide on the job management training and mentoring for relevant Government Agencies

5. ABILITIES/QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience in combatting wildlife and forest crime an advantage.
- Experience of working with organisations in developing countries to develop a training curriculum and build capacity of community members.
- Experience of leading the implementation of new financial systems and improving financial processes and controls and providing training as part of the implementation
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Strong leadership and influencing skills
- Strong interpersonal, team building with an ability to build effective relationships
- Strong communication skills with an ability to present things in a simple and straight forward way
- Culturally and ethnically sensitive
- Self-starter who is outcomes oriented
- Confidence and knowledge to make decisions without referring upwards

The recruitment package includes 1 return flight per annum, insurance, and accommodation (including services). We are offering a 1-year contract with the possibility of an extension to start as soon as possible in 2020.