



# THE PEPPERBIRD



SCNL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | 4TH EDITION | VOL.07-20-2022

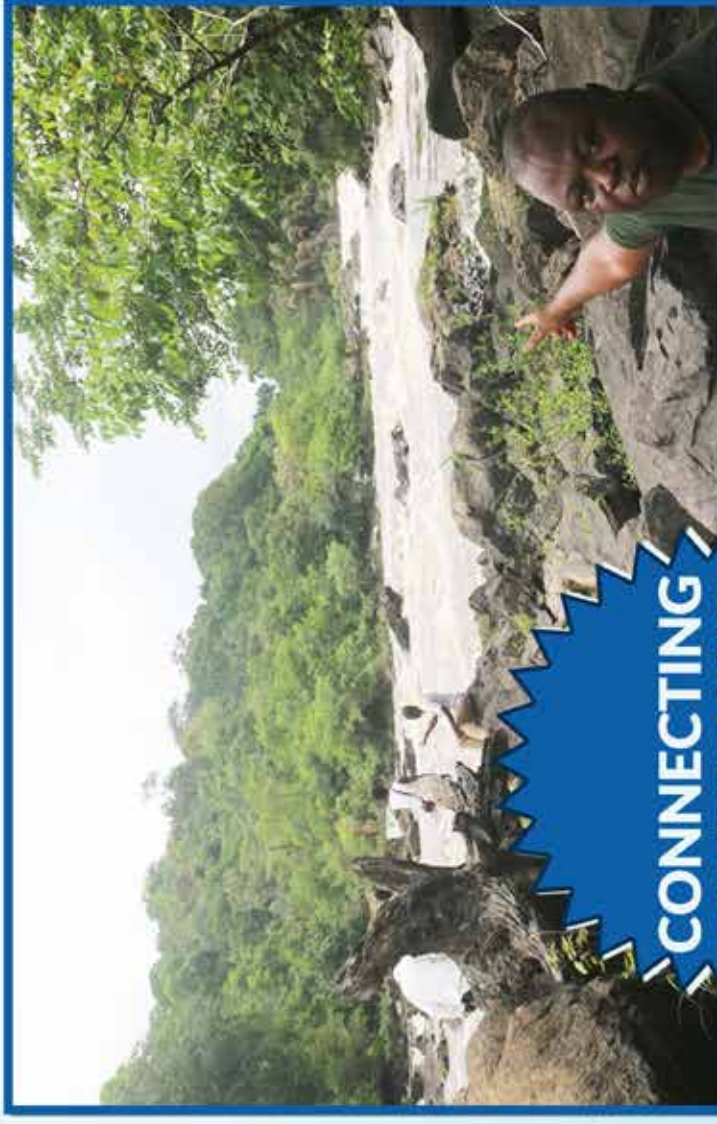
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FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO MASTERS' STUDENTS**

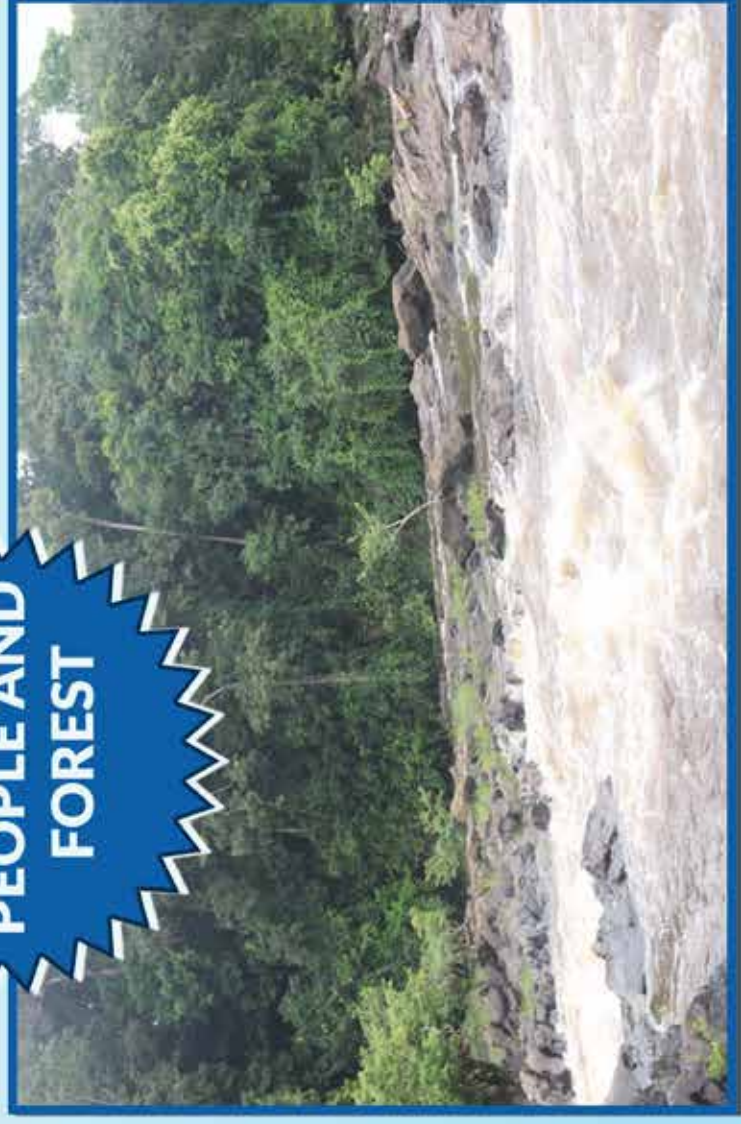
**SCNL THROUGH CEPF SUPPORTS ARTISANAL  
SMALL-SCALE MINERS IN NORTHERN LIBERIA**

“SCNL with the support of our partners have supported the Normon and Tonglay Communities in Gbarpolu over the past 6 years to enact an area of **32,076** hectares of Forest land to be managed by the communities which now serve as corridor for Elephants and other wildlife to the Gola Forest National Park”

**Michael F. Garbo, Executive Director, SCNL**



**CONNECTING  
PEOPLE AND  
FOREST**



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## ORGANIZATION'S PROFILE

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) was established in 1986 in response to the Liberian Business Law of 1976 for non-for-profit organizations with Business Registration Number: 051185951. The organization is a nongovernmental, nonpolitical and non-for-profit agency.

SCNL as the Lead National Civil Society Organization for nature conservation has the mandate to educate, encourage and assist civil society understand the need and patterns of conserving nature, build consensus on effective management of biodiversity by ensuring the use of natural resources is sustainable and that biodiversity is effectively managed and appropriately utilized.

SCNL also maintains a membership base as part of efforts to increase voices for nature conservation in Liberia as well within the West African Sub-Region through sustainable partnerships. As part of the activities of SCNL each year an Annual General Assembly (AGA) is hosted in order to deliberate on issues around nature conservation including a review of related policy issues and the advancement and sustainable way forward for the organization.

**Vision:** We ensure that biodiversity is effectively managed and wisely used.

**Mission:** We educate, encourage, and assist the public to understand the need to conserve nature, build consensus on the effective management of biodiversity, and ensure that the use of natural resources is sustainable.

Values:

- Increase institutional capacity for effective management of biodiversity.
- Strengthen community structures in providing basic information on the threats, use of other renewable natural resources, and biodiversity
- Increase advocacy for the creation of additional protected areas.
- Increase alternatives livelihood opportunities for communities around Protected and potential conservation areas
- Heighten public awareness of the socio-economic, environmental and aesthetic
- Cultural values of natural resources.

**Motto:** *Helping to Conserve Nature*

## KNOW YOUR PROTECTED SPECIES

### FOREST ELEPHANT



The forest elephant is mostly found in central and western Africa's equatorial forests, while the savannah elephant is found throughout the grassy plains and bushlands of the continent. *Loxodonta cyclotis* is the scientific name, and they live in herds consisting of related females and their calves.

**Conservation value** - Combining the carbon sequestration provided by the current 100,000 elephants and the contribution from future generations these elephants would produce, the authors calculate a present value of over \$176 billion (\$1.76 million per existing elephant). That value would be even higher if poaching were eliminated.

**Habitat of Forest Elephant-** The African Forest elephants are the elusive cousin of the African savanna elephant. They inhabit the dense rainforests of west and central Africa. Their preference for dense forest habitat prohibits traditional counting methods such as visual identification.

**Feeding** - African Forest elephants live in family groups of up to 20 individuals and forage on leaves, grasses, seeds, fruit, and tree bark.

**Behavior** - Males are generally fairly solitary but females and their young form small family groups known as herds. This allows the more vulnerable offspring to be easily protected. African Forest Elephants communicate through a series of low-frequency calls which they are able to detect from a few kilometers away



MOSES A. MASSAH, CHAIRMAN, SCNL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Greetings Fellow Members of the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia*

Whether you are part of the Secretariat or a part of project teams around the country or a part of the Board of Directors or just a member somewhere else, this message is addressed to all of us. As a membership organization, the highest decision-making body in SCNL is the General Assembly which comprises the members. This is why I want to dedicate this newsletter to the membership drive of the organization.

I have observed over the last few years that little attention has been placed on membership mobilization. I want to take this time to encourage everyone, whichever category of membership you may be in, to engage in recruiting members of the Society. A vigorous membership drive by all is an important step for the sustainability of the organization. As the Birdlife International Partner in Liberia, we must not take this lightly. In this connection, I, in collaboration with the abled members of the Board of Directors, hereby launch “Each one brings one” member beginning August 2022 to August 2023.

Overall, SCNL has been faring well in terms of buttressing the Government’s efforts in protected areas management, biodiversity conservation, and provision of alternative livelihood activities for communities around protected areas. I want to encourage us to do more. As the foremost and oldest conservation organization in Liberia, the Government and other partners are looking to us to do more. We must not forget about building the capacity of our staff. It is only by doing so that we will be able to meet up with the growing expectations of the public.

Lastly, I wish to inform our beloved members that the construction of SCNL’s headquarter is paramount on the agenda of the Board of Directors and the Secretariat. As you may be aware, we have acquired an acre of land for this purpose and now have a blueprint for the headquarter’s building. We look forward to beginning the construction soon. I, therefore, call on all members to join us in making this dream a reality.

Thank you.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MICHAEL F. GARBO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SCNL, as Liberia's leading biodiversity conservation organization, continues to strive to ensure that nature is conserved. For over three decades, SCNL has been engaging communities to play the lead role in awareness and livelihood programs, providing scholarships for students as means of capacity building to contribute to protected areas establishment and management.

Climate change continued to serve as a major impediment to our world, I believe in Liberia, as a part of the global community, Forest is our strength as such SCNL should take the lead to conserve our rainforest. With support from international and national partners, SCNL believes this can be achieved.

As Executive Director of SCNL working with communities, and national and international partners, I am proud we are helping to conserve nature in Liberia.

This 4th edition of our annual newsletter: The Pepper Bird is our way of informing the public and our partners of our achievements covering 2020-2022. SCNL continues to grow, with a little over 93 staff, contractors, and interns, these dedicated and hardworking staff, have ensured strong community engagement, Livelihood intervention, and protected area establishment. We owe it to our beneficiaries, stakeholders, donors, and most especially the Government of Liberia.

As head of team SCNL, I am proud of the team for working tremendously over the years to get SCNL where it has reached. And to the donors and partners; the Birdlife International, RSPB, and Forestry Development Authority (FDA) thank you, SCNL appreciates you.

# SCNL HONORS VISITING OUTGOING RSPB SENIOR STAFF

PROMISES RSPB'S COMMITMENT TO KEEP WORKING WITH SCNL FOR THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION



It was a time of reflection, interaction, appreciation, honoring, and knowledge sharing when Dr. Dieter Hoffmann, Head of the Global Land Department at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) recently visited the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL). The welfare visit comes just when Dr. Hoffmann's retirement draws closer. Working for RSPB since 1996, and responsible for the organization's work outside of Europe, the well-experienced conservationist chose to visit Gola-Liberia to explore ways of making SCNL viable in the sector where she will take lead on conservation-related issues in Liberia.

Accompanied by Richard Dixon, Head of Gola, RSPB, Dr. Hoffmann was received by SCNL Executive Director, Mr. Michael F. Garbo at the Liberian-Sierra Leonean Border, and along, with SCNL James P. Mulbah, the guests were escorted to the Camp Israel Community, Grand Cape Mount County to see 'first hand' the amazing Elephant Falls situated within the rich Gola Forest National Park (GFNP). The community dwellers cheerfully welcomed the guests with Kola nuts and appreciated RSPB and SCNL's contributions. The enthusiastic villagers toured with the senior RSPB staff around

the Elephant Falls, and through knowledge-sharing exchanges, Mr. Garbo briefed Dr. Hoffmann about the GFNP and the Elephant Falls. Dr. Hoffmann also visited the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), met with the Managing Director, Mr. Mike C. Doryen, and later met with the British Ambassador to Liberia, Neil Bradley.

At the offices of SCNL, Dr. Hoffmann was courteously welcomed by SCNL's staff. Mr. Michael E. Taire, SCNL Program Manager briefed the guests about SCNL's conservational works and he was gowned traditionally. Making remarks, Mr. Garbo said it was an honor for Dr. Hoffmann to have visited SCNL, and considers the visit 'the best day' for SCNL. The Executive Director reminded Dr. Hoffmann that SCNL is helping to conserve nature, and with support from RSPB, and other partners, the organization is determined to keep working for the conservation of nature.

"It is an honor, Dr. Hoffmann, to visit us from RSPB. Having [our staff and partners] in this meeting, we are very much happy. The growth in SCNL today could not have been measured without you and the strong RSPB and BirdLife Partnership along with

**“ Our focus is on nature conservation, and with communities to enhance biodiversity. Conservation is our dream, and we stand for it..We are counting on our members to find the best strategy that within five years from now, SCNL can manage its staff for the next two or three years ”**



continue to decline. And that is why we are working in Africa since the mid-80s”.

Dr. Hoffmann said the Gola Forest will always be an important component of RSPB, but the main aim is to help make SCNL a strongly independent nature conservation organization. “That’s our top aim... the main aspects of a successful conservation organization are good governance, good financial management system, unrestricted income, marketing, and fundraising. RSPB will continue to support SCNL with fundraising; we want to be a critical friend to you, help you in all parts of your organization, and work with you to grow into a strong organization,” he added.

the institutional support we continue to receive annually. Thank you! We are glad to have you here,” he shared.

Mr. Garbo further said SCNL is educating the public to understand the need to conserve nature and effective management of biodiversity.

. “Our focus is on nature conservation, and with communities to enhance biodiversity. Conservation is our dream, and we stand for it..We are counting on our members to find the best strategy that within five years from now, SCNL can manage its staff for the next two or three years,” he pointed out.

Making a special remark, Dr. Hoffmann appreciated SCNL for the warmest welcome and said he was absolutely glad for the visit. “It is great to see such a great organization and to see you all here. This is my second time in Liberia, but I am not only happy to see you, but I am so impressed by the nature you have. I have been working in many countries around the world, but the Elephant Falls is an amazing site. I am pleased to see what you’re doing; SCNL you said was established in 1986, it is a very big organization, and you’re doing well. We can do everything to protect birds in Europe, but the process will not be complete if we don’t work together across. So, whatever we do in the UK, if the condition isn’t favorable in West Africa, then the species will still



RSPB is a UK-Based Partner for the BirdLife International. RSPB is managing more than 220 nature reserves across the UK, with thousands of staff, and has an income of 140 million pounds per year, and three-quarters of said income is coming from dedicated members that’s according to Dr. Hoffman.



# SCNL THROUGH PAPFOR PROJECT AWARDS FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO MASTERS' STUDENTS

ADVANCING EDUCATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

“ *I had already enjoyed a cordial working relationship with the team at SCNL while serving in my role as a researcher, and I would like to build on past experiences. It would also be an exciting experience coming back to contribute to the conservation of Liberia’s rich biodiversity that’s under anthropogenic threats and I anticipate we will be accorded the necessary space in our institutions to demonstrate the knowledge acquired after our graduation.* ”

PAPFor: Nature’s conservation involves the managing of natural resources, preventing exploitation of the forest, and protecting wildlife. This can however be achieved by educating citizens willing to take on the challenge. At the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), providing higher education to deserving individuals for the advancement of conservation is essential.

With support from the European Union-funded Project (PAPFor), which is being implemented by SCNL in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), full masters’ scholarships have been awarded to Shedrick E. Smith, Master of Environmental Management and Quality Control, Dickarmien A. Deemie, Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation, Comfort T. Sakui, Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation, and Benjamin N. Queminee, Master of Science Biodiversity Conservation to study at the Njala University in neighboring Sierra Leone; and Michael E. Taire and Salimatu Dunnoh, Masters in Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation at the University of Liberia (UL).

Early this month, the four master’s students attending in Sierra Leone, as part of the tradition at the Njala University, participated in the matriculation program. The jubilant program was marked by the marching of the students into the hall, speeches, and oath-taking.

Deemie said the matriculation was meant to create a space for acquaintance between staff, faculty, and students. Adding “Yes, the matriculation was quite



superb as it provided the platform for the orientation of new students into Njala University’s culture and various postgraduate programs”.

The Vice-Chancellor at Njala University welcomed the new students into the University and encouraged them to take their lessons seriously. “Maintain focus and live by the policy of the University in order to ensure a [harmonious learning environment] for students and teachers,” the vice-chancellor stressed. Deemie thanked SCNL and partners for the scholarship and hopes the learning opportunity will continue in the coming years for others to get advanced education in conservation.

The master’s student also said Liberia holds the largest remaining of the Upper Guinean Forest, which hosts several important ‘flagship species’ that include: Chimpanzees, Pangolins, African elephants, etc. Deemie on behalf of the scholarship

students then shared that upon graduation, they will return home (Liberia), specifically, to SCNL and the FDA, to contribute to the growth and development of Liberia's forest sector and the natural resource management of Liberia.

"I had already enjoyed a cordial working relationship with the team at SCNL while serving in my role as a

researcher, and I would like to build on past experiences. It would also be an exciting experience coming back to contribute to the conservation of Liberia's rich biodiversity that's under anthropogenic threats and I anticipate we will be accorded the necessary space in our institutions to demonstrate the knowledge acquired after my graduation

# LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE HOLD GOLA TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL DIALOGUE MEETING

## HIGHLIGHTING GOLA TRANSBOUNDARY PROBLEMS FINDING SOLUTIONS



PAPFOR: The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), and the Government of Sierra Leone through the National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA) on May 11, 2022, held a technical sub-committee meeting in Marshall City, Margibi County. The aim of the one-day dialogue was centered around finding lasting solutions to challenges surrounding the Greater Gola Transboundary Landscape.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Society for the Conservation of Nature of

Liberia (SCNL), West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emission Development (WABiLED), EU delegation, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA), Gola Rainforest National Park, senior technicians from the Conservation Department of the FDA, amongst others.

During the technical dialogue, relevant issues including the overall objectives, and purpose of the Transboundary Sub-Committee building on



the transboundary Peace Park Accord Agreement, law enforcement (planning and implementing) transboundary patrols were discussed.

These discussions were annexed by the two technical sessions which addressed legal issues, solutions and enabling frameworks, communication, public education, integration of security agencies, training for rangers within the context of transboundary patrols, and the need for public education and awareness regarding the importance of Transboundary cooperation and joint patrols. While the second technical session addressed the need for broader institutional cooperation, available data within each of the countries, and the focal points to support the Landscape Land Use Plan.

The stakeholders also deliberated the issue of [peace and security] within the transboundary areas, and the unavoidable need to ensure the availability of livelihoods for the people living within the proximity of the transboundary.

In his opening address earlier, FDA Deputy Managing Director for Operations, Hon. Joseph J. Tally hailed the participants on behalf of the GoL for the courage to discuss transboundary issues which he said remains the heart of ‘peace and security between the two Mano River Union countries. “We welcomed the participation of the Sierra Leonean side, the FDA is committed to the fullest in ensuring that the 3cs approach-conservation, community, and commercial forestry programs are adhered to. The GoL is also making effort to manage the forest, and settling the basis for a prosperous social and economic environment for future generations,” Hon. Tally said.

At the close of the one-day technical dialogue, a resolution was agreed on by the committee on

managing the Gola Transboundary: Whereas, we the Transboundary Technical Sub-committee meeting in the City of Marshall, Margibi County being cognizant of the challenges and needs for regional collaboration at the technical level to support transboundary collaboration; Whereas, recognizing the need for substantive technical collaboration for the implementation/realization of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Liberia under the auspices of the Mano River Union in 2011 and updated in 2019; Whereas, acknowledging the provision for the establishment of a framework for the joint management and conservation of the Gola Forest, including the setting up of an intergovernmental coordination committee to direct and coordinate management and coordination activities; be it resolved that the Transboundary Technical Sub-committee agrees to collaborate with the Gola-PAPFor project for the purpose of establishing joint transboundary patrols and development of a land-use plan for the greater Gola Landscape consistent with the attached roadmap/action plan.

In a closing remark, SCNL Executive Director, Michael F. Garbo, thanked participants and encouraged all forestry partners to keep moving forward and keep engaging with respective governments in order to achieve the intended goals. “I want to thank each of you, especially our colleagues from Sierra Leone who drove long distances for a worthy cause. We also extend thanks and appreciation to the FDA, EU-PAPfor (for providing the funding), and the opportunity to hold this transboundary technical dialogue. We are looking forward to more support for the implementation of what have been discussed today”.



# SCNL'S MICROLOAN PROGRAM CHANGING LIVES IN FOREST EDGE COMMUNITIES

## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND DISCOURAGING DEFORESTATION

**Darwin:** Conserving the forest involves finding an alternative livelihood for forest community dwellers. The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) understands that with the provision of an alternative livelihood, forest preservation can be achieved. As part of its many projects helping to transform the lives of forest community dwellers, SCNL through the Darwin Loan Program is providing Microloan to hundreds of women in Gbarpolu County.

Under the established Darwin Microloan Program, with a cost of Euros 30,000.00, SCNL makes funds available to Micro Lender Intermediaries, who are community-based stakeholders, the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB), which loans to eligible borrowers particularly women in amounts up to a maximum of LD\$25-50,000.00.

All credit decisions are made on the local level by the CFMB, with awareness and education from SCNL through the community mobilization officers. Public awareness and education about the small loan program, and the forest may help protect the communities. The involvement of local leaders and communities in managing and protecting the forest is necessary.

Months ago, SCNL in collaboration with the Darwin Loan Program conducted an assessment of the benefits, risks, and potential impact of the Small Loan Program within the community forest in Normon and Tonglay clans in Kongba District, Gbarpolu County.

In Gbarpolu County, there are 215 women benefitting from the Microloan Program. According to some beneficiaries in both clans, the program has brought lots of changes in their lives. "First it was difficult for my children to go to school but with this loan business my children are now going to school," said a beneficiary from the Normon clan.

"It is helping me to make a big farm now, before the loan program, I didn't have much money, so I wasn't able to make a big farm. However, since I entered this loan business, I can make big farms, and plant bitter balls, pepper, etc...I can use the profit from my market to pay people to brush my farm," a beneficiary said.

SCNL recognizes the efforts and commitment required to manage a community forest and also recognizes the commitment of the [Normon and Tonglay Clans] to support SCNL's roles in conservation.

# SCNL AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA LAUNCH THE PISO COMMUNITY AGROFORESTRY PROJECT

EMPOWERING FARMERS, ENGAGING IN COMMERCIAL FARMING



**“Cocoa and cashew nuts are two of the world’s leading agriculture products now, and when you plant these trees, in the next, few years, you will start making money from them. The benefit of this project will also be the more trees planted, it will help to reduce all the bad air from cars... allows the citizens to breathe clean and fresh air, and creates jobs for the youth ”**

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), and the Government of Liberia (GoL), through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), with funding from the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the One Tree Planted, officially launched the Piso Community Agroforestry Project in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County. The launching ceremony which took place on July 2, 2022, at the RobertSport City Hall, opens the corridor for a two-year project that aims to allow SCNL to achieve its restoration and Agroforestry program in support of Liberia’s 60,600 trees restoration target while providing livelihood incentives for community stewards in the Protection and Management of the Lake Piso Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve in the county.

Launching the project was Hon. C. Mike Doryen, Managing Director, Forestry Development Authority (FDA). He thanked WRI and One Tree Planted for including Liberia in its grant portfolio under its African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) to 100million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. He praised SCNL for its commitment to staying focused during ‘good and

bad times. “SCNL was established in 1986 and has been a pioneer in the conservation business, which makes it the oldest Liberian Conservation Institution. SCNL is very committed, that’s why they’re one of our best partners in the forest sector. So, today, there is a project for Grand Cape Mount County to plant 60,600 trees, and the FDA is happy to provide support for the implementation of the project,” Mr. Doryen said.

He told the citizens of Grand Cape Mount County that the project is huge, and when it is achieved, it will change the face of the city and the county as a whole.

Cocoa and cashew nuts are two of the world’s leading agriculture products now, and when you plant these trees, in the next, few years, you will start making money from them. The benefit of this project will



also be the more trees planted, it will help to reduce all the bad air from cars... allows the citizens to breathe clean and fresh air, and creates jobs for the youth

The managing director also extended appreciation to the people for working together for the growth of their county. “You’re positive, respectful, and have self-confidence. Some of Liberia’s great leaders were produced in this county. Thank you for your county, and country. So, on behalf of President, George Weah, and the Chairman of the board of Directors, FDA, Mr. Harrison Karnwea, I am pleased to officially launch the project, and I wish you all a successful implementation,” he concluded.

Speaking earlier, SCNL Project Coordinator, Joe Gartor told the gathering that five communities will be benefiting from the project, and close to 40 farmers will receive training on how to grow vegetables and cash crops. He named Cocoa, cashew, and coconut among other crops expected to be planted.

Mr. Michael F. Garbo, SCNL Executive Director, provided the purpose of the project. He said after SCNL worked with the youth, through the UNDP-sponsored Eco-Brigade Project aimed at cleaning the city of Robertsport, which is still ongoing, SCNL wrote a proposal to WRI, to get funding for the planting of the trees. “We never forget Robertsport after the Eco-Brigade Project, we went out, looked for more projects, and SCNL was successful, and today, we are launching the project. SCNL, as an implementing partner is depending on everyone, the communities, and the county’s leadership for the success of this project. Let’s work together for a successful implementation of the project for the next two years,” Mr. Garbo shared.

Hon. J. Edwin Korha, Robertsport Mayor, and others made positive remarks in welcoming the project and pledged their support; in one of the remarks, Clan Chief, Yayah W. Sombai of Lower Tombey, said his clan is ready to work with SCNL for the implementation of the project. “Let’s provide the land for this project. Don’t say you’re not providing the land because it is for your grandchildren. My clan has the land already, and we are ready to work along with SCNL for the trees to be planted; we thank WRI and One Tree Planted for this opportunity for our people”.

Abraham Tumbey, Program Coordinator, Inclusive and Green Growth, thanked SCNL, FDA, City Mayor Korha, Superintendent, and the people of Grand Cape Mount County for the support. He encouraged the citizens to accept the project. “I am happy to be here today because this project is more than interesting, every crop you are about to plant is for you, [the community members]. It is a project that will also be beneficial for the next generations...while you’re planting these cash crops, the agricultural component of this project will allow people from the Ministry of Agriculture to train farmers on different agriculture farming. This is an opportunity for the leadership of the county to work with SCNL because when this project is successful, it means, other counties can benefit from it”.

Michael E. Taire, SCNL Program Manager, in a closing remark, acknowledged the presence of special invitees, the County leadership, and representatives from the various communities for attending the launch and pledging their support; he also thanked the World Resources Institute, and One Tree Planted for providing funds for the project.



# SCNL THROUGH CEPF SUPPORTS ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINERS IN NORTHERN LIBERIA

## ENCOURAGING SAFE MINING, WHILE PROTECTING THE FOREST

It was a scene of jubilation and huge excitement when several Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners gathered at Kongbor and Camp Alpha, Gbarpolu County respectively to receive mining equipment from the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL). With support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), mining equipment provided to the miners included a water pump, raincoats, rain boots, shovels, rog, buckets, and diggers. The donation to Artisanal and Small-Scale miners is an additional effort from SCNL, through its partner to encourage these miners to mine smartly, while preserving the forest.

Isatu Johnson, Chairlady, Camp Alpha, and Musa A. Kamara, Town Chief, Kongbor welcomed SCNL's staff, and also extended appreciation to the non-profit organization for the huge support not only to miners but the communities.

In Kongbor and Camp Alpha, Fiona Malley, Project Assistant, SCNL, told the miners that SCNL's support was a kind gesture aimed at encouraging legal miners to keep mining responsibly.

"Today, SCNL is here to support Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners. SCNL through its partner, CEPF donates these mining tools to you, the (miners) and encourages beneficiaries not just to mine, but to practice what is called, "Dig a hole, and cover hole".

Malley then advised the miners not to engage in activities that will cause damage to the soil and its

future use. "As you all know, the forest is serving as the home for biodiversity, it gives oxygen and absorbs car dioxide. So, it is important the forest is preserved...SCNL's interest is forest preservation, that is why the organization is encouraging smart mining and reclamation of land".

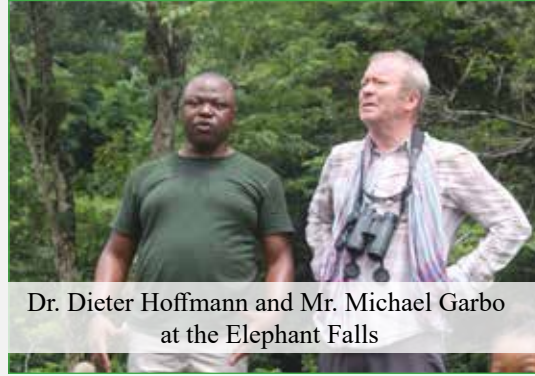
Mulbah Kelleh, Chairman for Mining, Kongbor, and Issa Dumuya, Chairman for Mining, Camp Alpha, highly appreciated SCNL and partner for the donation. Particularly, Kelleh said, "We're happy with the support from SCNL, we will continue to mine safely for the protection of the forest. We have had meetings with SCNL, but this is the first time to receive this help from them, so thank you for what you have done, and by the grace of God, miners will keep mining smartly".

J. Alex Musa, Secretary, CFMB, Tonglay Clan, and Alfred Jabateh, Executive Committee for Tonglay Forest, also appreciated SCNL. "CFMB and SCNL are working together, this donation isn't strange to us, because SCNL has been doing a lot for the communities. SCNL has provided loans for marketers, provided financial and material assistance to students, trained several farmers, and provided livelihood alternatives to forest community dwellers today, SCNL has put smiles on the faces of the miners, and we hope this assistance will continue so [our communities] can keep developing," Musa said.

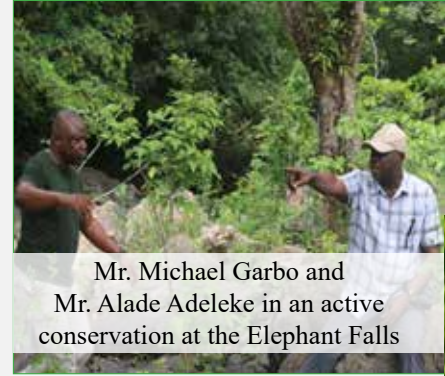
# PICTORIAL OF DR. DIETER HOFFMANN'S VISIT TO SCNL



Mr. Michael Garbo joyously greeting Dr. Dieter Hoffmann at the Liberian-Sierra Leonean Border



Dr. Dieter Hoffmann and Mr. Michael Garbo at the Elephant Falls



Mr. Michael Garbo and Mr. Alade Adeleke in an active conservation at the Elephant Falls



Dr. Dieter Hoffmann at the Elephant Falls with a community dweller



Dr. Dieter Hoffmann showing love to a baby in Camp Israel



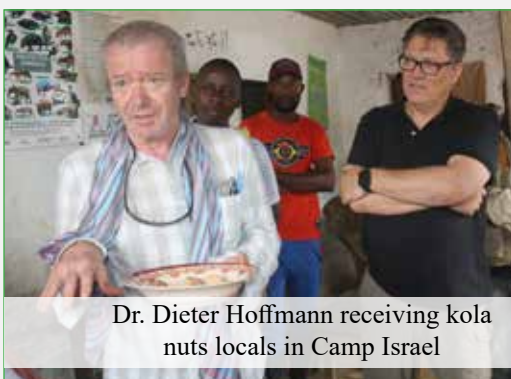
A partial view of SCNL staff during the programme



Mr. Richard Dixon greeting a ranger at the Elephant Falls



Richard Dixon, Head of Gola, RSPB lovingly holding a child upon arrival in Camp Israel



Dr. Dieter Hoffmann receiving kola nuts locals in Camp Israel



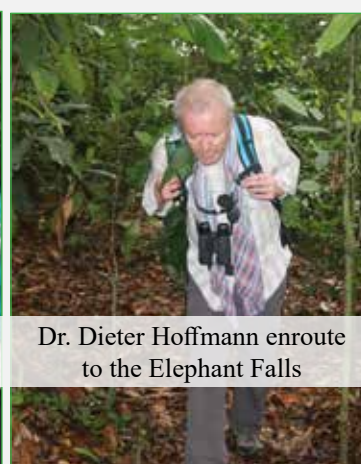
The Guests along with some youth enroute to the Elephant Falls



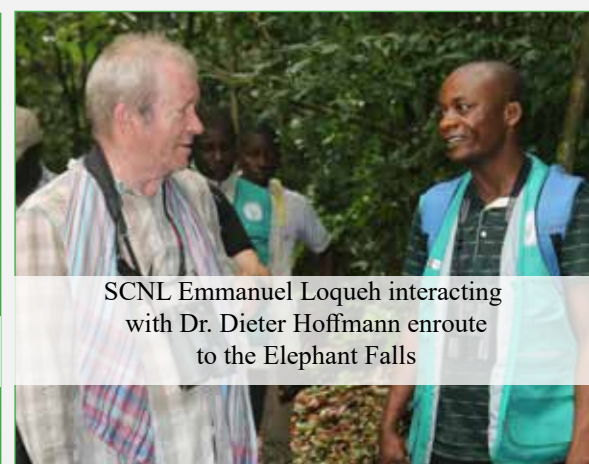
Dr. Dieter Hoffmann, Mr. Michael Garbo, and the town chief of Camp Israel, Abraham Samah



SCNL Bob D. Sheriff greets Mr. Michael Garbo as Dr. Dieter Hoffmann watches



Dr. Dieter Hoffmann enroute to the Elephant Falls



SCNL Emmanuel Loqueh interacting with Dr. Dieter Hoffmann enroute to the Elephant Falls



# EU VISITS PAPFOR SITE IN THE GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK

ENCOURAGES LOCALS TO PROTECT THE FOREST



Day 1: The team crosses the bad bridge on foot as the driver finds ways to carefully drive to Gola

As a way of ascertaining first-hand information on the EU-Funded PAPFor Project, the EU-Program Manager, Mr. Stephan Cocco paid a five-day field visit in the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP). The EU Program Manager was accompanied by the following persons: James P. Mulbah, SCNL Gola PAPFor Project Coordinator, Alade Adeleke, RSPB Country Manager, Liberia and Manager of Gola PAPFor, Maminiaina Rasamoelina, Birdlife Africa Forest Head & Supervisor of the Gola PAPFor, Marc Languy, PAPFor Regional Coordinating Head, Jerry C. Garteh, Head of Science and Conservation at SCNL.

This visit set the basis for the donor to interact with the communities and other stakeholders of the EU-Gola PAPFor project. The team arrived in Timber Town, Gbarpolu County on 4th of March and had a brief meeting with the town's leadership. During the meeting, the people of Timber Town welcomed the team and appreciated them for their interest in

Liberia. For remarks, the EU Program Manager thanked the community for conserving the forest. He stressed the need for community to take keen interest in conserving the forest and by doing so, it will attract and encourage funding institutions to put money into the sector thereby empowering community members economically.

On 5th March, 2022, the team lead by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Ranger and the community ecoguards went into the Gola Forest



Day 1: Stephan interacts with little fisher boys in Timber while doing evening walk



Day 2: The team keenly listens to sounds of the Gola malimbe during birdwatching in GFNP

National Park for a walk and Birdwatching. 5th of March, 2022, the team visited the Picathartes Site, one of the potential ecotourism sites in Gola. The team moved on to Kongbor Town, in Tonglay Clan, to interact with the community members. While in Kongbor Town, at SCNL’s Sub-Office, the team had a brief meeting with the field staff and the leadership of the town.

Stephan said, “The forest is like your bank, the faster you withdraw from it, the faster your account goes dry. So, you have the forest, and this is your country, everything here belongs to you, so you must sustainably manage the resources you have for the betterment of your tomorrow”.

On 7th March, 2022, the team travelled to Camp Israel, the Elephant Falls Community in Grand Cape Mount County. The people of Camp Israel, FDA rangers and ecoguards welcomed the team. As a way of tradition, the team was given Kola Nuts as means of welcoming them.

The team visited the Elephant Falls to view the potential and God’s given natural endowment in the Gola Forest National Park. The Executive of SCNL, Michael F. Garbo expressed gratitude to Partners for the support. “This is truly an honor for us as SCNL and Liberia having these high-profile personalities camping at the Elephant Falls. This has actually opened the doors to the outside world...and we are grateful to the team and to the EU”.



Evening visit to the Elephant Falls in GFNP

# SCNL GETS NEW PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT OFFICER

BUILDING CAPACITY, STRENGTHENING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATIONS



***“ My assistance will also entail seeing the weaknesses of SCNL, and then providing an overall organizational improvement plan, which will be rolled out over the course of time ”***

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) has welcomed Mr. William Miller, as the New Partnership Development Assistant Officer from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Millers, in the next two years, will assist the general workforce at SCNL through capacity building.

“Basically, I joined RSPB in April 2022, my role is to provide technical assistance and capacity building within the Gola Landscape, (Liberia and Sierra Leone). So, my support to SCNL is to build the organizational capacity, strengthen processes, as well as build the capacity of the staff. I am supporting SCNL to become more sustainable and vital in their conservation efforts,” Miller said.

SCNL Executive Director, Mr. Michael F. Garbo, Program Manager, Michael E. Taire, and staff welcomed the new RSPB staff. “SCNL appreciates RSPB for always creating a space for improvement... Mr. William isn’t the first RSPB staff to join SCNL, we have had several supporting staff from RSBP, who have helped in our efforts to conserve nature. Mr. William will enjoy the same courtesy rendered to predecessors, and we look forward to working along with him,” Mr. Garbo said.

With a strong background in agriculture and development, over the past eight years, Mr. Miller has worked with several international organizations in Sierra Leone, where he managed grants in different humanitarian programs sponsored by the EU, USAID, etc. Mr. Miller also added that joining SCNL is to provide additional institutional capacity building, strengthen internal policies, and systems, and enhance the capacity of the workers for the organization to achieve in the implementation of projects.

The New Development Assistant Officer, who thanked RSBP for the opportunity to serve, and SCNL for the warmest welcome promised to work with the SCNL team. “My assistance will also entail seeing the weaknesses of SCNL, and then providing an overall organizational improvement plan, which will be rolled out over the course of time. To make this happen, I will need the support of the SCNL Board of Directors, senior management, but also the commitment from SCNL’s staff, and willingness to make this work” Miller concluded.

# WELCOME ON BOARD SCNL'S NEW STAFF!

## EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE



The Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) understands empowering youth is essential in conserving the ecosystem. For years, the non-profit organization continues to empower young professionals through hiring, training, and internship to enhance their capacity for the advancement of its operation. In continuation of this opportunity, recently, several [young and passionate] individuals have been hired by SCNL to serve in various capacity.



### **Edward Hallowanger Jr., | Community Mobilization Officer**

I feel comfortable joining SCNL. I am new, but I am ready to be committed, and objective to meet deadlines. I want SCNL to continue with conservation program so the forest can be protected for future generation”.



### **Weetor K. Lamie | Community Mobilization Officer**

It is quite an excellent opportunity to newly join the SCNL family, I am excited! I am focused, willing to work, and optimistic that the team at SCNL will work together for the greater good of Liberia, especially in terms of conserving nature and protecting the ecosystem because that is the main goal of SCNL



### **Peter King | Intern/Research Technician**

“I have been with SCNL since 2021. I was assigned in Kolahun, the experience has been great so far. When I think of SCNL, I think about their goal...because they are educating, empowering and conserving the forest. I am a nature lover, so working with SCNL has helped increase my love for nature. Most people are abusing the forest, but the work SCNL is doing is controlling the illegal humans’ activities, and I am happy to be a part of the process



### **Charles S. Katakpah | Research Technician**

“I graduated from the University of Liberia (UL), in 2011, with emphasis in Forestry. I am new, but I don’t feel new because it is a [dream come true] to be working at SCNL. Coming from a forestry background, it is a privilege to work for an institution that supports what you have learned in school. Not only the experience I am getting from SCNL, but the income will help me take care of myself and family. I highly appreciate the SCNL family for the opportunity to serve, and I don’t take it likely because this opportunity is helping me to advance my career



### **Matthew Williams | Livelihood Officer**

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“I have worked for SCNL before, and the experience was good. Through SCNL, I was sent to Sierra Leone on a cross-exchange visit. An experience, I have always been grateful for. Since 2018, SCNL has been helpful to me...I am counting on them to keep up the good work and continued to empower youth in the agricultural and forestry sectors for the betterment of Liberia. To the new staff, let’s work as a team because we all are from a diverse background, but collectively, we can achieve the [goal and aspiration] of SCNL”.



### **Servah Johnson | Intern/Research Technician**

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“As an intern, I have learned a lot about SCNL’s loan project, and conservation. My parents are proud of me because of the exposure received at SCNL. I am grateful to SCNL for the opportunity to keep learning”.



### **Edicia J. Borloh | Project Officer,**

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“So far, the staff here are very welcoming. It has been amazing getting to know each staff. Joining SCNL, I am seeing lots of young faces, it is welcoming to see SCNL creating opportunity for young people to get involved into issues concerning the environment. There are many species out there unprotected, SCNL’s tireless effort to conserve nature is helping to protect these species”.



### **Monica Glassco | Receptionist**

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“My first impression at SCNL is that the staff are caring, loving and associative, interactive, and accepts everyone. My job is important, I do smile, welcome staff and visitors politely because the first impression is from me. It is like I am the face of SCNL, everyone passes through me before entering the building, I have to treat everyone with respect for a smooth operation. I tell SCNL thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve”.



### **Prince Cooper | Driver**

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“I am a new driver, I feel good joining SCNL. Before joining SCNL, I didn’t have much knowledge about the different species of animals, and why they’re essential to protect them. It is at SCNL, I am learning to know important of protecting animals and the forest. The working relationship is good, the staff have made me feel like home”.



### **Clara K. Mallah | Policy Advocacy and Communication Officer**

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“Globally, the human race depends on the climate. We have to maintain the environment for everyone to have a home. Joining SCNL is another excellent opportunity to keep the ‘team and the public’ abreast about SCNL’s activities. Great team at SCNL! It is a privilege to be a part of an initiative preserving the environment.



### **Charlene Jallah-Freeman, | Coordinator for the GEF-FOLUR Project**

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“SCNL is welcoming, the staff smile often, and SCNL is trying its best to secure a healthy environment for the workforce. Most of the animals, and herbs we normally see, are difficult to see nowadays due to the problems surrounding conservation. SCNL is doing well to restore the forest, not only for [us], but the future generation. I want SCNL to keep up the good work for the continuous upliftment of the organization”.



### **Yuconjay Noyu Barchue | Loan Officer**

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“I am a developer, and a social worker, with over 15 years of experience working with international and national institutions. I am very happy to be here with SCNL... as staff, we come from different backgrounds, but the working relationship is good. We spend more time with colleagues at work, so it is important we build [good relationships] to keep working safely. I love to be challenged, and what SCNL is into is environmental, an initiative that is helping to keep the environment safe. The animals have lives, and I feel they should be given a chance to live because they have the right to live. The forest also must be protected for the next generation, so, SCNL is doing a good job. Thanks to SCNL for giving me the opportunity to serve, and I hope management keeps motivating the staff for the success of the institution.



### **Alexander Z. Forkpa | Monitoring, and Evaluation Officer**

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“I am new at SCNL, but the environment is fine. The staff are friendly and some are already helping me to enhance my work. I am here to monitor the activities of people in the field, basically to compare the target versus the actual. I am ready to go into the field, and ensure what needs to be achieved, is achieved for the growth of SCNL. I hope for constant cooperation and teamwork among staff to enable the staff and the institution to achieve its aims and SCNL objectives.



### **Hawa B. Dugbeh | Gender and Safeguard Officer**

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“Well, I feel like I am in a big family again. The working environment is friendly, and I hope by joining the team at SCNL, everything I have learned over time will be ably implemented for the good of the institution. I am also open to learning lots of new things from colleagues...I always come to a job with a positive mindset, and always encourage colleagues that the learning stage for our respective roles in the implementation of projects is important So, as the Gender and Safeguard Officer, I will do my best to keep gender sensitivity issues at a normal level that will seek to respect everyone’s rights, while we work together as one big team”.



### **Henry V. Sambolah | Finance Officer**

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“Since I started acquainting myself with activities at SCNL, it has been very much helpful, and educative. I am here to be a key helper in the financial process because my being here requires a lot in strengthening the financial department, and I promise to do my work with due diligence. For the short time around, my observation shows the environment is good for working. I am happy and impress to be here working with people with lots of great experience. My message to the staff is for everyone to work as a team. Everyone has a set of goals to achieve, and we must work collaboratively to achieve the aim and object of SCNL”.

**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM**  
PARTNERSHIP FUND



# SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD, EMPOWERING FOREST COMMUNITIES



*CEPF supports artisanal and small scale miners in Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties*



*CEPF supports Kumbor community in sustainable fish pond to reduce the pressure on hunting in Gola Forest*



*CEPF supports sustainable lowland rice planting for communities around the GOLA forest*



This Newsletter was produced and published by the Policy and Advocacy Department of the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)



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