

Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)



Henry's Compound, Opp. German Embassy, Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town,
P. O. Box 2628 Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa
☎: (+231) 886-573-612/0555831170/0777822456
E-mail: info@scnlliberia.org,
Website: www.scnlliberia.org

BirdLife Partner

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position (2 post) and Assignments:

1. Position:	Community Mobilization Officer (CMO)
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| 2. Immediate Supervisor(s): | Project Coordinator |
| 3. Immediate Supervisees: | Project beneficiaries |
| 4. Duty Station: | Cape mount (Sokpo) & Gbarpolu (Kongba) Counties |
| 5. Contract Period: | (100% Full Time Equivalent 34 months) 75% of time, in field 25% in Monrovia. |

Based in the field and assigned in project communities with frequent sleeping away from field office in local towns.

Background

The Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit conservation organization in Liberia, working with government, international organizations, civil society, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector for over 30 years. As a member of the Birdlife International Partnership Network, SCNL achieves high impact and long-term conservation benefits for wildlife and people. SCNL's inclusive approach fosters consensus among stakeholders and enhances the capacity of government agencies, CSOs, and program target groups to impact conservation efforts. Established in 1986, SCNL aimed to promote sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection.

Current trends on forest assessment reveal high rates of deforestation/degradation of West African forests. This results in a loss of globally important biodiversity while local communities lose valuable forest resources and ecosystem services and suffer from decreased resilience to the effects of climate change. Deforestation is driven by numerous processes including agriculture (industrial and subsistence), logging and hunting, mining activities, illegal wildlife trade, illegal traffic in wood, and armed conflict.

SCNL aims to ensure connectivity is maintained by supporting these clans to manage forests sustainably, which includes setting aside areas of forest as Community Conservation Zones to ensure connectivity. Ideally, this process includes, first, supporting clans to work with the Liberian Land Authority through the Customary Land Formalisation (CLF) Process (Liberian Lands Rights Act of 2018) to gain their customary rights to an area of land. As part of this process the boundary of the clan land is agreed, and a participatory land use plan produced. This covers the entire area of clan land and shows how they intend to use their land and the resources available within that land. Once clans receive the deeds to their clan lands, they can begin to collaborate with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to develop a Community Forest (CF) (a subset of the clan lands). This in turn involves establishing the boundary of the Community Forest, conducting a comprehensive inventory of flora and fauna (done by the FDA and the communities) to inform management plan production, and hiring a consultant to develop a management plan and having this approved by the FDA.

Considerable work has been done in the past to conserve and manage both the Protected Areas and

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the unprotected forest in the Landscape, and the C4C implementation will ensure livelihood sustainability.

The Community for Conservation project targets the protection of 6 unprotected areas of forest in the Gola Landscape, occupied by the following 6 clans: Normon, Tonglay, Maima, Zue, Upper and Lower Sokpo with the following goals.

Long Term Impact: Forest Communities of the Gola Landscape in Liberia adopt sustainable land use and forest dependent practices to secure their livelihood and conserve their Community Forests between and around the Gola Forest National Park.

Outcome: Gola Landscape Forest communities in Liberia have the governance structures and capacity to effectively implement nature-based solutions including forest dependent enterprises that improve livelihood, ensure food security and conserve biodiversity.

Output 1: A Community Conservation Agreement (CCA) established with the Normon clan to support sustainable livelihood and nature-based solutions (forest dependent and climate resilient) to conserve biodiversity in the Gola landscape.

Output 2. A Sustainable Forest Management Plan for Tonglay Community Forest including the commercial zone is developed based on a full cost and benefit analysis of different management scenarios (including logging as well as conservation scenarios)

Output 3. Sustainable agriculture and forest dependent livelihoods enhanced and promoted in Kongba, Porkpa and Lukasu districts.

Output 4 Organizational and technical capacity and awareness in target communities in Kongba raised to understand the link between forest conservation and how they can benefit from ecosystem services (like REDD+ /carbon).

With the above background, The Community mobilization Officer will ensure the following:

Key Responsibilities

Under the directives of the Communities for Conservation(C4C) Project Coordinator, the CMO will carry out in collaboration with other field staff, including research technicians the below tasks:

- Prepare community work plan for implementation;
- To work with communities, e.g., acting as liaisons between the project team and the community to ensure effective two-way communication,
- conduct community outreach programs to Educate and raise awareness on biodiversity conservation around proposed & protected areas.
- help to interpret and convey cultural nuances to the project team,
- follow up and support consultants and sub-contractors and feedback to the team,
- strengthen community participation, ownership and capacity building,
- establish an MoU between SCNL and Normon, Tonglay, Zue, Maima and Sokpo 1 and 2 clans and
- co-ordinating road maintenance teams.
- Assist in all research and monitoring activities at the community level;
- Store and provide field data as may be required;

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- Serve as liaison between SCNL and communities;
- Ensure the smooth and successful implementation of all community activities;
- Work in close collaboration with community leaders and share information on a regular basis;
- Work with communities in the establishment and maintenance of Village Committees (VCs);
- Facilitate training, ongoing mentoring of VCs to ensure project ownership and sustainability;
- Support the development of bio-rights ventures identified by the local communities;
- Establishment and maintenance of community sight support groups around protected areas;
- Establishment and maintenance of Nature clubs in schools;
- Work with the Environmental Education Officer to identify needs for enhancing conservation education and awareness with the communities;
- Work with the Ecotourism Officer to develop and support ecotourism activities;
- Participate in the organization's strategic planning and implementation;
- Represent SCNL at communities & designated functionaries;
- Produce and submit a monthly report or as may be required; and
- Perform any other functions as may be directed in accordance with SCNL policy.

SKILLS AND BEHAVIOURS

Accountability:

- Holds self-accountable for making decisions, managing resources efficiently, achieving and role modeling SCNL's mandates
- Holds the team and partners accountable to deliver on their responsibilities - giving them the freedom to deliver in the best way they see fit, providing the necessary development to improve performance, and applying appropriate consequences when results are not achieved

Ambition:

- Widely shares their vision for SCNL, engages and motivates others
- Future orientated; thinks strategically

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Collaboration:

- Builds and maintains effective relationships, with their team, and colleagues,
- Values diversity, sees it as a source of competitive strength
- Approachable, good listener, easy to talk to

Creativity:

- Develops and encourages new and innovative solutions
- Willing to take disciplined risks

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Post-Secondary Education Completion in Social Sciences, Forestry, Social Work, or any other relevant field.
- At least 2 years of work experience on community forestry engagement programs, outreach, livelihood, and project management
- Extensive field experience in working with communities and conducting a needs assessment.
- Proven organizational and problem-solving skills.
- Good analytical, negotiating, and advocacy skills;
- Experience and understanding of different alternatives for project cycle management
- Proven high level of problem-solving skills
- Sensitive to cultural issues of diverse settings;
- Understanding of participatory and social-economic research techniques
- Knowledge in Participatory Land Use Planning
- Community mobilization skills
- Fluency in English and any of the local languages in the project area.
- Must be able to ride a motorbike

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Integrity:

- Honest, encourages openness and transparency

Submission of Applications

Please submit the application address to:

**The Finance & Administrative Manager
Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)
Henry's Compound, Opposite German Embassy
Tubman Boulevard, Congo**

Town or email:

vacancy@scnlliberia.org

Deadline for Applications: January 29, 2025

Females and persons with disability who are qualified are encouraged to apply