

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 and Assignments:

1. Position: **Sustainable Forestry Officer**
2. Immediate Supervisor: Project Coordinator & Field Supervisor
3. Immediate Supervisees: Project Beneficiaries
4. Duty Station: Cape Mount (Sokpo) & Gbarpolu (Kongba)
5. Contract Period: **(100% Full Time Equivalent 34 months)**

75% of time, in field 25% in Monrovia

Based in the field with frequently 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.

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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 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)

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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

- Will manage the CCA negotiation and monitor implementation in Normon (output 1)
- Lead on the development of the sustainable forest management plan for the commercial zone in Tonglay community forest (output 2).

Other Duties:

- Implement forest conservation and management strategies to maintain ecological balance.
- Prepare and execute forest management plans for timber, non-timber forest products, and wildlife habitats.
- Ensure sustainable utilization of forest resources while minimizing environmental impacts.
- Enforce laws and regulations related to forest protection, such as illegal logging, poaching, and forest encroachment.
- Conduct patrols and inspections to prevent forest fires, deforestation, and land degradation.
- Promote biodiversity conservation and protect endangered species within forest areas
- Work closely with local communities, educating them on sustainable forest practices and environmental conservation.
- Facilitate community forestry initiatives, empowering local communities to manage and benefit from forests.
- Store and provide field data as may be required;
- Serve as liaison between SCNL and communities;
- Ensure the smooth and successful implementation of all community activities;
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Partner

- 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 the vision of SCNL, engages and motivates others
- Future orientated, thinks strategically

Collaboration:

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Partner

- Builds and maintains effective relationships with the 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

Integrity:

- Honest, encourages openness and transparency

Qualifications Education Professional Experience

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in ecology, wildlife biology, forestry, environmental sciences, zoology/ecology, species conservation, conservation science or related subject;
- At least 1 year field-based conservation research experience;
- Experience in leading small teams and managing workplans;
- Experience in field work, preferably related to conservation research;
- Experience working with computers, in particular data entry and data management; Skills & Abilities
- Knowledge of local fauna, flora, and habitats, species identification skills;
- Thorough understanding of conservation issues in Liberia;
- A basic understanding of and experience in research methodologies of biodiversity surveys;
- Understanding of basic statistical concepts;
- Data base management skills;
- Fluency in written and spoken English and or any of the local languages in the project area;
- Proficiency in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Experience with technical research equipment (GPS, camera trap, range finder, compass etc.);
- Planning and organization;
- Basic GIS skills desirable Personality

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BirdLife Partner

Interpersonal, team-player, supportive, coaching;

- Working well with and contributing effectively to a multicultural team;
- Working independently in remote areas and spending periods of time in the field under challenging environmental conditions, physically fit;
- Well-organized, punctual, adaptive, and forthcoming;
- Responsible, innovative with minimum supervision and staying on task;
- Passionate about wildlife conservation and dedicated to the mission of SCNL and FDA;
- Must be able to ride motorbike

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

And or email: vacancy@scnlliberia.org

Deadline for Applications: January 29,2025

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