

# FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** Conservation International – West Africa Program

**Project Title:** Liberia: Laying the Foundation for the Creation of a Network of New Protected Areas

## II. OPENING REMARKS

***Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.***

This project was developed in recognition of the importance of Liberia’s remaining forest cover after a priority-setting workshop held in Elmina, Ghana in 1999 and through a positive dialogue between high-level CI officials and representatives of the Liberian Government resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding signed January 17, 2002. This project helped establish the basis upon which CI and other local and international NGOs can work together to achieve the CI-GoL MOU biodiversity conservation objectives of establishing a biologically representative network of protected areas covering at least 30% of the existing forest area, representing about 1.5 million hectares (or 3.7 million acres).

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

***Project Purpose:***

To further the development of a protected area network in Liberia by providing coordinated support and to partner organizations to provide the necessary information for protected area designation and management.

### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
<i>1) To ensure the establishment and coordination of NGO activities in Liberia related to protected areas.</i>	1. An office set up with a staff to coordinate NGOs activities related to protected areas establishment started;
<i>2) To ensure the establishment of Liberia's new protected area system is undertaken in a collaborative manner.</i>	2.1 An Alliance of Conservation NGOs in Liberia organized and is collaborating in the establishment of a protected area system (surveys, collection of scientific and socio-economic data, training, drafting of relevant legislation, conducting workshops to explore main challenges facing communities in southeast Liberia and intensification of the Liberia Forest Re-assessment Project to finalize selected protected areas boundaries).
<i>3) To ensure the cooperation among international NGOs to set the stage for Liberia's new protected area network.</i>	3. Action plan developed to coordinate projects and support provided to project/proposal development.

**Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.**

The success of the project can best be described through CI's achievements as committed in the GoL–CI MOU under its Short-term Actions (6 – 8 months):

1. Implementation of the MOU is strengthened through the Alliance of Conservation NGOs in Liberia;
2. Immediate relevant technical support and information/data for protected area creation provided including GIS, Remote Sensing and Satellite Imagery, Aerial Photography, Rapid Biological Assessments, and rapid assessment of social context provided;
3. Immediate technical, financial and logistical support to GoL agencies and non-governmental agencies responsible to implement these activities provided;
4. CI's presence in Liberia established within 90 days and country agreement outlined.
5. CI and SCNL represented Liberia in an international conference on Chimpanzees to determine the extent of chimpanzee presence in Liberia and advocate for increased research and protection.

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

-Research into protected area legislation identified that current forestry law lacks a defined process to determine various internationally accepted categories of protected areas. Support has been provided to Fauna and Flora International to draft amendment legislation through the Liberia Forest Re-assessment Project.

-Several strong local NGOs have been identified. Through CI coordination efforts these grass roots organizations are now connected to international NGOs and are receiving support from CEPF and the US Embassy.

<b>IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>
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**Project Outputs:** See table below.

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: Protected Area network coordinating office established and operational in Monrovia.</b>	Completed
1.1 Office established by April 2002.	Office established by May 2002
1.2 Office staffed by April 2002	Office staff completed by June 2002
1.3 Facilities operational by April 2002.	Facilities operational by May 2002
<b>Output 2: Consensus built among international and local NGO partners on an overall strategy for Liberia.</b>	Completed April 2002
2.1 Alliance for Conversation in Liberia (ACL) involving FFI, BirdLife, WWF, Philadelphia Zoo, SCNL, and Conservation International established by April 2002.	Meeting held with ACL partners in April, 2002.
2.2 MOU drafted and circulated by April 2002.	MOU drafted completed and circulation.
2.3 MOU signed and implemented by partner organizations by June 2002.	Several MOU drafts have been circulated and the final draft is currently awaiting partner signatures.
<b>Output 3: Start-up phase of CI-GoL MOU</b>	Completed April 2002

<i>implemented</i>	
3.1 <i>Conservation strategy for implementation of CI-GoL MOU developed by April 2002.</i>	Incomplete
3.2 <i>One year workplan for strategy implementation developed by April 2002</i>	Incomplete (will form part of country agreement)
3.3 <i>Report on activity to date drafted and sent to GoL by May 2002.</i>	May 2002
3.4 <i>Action plan developed and circulated with GoL by May 2002.</i>	Incomplete (will form part of country agreement)

***Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.***

The project has successfully established a CI office that has enabled improved coordination of local and international NGO efforts through the ACL to complete the start-up phase of the CI-GoL MOU. As a result of the successful accomplishment of these three outputs organizations in Liberia have made great strides toward effective biodiversity conservation.

***Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

One output, the country agreement, was not realized due to a lack of communication between CI and GoL. This gap has affected the overall impact of the project by stalling cooperation between CI and the government and delaying implementation of MOU.

**V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

**VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT**

***Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.***

Communication is crucial. Projects originating from MOUs should be clarified by all parties through clear action plans and time frames. Committees for monitoring progress should be set up by both parties with defined terms of reference.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)***

Aligning the project more closely with the timeframe objectives of the CI-GoL MOU would have improved communication of project goals. Yet, aligning project goals with the MOU was difficult due to the short timeframes allowed. Therefore the main failure in the design process was that the timeframe allowed in this project did not realistically align with the objectives of the MOU and led to confusion in both government and CI.

***Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)***

The focus on coordination brought both success and failure in the project. Identify and coordinating activities of international and local NGOs was difficult. Accomplishing this task demanded a lot of work and effort was consequently sacrificed in other areas. Yet eventual achievement of the ACL and support to local NGOs has yielded great benefits to biodiversity conservation in Liberia.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**