

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Zoological Society of Philadelphia

Project Title: Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey

Date of Report: July 31, 2003

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Civil conflict in Liberia greatly inhibited the implementation of this project, and was the ultimate cause of several schedule delays to the earlier outputs. While the ultimate project goal of implementing a rural bushmeat and public opinion survey was not completed, there are several successes that may be associated with this conservation effort. In particular, the formation of the partnerships represented by the founding of the Liberia Bushmeat Working Group, and the development of course curricula at two Liberian universities, that are to be made a permanent part of the course offerings, are significant. Nearly eighty students demonstrated an interest in taking the courses, which would provide them with new educational opportunities in conservation. In addition, in collaboration with partners in Liberia a series of survey questionnaires were produced in preparation for the survey.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: The primary purpose is to evaluate the biological, social, and economic impact of the bushmeat trade in rural Liberia. However, the project will also serve to create working partnerships between several organizations, governmental agencies, academic institutions, and rural communities. In addition the project will promote capacity building for two universities, and provide training and employment opportunities for students interested in careers in natural resource management.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. A new partnership between as many as 11 organizations and agencies in Monrovia will be developed by June 2002.	This project resulted in the formation of the Liberia Bushmeat Working group, founded by more than 20 organizations and agencies in Monrovia.
2. A new seminar course to train students in conservation techniques essential to this project will be developed and offered by Cuttington University College and the University of Liberia.	Both the University of Liberia and Cuttington University College have developed curricula for a seminar course in conservation/bushmeat. It was reported that both universities will retain these courses as a permanent part of their course offerings.
3. New partnerships will be established with five rural communities, throughout Liberia, to support the implementation of the bushmeat	Five rural communities were contacted during the project, and new partnerships were formed. Each village agreed to participate in the survey, although

and public opinion survey by December 2002.	MOUs were not signed prior to the suspension of the project.
4. The bushmeat and public opinion survey will be conducted by twenty University of Liberia and Cuttington University College students in five rural communities in January 2003.	The survey was not implemented due to civil conflict.
5. Data collected during the Rural Bushmeat & Public Opinion survey will be analyzed and a final report produced and distributed to all participating partners and other interested parties by June 2003.	The survey was not completed due to civil conflict. Therefore no data was collected for analysis or is available to produce a report.

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

The greatest successes of the project were in the formation of the Liberia Bushmeat Working Group, and the development of seminar courses for both the University of Liberia and Cuttington University College. The Liberia Bushmeat Working Group has been involved in the development of university curricula and the rural survey questionnaires, and has served as a means of promoting awareness, through email communications, and facilitating members in their pursuit of bushmeat related research and conservation projects. The project has also improved working relationships between partners in Liberia on this and other projects, and resulted in the establishment of new partnerships with five rural communities across the country.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The curriculum development for the seminar courses at the two universities will have longer-term impacts than expected. Both institutions anticipate making the courses a permanent part of their course offerings. The enthusiastic response from the rural communities to engage in a bushmeat survey was also unexpected. Each of the communities expressed concerns that wildlife are being over-hunted, and requested assistance in finding appropriate solutions.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Output 1: A working collaborative partnership between Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia, Society Against Environmental Degradation, National Environmental Council of Liberia, Forest Development Authority, Save My Future, AIESEC, Environmental Foundation of Africa, Catholic Relief Services, University of Liberia, and Cuttington University College by the end June 2002.

Output 2: A methodology and questionnaires for the Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey produced by December 2002.

Output 3: Cuttington University College and University of Liberia, in collaboration with the partnership, will implement seminar courses in the fall semester 2002 to train as many as 40 students in conservation techniques essential to the implementation of this project.

Output 4: Sign contracts with a minimum of five rural communities to support the implementation of the Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey by the end of December 2002.

Output 5: Twenty students from the University of Liberia and Cuttington University, in collaboration with the partnership, will implement the Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey in five rural communities by the end of January 2003.

Output 6: Data from the Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey will be analyzed and a final report distributed to all partners and other interested parties by the end of May 2003.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1:	
1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding distributed to potential partners by June 1, 2002	More than 20 organizations signed on as partners in the Liberia Bushmeat Working Group, and assisted with the project.
2. Memorandum of Understanding approved and signed by June 30, 2002	Organizations signed on in December 2002
Output 2:	
1. Draft methodology and questions sent to partners for review and comments by July 15, 2002.	Completed in early January 2003.
2. Final questionnaire and methodology approved by September 1, 2002.	Completed in February 2003
Output 3:	
1. Cuttington University College and University of Liberia, in collaboration with the partnership, will draft curricula outlines for the fall semester by August 1, 2002.	Completed in December 2002
2. Final seminar curricula outlines for UL and CUC will be adopted by the respective universities by September 1, 2002.	Completed in February 2003
3. Seminar materials will be developed, in collaboration with the partnership, by September 1, 2002.	Seminar materials identified, gathered and shipped to Liberia in January 2003
4. A total enrollment of 20-40 students from UL and CUC will participate in the seminar course during the fall semester of 2002.	A total enrollment of 78 was realized for the spring semester of 2003.
5. Students and faculty will submit evaluations of the seminar courses at UL and CUC to the partnership by December 31, 2002.	Neither course was completed before being suspended due to civil conflict in April 2003.
Output 4:	
1. Five rural communities will be identified as being within the regions of Liberia believed to be the source of the bushmeat trade in Liberia by July 15, 2002.	Five rural communities were identified in December 2002.
2. Meetings will be held with community leaders in the five targeted communities to evaluate willingness to participate in the Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey by the end of September 2002.	The five target communities were visited by representatives of SCNL and the FDA in February 2003. During the visits, each community agreed to participate in the survey in March-April 2003.
3. Contracts with five rural communities will be signed by November 30, 2002	Contracts were left with the five communities for signing by regional tribal authorities, but these were not collected before civil conflict suspended all activities.
Output 5:	
1. Twenty students, who have successfully completed the seminar course in conservation techniques will be selected to participate in the survey by December 15, 2002.	Twenty students were identified to participate in the survey in mid-March 2003, and contracts were prepared for signing.
2. Students, and supervisors from the partnership, will be transported to the five rural	The survey was cancelled due to civil conflict.

communities to begin data collection by January 2, 2003.	
3. Data sheets will be completed on a daily basis for four weeks by the students in each of the five communities over a four-week period, ending January 31, 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
4. Completed data sheets will be submitted to the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia and the Philadelphia Zoo for analysis.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
Output 6:	
1. All data will be received from the field and entered into a database by the end of February 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
2. Collated data will be distributed to all partners by March 15, 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
3. Draft report will be submitted to partners for review and comments by April 1, 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
4. Comments from partners returned to SCNL and Philadelphia Zoo by April 15, 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.
5. Final report completed and distributed to partners and other interested parties by end of May 2003.	No data collection took place due to civil conflict requiring the suspension of all activities.

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

The project was quite successful at meeting intended outputs 1-4, although timelines had to be revised due to scheduling difficulties on the ground associated with partner needs and civil conflict in Liberia. Outputs 5 and 6 were not successfully met as civil conflict resulted in the cessation of all activities.

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

Outputs 5 and 6 were not successfully completed due to civil conflict. This resulted in the failure of the project to meet its primary goal of conducting a bushmeat and public opinion survey within five rural communities.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

No actions were required.

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.

One important lesson learned was that the disruption of Liberia's society, agencies and organizations by years of civil conflict are so great that it is difficult to meet schedules that may seem appropriate during planning. Examples are the total disruption of university schedules, which resulted in difficulties coordinating the seminar courses. In the future I would recommend more liberal scheduling of activities to allow for unexpected delays. Working with so many partners also furthered the potential for

unexpected delays in implementing elements of the project. CEPF should suggest that project managers keep these factors in mind when planning projects in Liberia.

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

The failings of this project were due to civil conflict, which is out of partners' control. Scheduling problems, as outlined above, may have been an element that could have been better planned for, although civil conflict would remain a compounding factor.

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

Executing this project through long-distance partnerships with such a large number of organizations, of varying communication abilities, was challenging and contributed to some of the delays realized during the project.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While we failed to complete this project, due to civil conflict causing the suspension of activities, it was a success in many ways. The formation of the Liberia Bushmeat Working Group is an important step forward, and provides a platform from which to facilitate further conservation action in Liberia. The development of new courses at the University of Liberia and Cuttington University College represent great strides in expanding the educational opportunities of Liberian students who may choose conservation as a career track. The project brought together many new partners, and these first steps may serve as a way forward for a number of collaborative conservation programs. In addition to the curricula and materials developed, the project also resulted in the production of a series of survey questionnaires that were to be used in the five target rural communities, that may yet be utilized in evaluating the impact (biologic, social and economic) of the bushmeat trade in rural Liberia.

We recommend that CEPF reinstate funding for this project upon cessation of hostilities in Liberia so that the university courses may be offered again, partnerships re-established with the target rural communities, and the bushmeat and public opinion surveys may be conducted as planned.

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