

Key facts Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area (KBPPA)

Potential future name: Kwa National Park

Location: Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Rivercess Counties

Initial size surveyed: 290,167 ha

Proposed size after feasibility study for pre-gazettement: 235,222 ha
(further reduction expected after participatory land use mapping)

Proposed status: National Park

Feasibility studies completed:

- Demographic survey
- 2 Socio-economic surveys
- Wildlife and threat survey (using transect)
- Camera trapping
- Biodiversity Rapid Assessment

Data available also from nationwide chimpanzee and mammal survey (Tweh et al. 2014) and assessment for biodiversity conservation priority areas (Junker et al. 2015).

Major outcomes:

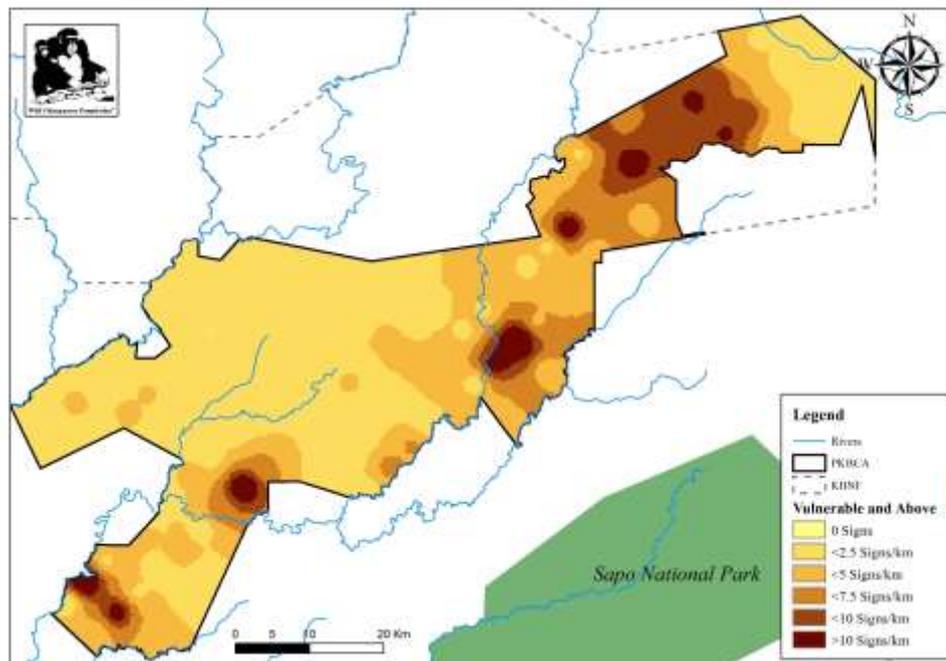
- Previous surveys and LFSP feasibility study confirm **KBPPA's outstanding biodiversity value** (priority hotspot within a hotspot)
- Surveys indicate that many more species (including many more new species to science and first country records yet to be discovered)



4 key species recorded in KBPPA from top left to bottom right: *Holaspis guentheri* - flying lizard, 1st country record for Liberia, *Phrynobatrachus* nov. sp. - one of two frog species new to science discovered at KBPPA, *Didelotia gracillima* nov. sp. - one of four tree species new to science discovered; forest elephants captured on camera traps in KBPPA.

Major outcomes continued:

- Second largest population of critically endangered western chimpanzee in Liberia
- High density of critically endangered forest elephants
- Small overlap with towns/villages
- Low level of human activity (except hunting)
- Area highly suitable for the creation of protected area



Density of threatened mammal species in KBPPA (listed as threatened on IUCN Red List, such as western chimpanzees, forest elephants, pygmy hippos etc.)

Pre-gazettement activities completed so far and ongoing:

- Establishment of community ecoguard program: 62 community members trained in May 2020 and March and October 2022; 8 community ecoguard teams established with 32 permanent team members, including 11 women, patrolling since July 2020; at least 2 more teams to be formed in 2022/2023
- 84 beekeepers trained and supervised by Universal Outreach Foundation/Liberia Pure Honey since June 2020
- Exchange study tour to Grebo-Krahn National Park in October 2020
- Theater awareness based on field research (done in 2020) conducted through radio drama and live performances, March-April 2021
- National information-sharing meeting in December 2020
- Regional and local awareness meetings in 2020 and 2021
- Participatory land use mapping with local communities
- Ecotourism development: training community tourist guides from local communities at Sapo National Park in December 2020 and December 2021
- Examples infrastructure development (construction of 5 hand pump water wells, school rehabilitation, MTN network)
- Livelihood assessments and development of agricultural activities



Community ecoguards at KBPPA, on forest patrol (left) and conducting awareness with local communities (right).



Some of the 84 trained beekeepers at KBPPA with their beehives



Eddie Theater Production performing for community members near KBPPA



National multi-stakeholder information-sharing meeting held about the KBPPA gazettement in Monrovia in December 2020



Community members displaying their land use maps created in the participatory land use mapping meetings at KBPPA



Hand pump water well constructed in Kolatree in 2022, one of 5 to be constructed around KBPPA



Participants in the professional tourist guide training conducted at Sapo National Park with 3 community members from KBPPA

Opportunities for Liberia and FDA:

- Significant and immediate support for GoL's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development
- If maximum area of KBPPA protected (after community consultation), a big step will be achieved towards establishment of PA network (aiming at protecting 30% of Liberian forests)
- Major biodiversity hotspot preserved for future generations, not only providing ecosystem services for local communities, but also providing opportunities for hosting researchers and tourists; donors committed to establish international research site at KBPPA
- Funding for additional employment, livelihood projects, more infrastructure development and some activities of future national Park already secured for next 4 years
- Gazettement of KBPPA will open up more opportunities for economic development and funding (for example Millennium Challenge Corporation, REDD+/Carbon credit market)

Specific opportunities for growth and development:

- 1) Employment & capacity building (e.g. community ecoguards, FDA auxiliaries, rangers, internship programs)
- 2) Livelihood support (e.g. agricultural projects, beekeeping)
- 3) Research
- 4) Ecotourism
- 5) Infrastructure development
- 6) Education & Awareness
- 7) Payment for ecosystem services, REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation)

Final statement: Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area (PPA) is unique in Liberia and in the world. Surveys showed an enormous wealth in biodiversity, which promises many more discoveries. Within Liberia, Krahn-Bassa PPA is one of the last large forest areas giving home to key threatened and rare key species, such as the critically endangered western chimpanzees and forest elephants, and the endangered pygmy hippopotamus. There is very high potential for Krahn-Bassa PPA to become a key area for ecotourism and research. There is significant funding available for the support of all aspects of the pre-gazettement and for immediate benefits for and involvement of local communities. FDA's current lead partners for Krahn-Bassa PPA, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) has extensive experience in supporting FDA in the pre-gazettement and gazettement process, as well as the management of the protected area. Furthermore, WCF has extensive experience with current priorities for FDA, especially community engagement, research and ecotourism, which shall be in the focus of the donors' investment in Liberia.