

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

15 October 2021

CEPF Grant 112513

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Building Networks for KBA Monitoring and Protection in the GFWA

Guinee, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
2. Grant title: Building Networks for KBA Monitoring and Protection in the GFWA
3. Grant number: 112513
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$80,525
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 Nov 2021 to 31 May 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria
7. Date of preparation of this document. 15 October 2021
8. **Introduction:** This section will briefly describe the project including design elements and potential social and environmental issues. Where possible, include maps of the project site and surrounding area.

The project works at a regional and national level, not at a local level. It builds capacity on the technical identification of Key Biodiversity Areas and builds networks within each country to identify and advocate for their recognition and eventual protection. Designating KBAs doesn't exclude local usage. Local involvement in KBA identification will be promoted as part of training. The main stakeholder/beneficiaries will be other NGOs (usually, but not exclusively nature conservation related), academics, government and others with related expertise and interest, working at a national level. A team of trainers will be established who can deliver training at a national level, most of whom will be from the region and will have had relevant prior experience. In each country, groups of stakeholders (as described above) will be convened for technical training and discussions on governance of a national coordination group, the end goal in each case being establishment of such a group, but in most cases that will be after the end of the project. Most activities will therefore take place in major cities of each country and through on-line communication. In each country, the project will include the whole country for consideration, with the KBAs assessed dependent upon available information among stakeholders. It is not intended to be geographically comprehensive within a country, but to build up the beneficiaries capacity to look towards nationwide coverage.

9. **Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:** If the grantee has undertaken any activities to date, including information disclosure and/or consultation, provide the following details:
 - Type of information disclosed, in what form (e.g., oral, brochure, reports, posters, radio, etc.) and how it was disseminated;
 - The locations and dates of any meetings undertaken to date;
 - Individuals, groups and/or organizations that have been consulted;
 - Key issues discussed and key concerns raised;
 - Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions; and
 - Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders.

In each country, the RSPB will be working through the national BirdLife partner. In four of the five countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia) the RSPB has a long-standing on-going partnership in some cases stretching back to the 1980s and 1990s. For each of these partners, the RSPB provides institutional support, both financial and technical and for Sierra Leone and Liberia there are major landscape level projects implemented with the partner.

In Nigeria and Ghana, establishment of NCGs for KBAs and KBA assessments is part of institutional support the RSPB gives to the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) and Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) respectively, and the project will support the processes we have been developing and discussing with them. For the partners in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) respectively, this project will enable the RSPB to add another area of technical support. We have discussed the project with both CSSL and SCNL and received letters of support.

Guinee Ecologie is not yet a supported partner of the RSPB and is new to BirdLife. The RSPB is familiar with Guinee Ecologie through the process of it becoming a BirdLife Partner and through discussions with the BirdLife Secretariat. Likewise, we have discussed the project with Guinee Ecologie and received a letter of support. The RSPB works with Guinee Ecologie in French, which gives us the ability to include them in the project and potentially open up for more francophone KBA work in the region. Guinee Ecologie has discussed this project with the government and received a letter of support.

These five partners are our principal points of contact in each country.

The project will be coordinated by Agyemang Opoku who is based in Accra in the BirdLife Office. The project has been developed in detail with him and his predecessor Samuel Temidayo Osinubi. Both have been involved in KBA development in West Africa, supporting BirdLife partners and other stakeholders through NCGs or provisional bodies acting as NCGs. They are both very well acquainted with each of the countries and KBAs in general. The RSPB has very regular discussions with them and any significant changes to the project proposal have been discussed with them, especially Agyemang Opoku who is BirdLife staff. Agyemang has also been discussing the project with each of the BirdLife Partners and other organisations in each country which have a lead role with regards to KBAs, especially with FFI in Liberia. The exception is Guinee where language creates a barrier.

Among international organisations, the RSPB has had meetings with Andy Plumptre of the KBA Secretariat and Thomas Starnes of the IUCN. With the former to ensure the project meets requirements of the KBA secretariat and with the latter to ensure the project builds on what the IUCN has already implemented.

Other organisations working internationally that we are planning to discuss the project with are Kew Gardens and Missouri Botanic Gardens (scheduled and delayed meeting due to Covid).

In Nigeria and Ghana there are already established NCG and provisional NCG respectively with a group of other stakeholders including government involved. GWS and NCF have been regularly meeting with those groups and the project builds on and strengthens their work.

10. Project Stakeholders: This section will list the key stakeholder groups who will be informed and consulted about the project. These should include persons or groups who:

- Are directly and/or indirectly affected by the project or have "interests" in the project that determine them as stakeholders; and
- Have the potential to influence project outcomes (examples of potential stakeholders are affected communities, local organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government authorities. Stakeholders can also include politicians, companies, labor unions, academics, religious groups, national social and environmental public sector agencies, and the media).

The project is all about consultation and training for key stakeholders, of whom the principle beneficiaries will be:

- BirdLife partners – see above.
- Other main conservation NGOs working in each country, both national and international, aiming to cover a broad spectrum of taxonomic specialisations.
- Key government agencies directly related to the subject matter, eg ministries of environmental, or forestry. The government benefits not only from training, but also KBAs will support national strategies and programmes and international commitments. The government partners will be key to delivering in some cases where an expected outcome is establishment of an NCG.
- Academic institutions who can bring technical expertise, and also benefit from learning how to contribute to the KBA programme.
- Other individual and organisations which may have an interest, eg organisations working in development, gender, health issues that recognise the importance of biodiversity conservation where they are working on the ground.
- A group of individuals (mostly from the region) already involved in KBAs who will be given training to becoming trainers for the above and will have the opportunity to become leaders in this field.

The KBA Secretariat and Partnership will be a beneficiary through progression of its agenda. The Key Secretariat will be closely informed and involved in training, review of KBA assessments, provision of data, among other things.

Indirect beneficiaries will be grassroots level organisations and local communities. The project will not work directly at this level, but training will promote the importance of consultation at the grassroots level. Where there is co-funding for field assessments those activities will include grassroots consultations. Involvement of grassroots organisations in training workshops will be encouraged.

The media in each country will be informed through our main country partners and the national coordination groups.

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program: This section will summarize the purpose and goals of the program. Briefly describe what information will be disclosed, in what formats, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the identified groups of stakeholders. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Newspapers, posters, radio, television;
- Information centers and exhibitions or other visual displays; and
- Brochures, leaflets, posters, non-technical summary documents and reports.

Engagement of the main national partners and group of trainers will be through regular on-line meetings.

Engagement of key national stakeholders will mainly be through workshops held nominally face-to-face (being aware of the potential need to go on-line under Covid restrictions). Prior to workshops stakeholder engagement will be personal direct contact by national partners. Towards the end of the project other communication mechanisms will have been decided to maintain the national coordination groups. This will be advised through experiences in Nigeria.

On-line training materials are being developed by the KBA secretariat. These will be trialed through the early stages of the project by the trainers and adapted for use by national stakeholders.

A set of films will be produced to use during the project for communication after the project ends.

12. Consultation methods: This section will describe the methods that will be used to consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified in previous sections. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;
- Surveys, polls and questionnaires;
- Public meetings, workshops and/or focus groups with a specific group;
- Participatory methods; and
- Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making.

Consultation with the main national partners and group of trainers will be through regular on-line meetings.

Consultation with key national stakeholders will mainly be through workshops (see above).

The group of trainers will be provided training on facilitation and consultation methods.

A consultant will be invited to support the project to advise on governance for national coordination groups and will provide that advice during workshop planning and on the day through presentations and Q&A.

Most importantly structure and governance of national coordination groups will be based upon consensus and discussion of participants with advice and facilitated support from the project.

13. Other Engagement Activities: This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs; community development initiatives; resettlement and development programs; and/or training and microfinance programs.

N/A

14. Timetable: This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.

This is clear in the main project document, as the project is largely a set of trainings and consultations, with between 1 and 3 workshops in each country.

15. Resources and Responsibilities: This section will indicate what staff and resources will be devoted to managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Who within the project team will be responsible for carrying out these activities? What budget has been allocated toward these activities?

The project manager Paul Insua-Cao will oversee implementation of this stakeholder engagement plan and time is budgeted to that effect within the contract.

On a day to day basis, Agyemang Opuku, the BirdLife coordinator, will be engaging with national partners and will be made aware of this engagement plan. His time is paid for by the RSPB.

16. **Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant regional implementation team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: "We will share all grievances — and a proposed response — with the regional implementation team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office."

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

The project does not trigger any safeguards. Nevertheless, all RSPB contracts with any parties, either sub-grantees or consultants, include safeguarding mechanisms. An addendum will be developed with the below mentioned specific elements.

Any workshop agenda/materials shared with invitees will include an introduction to the project in either English or French, based on the required language, identifying CEPF as a donor and include the below mentioned elements.

- *Lead organization: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), paul.insua-cao@rspb.org.uk*
- *CEPF Regional Implementation Team: BirdLife International, cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org*
- *Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF): Executive Director, cepfexecutive@conservation.org*
- *"We will share all grievances — and a proposed response — with the regional implementation team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail."*

17. Monitoring and Reporting: This section will describe any plans to involve project stakeholders (including affected communities) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders as well as broader stakeholder groups.

The KBA secretariat will be involved in monitoring and providing feedback to project outputs, especially:

- direct KBA assessments as part of the approval process;
- review and workplans for national coordination groups.

Evaluation will be carried out for trainings, with participation of the KBA secretariat to evaluate impact.

Each (provisional) national coordination group or similar national group will be developing a workplan against which to monitor progress beyond this project and evaluate results.

IUCN will be kept informed during activities and after of project results.

A meeting will be held at the end of the project with project trainers, regional project partners and some national partners to review results and lessons learned.