GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (SGP)

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6 (2015-2018)
SIERRA LEONE

Part of Kasewe forest reserved as Species Management Area is under threat due to upland farming in Moyamba District; Oct., 2015

JUNE 2016

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ACRONYMS

AfP	Agenda for Prosperity
CBD	Convention for Biological diversity
CCA	Community Conserved Areas
CEFED	Centre for Environment and Development
CFA	Country Focal Areas
CFM	Community Forest Management
CSA	Climate-Smart Agricultural
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EE&C	Environmental Education and Communications
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gases
HBA	High Biodiversity Areas
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples and Local Community
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MAFFS	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLCPE	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NAP	National Action Programmes
NBSAP	National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substance
OP5 & OP6	5th and 6th Operational Phase
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RR	UN Resident Representative
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
STAR	System of Transfer for Allocated Resources
UNCCD	UN Convention for Combating Desertification
UNCED	UN Convention for Environment and Development
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention for Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WRG	Water Resources Governance

1. SGP Country Programme – Summary Background

OP6 RESOURCES (3.15 MILLION US$)		
Core funds:	**US$**	**400,000**
OP5 Resources:	**US$**	**39,000**
STAR funds:	**US$**	**710,000**
Other Funds to be mobilized:	**US$**	**500,000**
In-kind Contribution:	**US$**	**1,500,000**

1.1 The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) was established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, with the aim to support the protection of the global environment and to promote environmentally sustainable development by providing financial and technical support to eligible countries for implementing projects that benefit the global environment," thinking globally acting locally".

In Sierra Leone, the GEF SGP started in 2011 during the 5th operational phase that was disrupted by one year of Ebola crisis. However, SGP drew a large following due to its community based initiatives approach. It promoted sustainable protection of the environment in six targeted GEF focal areas[1] and mainstreamed sustainable livelihoods that contributed to micro economic growth. The SGP aligned with Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity[2] and UNDP's Strategic Plan focal areas: Sustainable Development, and Climate and Disaster Resilience both of which focus on national environmental management and human development while reducing and maintaining poverty at the lowest level. Between 2012 and July 2015, the SGP Sierra Leone successfully supported 52 projects implemented by women's group, youth groups, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and community groups.

1.2 During the implementation of the 6th operational phase, the SGP Sierra Leone shall align its operational strategies to Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity (A4P Pillar 2: Managing Natural Resources), National Biodiversity Action Plan, Land Use and Energy policies, GEF 20/20 Strategy[3], UNDP's Strategic Plan, UNDFA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The objective is to ensure that the Country Programme Strategy is transformed from global thinking into achievable community and local level actions for sustainable global environmental benefit. SGP Sierra Leone shall contribute to achieving the GEF 6 focal area strategies and will source STAR funds from GEF operational focal point. Its major partners will include Environmental CSOs and 4 Local Councils in three districts covered by the Gola Rainforest National Park.

Significant results and accomplishments achieved by the country programme under OP5

1.3 SGP OP5 received $750,000 CORE and $783,360 STAR allocations summing up to $1,533,360. Out of these funds 52 projects were funded across four grant making cycles from 2013 to 2014 with a total commitment of $1,458,488.55 (95.1%). This included a commitment of $769,794 of available STAR allocation (98.3% commitment) that supported 27 projects across all five GEF themes (excluding International Water). A balance of $74,871.45 (STAR=$13,566 and CORE=$61,305.45) was left to be committed. Experience shall be drawn from past projects such as the

[1] GEF Focal areas: Biodiversity, Land degradation, Climate Change, Sustainable Forest Management, Chemicals and International waters,

[2] Sierra Leone's Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013-2017); Agenda for Prosperity (A4P Pillar 2: Managing Natural Resources)

[3] GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development). Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy.

project titled" Restocking Involuntarily Destocked Livestock Farms in Communities within the Gola Rainforest National Park" implemented by Centre for Environment and Development (CEFED) during OP5 intervention.

Below are the most important results and achievements under OP5 from the STAR and CORE funds allocated to SGP Sierra Leone:

Biodiversity conservation

1.3.1 Under this focal area, there were two SGP OP5 Immediate Objectives: - 1- Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions, and 2- Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions.

SGP OP5 created wide following, ownership and usefulness for biodiversity conservation within conserved/protected areas involving the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs). In total, 17 biodiversity conservation initiatives were supported creating practicable community-level mechanisms for managing protected areas, promoting shared management and educating communities on the benefits of conserving biological diversity.

Community Forest Management (CFM) was introduced as a new Protected Area management approach enhancing the development of bylaws and moratorium on many forest reserved including a 10 year moratorium for the protection of the Gbonkor Makalu Community forest that covers over 100ha; construction of 40 improved fish smoking oven units in four shore-line communities in Moyamba District ensuring reduction of the pressure on 20 ha of mangrove forest of the Yawri Bay a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Sierra Leone.

One forestry research conducted by Department of Biological Sciences at Fourah Bay College, established a mechanism for training community groups in collecting, analyzing and marketing herbs from the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve and another research on reptiles and amphibians in the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve listed 10 new sightings in addition to the IUCN list made. And 40 IUCN recorded species were confirmed in the national herpetological register. Other significance results include livelihood enhancement and women empowerment for over 1,500 farm families through the establishment of Inland Valley Swamp for rice cultivation, poultry farming, and training on climate-smart agriculture contributing to the protection of over 74,000ha of the Gola Rainforest National Park.

Chemicals and PoP management

1.3.2 Three chemical management projects were supported including two projects (SLE/SGP/OP5/CORE/CH/13/03/007 and SLE/SGP/OP5/STAR/CH/13/10/031) at the largest dump sites (Bormeh and Granville) in Freetown. The two projects examined the effect of unintentional release of POPs at the dumpsites in Freetown and proposed management plans (including waste-to-energy technology options) for both communities. The third project dealt with chemical management education campaign in 50 peripheral health units(PHUs) in two districts and 50 waste incineration systems (design and fabricated locally) were constructed at the 50 PHUs with dumpsites demarcated to limit access to hazardous medical waste.

Sustainable land management

1.3.3 SGP OP5 Immediate Objective outlined under this focal area included: 1- Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities; 2- Reduce pressures at community level for competing land uses (in the wider landscapes); 3- Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives. Nine (9) Climate-Smart

Agricultural (CSA) projects were funded towards sustainable land and forest resources management. These included agroforestry, fish farming, poultry, silviculture, and 10 ha of Inland Valley Swamps (IVS) cultivation for rice faming, vegetable gardening and the establishment of tree nursery enterprises (as part of various permaculture demonstrations in the country).

In Sierra Rutile, in Moyamba District Southern Sierra Leone, over 200 ha of degraded agricultural lands due to rutile mining activities were reclaimed and placed under sustainable land management. Communities adjacent to the Western Area Peninsula National Park and other protected areas benefitted from livelihood support for co–management of Protected Areas which benefited 3,000 families. The activities included fish farming, vegetables production (irrigated by EMAS pumps) and tree planting for forest edge communities within Gola forest, Kasewe and Kambui Forest Reserves. Solar panels were installed that supply water to series of underground and surface storage tanks for drinking and irrigating fish farms, 2,500 cashews and 2,000 oil palm nurseries.

Transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level

1.3.4 SGP OP5 Immediate Objectives outlined under this included: 1-To promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level; 2-To promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level; 3- Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.

OP5 supported 16 projects on mitigating climate change impacts and enhancing community-based adaptation to climate change. Integrated waste management approach was promoted through composting and briquette-making from waste, training of grassroots people in sorting out waste and producing useful products from waste for marketing. Communities benefitted from 200 energy efficient stoves (fixed clay stove and handy mobile clay stove) as a case study for establishing stove marketing business. The major success was the development and deployment of various energy efficient technologies across the country that benefitted over 1,500 people in 3 communities which included the construction of improved charcoal production systems (retort systems) and the training of 200 technicians in the Western area.

Cross cutting issues

1.3.5 Fifty (50) projects had good business cases (typical of all projects other than 2 research projects). Various innovative community-level financing mechanisms were developed to ensure job creation and income generation for supporting a range of other needs. These mechanisms included microcredit schemes, product sales (stoves, briquettes, compost, solarware etc), income generation schemes (charging stations, cooling houses etc) and job creation. All of the schemes were to catalyze access to microfinance and other essential resources to induce micro economic growth, empower women and youth, influence policies and protect the environment while alleviating poverty. The projects were generally part of a broader framework of community trusts, ach trust, with the unique approach to distributing and recovering resources, evaluating and expanding benefits.

Overall situation analysis for the SGP Country Programme in OP6

1.3.6 SGP Sierra Leone was groundbreaking and it is the first multilateral effort to directly support CSOs and communities across a number of GEF themes. Therefore during the implementation of OP6, emphasis shall be placed on three aspects; the first priority shall be to mobilize additional resources including both financial and technical resources to strengthen civil society for improving the livelihoods of communities in Gola Forest landscape in order to influence policy and build capacity. The second shall be to contribute to strengthening forest edge communities to establish a network for engaging various stakeholders at different platforms. The third shall be to build the capacity of CSOs for the implementation of landscape/seascape

approach, policy advocacy and formulation on environment and natural resource governance. In particular, OP6 will focus on gender and youths mainstreaming in its programme to build strong ownership by the local population and foster sustainability.

1.3.7 Among others, SGP aspires to greater future impact by strengthening capacities of CSOs for policy advocacy. This will require providing CSOs with resources for training and capacity development, exchange visit across networks and partnering to address problem sheds. It will also mean institutional collaboration for developing the capacities of our implementing partners for OP6 strategic initiatives. This will provide improved skills for CSOs to influence policy and communicate effectively on all significant community-based matters. CSO will be able to influence other actors such as donors, multilateral agencies and the government to commit more resources and reduce the dependence on the SGP funding to address environmental problems. This means connecting with all those that matter for our work and getting them to contribute and to establish a CSO accountability procedures for both incremental and long-term changes in public policy, as well as social and environmental conditions.

1.3.8 The SGP shall strive to contribute to providing solutions to environmental threats and socio-economic issues at the community level using existing local initiatives and innovative best practices. During OP6, the focus will prioritize mainstreaming of various implementation successes into national development agenda and increase the participation by youths and women. The best practices shall be documented for dissemination, upscaling, and mainstreaming for wider adoption. CSOs shall be coordinated to advocate for policy change to benefit the environment. The SGP unique role will be to bring the technical expertise from the government institutions to work with NGO/CBO at community level to address some of the environmental challenges. This will foster hands-on learning for CSOs to work towards achieving their developmental aspirations while improving the livelihoods of communities and ensuring global environmental benefits.

1.3.9 The Gola Rainforest National Park (GFNP) is located within three Districts in seven chiefdoms, covering 74,000 hectares. It provided enormous trade benefit as a commercial logging area in the 1930s and 1980s. The GRNP is characterized by widespread rolling hills shrouded in evergreen and semi-deciduous forest divided into three blocks – Gola North, Gola Central and Gola South. In Sierra Leone, it is the largest area of intact, lowland rainforest remnant of the once vast Upper Guinea Forest belt of West Africa. As a global biodiversity 'hotspot' and a priority for international conservation efforts, botanical assessments have identified close to 1,000 plant species, half of which are endemic to the Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem. The 899 species of plant that are known to occur in the park, 232 are tree species. Leguminosae is the most common family identified with species such as *Cynometra leonensis* and *Brachystegia leonensis*. *Heritiera utilis* is the most dominant tree species. According to IUCN, classification for plants is incomplete but at least 21 threatened species listed by IUCN have been identified and recorded in the Gola Rainforest including *Tieghemella heckelii that* is classified as Endangered and 20 classified as Vulnerable (IUCN 2012). A total of 278 woody plants in the Upper Guinea forests are categorized as rare or threatened based on extent of distribution and threats from human exploitation. Of these, 67 have been recorded in the Gola Rainforest National Park. Due to the growing human population of the forest edge communities and the need to meet their livelihoods, the landscape is rapidly changing. The habitats of these endangered and threatened wildlife are being destroyed and that is forcing them to migrate into vulnerable places.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1 Before 2005, the Forestry and Environment Department in the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) was the key public institution responsible for forestry, wildlife, biodiversity conservation, and environmental protection and management. However, the Government of Sierra Leone now has Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with different mandates to manage the Environment and Natural Resources. These include: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment, Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy,

Ministry of Water Resources, Environment Protection Agency, National Protected Area Authority and National Mineral Agency.

In 2005, the Government of Sierra Leone established the National Commission on Environment and Forestry (NaCEF). In 2008, through an act of parliament NaCEF was replaced with Environment Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA[4] is responsible for the natural and environmental resource management and SGP works closely with the agency. It is an executive and policy advisory agency with mandate including advising on policy and project implementation, environmental monitoring, and priority setting. EPA's principal role is coordination and harmonization of various initiatives and strategies operating within the GEF Focal Areas and their conventions. EPA and SGP support GEF Civil Society network and a dialogue platform for broader involvement in the implementation of the conventions.

In fulfilling its international obligations and international diplomacy, Sierra Leone has ratified various Rio-conventions and other conventions as shown in Table 1. These are commitments geared towards sustainable management of its natural resources to contribute to macro-economic development and environmental conservation for global benefits.

Table 1: List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes Sierra Leone has ratified

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification/completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	December 12, 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2003
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	April 1996
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	8 January 2007 (1st)
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2011
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	September 25, 1995
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	N/A
Stockholm Convention (SC)	September 26, 2003
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	1997
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	February 2005
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	September 2006
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N/A
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	September 2008
Cartagena protocol on bio-safety to the CBD	2003
The Vienna Convention on Protection of Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	April 1993
Draft national bio-safety regulation	2000
The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	December 1999
Bamako Convention on the ban of the import into Africa and the control of trans- boundary movements of hazardous wastes within Africa (Bamako convention)	April 1993
Abidjan Convention and Protocol on Management And Protection Of Coastal and Marine Environment In the Sub-	June 7, 2005

[4] The major responsibility of the EPA includes ensuring that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are undertaken and monitored for the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, environmental protection of projects and activities, and utilization of natural resources. Other responsibilities include priority setting within the fields of its mandate for attaining the sustainable development goals.

Region	
Ramsar Convention On Wetlands	June 7, 2005
Environment Protection Act	2000

2.2 During OP5, SGP recorded various achievements especially in biodiversity, sustainable land management and transfer of low carbon technologies with the active involvement of CSOs and communities in the project implementation. SGP shall build the capacities of CSOs and communities to substantially contribute to Sierra Leone's environmental management priorities in line with Agenda for Prosperity (AfP Pillar 2: Managing Natural Resources) and especially UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The activities shall include:

i. Assessment and prioritization of protected areas and community forest reserves for intervention;
ii. Support the designing of appropriate strategies and proposals for SGP funding mechanism;
iii. Mentoring and coaching of CBOs and CSOs to take lead and ownership of results;
iv. Designing and implementing an effective Monitoring and Evaluation(M&E) mechanisms;
v. Strengthening cooperation, stakeholder platform and gender mainstreaming at community and national levels;
vi. Knowledge management of best practices of outcomes within national priority.

As part of the efforts to meet the obligations of the national priorities, SGP Sierra Leone collaborates with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to mobilize resources and support CSOs to implement community programmes. SGP has already contributed towards the GEF National CSO dialogue forum and shall continue to meaningfully contribute in developing the national implementation plan.

2.3 The contributions of SGP to national priorities and GEF-6 corporate results are presented in table 2 below. The table discusses SGP country programme niche and its complementation with Government Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) and the UNDP Country Strategic Programming.

Table 2: SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

1 **SGP OP6 strategic initiatives**	**2** **GEF-6 corporate results by focal area**	**3** **Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies**	**4** **Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming**
Community landscape/seascape conservation	*Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society.*	• Contribute to the conservation of the Gola Rainforest (Govt. REDD+ project) resulting in protection of 71,070 ha of tropical forest and preventing tons of CO2-emission and provide livelihood support to 122 impoverished communities that surround the Gola Rainforest • Promoting co-management through community forests management as a general way to create an environment for the active participation of vulnerable population group in the communities in forest management, protection and utilization of ecosystem services and to empower communities to take charge of their own affairs and accrue benefits from the forest resources (NPAA Conservation mandate). • Supporting the sustainable Land and Forest management of Western Area Peninsula National Park, Sierra Leone River Estuaries and coastal	Contributes to UNDAF (2015-2018; p14): Managing Natural Resources; Outcome Indicators, 1-3

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		wetlands and mangrove conservation. • Supporting the degraded RAMSAR sites in the country.	
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	*Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)*	• Collaborating with programmes for the utilization of farm and animal residues to produce compost for farming (promoting organic farming) to reduce the use of chemical based fertilizers and reduce water pollution (IFAD, RPSDP, MAFFS). • SGP will accelerate agro-ecology programmes that includes conservation of genetic resources especially river estuaries and mangrove species; promotes climate smart agriculture, agro ecological innovative farming and avoid slash and burn thus reducing emission of GHG. • Promoting soil fertility by planting leguminous plants (for nitrogen fixing) and fast growing economic trees to prevent loss of land cover and soil erosion. • Mobilize resources for the establishment and operationalization of a climate change research centre	Contributes to UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017; p 24) Effective maintenance and protection of natural capital. UNEP 2012: Evolution of Protected Areas system with regards climate change in the West Africa Region; building capacity for understanding and managing Protected Areas (PAs) for the threat of Climate Change(CC)
Community landscape/seascape conservation	*Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services*	• Support programmes (locally appropriate methodologies and techniques) to improve the management of Marine Protected areas (MPAs) • Collaborate with EPA and NPAA to develop CSOs capacity for advocacy to improve policy framework and community engagement on MPAs • Develop programmes for assessing vulnerable communities to climate change and natural disasters in MPA and provide livelihood options • Promote low carbon technologies such as low carbon utilization in the process of drying fish to provide protein for human consumption. • Develop and implement strategy for water resources governance (WRG) in the Western Area. • Provide improved techniques for water conservation, a watershed+ approach and agro-environmental rural development programmes. • Strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society groups in Gola Rainforest and River Estuaries to engage stakeholders (local and central governments) in constructive dialogue on environmental planning and policy development for water resources management.	Fits into UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017; p24) Effective maintenance and protection of natural capital Fits into UNDP Disaster Risk Management project.

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Energy access co-benefits	*Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path*	• Develop an integrated approach for energy efficiency in rural and urban areas. • Promote access to solar technologies for rural electrification and water pumping to support vegetable production. • Promoting energy efficient production and utilization of charcoal. • Reduce poverty through the transfer of low-carbon technologies like wonder stoves, low carbon emission transport systems, solar drying and solar pump for irrigation. • Develop and apply waste-to-energy technologies for community conservation management programmes. • Support a community-level bio-energy programme for sustainable water transport systems. • Develop and apply community -level sustainable forest management to preserve the carbon stock through effective REDD+ activities by local participatory. • Public education through radio sensitization, stakeholder engagement and TV shows on efficient energy utilization and climate change effects.	Fits into UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017; p24) Sustainable access to energy and improved energy efficiency. UNDP ENRM Unit GEF FSP "Energy Efficient Production and Utilization of Charcoal through Innovative Technologies and Private Sector Involvement in Sierra Leone" UNDAF Sierra Leone (p14): Managing Natural Resources; Outcome Indicator 3: Percentage of households with access to affordable sustainable renewable energy sources.
Local to global chemicals coalitions	*Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern*	• Support the Government's commitment to achieving Chemicals Management with reference to Stockholm convention and UNCED Chapter 19 of "Agenda 21" which deals with environmentally sound management of chemicals, including illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. • Contributing to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), and a National Environmental Policy (NEP). • Establish and strengthen adequate national policy frameworks aiming specifically at POPS and ODS. • Develop and implement waste and chemical management strategy for coastal areas, river estuaries and the urban cities. • Support the capacities of National Standard Bureau and Environmental CSOs for ecologic management of POPS and better objective analysis of Environmental and Social Impact assessment reports from mining companies. • Promote community waste and chemical	Fits into UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017; p24) Effective maintenance and protection of natural capital.

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		management techniques including mercury management such as deploying POP-smart technologies for detecting and/or reducing chemical risk. • Support waste-to-energy plan and develop capacity in alternative, environmentally-friendly waste management techniques. • Facilitate knowledge exchange on best practices.	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	*Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks*	• GEF CSO platform for national dialogue and engagement with MDA such as Environment Protection Agency (EPA), National Protected Area Authority(NPAA) and Min of Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and Min. of Lands, Environment and Country Planning (MLECP), Min of Water resources, Min of Energy. • Support Action Plans from CSO and Government dialogue platform for implementation of GEF and non GEF programmes. • Support capacity development of CSOs to advocate for environmental friendly utilization of natural resources, to implement local innovative practices in sustainable agriculture, low carbon technologies, biodiversity enterprise development, renewable energy such as the Barefoot Women Solar Engineers Association of Sierra Leone, etc. *to* access non-GEF funds for co-financing to GEF SGP.	UNDAF Sierra Leone (2015-2018; p28): Outcome indicator 4:- Number of SCO partners who are qualify to apply and monitor normative standards in their relevant areas of work (by type of CSO and gender) UNDP ENRM unit support to CSO platform
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	*GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples*	Support the government's commitment to addressing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through capacity building and strengthening of the following policy and legal frameworks and activities: • The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), • The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which focuses on equality, development and peace from a gender standpoint • The National Action Plan for the Full Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (UNSCR) and 1820 (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security, • Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs gender policies which focus on the implementation of the 'National Gender Strategic Plan' • Support the implementation of policies, National Gender Strategic Plan and Government legislation to address gender equality. • Contribute to the protection and empowerment of	UNDAF Sierra Leone (2015-2018; p30): Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		women and women organizations through expanded business training programmes, strengthening their sources of finance, and regional and national business associations. • Support access to renewable energy for women to increase adopting of clean cooking fuel and household energy	
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	*Contribute to GEF KM efforts*	• Develop a communication strategy validated by NSC to implement a cross-cutting communications targeting CSOs, community, government, educational institution and the private sector. • Build a strong relationship with print and election media and develop newsletters and columnist on environmental issues and contribute to UNDP knowledge management. • Build CSOs capacity through experience sharing approach for effective communication. • Develop and implement exchange programmes for communication and visibility of SGP in the sub region. • Initiate and sustain community dialogue platform, public lectures and repository on Environmental issues.	Fits into UNDP knowledge management strategy. Quarterly updates and news items.

3. OP6 strategies

3.1 *Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies*

Emanating from the results of the national level stakeholder consultations and the baseline assessment, SGP Sierra Leone shall support the following cross cutting projects in OP6 at the national level outside the selected Gola Rainforest National Park landscape. These shall be projects within GEF focal areas based on GEF-6 and contribute to strategically position SGP Sierra Leone while enhancing the capacities of CSOs and communities to implement OP6 initiatives.

3.1.1 CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms

SGP shall support the establishment or strengthening of at least one NGO/CSO-government dialogue platform. Existing CSO platforms will be evaluated and supported based on common objectives with SGP while also mainstreaming OP6 initiatives into their Action Plan. SGP shall contribute to building the capacity of CSOs in advocacy, lobbying, proposal development, reporting and knowledge management. Special emphasis will be given to Environmental Education and & Communication (EEC) programmes, environmental monitoring and reporting (documentation of local knowledge) and strengthening the ability of CSOs to self-manage SGP projects in a sustainable way. Support will be accorded to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) development and constructive dialogue with government on looming environmental issues such as flooding, climate change, inadequate water supply, deforestation, pollution and waste management. The platform will serve to foster better partnership between NGO, governments and GEF implementing agencies in the country to share knowledge and build synergies in addressing environmental problems.

3.1.2 Promoting social inclusion

OP6 approach shall mainstream gender by increasing the participation of women, people with disabilities, youths and indigenous people to access technology transfer and support their local initiatives. To ensure that the deaf and dumb have access to information, documents will be printed in braille form. Different communication strategies and media will be used to make information accessible to all. SGP will identify women organizations and support them to build on their local initiatives in addressing multiple environmental problems while building their skills and knowledge and reducing poverty. Generally, priority will be given to poverty reduction, livelihood improvement and food security among rural women. Initiatives contributing to low carbon emission such as improved fish smoking oven, efficient charcoal production, wonder stoves, barefoot solar management for drying and irrigation etc. will be supported. In addition, SGP will support legislation on women's equal access to resources including land, income generating activities, vegetables production, poultry, agroecology and support to institutions such as agricultural extension services that promote technology transfer to women.

3.1.3 Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme

SGP shall support Renewable Energy and Environment Learning Centre (REELC) established by Environment Foundation for Africa (EFA) and shall collaborate with Integrated Geo-information and Environmental Management Services **(INTEGEMS)** to maintain a centre of resources for environmental education including OP5 best practices for learning and knowledge management. The Centre will organize field trips, update and disseminate necessary information on the environment. INTEGEMs will provide expertise, skills and know-how on landscape and seascape mapping, water, air and noise quality measurement. Generally the centre will promote different approaches, new technologies and positive practical demonstration sessions on biodiversity (permaculture) and renewable energy. It will be a knowledge centre for teaching communities, grantees and CSOs about the environment.

In addition to the cross cutting OP6 grant-making strategies, the best projects from OP5 will be selected for upscaling. Priority will be given to projects on conservation of community forest landscapes that generate sustainable flows of ecosystem services; sustaining livelihoods for people depending on forest and river estuaries: climate smart agricultural innovations that reduce GHG emissions and innovative agro-ecology for conservation of carbon stocks in forest, wetland, mangrove and savannah land.

3.2 *Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies*[5]

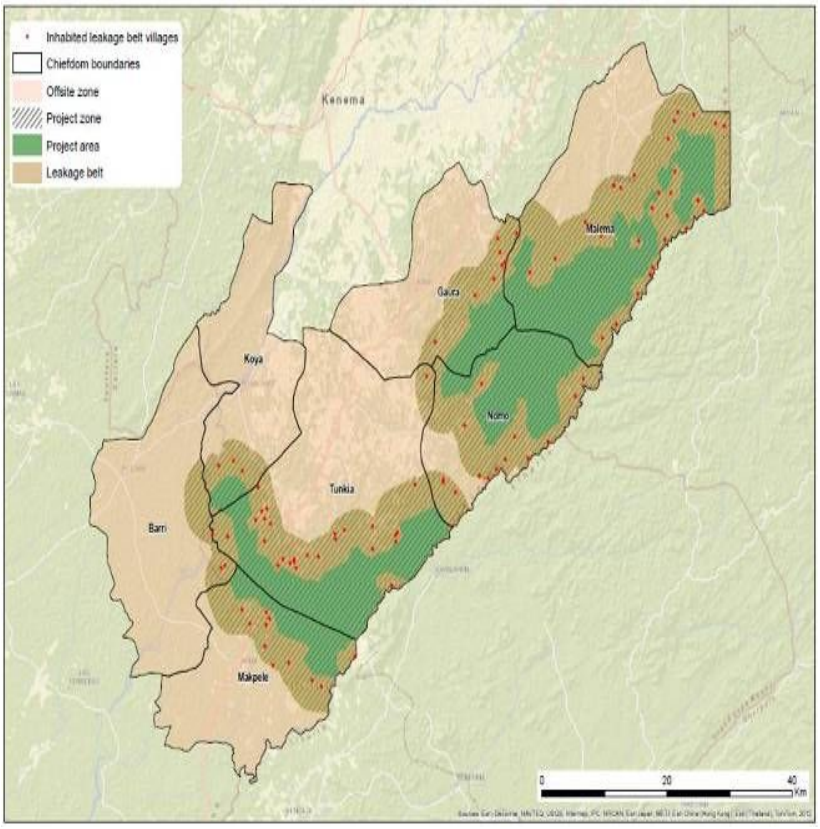
The development of the Country Programme Strategy document involved three steps: i) consultations and scoping exercise leading to the selection of the landscape/seascape in which most of the OP6 grant making will be focused, ii) baseline assessment in the selected landscape/seascape and iii) country programme strategy finalization.

The stakeholder consultations and scoping exercise started with a multi-stakeholder mapping and prioritization taking into consideration of strategic involvement in Environment and Natural Resources utilization and management in Sierra Leone. An initial prospective stakeholders' list was developed and matched against key components of environmental projects such as location features, the project environment and the potential impacts in a matrix referred to as Stakeholder Identification Matrix (SIM) (see Table 1 of the consultation report). The stakeholders list and scooping methodology were shared with the National Steering Committee (NSC) during a half day workshop in Freetown and the NSC made comments/inputs after which it was finalized. In total 33 respondents were interviewed across the country from different walks of life dealing with land, water and forest use and management. Nearly 50% of the respondents were from the CSOs/CBOs and NGOs, 20% was from institutions/agencies and 30% from the

[5] Refer to the various guidance documents on landscape/seascape selection and assessments

community. Questionnaire and discussion guide were developed and the exercise was undertaken within 4 weeks which generated information on landscape/seascapes (see Table 2 of Consultation report). The results were ranked based on national and global importance, biodiversity characteristics, threat/issues and potentials (see Table 3 of consultation report). The consultant presented four highly rated landscapes/seascapes to the National Steering Committee (NSC) for consideration and selection. Following intensive deliberations among NSC members, the Gola Rainforest National Park was selected as the priority landscape/waterscape based on their knowledge of the country and scooping information as described in the consultation report.

Figure 21a: Gola rainforest National Park landscape for OP6



In step 2 during the baseline assessment, the consultant used stratified sampling technique and three (3) districts within which the Gola Rainforest landscape is located were chosen as the sample area. In each sample area, the primary sampling unit is the chiefdom which directly contributes part of its land area to the Gola Rainforest landscape. Therefore in total, 7 primary sampling units were selected because Gola Rainforest is located in 7 chiefdoms. The consultant paid pre-survey visit for familiarization and to solicit cooperation from the chiefdom authorities. This was followed by formal visit to 42 major towns and villages during which key informants were selected in collaboration with forest guards and relevant stakeholders.

Twenty-five (25) respondents were randomly selected for interview per chiefdom. A total of 175 respondents (N=175) were interviewed from the 7 chiefdoms with consideration for gender and youth. The respondents were inhabitants of forest edge communities in the leakage belt (shaded area around the green in Figure 1 above) consisting of forested and non-forested areas that immediately surround Gola Rainforest extending about 4km around each forest block. The respondents are opinion leaders, public servants, women, youths and the traditional rulers within the selected landscape. Seven (7) Chiefdom level community meetings, four (4) sensitization sessions on the landscape approach and three (3) zonal workshops were conducted during the baseline assessment. Additionally, one (1) validation workshop was conducted with the community leaders, landowners and traditional authorities to validate the information in the report. A meeting was also held with the Board of Directors of Gola Rainforest National Park. The NC monitored the process and NSC made their inputs and validated the process at different stages of the CPS development.

OP6 Strategic Initiatives for Gola Rainforest National Park

The Vision of the Country Programme Strategy OP6 for SGP Sierra Leone is to contribute to making Gola Rainforest National Park one of the best biodiversity heritage sites in the world. To attain this, four (4) OP6 strategic initiatives have been prioritized as follows:

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative 1: Community landscape/waterscape conservation

This will cover two prioritized areas and the stakeholders will include local council, district and chiefdom authorities, non-governmental organizations and communities.

To improve sustainability of High Conservation Value (HCV) species: - Gola Rainforest contains many threatened species. The landscape projects will focus on protected areas of high conservation value. The activities will include community environmental awareness raising, improving and maintaining traditional ecological knowledge, land use mapping and planning, promotion of ecotourism, promotion of increase crop production and maintaining good forest cover, promotion of co-management (community and state partnership), and the promotion of Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLM & SFM) practices. The t**arget** is to stabilize or increase the population of species and their distribution while decreasing the threat.

To mainstream Biodiversity Conservation (BDC): - Develop and mainstream BDC into cross sectoral plans, programmes and policies of district and city councils, Ward Committees, Chiefdom Development Committees, NGOs, CBOs and CSOs. **Target** is to foster a **s**trong collaboration (CSOs platform) to avoid duplication, mobilize resources for co-financing and improve monitoring of biodiversity conservation efforts.

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative (SI) 2: Climate smart innovative agro-ecology

This will focus on agro-biodiversity conservation and climate smart agro-ecology over the next four years. The projects will promote knowledge expansion on climate change and adaptive agricultural techniques, promote methods to improve soil fertility, integrated pest management, promote improved soil and water conservation techniques, semi-intensive livestock management, diversified income generating options, land use planning to prevent encroachment of conservation area, improved crop production and post-harvest losses, research and monitoring that promote adaptive management of Gola Rainforest.

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative (SI) 3: Low carbon energy access co-benefits

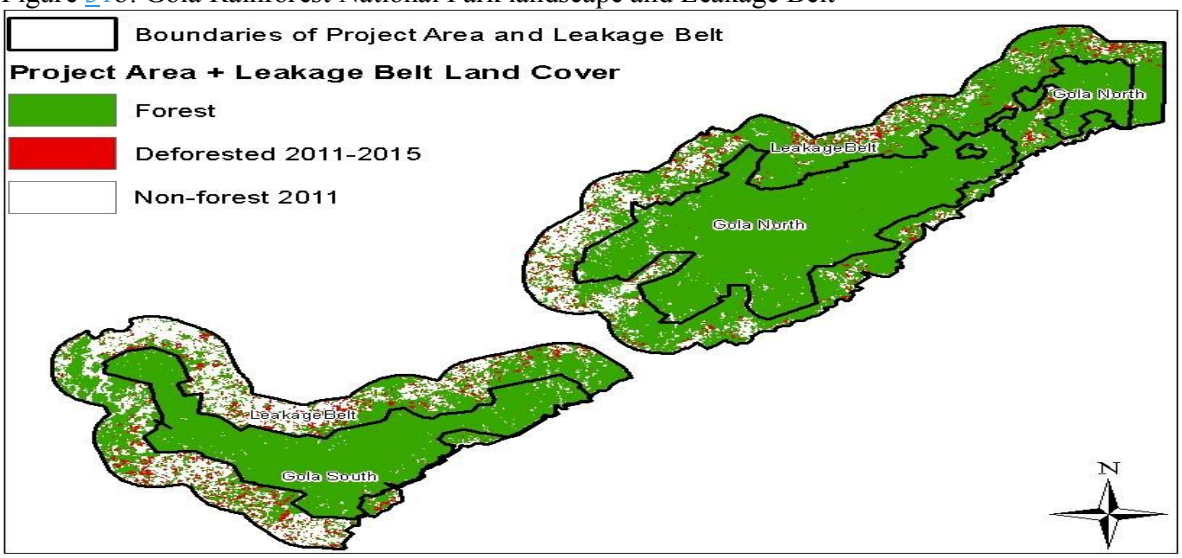
This will focus on developing and transferring of low carbon technologies, support energy efficiency, low carbon transport and support conservation of carbon stock at community level to ensure access to affordable energy and reduce CO2 emission. The projects will support waste management and pollution monitoring, promote renewable energy technologies like Barefoot women solar, solar hot water systems, solar cookers etc.

SGP OP6 Strategic Initiative (SI) 4: Local to global chemical management coalitions

This will focus on promoting and supporting phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern. The projects will support initiatives to reduce, collect, select and recycle potential polluters of the soil, water and air, with special emphasis on the elimination of POP sources. SGP will support initiatives that develop and apply a community level waste-to-energy (trash energy) plan, capacity building in managing small-scale trash energy schemes, develop and apply a Chemicals Education and Communications (CEC) strategy for communities and develop and apply methods of reducing access to and use of POPS and ODS. Thirty percent (30%) of the resources will be allocated to support projects outside Gola Rainforest national Park. The funds shall support upscaling of successful projects from SGP OP5. Projects that promote CSO-government dialogue platforms and those that promote gender participation. Projects from OP5 with visible successes that translate knowledge transfer and fall within the OP6 niche, and initiatives that build the

capacity of CBOs and communities to maximize their participation and efficient service delivery to prepare them for potential opportunities.

Figure 3~~1~~b: Gola Rainforest National Park landscape and Leakage Belt



Source: NPAA 2016: Gola Rainforest Landscape

3.3 Grant-maker+ strategies

3.3.1. **CSO-Government Dialogue Platform**

The SGP OP6 will build and strengthen the capacity of CSOs at national and community levels to engage in consultative processes with government. To apply knowledge management strategies to ensure adequate information flows between government and communities. To implement projects and foster greater impact, bridge gap between SGP projects and full size projects, and be able to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends. The SGP will build a network of GEF-NGO network as a grant-maker+ strategy.

3.3.2. Policy influence

SGP Sierra Leone works with the EPA to support policy formulation and this partnership will be strengthened in OP6. SGP intends to undertake regular environmental policy evaluation within relevant conventions to reveal implementation lapses and strengthen the capacity of the government and CSOs to deliver on their mandates. Consideration will be placed on policies and regulations (national and local) on managing the natural resources.

3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion

Reversing environmental degradation and achieving sustainable natural resource management practices and protecting the environment require multiplicity of factors. Prominent among is addressing poverty and achieving livelihood and food security among rural women. Social inclusion of women and children will be the fulcrum of SGP intervention to address unequal patterns of access to and control over natural resources. The GEF SGP shall prioritize projects that targets women and children and promote involvement of people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. One strategy will be to rearrange and transfer the knowledge and information in the forms easily accessible for the social excluded groups and to understand and change natural resource tenure and governance that address their needs. SGP will look into socio-demographic trends, including growth, migration, and diseases such as HIV and AIDS; economic trends, including economic growth, disparities, and trade patterns; socio-political factors, ranging from unequal participation in decision-making processes to conflicts; technological change that leads to increases in crop yields and agricultural intensification practices, to meet the needs of the women, children and people with

disabilities. The approach shall promote direct contacts with the social vulnerable groups through project development, application and implementation process.

3.3.4. ***Knowledge management plan***

SGP Sierra Leone will implement national KMP to provide a common vision for EE&C. This will be done through external communication **by** supporting positive pressure group approaches particularly decision makers and opinion leaders towards environmental issues; and through internal communication by developing institutional capacities to draw strategies from the CPS-recommended knowledge management plan. This will ensure an effective Environmental Education and Communications (EE&C) strategy. The EE&C will be made available to the widest possible audience including pupils and students in formal education and training institutions, individuals in key positions (decision-makers and duty bearers) and to people degrading the environment, youths, urban and rural dwellers, staff of governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations. A participatory approach will be used for planning and implementing EE&C activities to ensure relevance, and create a sense of ownership by stakeholders.

Key strategies for KM will include:

- Increase public environmental awareness and participation;
- Integrate environmental education into the primary level and possibly tertiary formal education system;
- Build institutional and individual capacity for EE&C
- Increase the quantity and improve the quality and distribution of EE&C teaching/learning materials;
- Increase environmental awareness and responsiveness of key individuals at all levels, e.g. decision-makers, traditional leaders, women, farmers, general public; and
- Decentralize EE&C activities to the local level.

3.3.5. ***Communications Strategy***

The GEF SGP will organize at national level "one day training" with potential grantee to share a communication plan. The plan will emphasis on branding requirements of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure that all communications, public outreach, training materials, radio programmes, invitations to trainings and press events indicate the programme or activity as part of the UNDP/GEF SGP funded. The Environmental Education and Communication (EE&C) initiatives will be designed for SGP Sierra Leone as a framework for action that will ensure the full participation of stakeholders across all levels and sectors of the target society. The plan will be a means to enhancing an effective information sharing on lessons learned from past SGP accomplishments. The specific approaches to implementing the EE&C will include:

- Community theatre/radio drama serials
- Quarterly newsletter (SGP Focus)
- SGP website/bulletin boards
- Flyers/brochure
- Public lectures
- Community murals/annual school mural contests (SGP Eco-Schools)
- Radio magazine shows/radio/TV discussion programmes (SGP Talk)
- Quarterly roundtable events (SGP Forum)/slide presentations
- Video documentaries (SGP Com Cast)
- Demonstration centres/sites

4. Expected programme results framework

4.1 The results framework expected from the OP6 is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: **Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components**

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 1: *Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation*:	*A minimum of 71,070 hectares of Gola Rainforest (HCV) including a non-forest areas of 1,199 Hectares protected through community conservation and sustainable management of ecosystem services* *Four river scapes and a number of rocky outcrops known as inselbergs of at least 1,199 hectares of non-forest areas brought under ICCA through community based landscape management.*	At least 7 projects funded within the seven chiefdoms by GEF SGP and other funding agencies in the following: • optimise the biodiversity conservation of HCV species that are endangered and threatened within their habitats. • promote the sustainable use of ecosystem services through co-management practices and conserve carbon stocks to contribute to REDD+. • establish and support chiefdom management committee and legal framework for landscape-wide governance of natural resource • improve current land use and introduce agroecology practices that is inclusive of the most vulnerable population. • assess productivity on existing crop fallow land and introduce pilot innovations to increase productivity, promote new techniques for SLM, SFM and livelihoods. • promote integrated landscapes and watershed management to reduce pressures on natural resources including land and water • Establish and maintain strong links, dialogue and collaboration between communities and duty bearers.	• *Number and type of HCV species conserved* • *Number and type of projects supported by SGP OP6* • *Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) with improved livelihood related to benefits from protected areas* • *Number and hectares of degraded lands reclaimed and sustainably managed* • *Number and hectares of agroecology farms established and managed* • *Number and hectares of indigenous peoples and local communities areas (ICCA) and protected and documented.* • *Number of farmers using climate smart technologies in farming.* • *Number of local management committees formed*	• Individual progress and quarterly project reporting by Grantees. • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). • Field monitoring report by NC and NSC. • Annual Country Programme Strategy Review

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
SGP OP6 Component 2: *Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:*	*At least 700 hectares of degraded lands within the Gola Rainforest landscape are maintenance and conserved as* ***agro-biodiversity landscape*** *under sustainable land management and climate proofing practices such as utilizing organic agriculture and agroecology practices* *Demonstration, development and knowledge transfer* ***of climate smart and agro-ecology practices*** *to 500 household farmers practicing climate-smart agriculture within agroforest landscapes in the cocoa and coffee growing areas within the Gola Rainforest National Park.*	At least 6 projects funded by GEF and non-GEF grants covering: • reducing deforestation and promote community-level reforestation/ afforestation (raising trees, seedlings, tree planting, enrichment planting, woodlots establishments, and social forestry. • forest protection (watershed Plus management[6], soil &water conservation, desertification control, river basin areas protection and natural regeneration. • biological pest management and integrating nutrient management to improve agricultural production for food security. • optimizing solar irrigation on farm and prevent soil erosion innovative agro-ecology models, sustainable climate smart agriculture to reduce GHG emissions due to agriculture. • conservation of carbon stocks in forest and savannah land.	• *Number of hectares of land under improve and sustainable management and climate proofing* • *Number of households beneficiaries practicing organic agriculture and improved agroecology farming practices.* • *Number of farmers practicing climate smart agriculture* • *Hectares of land with restoration and supporting climate smart agricultural practices* • *Number of tons of CO_2 emissions avoided* • *No of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate –smart agro-ecological practices*	• Individual progress and quarterly project reporting by Grantees. • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). • NC & NSC Field monitoring report • Official MoU for cooperation and management • Annual Country Programme Strategy Review • Database report A review of socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
SGP OP6 Component 3: *Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits*:	*Ensure sustainable an affordable access to Energy for All (E4ALL). Energy saving, efficiency and renewable sources to reduce GHG emissions.* *At least 1,000 household and commercial wonder/woodfuel stoves manufactured and*	At least 5 projects funded by GEF and non-GEF grants in the following: • Transferring renewable energy technology at community level such as biogas, bio-fuel and solar energy, the latter for pumping and irrigation of farms. • Promotion of energy efficiency stoves • Partnerships with private sector to invest in entrepreneur and upscale successful	• *Number of households with improved wonder/woodfuel stoves* • *Number and hectares of agroecology farms using solar irrigation* • *Number of households using improved wonder/woodfuel cook stoves*	• Individual quarterly project reporting by Grantees. • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). • Field monitoring report by NC and NSC. • Annual Country Programme Strategy

[6] Watershed PLUS approach is an advanced idea of ordinary watershed management which primarily includes better water management, minor irrigation, drinking water supply, sanitation facilities, forestry micro crediting to use Non Timber Forest products, aquaculture, orchar d maintenance and handicrafts for income generation and livelihood (IGES, 2008).

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
	distributed/sold to immediate communities *80 women vegetable producers supported with solar drying and irrigation facilities in the landscape* *5 community-level low GHG transportation demonstrated*	interventions. • Capacity development efforts enabling the community to develop and use solar innovative technologies for agroecology practices. • Removal of local barriers to energy conservation and energy efficiency for reducing GHG emission with well-being and other benefits. • Development of energy efficient transportation	• *Number of communities achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions* • *Number of groups demonstrating scaling up and replication* • *Number of community using low carbon energy transport*	Review • A review of socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
SGP OP6 Component 4: *Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:*	*A 122 communities made aware of phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) chemicals, mercury and other chemicals of global concern.*	At least 4 projects supported by GEF/SGP on POPs Elimination. • Management of chemicals and organic waste including mercury management within the Gola Rainforest National Park (particularly Kenema, Kailahun and Pujehun Districts) • Innovative community-based waste management, selection, collection and recycling; replication of POP projects in OP5 • Agricultural plastic foil and PET plastic domestic waste.	• *At least 10 communities implement collection and recycling of solid waste.* • *At least 10 tons of CO2 is prevented from entering the air.* • *At least 10 artisanal gold mining enterprises avoid using mercury* • *10 communities use waste management plans.*	• Individual progress quarterly project reporting by Grantees. • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). • NC & NSC field monitoring report Annual Country Programme Strategy Review • GEF-SGP database entries.
SGP OP6 Component 5: *CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+)*	*Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate* environmental impacts and trends	At least 2 projects funded by SGP in partnership with UNDP and GEF OPF: • Conduct CSOs capacity audit and trainings to improve on CSOs ability to organize and promote consultative processes and dialogue platform at local and national levels • Support CSOs to actively participate at the GEF constituency-level workshops, international conferences, forums and COPs. • Support CSOs to identify best practices and lessons learnt to advocate to policymakers and key stakeholders for decision-making • Support CSOs to contribute to environmental	• *At least four trainings conducted at regional levels* • *Number of CSOs platforms established and operating* • *Number of CSOs registered as members of the network* • *Number of CSO-Government policy dialogue organized* • *Number of CBOs and CSOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation* • *No of CSOs with monitoring*	• Grantee quarterly project reporting • SGP Global Database • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy (CPS) Review

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
		mainstreaming and promote local communities to design and implement community programmes that contribute to policy change. • Support systematize and standardize collection of project data, M&E and KM.	*and evaluation report*	
SGP OP6 Component 6: *Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):*	*NSC evaluated projects improve gender mainstream through livelihoods empowerment and poverty reduction for rural women and marginalized population*	At least 5 projects funded by SGP on Gender mainstreaming. • Organise stakeholders training to ensure equality, efficiency, sustainability and minimize the resistance to gender mainstreaming in development projects. • Support gender role projects such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), • 100% livelihood projects that include gender analysis or incorporate gender relevant elements in a positive manner. • 100% of projects with appropriate gender balance participants and target beneficiaries.	• *Percentage of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries* • *Percentage of projects that include socio-economic analysis* • *Number of women organizations with sustained livelihood improvement* • *Percentage of projects with gender elements*	• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams • SGP Global Database • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy Review • Tracking of hectares of PAs and CCAs supported through GEF-SGP database entries
SGP OP6 Component 7: *Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):*	*Strengthen Renewable Energy and Environment Learning Centre(REELC) and promote Integrated Geo-information and Environmental Management Services* ***(INTEGEMS)*** *as an exchange platform within West African States*	At least 1 project funded by GEF and non-GEF grants covering: • Support to Renewable Energy and Environment Learning Centre (REELC) as the focal point for demonstration, information sharing, skills development and environmental best practices • Support Grantee exchange programmes for capacity building and knowledge transfer • Collect and document best practices and share for advocacy at the local and regional levels • Promote coaching, mentorship and peer assist programmes for new communities, CSOs, NGOs • Support projects towards environmental education and communication and awareness.	• *Number of research and publications and newsletters* • *Number of standardized GIS maps of protected areas and ICCAs* • *Number of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research.* • *Number and type of trainings or workshops on EEC organized* • *Number of new communities, CSOs and NGOs applying for grants*	• Individual project reporting by SGP country teams • SGP Global Database • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy (CPS) Review

The CPS will contribute towards achieving the global programme indicators. The progress and impacts of the CPS implementation will determine the extent to which the global indicators are achieved and this will be monitored through the same means of verification as at the country level. The specific global objective is to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action. To attain this, SGP Sierra Leone will work towards the following global outcomes and indicators within the specific strategic components:

Strategic Component	**Outcome**	**Indicators**
1. Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation	1.1 SGP Sierra Leone improved conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community oriented landscape/seascape approaches	Number of landscapes/seascapes with community-oriented approaches established, in support of critical protected areas, related productive landscapes/seascapes, and indigenous community conserved areas and territories(ICCAs) and SAPs Hectares of landscape/seascape covered under improved community conservation and sustainable use management systems
2. Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology	2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce greenhouse emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors disseminated widely in the country	Number of farmer-leaders involved in successful demonstrations of typologies of agro-ecological practices incorporating measures to reduce farm based emissions and enhance resilience to climate change. Number of farmer organizations, groups or networks disseminating improved climate-smart agro-ecological practices
3. Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits	3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in the country with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL	Number of typologies of community-oriented, locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication Number of communities achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued.
4. Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions	4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in the country for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner	Number of community-based tools/approaches to avoid and reduce chemicals demonstrated, deployed and transferred Number of coalitions and networks established or strengthened
5. CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms	5.1 SGP supports establishment of "CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms", leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in the country	Number of dialogue platforms initiated and CSO and/or CSO networks strengthened to manage such dialogues. Number of representatives per civil society stakeholder groups involved

6. Promoting Social Inclusion	6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by SGP Sierra Leone; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members and partners 6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least one fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in Sierra Leone 6.3 Involvement of special groups such as the youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared within the country	Number of women led projects Number of indigenous leaders with higher capacities for organizing indigenous peoples projects that provide for concrete action to meet their needs as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy Number of youth organizations as well as those of the disabled that participate in SGP projects and in relevant national environment and sustainable development strategy development
7. Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program	7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information by communities 7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues	Number of knowledge products systematically collected, organized and shared within and without Sierra Leone Number of South-South exchanges supported that transfer capacity on new community innovations between communities, CSOs and other partners within and without Sierra Leone

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

5.1. The CPS monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be linked to existing National Strategic plans and UNDP M&E systems. However, the National Coordinator and the NSC will be responsible for monitoring of all project activities. In particular, the NC will monitor the day-to-day implementation through regular field visit, review of grantees' report and peer review workshops. The NSC will be responsible for general performance monitoring starting with the quality of proposal, project inputs, key deliverables and their impacts on the environment and its people. Grantees will be responsible for supervision of their work. The monitoring of the CPS will draw from baselines indicators and the relevant outcome level indicators. At the outcome level, indicators shall be aligned with those of the national Agenda for Prosperity (A4P), SGP Global prodoc indicators sets and the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017. Implicitly, the means of verification will be similar to those of the above three documents. A participatory approach to monitoring and evaluation involving CSOs and other stakeholders will be applied to ensure a learning process that increases CSOs' capacity to put best practices and lessons learned into use. The improve M&E capacities of CSOs will contribute to efficient management of activities and improve global benefit.

5.2 Outcome and output monitoring:

During the project implementation, project site visits, meetings with grantees and relevant project stakeholders will be performed by the NC and NSC to observe the actual implementation of the project and to confirm the information contained in the grantee's project progress reports. At the output level, monitoring will be based on field visits, NSC review meetings and review of reports. At the outcome level, monitoring will be conducted by a joint programme team (UNDP, NC & NSC). At programme level, CPMT will carry out a periodic monitoring of SGP database management systems to assess the management and efficiency of the interventions and compiles an AMR. **For all Evaluation,** the timing of the SGP reviews will be harmonized with those of the UNDP strategic plan to ensure that the two processes inform each other. Annual reviews will be conducted by NSC and NC to examine to what extent the SGP results have been achieved and how they are contributing to GEF 6 priorities. A final evaluation will be conducted during the first half of 2018 to inform the formulation of the next CPS.

5.3 Capacity Building for M&E:

There will be a rigorous and quantitative monitoring to collect more detailed information on a given project. This will assess performance, effectiveness, rationale and conformity as benchmarks for progress towards specific goals (e.g., adoption of new practices, policies or guidelines) and determine whether practices were implemented as planned. Based on the performance, capacity development plans will be developed to improve or strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacities of CSO. The NC will strengthen the capacity of CSOs to measure effectiveness and the attainment of landscape/seascape approach in OP6 and to collect, analyze, use and disseminate data for upscaling of environmental projects.

5.4 Annual Reviews:

CPS annual reviews will be an essential part of the NSC meetings to assess the progress towards achieving the annual milestone targets and expected results including contributions towards the Pillar 2 of the Agenda for Prosperity. Findings and recommendations of the NSC reviews will inform the CPMT Annual Report. The NSC will also decide how progress, experiences and results are to be documented and reported. With the support of the NSC and grantees, the NC will carry out mid-term aggregate review of project report in line with the CPS targets for each of the focal and multi-focal areas of GEF SGP and in the format that will be periodically prescribed by CPMT.

Table 4: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at Project level

PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING					
No	**Monitoring and Evaluation Activity**	**Purpose**	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget Source**	**Time frame**
1.1	Pre-project Site evaluation and institutional capacity	To assess capacity of NGO and community involvement in proposal development	NC, Grantee	COB	At project planning stage, concept note submission and prior to the NSC project approval
1.2	Focal Area indicators and baseline data	To align outcomes with CPS landscape	Grantee, NC	Grantee co-financing	At project proposal writing
1.3	Formulation of operational work plan and M&E indicators	To promote community/beneficiary participation in project preparation	Grantee	Grantee co-financing	Prior to the requests for disbursement
1.4.	Project progress reports (narrative and financial) and disbursement schedules	To measure performance with output milestone and financial disbursement	Grantee, NC	Country Operating Budget	At each disbursement requests
1.5	Project implementation quarterly review and field monitoring and evaluation	To measure performance with output milestone and financial disbursement	NC, NSC	Country Operating Budget	4 times a year(each quarter) prior to each disbursement
1.6.	Peer review of project (mid-term review)	Share experience and lessons learnt from emerging challenges	NC, Grantee and beneficiaries	Country Operating Budget	Once during the project implementation
1.7	Project evaluation visit	To assess the project performance and its contribution to UNDAF, AfP and CPS landscape approach.	NC, NSC & UNDP RR	Country Operating Budget	At the end of cycle 2 (June 2017)

1.8	Project final Report	External views on the project performance	External consultant/ Grantee	Covered under the project grant amount	Following the completion of project activities
1.9	Project case study reports	Share best practice and prepare case studies for archiving and dissemination	NC, NSC, CSOs, Govt Reps, GEF OFP	Country Operating Budget	After the completion of project activities

Table 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at country level programming

PROGRAMME LEVEL MONITORING					
No	**Monitoring and Evaluation Activity**	**Purpose**	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget Source**	**Time frame**
2.1	Country programme strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of SGP niche and community projects.	NC, NSC & MDAs,	Covered under preparatory grants	Beginning of OP6
2.2	Annual Strategic Country portfolio review[7]	Learning adaptive management to update CPS with best practices for impactful grants making in line with national poverty strategy	NC, NSC OPF & CPMT	Country operating Budget	Once during mid-term of OP6
2.3	NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management To approve projects and review outcomes during implementation	NC, NSC, UNDP	Country operating Budget	At least once a quarter of variable depending on projects approval cycle and emerging policy issues
2.4	Performance and results assessment (PRA) of NC performance	To assess the performance of the NC and PA	NC, NSC, UNDP CO. CPMT	Country operating Budget	Once per year
2.5	Country programme review for Annual Country Report	Performance evaluation of Country programme	NC , NSC and CPMT	Country operating Budget	Once per year
2.6	NSC and stakeholders review of country programme	Ensure the outcomes contribute to national environmental priorities of the country programme	NC, NSC and Grantees	Country operating Budget	Once during the OP6
2.7	Annual Country Report (ACR)[8]	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Country operating Budget	Once per year in June
2.8	Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)[9] Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of	NC submission to CPMT	Country operating Budget	Once per year in July

[7] The CPS will be reviewed in June 2017 by the NSC to measure its effectiveness and the progress made towards achieving the annual milestone targets and expected results including contributions towards the Pillar 2 of the Agenda for Prosperity

[8] The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

PROGRAMME LEVEL MONITORING					
No	**Monitoring and Evaluation Activity**	**Purpose**	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget Source**	**Time frame**
		results to donor			
2.9	Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Country operating Budget	Once per operational phase

6. Resource mobilisation plan

6.1 The GEF CORE and STAR funding will continue to be the main sources of funding during the OP6. Negotiations have been concluded with the GEF Operational Focal Point for SGP Sierra Leone to receive approximatively $700,000US from STAR 6 allocation. The NC shall endeavor to explore funding

opportunities from Energy Environment and Natural Resources Management (EENRM) unit of UNDP through the GEF Full Size Project in the Country. One possible way this shall be done is to negotiate with EENRM portfolio to delegate to SGP part of its GEF Full Size Project on 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' for delivering on small components/activities within the scope of the OP6 CPS landscape/seascape approach in the country. The following EENRM projects provide good opportunities: i) Efficient production and utilization of Charcoal, ii) Climate Resilience in the Water Sector and iii) Resilient Coastal Zone Management. Another resource mobilization area for co-funding possibilities shall be strengthening collaboration with EENRM on the GEF FSP titled: "Mainstreaming environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection". The objective of this project is to increase national institutional capacity for environmental monitoring and reporting in order to facilitate informed decision making on sustainable environmental resources management. The SGP team (NC, NSC, TAG) shall collaboration with existing CSOs and build their capacity to a level that will position them to source external funding to increase co-funding and in-kind contributions to SGP projects.

The NC will instantaneously evaluate SGP funding needs to mobilize resources from diversified (non-GEF) sources to achieve greater impact. One available opportunity shall be to develop partnership agreement (MoA) with EENEM unit to undertake joint proposal development for Sustainable Development Goal Fund or collaborate for the implementation of its project titled: "*Managing Natural Resources: Improving Environmental Sustainability and Social Equitability in the Extractive Sector".* The latter is a Sustainable Development Goal Funded project in Sierra Leone that UNDP and FAO are implementing. It is an integrated approached to sustaining development by enabling sustainable livelihoods through natural resource governance, increased transparency and accountability and economic diversification in Kono District.

The Embassies of developed countries in Sierra Leone have funding mechanisms for small grants that support local communities and CSOs in the country. International donors such as European Union (EU), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UK Department for International Development (DFID) and IRISH AID also support projects in some GEF Focal Areas like land degradation, biodiversity and Sustainable Forest Management and the energy sector. The SGP will explore these funding sources as a delivery mechanism. SGP shall initiate collaboration with the private sector to source funds for livelihood and business entrepreneurship. It is hoped that Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and NGOs will endeavor to mainstream environmental sustainability issues when designing their programmes to provide leverage for collaboration and co-funding

[9] The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting

possibilities. SGP will draw matching funds from contributions of prospective CSOs and NGOs that have secured funds for implementation. Grantees will be encouraged to solicit in-kind contribution in a ratio 1:1 of the total project cost. The in-kind contribution will cover direct labour, land and use of office resources for the implementation of direct activities.

Table 6: Prospective Funding source for OP6 (USD)

Funding Source	Operational Year 6(July 2015-June 2018)		**Total**
	OP6 YR2 (July 2016-June 2017)	PO6 YR3 (July 2017-June 2018)	
CORE GEF funds	120,000	280,000	**400,000**
SGP OP5 Resources	40,000	0	**40,000**
GEF STAR funds	410,000	300,000	**710,000**
In Cash co-financing	200,000	300,000	**500,000**
In Kind co-financing	700,000	800,000	**1,500,000**
Total	**1,470,000**	**1,680,000**	**3,150,000**

7. Risk Management Plan

7.1 Risks Identification

Table 7: Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe identified risk	**Degree of risk (low, medium, high)**	**Probability of risk (low, medium, high)**	**Risk mitigation measure foreseen**
Social and environmental risks • Failure to promote equitable sharing benefits of ecosystem services and opportunities	Low	Low	Chiefdom management committee involved in benefit sharing and documentation.
• Failure to conserve the sacred culture, knowledge, and practices of the communities	Medium	Low	Mapping carried out and burial cemeteries, Poro and Bondo bush preserved. Social and environmental impact assessment done to avoid cultural destruction.
• Failure to preserve customary resource use and permission patterns	Medium	Medium	Consultative process with beneficiaries during projects planning and execution
• Failure to introduce viable alternative livelihoods through modern agricultural practices	High	High	Consultative process with beneficiaries during projects planning and execution
• Failure to recognize the leadership and infringing on indigenous authorities' rights, dignity and aspiration	low	low	Consultative process with beneficiaries during projects planning and execution
• Illicit diamond and gold miners sabotage the project implementation	High	low	Involve chiefdom authority for bylaws and sensitization/awareness raising about project benefits
Climate risks • Failure to put measures to control bushfires that destroy investments on land	High	High	Wildfire management training will be offered to equip farmers in fire management

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
• Natural risks including extreme weather, rainfall, pests and disease.	Low	Low	The project will actively monitor early warning system, patrol teams will be trained and sent out to investigate any outbreak and react accordingly.
Other possible risks • Instability of the country due to change in governance system at national level	low	Low	This risk is mitigated by the fact that the eastern region is dominated by one party and change at national level hardly affects their local governance
• Commitments from local people due to inequality in project distribution	High	Medium	Project will be equitably distributed based on need and pre-project assessment will be done to obtain the commitment of the intended beneficiaries.
• Consultation and involvement in the project preparation for better Understanding	High	Medium	Stakeholders participatory approach for better understanding and committed project stakeholders

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7.2 Grantees shall collect information from project location and conduct pre-screening before proposal is developed to inform them about potential risks. NSC will look at the potential risks during proposal appraisal to evaluate social, economic and environmental risks. To track these risks, an initial risk assessment will be mandatory prior to inception of SGP projects and risk management plan put in place to address the risks. It will be mandatory for all grantees to score the degree of risks by location of projects. NC and NSC will evaluate the potential risks and the quality of the risk management plan during project field monitoring visits and this will determine 2nd disbursement to grantees.

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Bashiru M. Koroma (Prof)	
Saskia Marijnissen (Dr.)	
Abdul Salim	
Dr. Joseph M. Macarthy (Dr.)	
Dr. Kolleh A. Bangura (Dr.)	
Momodu A. Bah	
Kate M.B. Karemo-Garnett	
Mr. Foday S. Kanu	

ANNEX 1
BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT

A Baseline Assessment of Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone (Landscape and Waterscape)

May 2016

ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land use
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFCLRHS	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
ENMOD	Environmental Modification
FECs	Forest edge Communities
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRNP	Gola Rainforest National Park
GNF	Gola National Forest in Liberia
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands
PFM	Participatory Forest management
PC	Paramount Chief
SGP	Small Grants Programme
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VFR	Village Forest Reserves
VSLS	Village savings and loan schemes

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1. General Context & Literature Review

1.1. Brief Background of Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a tropical country located on the west coast of Africa, with the coordinates of Latitude: 8º30´ North of the Equator and Longitude: 11º30´ West of Greenwich Meridian. It has a total land and water boundaries of 1,360km with Guinea (652 km) to the north and northeast, Liberia (306 km) to the south and southeast, and with the Atlantic Ocean (402 km) to the west (LeVert, (2006). Sierra Leone's climatic and edaphic conditions support high forest in 80% of the country. About 70 – 80% of the country was once closed high forest before the turn of the century especially on the lowlands and escarpment area, with savanna woodlands in the northern plateau region (Unwin 1992), (Savill and Fox 1967) and (Cole 1968). The remaining area was 9% swamp and 16% of open savanna, forest re-growth and crop fields. The country has a total area of 71,740 km^2 (27,699 sq. miles) divided into a land area of 71,620 km^2 (27,653 sq. miles) and water of 120 km^2 (46 sq. miles) according to *CIA(2016) and* (wikipedia.org 2016). The country has four distinct geographical regions namely: coastal Guinean mangroves, the wooded hill country, an upland plateau, and the eastern mountains. Eastern Sierra Leone is an interior region of large plateaus interspersed with high mountains, where Mount Bintumani rises to 1,948 meters (6,391ft). The Maritime claims consist of territorial sea: 200 nmi (370.4 km; 230.2 mi) and continental shelf: 200 m depth or to the depth of exploitation. The Land use equals 7.95% arable land, 1.05% permanent crops and 91% others in 2005. While the irrigated land was 300 km² in 2003. Nearly 75% of the total land area is arable. Approximately 56% of the land is below 150m above sea level. Upland and lowland ecologies make up 78% and 22% respectively of the arable land area. The uplands are composed of forest, savannah woodlands and grasslands while the lowlands comprise 690 000 hectares (ha.) of inland valley swamps, 145 000ha of 'bolilands' (or large, saucer-shaped basins), 130 000ha of riverine grasslands; and 200 000ha of mangrove swamps.

Sierra Leone has a tropical climate although it could be classified as a tropical monsoon climate, it could also be describe as a climate that is transitional between a continually wet tropical rainforest climate and a tropical savanna climate (*Gabler et al 2008).* There are two seasons determining the agricultural cycle: the rainy season from May to November, and a dry season from December to May, which includes harmattan, when cool, dry winds blow in off the Sahara Desert and the night-time temperature can be as low as 16 °C (60.8 °F). The average temperature is 26 °C (78.8 °F) and varies from around 26 °C (78.8 °F) to 36 °C (96.8 °F) during the year *CIA(2016),* (*Blinker 2006) and (LeVert, 2006).* Average rainfall is highest at the coast, 3000–5000 mm per year; moving inland this decreases and at the eastern border of the country, the average rainfall is 2000-2500mm (*Hughes et al 1992).*

The rapid population growth in Sierra Leone has put pressure upon the natural environment with consequences including overharvesting of timber, the expansion of mining areas into agricultural land, expansion of cattle grazing areas, slash and burn agriculture resulting in deforestation and soil exhaustion, poor solid waste management, over overfishing etc. Sierra Leone continuously mobilize resources to tackle the daunting environmental issues facing the country. And, in the attempt to solve these environmental issues, it has committed to several environmental agreements including the following (*CIA 2016)*.

- Biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Climate Change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- Desertification (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)
- Endangered Species (CITES)

- Law of the Sea (UNCLOS or LOS)
- Marine Life Conservation (Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas)
- Nuclear Test Ban (CTBT)
- Ramsar Convention (Wetlands)
- Signed, but not ratified is the Environmental Modification (ENMOD).

1.2 Description of the Gola Rainforest Landscape

The Gola Rainforest National Park is classified as one of the 25 most important biodiversity hotspots in the world (Myers et al. 2000). It lies in the south-eastern edge of Sierra Leone, on the border with Liberia as shown in figure 1. It is the largest remnant of the Upper Guinea tropical moist lowland high evergreen forest in Sierra Leone with a total area of 71,070 ha including a non-forest areas of 1,199ha consisting primarily of rivers and a number of rocky outcrops known as inselbergs. Gola Rainforest is located between latitude 07°18'22" N and 07°51'00" N, and between longitude 11°21'13" W and 10°37'40" W. The landscape comprises three distinct forested blocks namely: Gola North, Gola Central and Gola South as shown in figure 2. The Gola Forest lies mostly in Kenema district but extends marginally into Kailahun and Pujehun Districts (USAID 2007). Kenema and Kailahun Districts are in Eastern Region and Pujehun District is in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone. Seven chiefdoms are associated with the Gola Rainforest: Gaura, Nomo, Tunkia, Koya Malema, Makpele and Barri. The landscape and waterscape make the forest the second largest National Park in Sierra Leone. Gola Rainforest shares boundary with 122 Forest Edge Communities (FECs) living adjacent to the park. The forest lie about 30km south-east of the district headquarter town of Kenema.

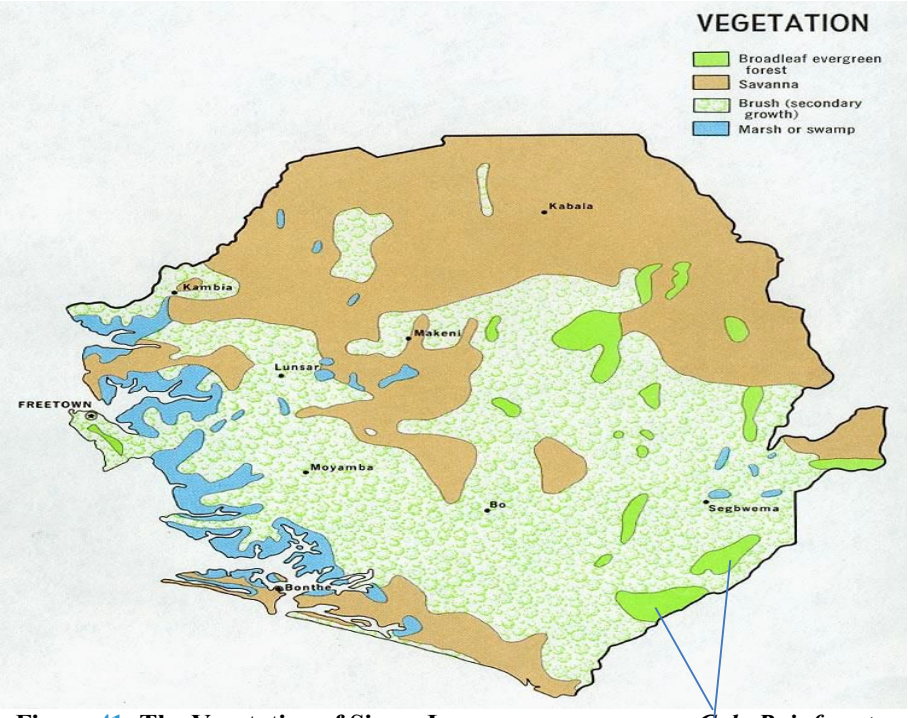

Figure 41: The Vegetation of Sierra Leone ***Gola Rainforest***

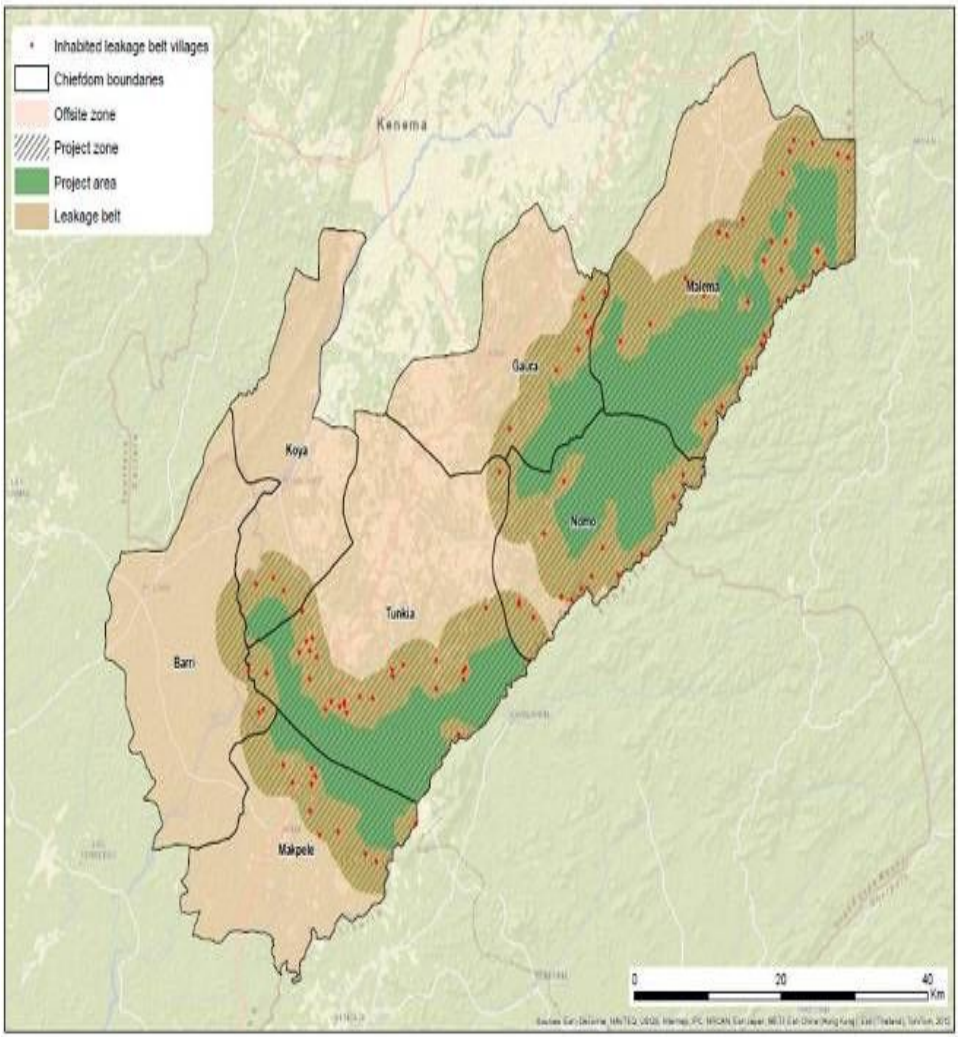

Figure 2. The Gola Rainforest National Park divided into 3 blocks; Gola North, Gola Central and Gola South

1.3 Population of Districts of Gola Rainforest

Table 1. Past and Present population growth trend of Districts of the Gola Rainforest

District	1963	1974	1985	2004	2015
Kenema	227,428	266,636	337,055	497,948	609,873
Kailahun	150,236	180,365	233,839	358,190	525,372
Pujehun	84,869	102,741	117,185	228,392	345,577
Total	462,533	549,742	688,079	1,084,530	1,480,822

Source: Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census

Table1 above shows the population growth trend from 1963 to 2015 for the three Districts within which Gola Rainforest is located. The population of the three districts has increase from 462,533 in 1963 to

1,480,822 in 2015 a percentage increase of 68.8%. Table 2 below shows that the current population for the 7 chiefdoms directly contribution to the Gola Rainforest landscape is 178,126 consisting of 87,960 males and 90,166 females.

Table 2. Present Chiefdom population of the Gola Rainforest landscape

District	District Population	Chiefdom	Chiefdom Population	Male	Female	Sex-Ratio
Kenema	609,873	Gaura	18,216	8,696	9,520	91.2
		Koya	13,478	6,720	6,758	99.4
		Nomo	5,436	2,797	2,639	106.0
		Tunkia	36,074	17,766	18,308	97
Kailahun	525,372	Malema	37,042	18,927	18,115	104.5
Pujehun	345,577	Barri	36,865	17,661	19,204	92.0
		Makpele	31,015	15,393	15,622	98.5
		Total	178,126	87,960	90,166	

Source: Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census

1.3.1 Demographic characteristics of the Kenema District

Kenema District is in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone with coordinates 7°50′N 11°10′W. Its capital and largest city is Kenema which serves as the Provincial headquarters. The District has an estimated area of 6,053 km^2 (2,337 sq mi) and comprises sixteen chiefdoms. It has a population of 609,873 with 300,660 males and 309,213 females and a sex ratio of 97.2 (no. of males per 100 females) It accounts for 8.6 per cent of the total population of Sierra Leone (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015). Four chiefdoms in the district contribute to the Gola Rainforest landscape with a total population of 73,204 namely: Gaura, Koya, Nomo and Tunkia with a population density of 100 people per square kilometer (260/sq. ml).

In 2012, Sierra Leone had an adult literacy rate of 44.46%, with 33.65% for adult females and 55.53 % for adult males. According to World Bank, adult literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life. However, these figures are much lower in the rural areas such as Gola Rainforest communities due to lack of access to schools infrastructure (http://www.tradingeconomics.com/2016)

Kenema District has a mixed economy, made up of gold and diamond mining as well as agricultural production of coffee, cacao and rice. The economically active population is about 76 % aged 15years and older of which Most of the population lack basic amenities and social services such as latrines, clean water supply, healthcare and education. The Gola Rainforest communities are quite remote and located some distance from feeder roads network to guarantee vehicular transport making access to market very difficult and restricting opportunities for economic growth. Ninety per cent of the population are subsistence farmers relying on the forest to meet their livelihoods. The main farming activity is rice cultivation, the majority of which is carried out in upland areas. They are among the poorest and pose constant threats to the forest by engaging in unsustainable agricultural expansion, mining, charcoal production, fuel wood collection and timber production. The majority (86%) of people residing in forest edge communities are Mende. Other ethnic groups are Gola, Fula, Mandingo, Vai, Kissi, Limba, Gbandi, and Temne. The tribes are very peaceful with each other. Islam is the dominant religion consisting of 93.1% in the area and the remaining inhabitants are largely Christians. These religious groups live in harmony. Within a village, people are seen as either citizens "*tali"* or strangers

"*hotae*". Citizens belong to land owning families which can recognize a common founding ancestor and trace patrilineal descent (Bulte et al. 2013:10). Strangers are people that were not born in the Chiefdom, some may marry a citizen and or be accepted as a community member by way of their profession.

1.3.2 Demographic characteristics of the Kailahun District

Kailahun District is also in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone with coordinates 8°10′N 10°45′W. Its capital town is Kailahun which is the District Head Quarters. The District has an estimated area of 4,859 km^2 (1,876 sq mi) and comprises fourteen chiefdoms. It has a population of 525,372 with 259,435 males and 265,937 females and a sex ratio of 97.6 (no. of males per 100 females). It accounts for 7.4 percent of the total population of Sierra Leone (Statistics Sierra Leone 2015). Malema chiefdom in the only one in the district that contributes to the Gola Rainforest landscape with a total population of 37,042 and the population density of 140 people per square kilometer (350/sq mi). The population of Kailahun District is largely from the Mende ethnic group and the Kissi tribe in minority. The district is predominantly Muslim.

Kailahun has a mixed economy, made up of small-scale mining, large scale agricultural production of rice, coffee, cacao and cassava that employs 78% of the rural population, and small and medium enterprises.

1.3.3 Demographic characteristics of the Pujehun District

Pujehun District is in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone with coordinates 7°20′N 11°30′W. Its capital town is Pujehun serving as the District headquarters. It has a population of 345,577 with 168,511 males and 177,066 females and a sex ratio of 95.2 (no. of males per 100 females). It accounts for 4.9 percent of the total population of Sierra Leone (Statistics Sierra Leone 2015). Two chiefdoms in the district contribute to the Gola Rainforest landscape with a total population of 67,880 namely: Barri and Makpele with a population density of 84 people per square kilometer (220/sq mi). The district has one of the lowest population densities of Sierra Leone, with most people living in villages of less than 2000 residents. The population of Pujehun District is largely from the Mende ethnic group; and the district is predominantly Muslim. The district borders the Atlantic Ocean in the southwest, the Republic of Liberia to the southeast, Kenema District to the northeast, Bo District to the north and Bonthe District to the west. It occupies a total space of 4,105 km² (1,585 sq mi) and comprises twelve chiefdoms.

The major economic activities in the district, are diamond mining, fishing, agricultural production of rice, cassava, coffee, and cacao and small and medium enterprises.

1.4 Ecology of Gola Rainforest National Park

The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) lies within the wet tropical climatic zone with an average rainfall estimated at 2,800mm (White 1972). It is adjacent to the Gola National Forest (GNF) in Liberia (previously known as Lofa-Mano Forest). These two are separated only by the Moro-Mano River and both share common species pool and diversity of habitat types. These protected areas share a similar biodiversity, species richness and number of endemic species. The predominant features are extensive rolling hills with sparse areas of swampy terrain. Gola South extend towards the Mahoi River, with typically small trees and a dense understory covered by swamps along the river valleys. The four rivers:- Moro, Mahoi, Mano and Moa rivers which flow in the Gola Rainforest provides important local water supplies to the catchment villages. Gola Rainforest has recorded 970 species of plant with 599

forest species endemic to the Upper Guinea forests. Also 49 species of larger mammals have been found, the most important mammals of conservation value and significance are pygmy hippopotamus, African forest elephant, zebra duiker chimpanzee, Diana monkey and western red colobus. All but the African elephant and chimpanzee are endemic to the Upper Guinea forests making Gola Rainforest exceptionally important for their conservation. Furthermore, nearly 313 species of birds have been recorded with at least eighteen species of global conservation concern. Currently, 43 species of amphibians have been identified in the Gola Rainforest and six are listed as near threatened or vulnerable.

1.5 Forest Cover

Klop et al (2008) referred to Gola Rainforest as three blocks characterized as evergreen and moist semi-deciduous forest types but with considerable overlap between these two classifications and they should be considered a continuum over a gradient. According to Lindsell and Klop (2012), the species composition, the biomass (i.e. carbon) between these two forest types are similar, with no statistical difference. Jongkind (2004) states that some 2800 species of vascular plants are known to occur in the Gola Rainforest of which about 650 (23%) are endemic to the region. And 899 plant species have been identified of which 232 species are trees (Klop et al. 2008). The most common family is identified as Leguminosae, with common species such as *Cynometra leonensis* and *Brachystegia leonensis*. However, the most dominant tree species is *Heritiera utilis* (Sterculiaceae) (Klop et al 2008). Gola Rainforest has at least recorded 33 threatened species listed by IUCN including two, *Tieghemella heckelii* and *Placodiscus pseudostipularis,* that are classified as Endangered and 31 classified as Vulnerable (IUCN 2012). Sixty-seven (67) of 278 woody plants in the Upper Guinea forests classified by Poorter et al (2004) as rare or threatened based on extent of distribution and threats from human exploitation have been found in the Gola Rainforest. There are 599 forest species which are endemic to the Upper Guinea forests, of which 120 have been found in the Gola Rainforest. Furthermore, 7 of the 71 species of orchids identified in the area are endemic to the Upper Guinea Forest (Klop et al 2008). According to Jongkind (2004), there are about 25 species of Orchidaceae endemic to the Upper Guinea Forest.

Until the late 1980's, Gola forest was a Production Forest Reserve and two large scale timber companies conducted commercial logging in the forest exploiting 19% of Gola Central (Klop et al. 2008). In the same period, 43% of Gola South was exploited, particularly the western and central sections (Iles et al. 1993). Because of these exploitations, the southern block of the Gola Rainforest is still regenerating and has not reached yet an equilibrium state, but the central area which was less impacted by logging contains greater carbon stocks (Lindsell and Klop 2012).

1.6 **Geology of Gola Rainforest**

According to Wilson (1965), Gola Rainforest is generally characterized by ancient crystalline rocks of the Archaen subdivision of the Precambrian period. The granite greenstone complex, contains iron and magnesium rich metamorphic rocks overlying a quartz-rich granite basement.

The soils is mostly derived from granite. They are usually freely draining sands and gravels, with varying proportions of lateritic gravel. Four types of soil are present in the Gola area (Iles et al 1993), these includes:

- Rocky hill complex of moderate to high relief on Precambrian granite complex and local amphibolites; shallow sandy clay loams with locally deeper reddish clay loams;

- Strongly dissected high level plains of low to very low relief and scattered isolated hills, on Precambrian granite complex and local granulites; moderately shallow to deep, sandy clay loams to clays often containing much gravel;
- Dissected plains of extremely low relief with scattered small hills and terraces, of Precambrian granite complex and local granulites; moderately deep, very gravelly reddish clay loams to clays;
- Variable dissected complex of plains and rocky hills of low to moderate relief, on Precambrian granite complex; moderately shallow to deep, sandy clay loams, gravelly on hilly terrain.

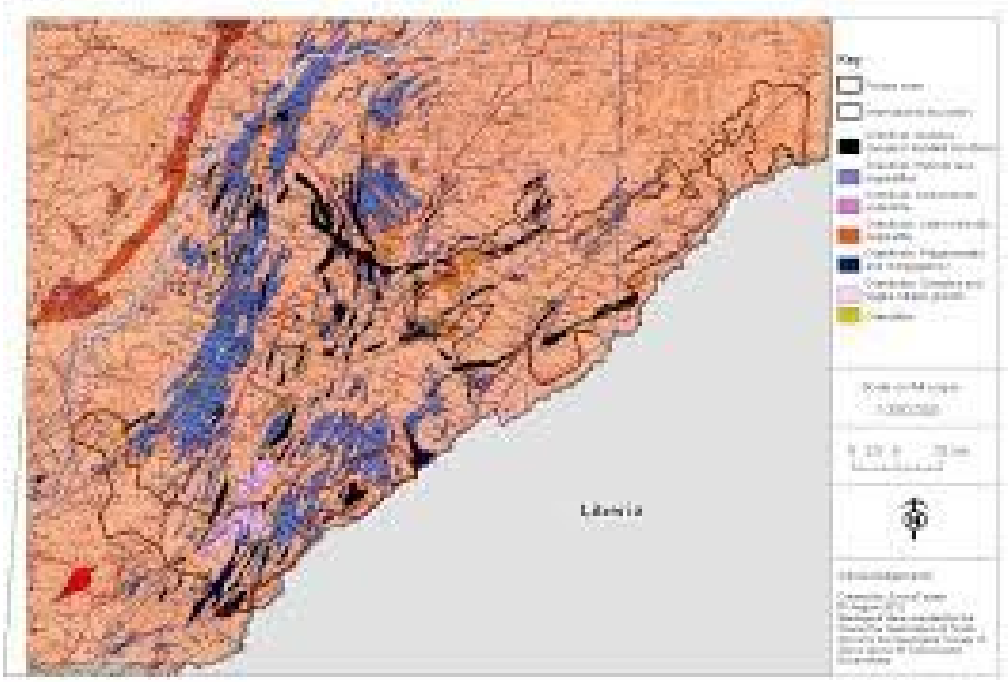

Figure 3. Geology of Gola Rainforest

1.7 **Geomorphology**

The central of Gola rainforest is mostly rolling hills given rise to rugged terrain and isolated rocky outcrops, some of which exceed 130m in length with 22% over 330m in elevation. The steep slopes consist 9% and the highest point reaches 427m, called Sangie Mountain. Slopes are normally 27 degrees but those exceeding 45 degrees occur mainly in the North and Eastern parts of the Forest. The Gola South is lower than the central and northern area and becomes progressively lower and more uniform in slope from east to west. The highest point in this area is Bagla Hills at 330m in the east. The hilly terrain crosses numerous watercourses which form steep sided water valleys.

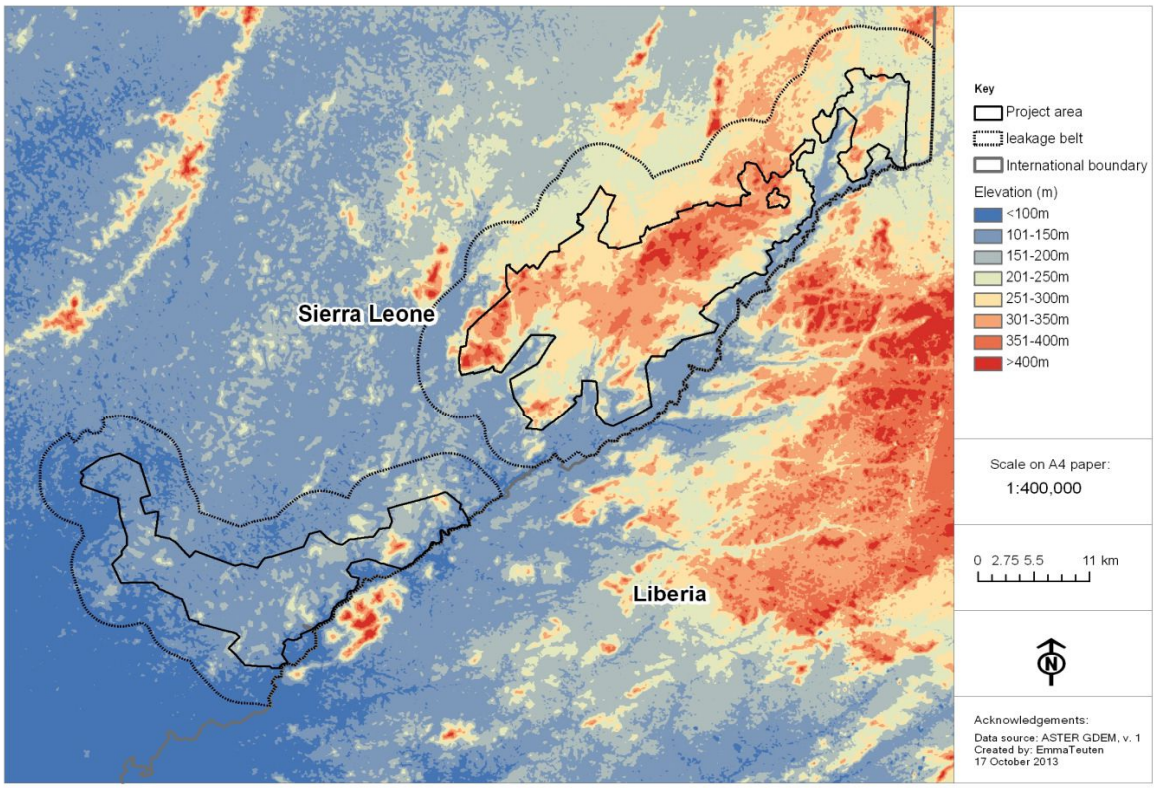

Figure 4. Geomorphology of the Gola Rainforest

1.8 Rainfall and Evaporation

The climate is transitional between a continually wet tropical rainforest climate a wet season from May to October, and a tropical savanna climate a dry season from November to April. According to historical data on precipitation from towns and villages in the East and South of Sierra Leone, where Gola Rainforest is located, White (1972) reports mean annual rainfall values of 2576mm at Daru, 2605mm at Pendembu and 2770mm at Kenema while Cole (1993) reports 2630mm for Zimmi, 2739mm for Kenema and 2747mm for Daru. It is therefore ideal to state that the mean annual rainfall is likely to be 2500-3000mm. In 2006 however, the total annual rainfall for Kenema was 2188 mm, which is lower than the historical average. During 2007 rainfall was measured within the Gola Rainforest at 3 sites each month and the mean annual total for the 3 sites was 3117mm (Klop et al 2008), slightly higher than the historical average. There is a pronounced dry season from December to March during which rainfall was less than 50 mm per month. The rainfall is higher in July and August with over 550mm per month.

Rainfall is highest in the coastal areas, between 3 000-5 000 mm per year but decreases inland and at the eastern boarder of the country the average rainfall is 2 000-2 500 mm per annum. Rainfall decreases to between 2 930 mm to 2 540 mm in the north of the Sierra Leone.

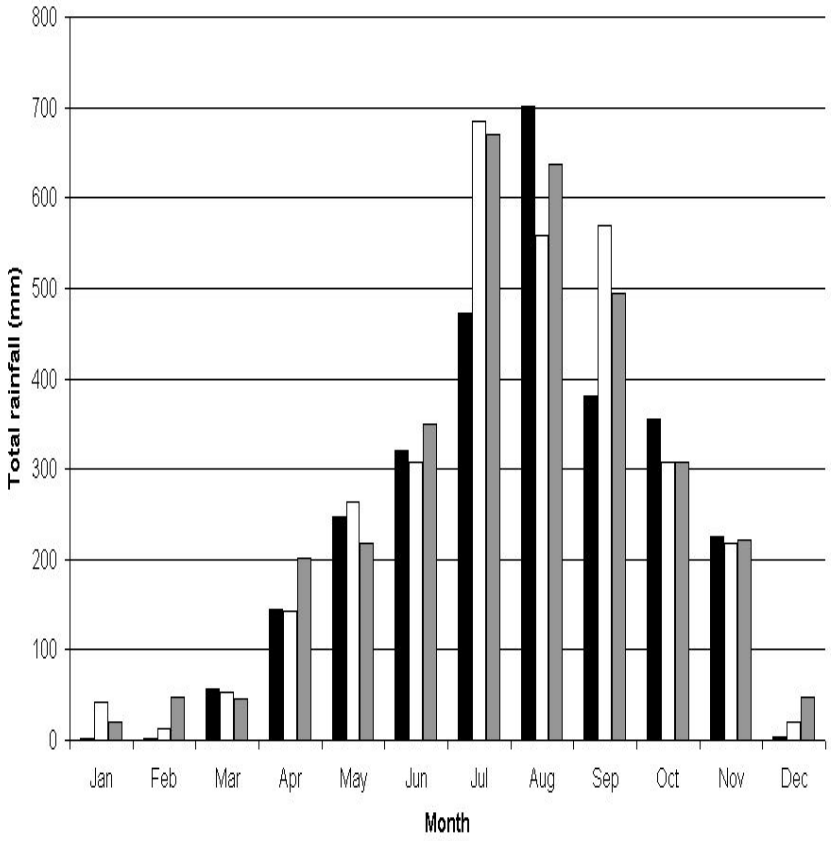

Figure 5 Annual rainfall data for Gola Rainforest: Source Klop et al. 2008

1.9 Relief, Land Use and Land Cover Changes

1.9.1 Characteristic of Gola Rainforest

Gola Rainforest shows a high variety of different forest habitats in different stages (pristine to disturbed, and various succession stages) and is home to many species, many of them being endemic to the Upper Guinean forests, and even to smaller areas in the region.

1.9.2 Land Use and Land Cover

A generalized method of assessing Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) is by using "VT0001 Tool". An extensive mapping and stakeholder surveys, and a spatial analysis of land cover change has been carried out within Sierra Leone. Regarding these analyses carried out, and considering that 75% of rural population depend on agriculture (FAO 2012), the most likely baseline scenario for land use is the conversion of forest by smallholder agriculturalists. The available information from in-depth surveys of the common land use practices by peasant farmers or agriculturalists is that the average fallow period is 7 years in areas close to Gola Rainforest and 7.5 years in the surrounding districts (Witkowski et al 2012a, Cuni-Sanchez 2012b).

According to Giulia Salvini (2013), the change detection analysis for the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) shows little deforestation (0.9 km²/ 0.4% between 1986 and 2003, and 2.1 km²/0.9%). In fact, the results show that during 1986 and 2003 vegetation cover increased from 676 km² in 1986 to 710 km² in 2003, with a decline in agricultural land from 103 km² in 1986 to 75 km² in 2003. For the period (2003 – 2007) vegetation cover (710 km2 in 2003 to 708 km² in 2007) and agricultural land (from 75km² in 2003 to 78 km² in 2007) remain stable. For the second period negative changes in vegetation mostly occurred in areas with a population density < 7.5 persons per km². As clearly shown from the census figure 2015, further population increase will have huge pressure on Gola Rainforest.

Based on the estimated rate at which the baseline Gola Rainforest would have been deforested over the years, analyses of several Forest Reserves in Sierra Leone with comparable environments were carried out as relevant to the Gola forest and leakage belt. The comparative analysis was to detect any significant differences in deforestation rates between different types of Forest Reserves (production and protection). During the assessment, it was found that there is no significant difference between forest reserves however those with licensed industrial logging or mining activities in the last 10 years had different patterns. The resulting baseline deforestation rate was 1.62% for Forest Reserves and a 2.74% for buffer areas, with an overall rate of 2.08%.

1.10 Economic Activities

The major economic activity in the forest edge communities is agriculture. Mostly subsistence farming is the main livelihood activity for 90% of the communities in the leakage belt. Land is needed for upland farming (making up around half of a villages agricultural land) to produce rice intercropped with vegetables over a 1-2 year period before being left to fallow for an average of 7 years (Witkowski et al 2012b). Land is also needed for inland valley swamp farming (where only swamp rice varieties are grown) and plantations where cash crops such as cocoa, coffee and palm oil are grown. Logging for valuable timber to be sold in national markets and artisanal mining for both gold and diamonds are other activities, both of which require license from the relevant local authorities to be legal. Other important livelihood activities are hunting and fishing (using nets, baskets, and sometimes poison) which provide protein for local families as well as to sell in markets for income generation. The population also instantaneously gather non-timber forest products such as rattan, poles, palm thatch, fibers, and traditional medicines.

2 BASELINE FINDINGS

2.1 Community Information- Boundaries of Gola Forest

The Government of Sierra Leone has established a legal right to manage Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) after it upgraded the then Gola Forest Reserved into a national park in 2010. The GRNP consist of 3 separate blocks in a northern, central and southern blocks with current land cover of 68,515ha of forest and 1,199ha of non-forest having boundaries with 122 Forest Edge Communities in 7 chiefdoms living adjacent to the area. The Boundaries are planted with Yamane trees as demarcation separating the Gola Rainforest National Park and 4km leakage belt.

There is a **leakage belt** consisting of forested and non-forested area that immediately surrounds GRNP extending for 4km around each block apart from the eastern border between Sierra Leone and Liberia. This area is occupied by forest edge communities were the baseline study was carried out. Land in the leakage belt is under different management to the GRNP and it is governed primarily by customary law subjected to family tenure under the Mende tribal system. The family lineages possess the land and heads of families administer the land whilst the Paramount chiefs and chiefdom councils retain the right to regulate the usage.

2.1.1 Household profiles

A total of 175 respondents (N=175) were randomly selected and interviewed with gender and youth consideration from the 7 chiefdoms with equal representation of 25people per chiefdom. Table 3 shows that a 48% of the respondents were female and 52% were male. Each respondent represented a single household. There were an average of 6 people per household comprising 4 adults and 2 children.

Table 3: Average No. of person per household

Sex		Persons	Average No. of person/household
Female	Male	Adults	4
84 (48%)	91 (52%)	Children	2
		Average	6

Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.1.2 Age and Gender of Heads of Household

Not all the respondents were heads of households. Table 4 shows that the 48% (84) female respondents only 14% (12) were heads of households. Also of the 52% (91) male respondents, 86% (78) were heads of households which indicates male dominated community due to widespread practice of polygamy where a single man is married to more than one wife This argument supports is in support of Bulte et al (2013) who states that approximately 85% of households are headed by men in forest edge communities of Gola Rainforest. The most common age group of male respondents were 26-35, 36-45 and 46-55 in decreasing order. Respondents stated that the size of villages varies from small hamlets of about 12 people to large towns of about 1,500 people with majority (70 %) of the villages having more women than men. This argument is supported by the Sierra Leone Housing and Census (2015) in Table 2, which states that the total population of the 7 chiefdoms is 178,126 comprising 87,960 males and 90,166 females.

Table 4: Age and Gender of Heads of Household

Age	Female heads of Household (per cent)	Male heads of Household (per cent)
16-25	0	5(5.5%)
26-35	0	24 (26.5%)
36-45	4(5%)	23 (25.3%)
46-55	6(7%)	19 (21%)
56 & above	2(2%)	7 (7.7%)
Total	**12(14%)**	**78(86%)**

Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.1.3 Ethnic group and Religion of Respondents

The results in Table 5 below show that 86.9% of people residing in the forest edge communities belong to the Mende ethnic group; the others include Gola, Fula, Mandingo, Vai, Kissi, Limba, Gbandi, and Temne in very small proportion. Islam is the dominant religion in the area represented by 93.1% of the population and the remaining 6.9 % are Christians. Many villages have bylaws relating to social norms such as abusive language, sexual misconduct and upholding the culture and tradition.

Table 5: Tribes and Religion

Ethnic Group	Religion		Total in Percentage of Population
	Muslim	Christian	
Mende	150	2	86.9%
Gola	2	2	2.3%
Fula	3	2	2.8%
Mandigo	4	0	2.3%
Vai	0	1	0.6%
Kissi	1	2	1.7%
Limba	0	2	1.1%
Gbandi	1	0	0.6%
Temne	2	1	1.7%
Total	163 (93.1%)	12 (6.9%)	

Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.1.4 Governance Structure

Figure 6 reveals that the highest governing body in the community is the Paramount Chief who is the head of the Chiefdom and has a Chiefdom Council of Elders and representatives. In all of the 7 chiefdoms, there are Chiefdom Committees for the Gola Rainforest National Park with the responsibility to represent the chiefdom and negotiate with government and all organizations

interested in protecting the Gola Rainforest National Park. A chiefdom is divide into sections headed by Section Chiefs, and a section is further divided into towns and villages headed by Town and Village chiefs respectively, who are the traditional authorities that regulate the activities and resolve disputes among the people. Each Town and Village has heads of secret societies (Poro and Bondo), women's leaders, youth leader, speaker, elders and religious leaders which constitute very important personalities and have great respect and following. The smallest units of each town and village is the household carrying out their daily lives as a production unit headed by a Head of household usually a male.

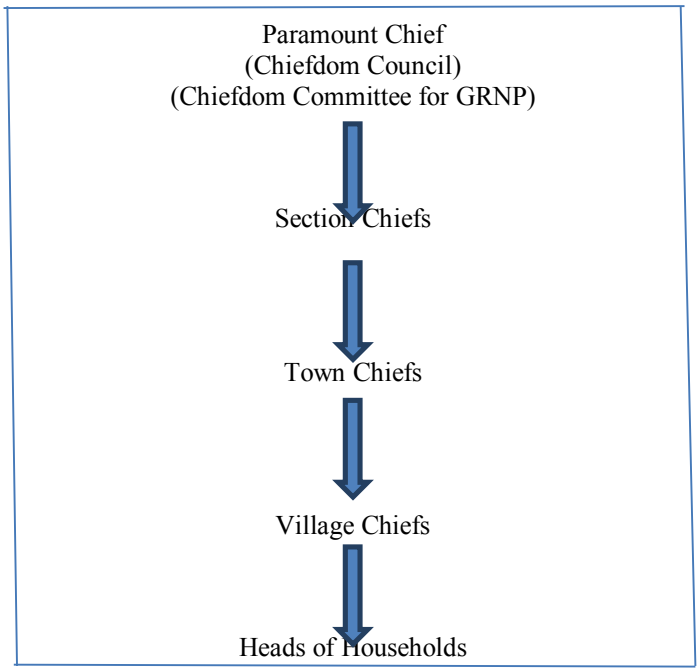

Figure 6: Governance structure

2.2 Critical Ecosystem Services

The respondents rated baseline indicators on some critical ecosystem services that are required for sustaining their livelihood. Each critical ecosystem service was explained in Mende and Krio and the respondents gave their perception about the service for the community.

2.2.1 Landscape Diversity

Landscape diversity was explained to mean the availability of different landscapes and waterscapes for use without restriction due to conservation. The results in Table 6 indicate that 40% and 23% of the respondents rated landscape diversity as few and very few respectively which is a majority when combined totaling 63%. And 30% of the respondents rated landscape diversity as adequate which is almost one-third of the population. Only 7% says land diversity is many or very many.

Table 6: Landscape diversity available to community

Indicators	Response				
	Very few (per cent)	Few (per cent)	Adequate (per cent)	Many (per cent)	Very many (per cent)
Landscape Diversity	40(23%)	70(40%)	53(30%)	10(6%)	2(1%)

Furthermore, the people listed and rated the different landscapes and waterscape available in the communities as shown in Figure 7 below. It shows that farm bush (46%) is the dominant landscape available to the people, and Inland Valley Swamp-IVS (24%) is second, Savanna landscape (17%) is third and then the waterscape (13%) but there are no wetland, coastal landscape or river estuaries. The most interesting revelation was that people avoided the Gola Rainforest National Park as a landscape because of their level of awareness that nobody should encroach on it even though the community still depend on it for various ecosystem services.

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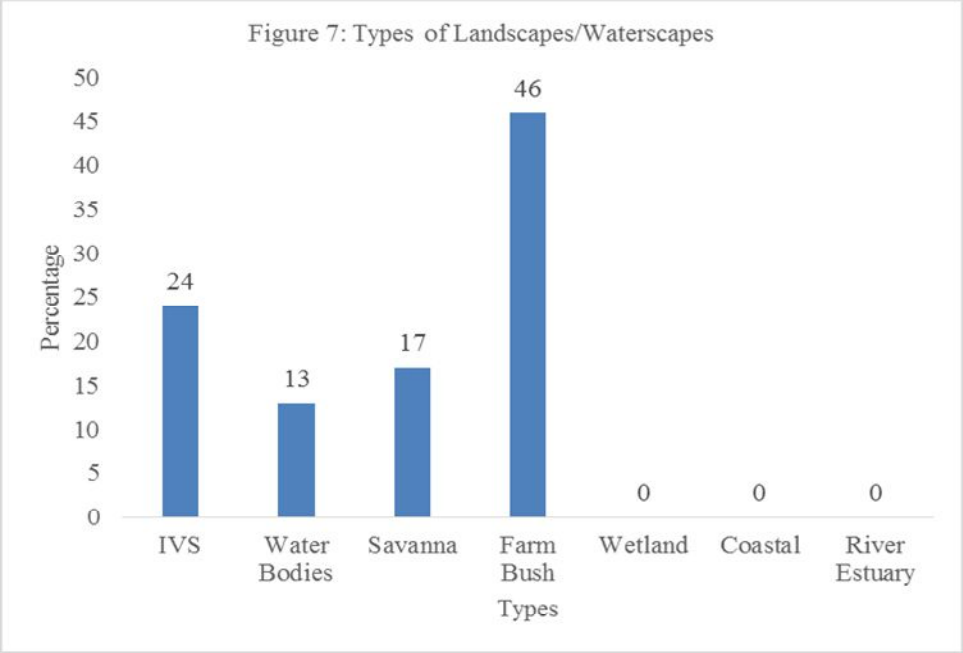


Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.2.2 Efforts to Protect the Ecosystem Services

Table 7 below shows the efforts that community applied to preserve the landscape ecosystem services available to them (this also include the Gola Rainforest ecosystem). Majority (45%) of the respondents stated that efforts towards carbon sequestration is extremely low, and a further 25% claimed that this is low. However, 15% said that carbon sequestration is adequate and a combined 15% said it is high and very high. **Carbon sequestration** describes long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon to either mitigate or defer global warming and avoid dangerous climate change. As previously stated in Figure 5 above, communities have large areas of farm bush which is cultivated for 1-2years and left to fallow for an average of 7years before a family returns to cultivate it again rendering very little efforts towards carbon sequestration.

In terms of watershed protection, the results indicate that 67% and 25% of the respondents claimed that there is low and extremely low watershed protection efforts in their communities, which is a combine 92 %. And only 8% of the respondents indicated an adequate level of watershed protection in their communities. These results explain that generally there is abundant of water from the 4 rivers flowing in the Gola Forest to the communities and therefore no concern for specific intervention to protect watersheds but there are no water purification for the rivers to become pure for drinking.

Regarding Erosion prevention, a cumulative 80% said low and extremely low mitigation efforts are applied by the communities while 15% said erosion is adequately prevented by planting of cash crops. Only 4% and 1% of the respondents rated this indicator as high and very high respectively.

The results also show that 23.3% and 41.7% of respondents indicated extremely low and low efforts towards the climate regulation of the land available to them for use. 31% said the climate regulation is adequate and 4% said it is high. The slash and burn farming is generally responsible for poor efforts towards climate regulation.

The results also reveal that efforts to preserve natural pollinators are extremely low (24%) in the leakage belt which is a confirmation of Larsen's (2008) statement that though butterflies are very good for pollination, the group has not received attention commensurate to its conservation value in the Gola forests, Klein et al (2003) also confirmed that fruit set of highland coffee increases with the diversity of pollinating bees. Thirty-nine (39%) said efforts are low and 16% said efforts are adequate. A combine 21% said efforts by communities to protect wild pollinators are high and very high in the leakage belt.

However, all the respondents agreed that the Gola Rainforest has greater propensity to offer them the best ecosystem services because of the conservation efforts. Additionally, there are bylaws that prevent the cultivation of land with tree crops, the fishing in rivers during certain periods, mining of diamond and golds and harvesting of palm oils. Animals are not allowed to graze in the fields and some bushes are used for secret societies. These are the ways the community protect the ecosystem services.

Table 7: Efforts to Protect Ecosystem Services

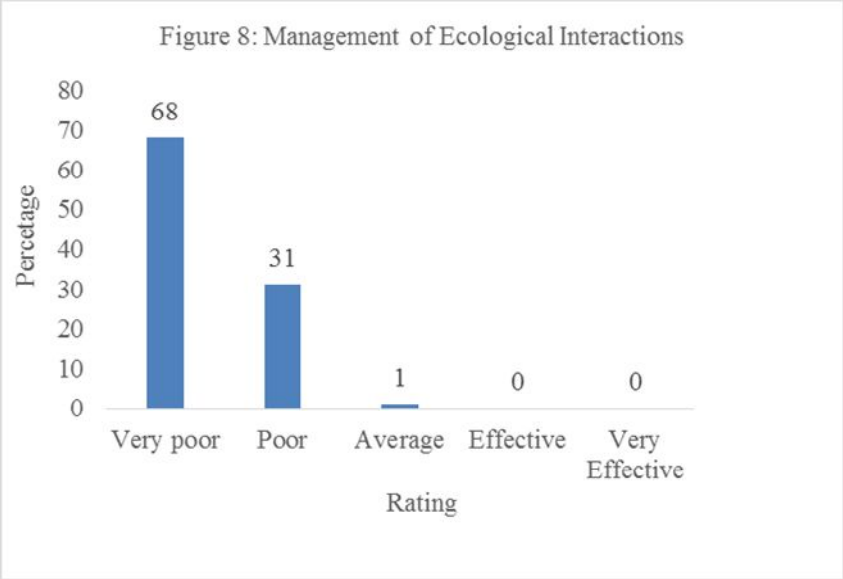
Indicators	**Response**				
	Extremely low (per cent)	**Low (per cent)**	**Adequate (per cent)**	**High (per cent)**	**Very high (per cent)**
Carbon Sequestration	79(45)	44(25)	26(15)	19(11)	7(4)
Watershed protection	44 (25)	117 (67)	14(8)	0(0)	0(0)
Erosion Prevention	79(45)	61(35)	26(15)	7(4)	2(1)
Climate Regulation	41(23.3)	73(41.7)	54(31)	7(4)	0(0)

Protection of Wild pollinators	42(24)	68(39)	28(16)	19(11)	18(10)

Source: Survey data (2016)

2.2.3 Management of Ecological Interaction between landscape and waterscape components.

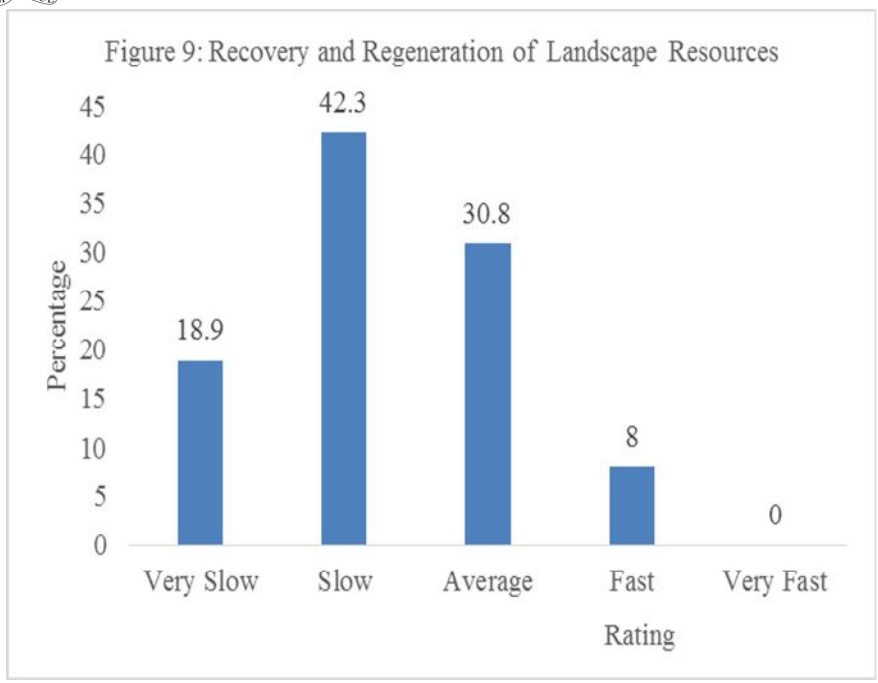
The results in Figure 8 show that 68% of the population do not (very poorly) promote ecological interaction between different components of landscape and water scape ecology, and 31% said there is poor efforts in doing it. However 1% of the population rated the indicator as average. This explains that although there is Chiefdom Committee in each chiefdom, generally, there are no efforts by communities in sustaining ecological services by promoting ecological interaction between species in the landscape. There are no efforts such as pest control, nutrient cycling and water purification because the techniques are either not there or the resources are not available or both.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.2.4 Recovery and regeneration of Landscape Resources

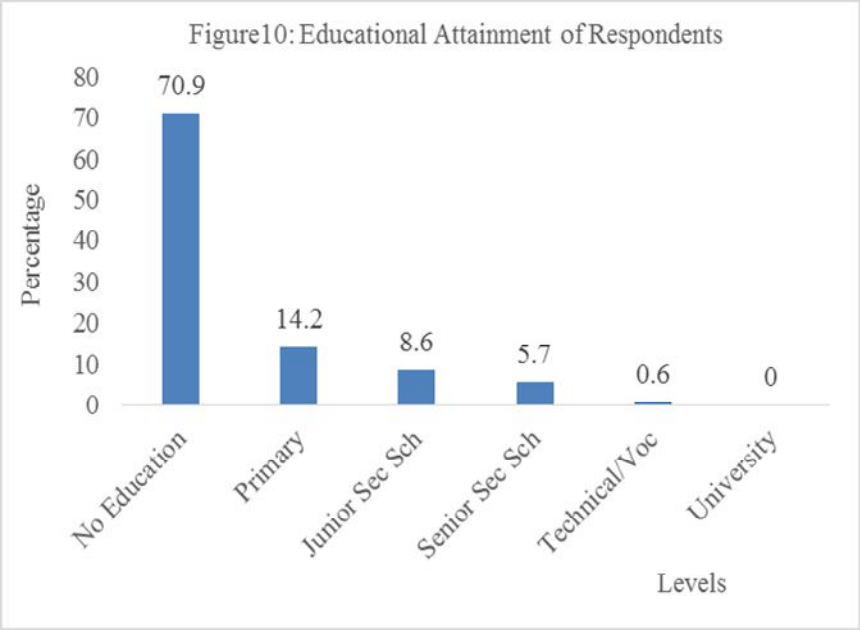
Figure 9 shows that 42.3% of the respondents confirmed slow recovery and regeneration of the landscape, 18.9% further stated that the process is very slow, while 30.8% stated that the process is on the average. After exploitation, ecosystems naturally recover and regenerate over a given period. For the farm bush, an average of 7years is set aside for this to happen but forest ecosystem needs longer period. If over exploited, forest ecosystem will not easily regenerate Hence of the 70-80% of forest cover in Sierra Leone by the turn of the 17th Century, only 5% is now available.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.3 Access to Social Amenities

2.3.1 Access to Education



Source: Survey Data (2016)

The results in Figure 10 shows an overwhelming 70.9% of respondents with no formal education, the majority (14.2%) of those who went to school stopped at the Primary level, and 8.6% attained Junior

Secondary School level while 5.7% attained Senior Secondary School level. About 0.6% attained Technical and Vocational level. The respondents informed that communities lack adequate educational facilities within their villages and children have to walk long distances to attend schools or stay with friends and family members in other towns. This has resulted to increase in pregnancy of school girls and dropouts. The cost of attending schools in faraway communities like lodging, food and transportation and the educational materials such as books and uniforms, have made access to education difficult. Most communities have only one primary school located within 30km circumference. The implications of low level of education are that people are slow to grasp new concepts and develop initiatives. People lack the capacity to be sufficiently innovative or seek new opportunities and accept broad concepts on sustainable management of natural resources. Consequently, future environmental education programme should start with a relatively simplistic approach.

2.3.2 Access to Health, Water and Sanitation facilities

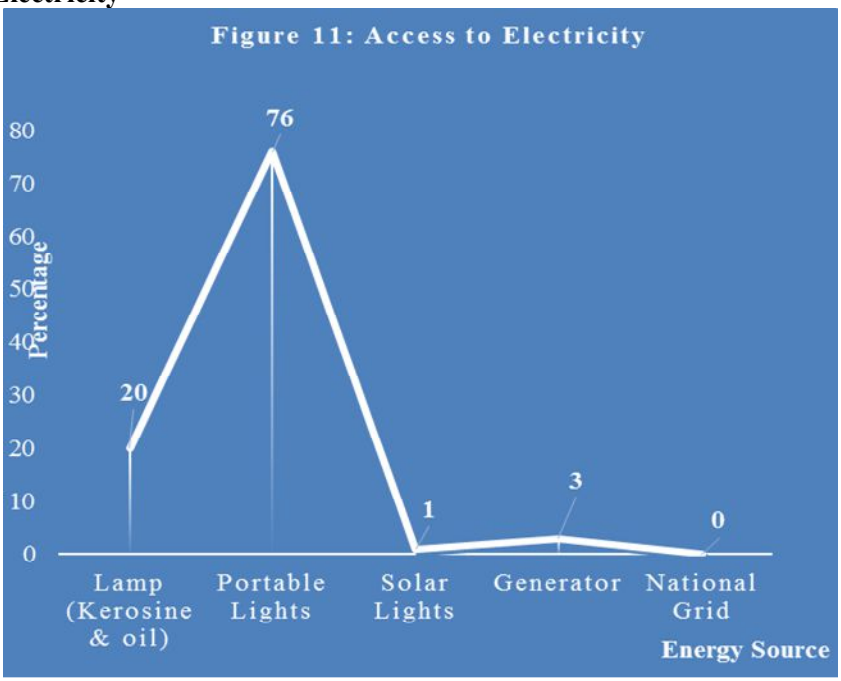
Table 8 shows that majority (75.2%) of the population do not have access to health care services and have experienced high rate of disease mainly malaria and dysentery among the children causing mortality. Most villages (87%) do not have public latrines and sanitation facilities. All the communities (100%) lack pipe borne water while 84% do not have hand pump bore hole. This implies that majority of the villages do not have access to clean water supply and depend on 4 rivers that flow through the Gala Rainforest for their water supply. Majority (75%) lack good knowledge of health practices and 95% do not have proper waste collection and dumping sites to manage the solid waste. This result confirms UNICEF (2010) report which says in Sierra Leone only 13% use improve sanitation facilities 6% in rural areas. The respondents informed that even in schools and health care facilities, hand washing facilities were only provided during the Ebola outbreak.

Table 8: Access to Health, Water and Sanitation

Facility	**Available (percent)**	**Not Available (percent)**
Health Care	26(14.8)	149(75.2)
Public Latrine	22(13)	153(87)
Pipe Borne water	0 (0)	175(100)
Hand pump	28(16)	147(84)
Knowledge of good health practices	26(15)	149(75)
Waste Collection and dumping	9(5)	106(95)

Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.3.3 Access to Electricity

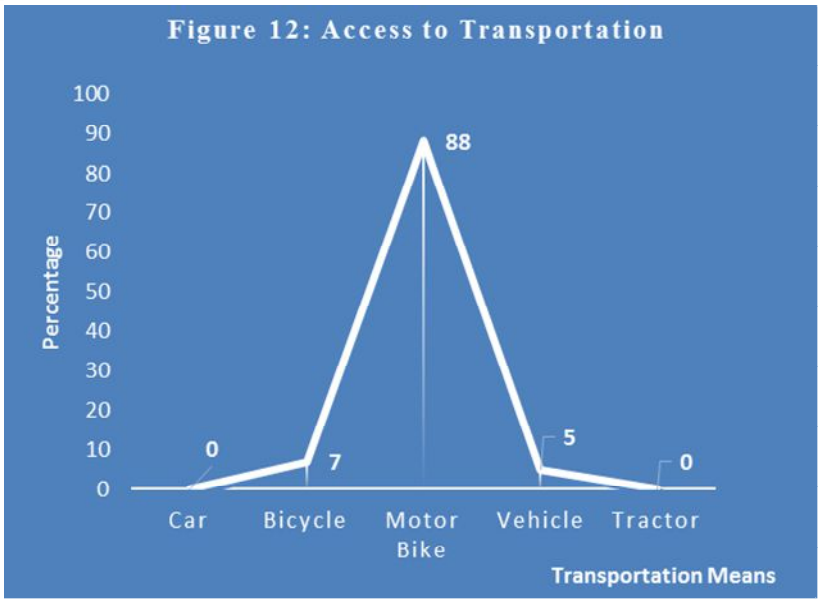


Source: Survey Data (2016)

Figure 11 shows that 76% of the population rely on portable lights that use batteries and manufactured in China, 20% use lamp fueled by kerosene and oil, fewer (3%) use generator and only 1% use solar light. This implies that solar energy is the list available source in the rural areas while there is no national grid to supply power in the communities.

2.3.4 Access to Transport

Figure 12 indicates that motor bike is the most (88%) available form of transportation for both goods and passengers, few (7%) use bicycle and very few (5%) use vehicle. However, all respondents stated that in the absence of these transportation means especially during the rainy season, they carry their loads on the head to the nearest community to get access to motorable road. The frequency at which regular transport is available determines to a large extent the market accessibility for the population to sell their goods and buy needed items including their agricultural inputs. Generally, the population experience loss of their harvest due to poor transportation and lack of storage facilities.

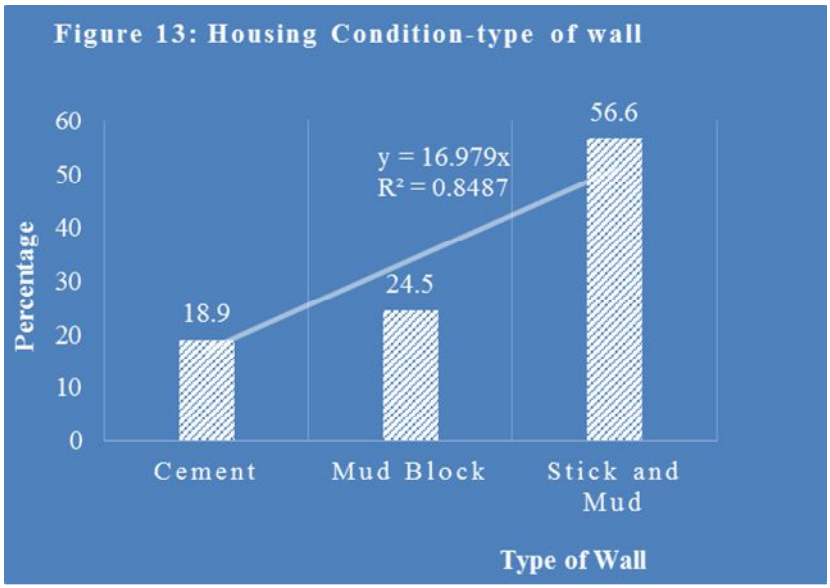


Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.4 Access to Assets (Wealth Raking)

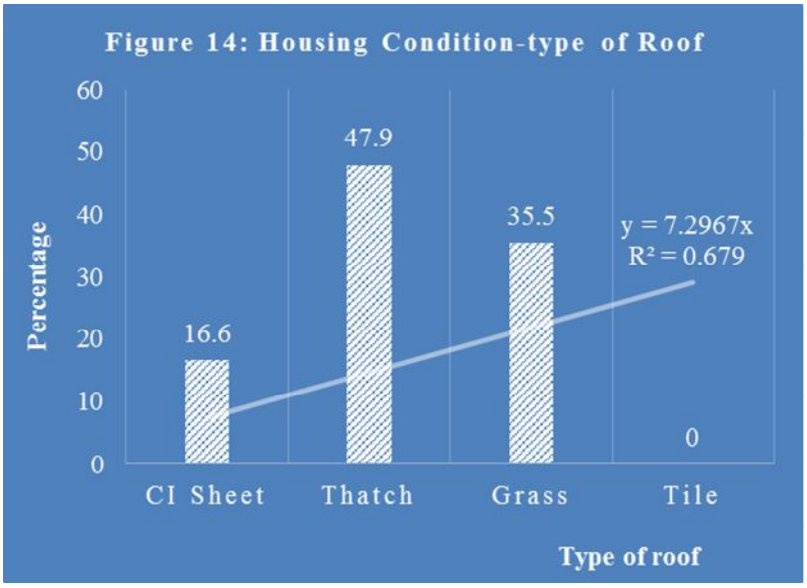
2.4.1 Access to Housing

The type of wall and roof of a house are indicators of wealth in the forest edge communities. Those who build the wall with cement blocks and cover their house with CI sheet are regarded to have higher income sufficient enough to use the surplus for modern building. Figure 13 shows that majority (56.6%) of the villages have houses made from local materials consisting of stick and mud walls, and fewer (18.9%) have houses with cement blocks. Also, Figure 14 shows that 47.9% of the villages have houses with thatch roof and only 16.6% have CI sheet.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

A linear regression for wealth indicator of the population (using wall of the house as a wealth ranking) indicates that R^2=0.8487 and y=16.979x shown in Figure 13. This expounds that approximately 84.87 % of the population are poor and live in house with wall made of sticks and mud. The finding confirms World Bank (2011) which says that Sierra Leone is a low income country and UNDP(2011) report which states that poverty rate is 63% in the country.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

On the other hand, a linear regression for wealth indicator of the population (using roof of the house as wealth ranking) shows that R2=0.679 and y=7.2967x indicated in Figure 14. This explains that 67.9% of the population are poor and live in house with thatch roof.

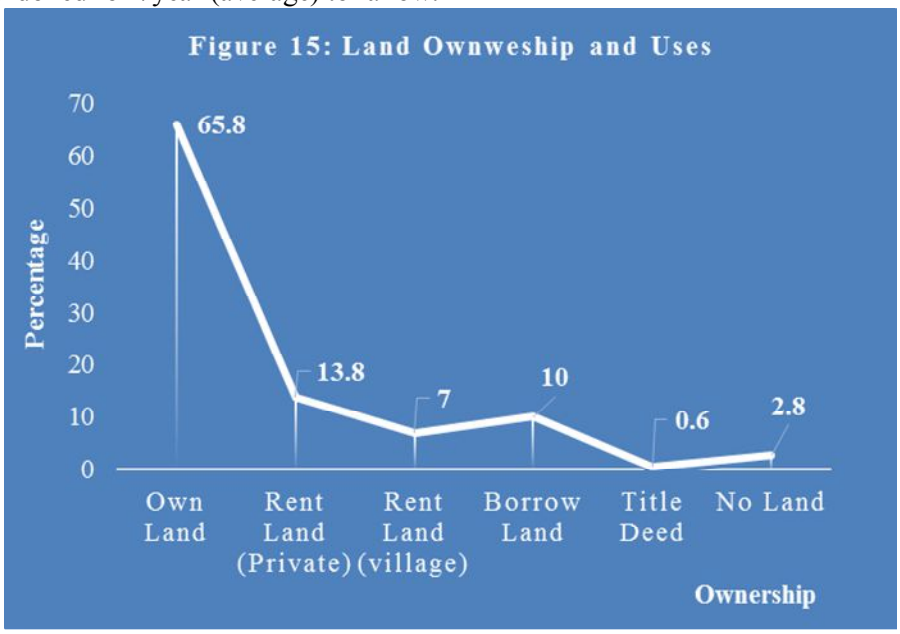
The focus group discussions revealed that majority of the house with CI sheet are owned by farmers with access to land and transport facilities and are able to cultivate large plots of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee and oil palm in addition to the food crops that they grow. The respondents indicated that male headed households have greater socio-economic status due to their civil rights to access land than female headed households. Most of the poor households using sticks and mud wall and thatch roof are owned by female headed households. The respondents further stated that roads availability contribute to higher agricultural production and improve income because it facilitates easily access to agricultural inputs, open corridors to market, reduce post-harvest loses and reduce transportation fare. However, these communities are in hard-to-reach rural areas up to 8.5hours walk. They are poor communities with severe constraints to boost economic development.

2.4.2 Access to Land

Figure 15 shows that 65.8% of the population own land passed on to them from their family lineage, 13.8% have rented the land from land owning families as citizens in the community. Also 7% of the population rented land from the community ownership, 10% have borrowed land, 0.6% of the land are owned by title bearers like chiefs due to their achievements while 2.8% of the population do not

have land at all. The results clearly show that majority (97.2%) of the population acquire land for various uses.

According to the focus group discussion, subsistence farming accounts for 90% of agricultural land use. It was estimated that about 5acres are owned by a household, and normally not more than 2 acres are given out for private rentage. The agricultural land use is divided into upland farming area accounting for 50% of a village land use wherein rice is intercropped with cassava, potatoes tubers and vegetables like okra, pepper, cucumbers and garden eggs. For this purposes, land is cultivated for 1-2years and abandoned for 7year (average) to fallow.

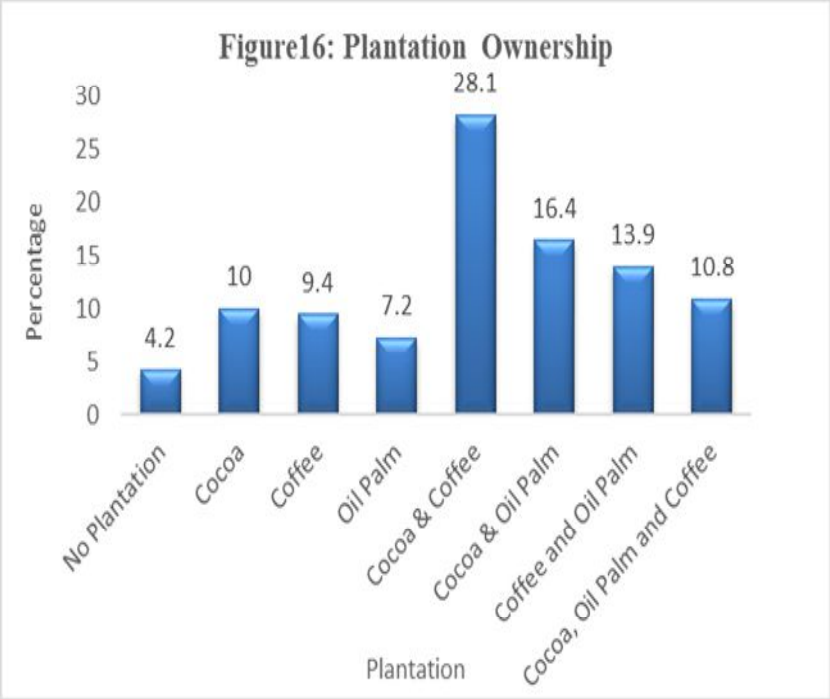


Source: Survey Data (2016)

The other land use is for swamp farming (25%) where only rice is cultivated in inland valley swamp. The third major land use is for plantation (25%) such as cocoa, coffee and palm oil that provide cash. Apart from these three major land use, selective logging of timber, artisanal mining for gold and diamond, and fishing are dominant within the communities.

2.4.3 Access to Plantation

Plantation is regarded as a wealth indicator because the cash crop is sold to generate income. There are three common plantations found in the community, Cocoa, Coffee and Oil Palm. Approximately 25% of the agricultural land are covered by plantation. Figure 16 shows that 28.1% of the population own both cocoa and coffee, 16.4% own cocoa and Oil Palm, 13.9% own coffee and oil palm while 10.8% own all three. There are 4.2% of the population that do not own any plantation while 10% own only cocoa, 9.4% own only coffee and 7.2% own only oil palm.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

The male household heads usually invest in the plantations (95.8%), typically producing coffee, cocoa, and palm oil in addition to other plantations of lesser degree such as bananas, pineapple and kola nuts. Due to the capital requirement for such investment, women are less likely to develop plantations. However, the focus group discussion revealed that, some women do own plantation crops mostly by inheritance or as benefactor from their spouses or parents. The average plantation size is 8 acres (ranging 0.5 to 282 acres).

2.4.4 Animal Husbandry

The majority (79.4%) of respondents keep livestock particularly poultry (chickens and ducks) to contribute to their incomes and provide food as indicated in the Table 9 below. The average livestock for poultry is 6 for household. Also 9.7% of the respondents keep sheep with an average of 3 per household , 7% keep goat with an average of 4 per household and 2.3% keep pigs with average of 6 per household while 1.7% keep cow with average of 3 per household.

Table 9: Animal Husbandry

Livestock	Average No per Household	Respondents	Percentage
Chicken	6	139	79.4
Sheep	3	17	9.7
Goat	4	12	7
Pigs	6	4	2.3
Cow	3	3	1.7
Total		**175**	**100**

Source: Survey Data (2016)

2.4.5 Access to Social Assets

The focus group discussions revealed that a village encourages cooperation which takes many forms. Generally, squad mates are those who were initiated in the "poro" and "bondo" secret societies in the same year. The cooperative members carry out heavy work of clearing and planting the upland farm, swamp and under brushing of plantation where possible as a rotational labour-sharing group. They also help to erect buildings. Agricultural groups are the most common form of community institutions found in all the Forest edge communities. The female members are responsible for weeding and scaring animals.

There is a strong sense of community and a spirit of cooperation geared toward weaker members of each community. The fact that there is cooperation found in various forms in theses villages indicates that the development of groups will be possible in future.

2.4.6 Access to Financial Assets

2.4.6.1 Savings and Microcredit

The focus group discussion revealed that villages do not have community banks for saving cash or microcredit facilities. The vast majority have no access to any form of credit and do not know how to access it. Barriers such as the distance from the financial institutions, lack of infrastructure, lack of awareness, high interest rates, lack of groups being formed to share loans together and lack of collateral, as well as scare stories about people losing everything when they are unable to pay, make many people skeptical about microcredit. However, village savings and loan schemes (VSLS) have been operated for several years and the members use the scheme to save their little earnings to acquire capital for other activities. Because of the subsistence nature of the agriculture however, community members do not generate significant income and therefore do not have any cash left over after their living expenses including payment for children's school fees.

2.4.6.2 Investments

The major investment is plantation of cash crop which ranges between 8 and10 acres per household. A few people have investments in mining by offering their land and sharing the profit that comes out of the mining. Others have leased their land for cocoa and oil palm planation as an investment. There is a general lack of start-up capital to put down as deposits or bonds for medium scale investment. The communities have little education on microcredit and would welcome more loans institutions to reach out to them.

2.4.7 Access to Skills

Generally there is a broad range of skill-sets carried by community members. These include generic skilled which apply specifically to each gender related to specific expertise. However, there is also and unskilled labour present in the community which is the greatest asset for community participant. Women are more involved in small scale businesses than men and in weaving or pottery for those with specific skills in these artisanal work. Men are better skilled in artisanal trades such as carpentry or building. Arable and livestock farming in addition to fishing are the areas in which there are the greatest skills and experience base. Typical artisanal activities include weaving, carpentry, masonry, lumbering, potting, indigenous healing, blacksmithing and mechanics. The most common small businesses include vegetable selling, kiosks, small restaurants, local shops and hiring out grinding machines for maize and other crops. There is generally lack of capital and limited opportunities in the communities hence certain skills are underutilized

2.4.8 Assessment of Assets

During a plenary following group discussions various livelihood activities and assets were listed. The livelihood assessments in each chiefdom informed about the type of assets (also referred to as types of capital) available to communities as shown in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Access to Assets

Chiefdoms	Natural (nature, environment)	Human (skills and capacity)	Physical (services and infrastructure)	Social (community)	Financial Assets (Savings and credit).
Malema	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains. Valley, hills	Entrepreneurs, Agriculturists, livestock keeping, Carpentry, traditional healers, Carvings, weaving, making of bee hives, vegetables gardens	Roads, Mobile companies(Airtel and Africel networks for Communications. Schools Health centres	Social clubs, working group, Cocoa and Oil Palm Growers' association, Livestock keepers, Miners Association	Self Help group, Cooperatives Village Loan and Saving Scheme
Gaura	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Valleys, Hils	Traditional healers, Carpenter, farmers, Mechanics for bicycle repairs livestock keepers Blacksmiths.	Roads, Mobile companies(Airtel and Africel networks for Communications	Mulema working group, Vegetables farmers Associations. Farmers Ass. Cocoa farmers group.	Cocoa and Oil palm association, Vegetables farmers group. Osusu group
Nomo	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains, Plain lands, Valleys	Weaving, Farming, Carpentry, Fishing, Builders Livestock keepers, Bicycle repairs, Blacksmiths. Potters.	Poor road network, Mobile companies (Airtel and Africel networks for Communications.	Small business, Livestock keepers group, cash crop grower association	Self-Help, Farmers group. Social group
Tunkia	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains, Plain lands, Valleys	Traditional healers, Carpentry, farmers, bicycles repairs livestock keepers, miners	Poor road network, Mobile companies (Airtel and Africel networks for Communications.	Organized osusu working groups Agricultural group.	Social working groups.
Koya	Land, forest,	Farmers,	Poor road	Organized osusu	Self-lending group,

	Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains, Plain lands, Valleys and hills	Carpentry, Livestock keeping, Pot making, Weavers, Miners Small business, Local brew makers, teachers, traditional healers, blacksmithing brewing alcohol, brick making	network, Mobile companies (Airtel and Africel networks for Communications.	working groups Agricultural group. Small business, Livestock keepers group, cash crop grower association	Osusu group, Village Saving Group
Barri	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains, Plain lands, Valleys & Hills	Farmers, carpentry, Livestock keeping, Pot making, Weavers, Small business, Local brew makers, teachers, traditional healers, Nurses, Bricks makers	Poor road network, Mobile companies (Airtel and Africel networks for Communications.	Organized osusu working groups Agricultural group. Small business, Livestock keepers group, cash crop grower association	Self-lending group, Osusu group, Village Saving Group
Makpele	Land, forest, Rivers, Landscape, waterscape, Animals & plant species, Clean Air, Mountains, Plain lands, Valleys & Hills	Farmers, Carpentry, Livestock keeping, small business, Local brew makers, teachers, Traditional healers, Nurses, Bricks makers	Poor road network, Mobile companies (Airtel and Africel networks for Communications.	Organized osusu working groups Agricultural group. Small business, Livestock keepers group, cash crop grower	Self-lending group, Osusu group, Village Saving Group

Source: Survey Data (2016)

The people perceive their surrounding natural environment, including the river, forests and forest products, as being a source of natural capital, available in villages as shown in Table 10 above.
Natural assets provide communities with the resources they require for their livelihoods, these include:

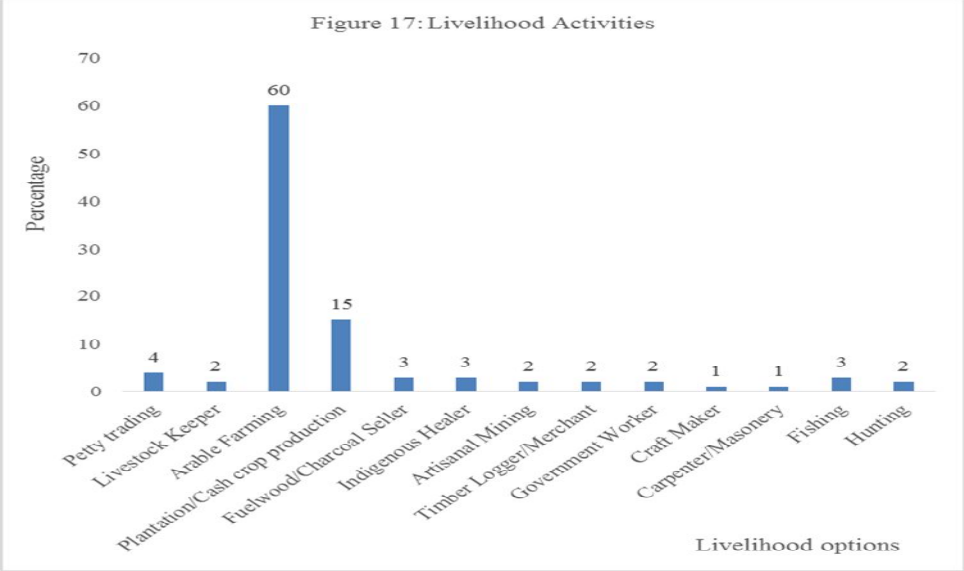
Forest Products: Medicines for healing; mushrooms, tubers, vegetables and fruits for eating.
Trees & Deadwood Fuelwood for cooking, blacksmithing, brewing alcohol, brick making (where not fired with rice husks); poles, thatch, ropes for building; charcoal for cooking and blacksmithing; timber extraction (limited) for sale; trees for locating hives for beekeeping (limited), wood for building hives, timber for carpentry/furniture making; wood for household utensils and making agricultural implements and weapons;
Water Rivers for water supply; fish for food and business, stones and sand
Climate Communities indicate the importance of forests in providing a climate conducive to good farming opportunities, particularly rainfall.

2.5 Livelihood Activities

The results in Figure 17 indicate that Agriculture is the most important livelihood activity with 60% of the population engage in arable farming and 15% in plantation/cash crop production. On average 75% of

households make a new farm each year with a farm size of average 3 acres (ranging from 0.5 to 15 acres). Forest or "farm-bush" is cleared and cultivated for one or two years to grow rice intercropped with yams, cassava, corn, beans and a variety of vegetables; these intercrops are worth approximately 25-50% of the total local food diversity. Land is then left to fallow for an average of 7 years period depending on many factors including soil fertility and land availability. Also an around 70% of villages cultivate swamps with an average farm sizes of 2 acres (ranging 0.5 to 15 acres). This result is in conformity with MAFFS (2004), which suggest that the net return on swamp rice is thus probably comparable to that from upland cultivation. Mostly women, strangers and young men cultivate swamp rice, while male headed households focus on the cultivation of upland and tree crops from which they receive better returns. Swamp farms generally yield more rice than upland farm, but require high labour to develop and cannot be inter-cropped.

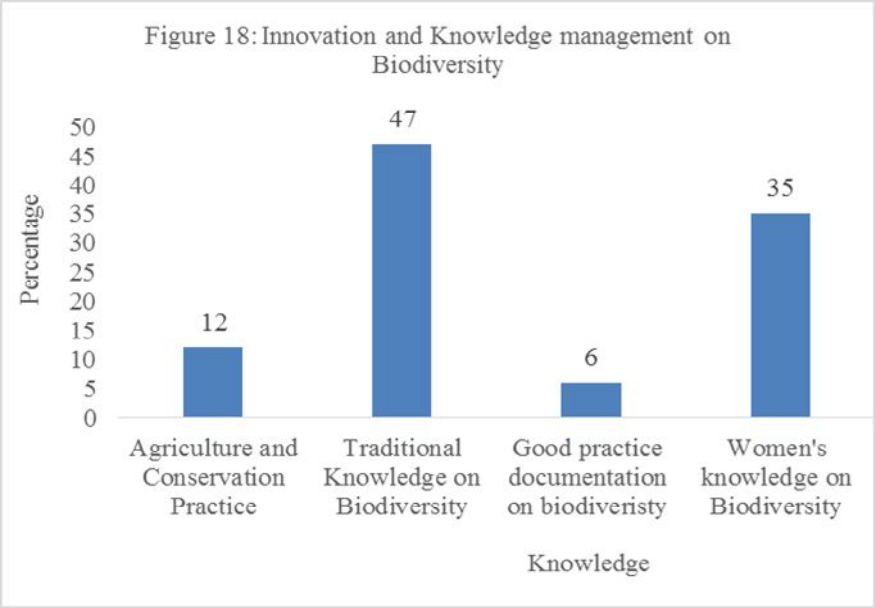
Petty Trading is another common livelihood activity with 4% the population engaged in it. Of other significant importance are fuel wood /charcoal collection, indigenous healer and fishing each accounting for 3% of the livelihood activities of the population.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

All livelihood activities in the communities are related to the natural resources. Apart from agricultural production, the villages embark on other complementary activities for both subsistence use and cash generation such as logging, mining, and hunting. Besides, the communities utilize both timber and non-timber forest products like honey, fruits, seeds, thatch, and rattan. Wild plant foods add variety to diets and are critical food supplements during the rainy season when there is hunger. Forest products as used as medicines and materials for construction. Others are use as household items like mortars, utensils, and baskets; all of which can sold to generate income. These natural resources are gathered primarily in leakage belt areas and plantations but also from the GRNP.

2.6 Innovation and Knowledge management on Biodiversity



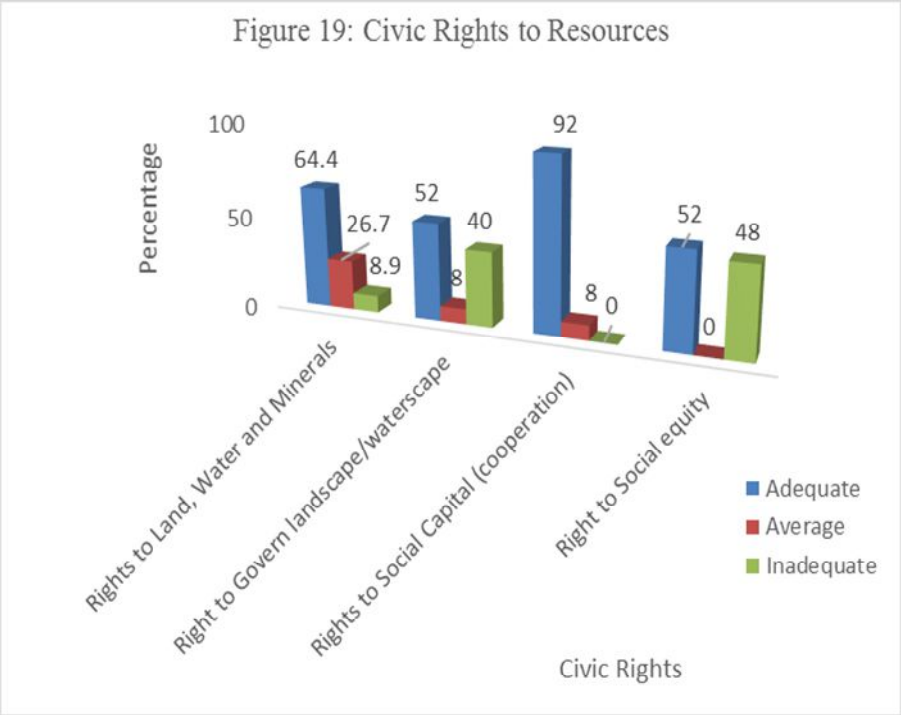
Source: Survey data (2016)

The results in Table 18 show the level of innovation and how knowledge is managed when technology is transferred to the community. These indicators determine the extent of their ability to adapt to changing situations for better coping mechanism and resilience in resource management. The results indicate that majority (47%) of the population still use traditional knowledge on biodiversity protection which include cash crop plantation to minimize soil erosion, while women (35%) have better knowledge on biodiversity conservation. Some women use solar pump for irrigation to produce vegetables, improve stoves for cooking and improve fish smoking stoves to reduce fuel wood consumption all related to climate change mitigation and directly conserve biodiversity. However, only 12% of the population use improve methods of agriculture and conservation practice and only half (6%) of these good practices are documented in the community. Clearly, women's knowledge, experiences and skills are recognized and respected in the community especially regarding farming activities.

2.7 Governance and Social Equity

Figure 19 below shows the civic rights to natural resources and social equity that the population enjoys. Majority (64.4%) of the population has adequate rights to land, water and minerals, 26.7% describe their rights as average and 8.9% says they have inadequate rights and these are mostly strangers that have settled in the community. Also 52% have adequate rights to govern landscape and waterscape, 8%, have average rights and 40% have inadequate rights but these are mostly women. Unfortunately, the culture do not allow women to administer over land ownership. This statement supports Leach (1994) who says that resources are not evenly distributed among the Mende of Gola, Sierra Leone and mostly women receive lesser share especially regarding land resources. As for rights to social capital (cooperation) 92% of the population have adequate rights, and only 8% have average rights. This means there is nobody in the villages without rights to social capital. Regarding rights to social equity, 52% has adequate rights and 48 % has

inadequate rights, generally the women say they do not have equal rights to cooperation and coordination in terms of natural resources management.



Source: Survey Data (2016)

3 Challenges and the Environmental and Social Impacts

There are enormous environmental and social effects resulting from the different livelihood activities discussed in this report. Some of these include:

Farming carried out in both upland areas and inland valley swamps, charcoal production and logging activities continuously increased human presence that may impact the behaviour of animals, and disturb the peaceful co-existence of different animal and plant species in the forest ecosystem leading to relocation of some animals to different ecosystems and habitats which contribute to reduction in species richness. Already, four species of mammals are listed as Endangered and five species as Vulnerable in the Gola Rainforest National Park.

Forest degradation occurs in the leakage belt via selective logging activities and artisanal mining but primary driver of deforestation is the conversion of forest into the bush for subsistence agriculture. Deforestation would reduce the size of the forest and have a direct impact on plant and animal biodiversity and an adverse impact on other taxa as many species are restricted to forest habitats and so are dependent on the availability of forest cover.

Artisanal mining activities can contribute to forest degradation because small areas are cleared of vegetation to access the minerals found in the soils. Areas chosen for mining often coincide with river courses or swampy areas and as a result there can be a negative impact on water quality and aquatic

organisms this statement is confirmed by Global Witness (2010) who reported that one of lessons learnt from the allocation of mining licenses in the Gola Forest Reserve was the result of poor water quality and destabilization of aquatic ecosystem.

Hunting, fishing, and gathering are widely reported to have been carried out by some members of forest edge communities; gun hunting is carried out by men as stated by Kümpel et al (2008) which gradually reduce the population of diurnal primates as it the case in continental Equatorial Guinea, fishing is primarily carried out by women and gathering by both men and women. There activities occurred as a supplement to activities in the farm bush areas. Bushmeat hunting according to Koroma (2012) is known to be one of the most important threats to primate and duiker populations and indiscriminate fishing normally accompanied by using poisons reduces the population of fish and kill other aquatic life and destabilizes the food chain.

4 Conclusions

The greatest livelihood activity of immense importance for conservation of the Gala rainforest National park is the conversion of forest into farm bush by agriculturalists through shifting cultivation as has been reported by Ickowitz (2006) and forest degradation due to selective logging and artisanal mining activities. Artisanal miners do not reclaim the lands, they leave it bear and open causing flooding during the rainy season. The mining activities pollute streams and rivers resulting in poor water quality for aquatic organisms (Payne 2009). Selective bushmeat hunting and charcoal production are also threats to the Gola Rainforest biodiversity. Based on the foregone, the prioritized strategic areas for SGP to provide long term solutions shall include:

- Introducing climate smart agricultural practices
- Improving the well-being of forest edge communities through the provision of support to improve socio-economic infrastructure such as schools, health services, water and sanitation, waste management and income generation activities.
- Support re-afforestation of degraded or deforested land and promote cash crop plantation
- Identify and support alternative livelihood strategies, including small scale business development, value addition and climate friendly innovative schemes
- Support chiefdom committees for the formulation and enforcement of bye-laws on biodiversity conservation and action plan
- Support to capacity building and promotion of multi-stakeholder platforms focusing on the management of natural resources
- Support to governance, social equity, environmental education and civil rights advocacy

5. Recommendations

Efforts should be garnered to maintain and enhance the connectivity between the forest blocks (1, 2 and 3) through conservation practices which will enable species to find different micro-climates and altitudinal gradients niches that will make Gola Rainforest a conducive refuge for migrating and permanent species.

Establish sustainable farming practices in forest edge communities that improve productivity on existing crop fallow land through training on improved farm practices and the provision of farming inputs to encourage more sustainable farming techniques and in the long term, to reduce hunger. Through support to CBOs, establish farmer field schools and demonstration fields for villages to improved practices for

growing and increasing yields of a variety of crops including upland/lowland rice, vegetables (such as sweet potatoes and hot pepper, okra, eggplant and onions etc), groundnuts and cassava in line with the food security pillar in AFP (2007).

Improve productivity and farmer income from cocoa and other cash crop production and diversify sustainable income generating activities. Support farmers interested in rehabilitating and improving the management of their cocoa plantations to have adequate know-how to replace trees that are too old or diseased to improve productivity.

Support forest edge communities to achieve financial independence by removing the barriers to access cash to develop alternative livelihood activities or support agricultural development. Households in forest edge communities have limited access to financial resources and no means to secure small loans or access to any secure method of saving money. Support these communities to develop internal, self-sustaining systems for savings and lending. Improve their knowledge and skills through training to better manage their own scarce financial resources as was suggested by Richards (2012) for improving the livelihoods interventions. Provide training on group management skills such as organizing meetings, keeping basic financial records and initiating basic business planning are necessary packages. Support or facilitate skills development in numeracy, bookkeeping and following policies and procedures; social assets through electing a committee and drafting a constitution.

Support the well-being and resource governance capacity of forest edge communities whilst maintaining a biological diversity forest. Support the development and implementation of co-management agreements to ensure better governance of the National Park through enforcement of regulations by the forest edge communities as was stated in NBSAP (2002). Support processes for developing chiefdom management plans to enable the community use zones to be sustainable, well managed areas generating products of commercial value which can be used to increase the income of the forest edge communities.

Support community to develop land use mapping and map areas that were used in the past for resources and cultural activities.

Support environmental awareness and promote community participation in the management of the GRNP. Empower forest edge communities with the knowledge and skills to engage in raising awareness on a range of environmental issues from climate change, to endangered species and co-management to sustainable land use planning. Provide trainings on roadshows for forest edge communities, particularly adults, establish nature clubs in secondary schools, in collaboration with Environmental Protection Agency, youths volunteer scheme for short turns volunteering in activities such as boundary brushing, biodiversity monitoring, trail cutting, tour guiding, and patrolling with the forest rangers. Provide basic training on park management and research.

Increase accessibility to education facilities such as primary and secondary schools for the long term social and ecological development of the area. Education is key to understanding the importance of developing a sound *sustainable* livelihoods and forest management. Primary responsibility for increasing access to education lies with the government but SGP can help to improve the system and education levels in the area.

Promote renewable energy supply and continued education about and introduction of fuel-efficient stoves.

Promote the establishment of Village Forest Reserves (VFR) for each chiefdom using Participatory Forest Management (PFM). Encourage villages to allocate some of their land to develop VFRs using cash crops, this will offer sufficient long term economic and ecological gains by mot using that land for farming or outgrowing purposes. Develop knowledge in tree planting and how to manage resources sustainably. Support to increase the supply of equipment and tools to manage tree nurseries and tree planting programmes. Promote market economics within the tree planting programme to foster a sense of ownership and sustainability

VALIDATION WORKSHOP

A stakeholder validation workshop was conducted Saturday on 28th May 2016 to validate the outcomes presented in the baseline assessment report. Stakeholders were drawn from the 7 chiefdoms in the three districts within which Gola Forest is located and these included the following:

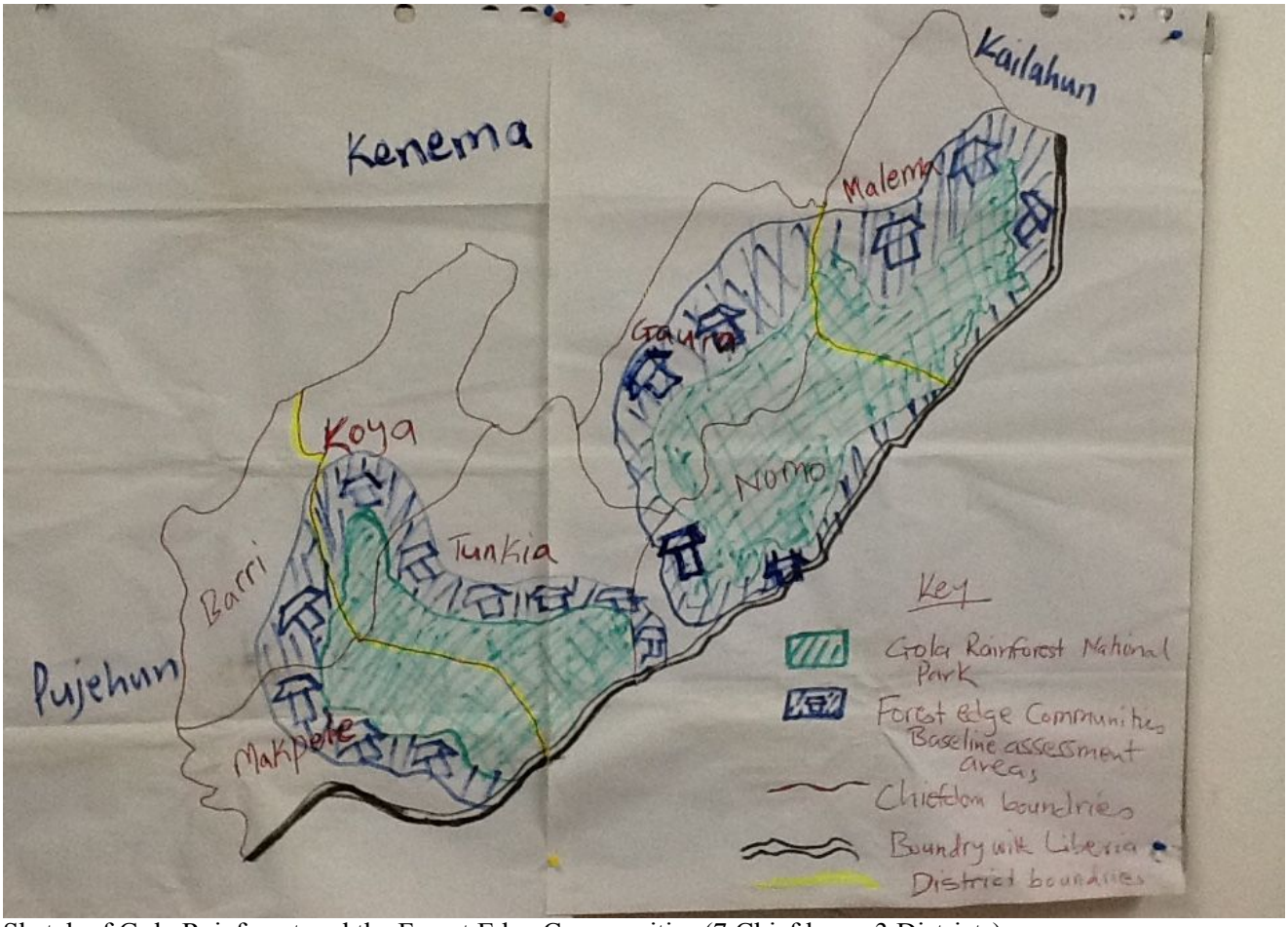
- Representative(s) of the District Councils in Kailahun, Kenema and Pujehun
- Representative(s) of Non-Formal Education Division;
- Representative(s) of the Sierra Leone Police Force;
- Representative(s) of the Sierra Leone National Fire Force;
- Representative(s) of the Paramount Chiefs;
- Representative(s) of the Chiefdom Speakers;
- Representative(s) of the Sectional Chiefs;
- Representative(s) of the District Officers;
- Representative(s) of the Health care facilities/Providers;
- Representative(s) of the nearby (to study area) communities;
- Representative(s) of landowners;
- Representative(s) of the men, women and youth groups;
- Representative(s) of the House owners;
- Representative(s) of Traditional Healers;
- Representative(s) of the Business People;
- Representative(s) of the Project Area People (PAPs);
- Representative(s) of the Transporters (Okada, Poda-poda, taxi, truck, etc)
- Researchers;
- Local Councilors;
- Representatives of NGOs/CBOs, etc;
- Opinion leaders (Imams, Reverend Fathers/Pastors, etc) and;
- Representatives of farmers (crops and animals), gari processors, charcoal producers, fishermen, hunters, etc.

A summary of the key findings of the baseline assessment report were presented to the participants who made their inputs, comments and recommendations.

Participants' validation of baseline results

During this session the participants were divided into two groups, Group one consisted of representatives from Makpele, Barri Tunkia and Koya Chiefdoms and Group two consisted of Nomo, Gaura and Malema chiefdoms. There were no other characteristics for the grouping other than convenience for facilitation. The Participants drew spatial map of Gola Rainforest located within the 7 chiefdoms and labelled each

chiefdom. Each group analyzed threats and suggested mitigations for Gola Rainforest National Park which were presented by a rapporteur. This was followed by a session were participants wrote down the general challenges and general mitigations for the forest edge communities. These were presented on post-it and placed on the map that they drew.



Sketch of Gola Rainforest and the Forest Edge Communities (7 Chiefdoms, 3 Districts)

Group One
Threat Analysis
The threat identified include:

- Illegal mining without license and non-land reclamation of mines
- Conversion of forest to farm bush due to shifting cultivation
- Cutting down of trees for charcoal production
- Chemical pollution of land and water bodies by miners and fishermen
- Indiscriminate burning of forest and vegetation in dry season
- Illegal logging of timber
- Bush meat hunting

- Fuel wood collection
- Herbs collection
- Humans entering the forest to get food supplements and other forest resources causing destabilization of ecosystem

Mitigation Strategies

- No mining, enforce laws and train forest guards for patrol
- Land mapping for farm cultivation enforcement of by-laws
- Reforestation of degraded areas,
- Planting of economic trees
- Plant trees like that can be used for charcoal and fuel wood
- Use fishing nets and hook line for fishing
- Clear the demarcation to protect fire
- Enforce by-laws for logging and hunting
- Encourage animal husbandry
- Support community with livelihood options such as fish farming, IVS cultivation, SMEs and business skills development.
- Embark on cash crop production
- Support with micro credit
- Introduce climate change agriculture

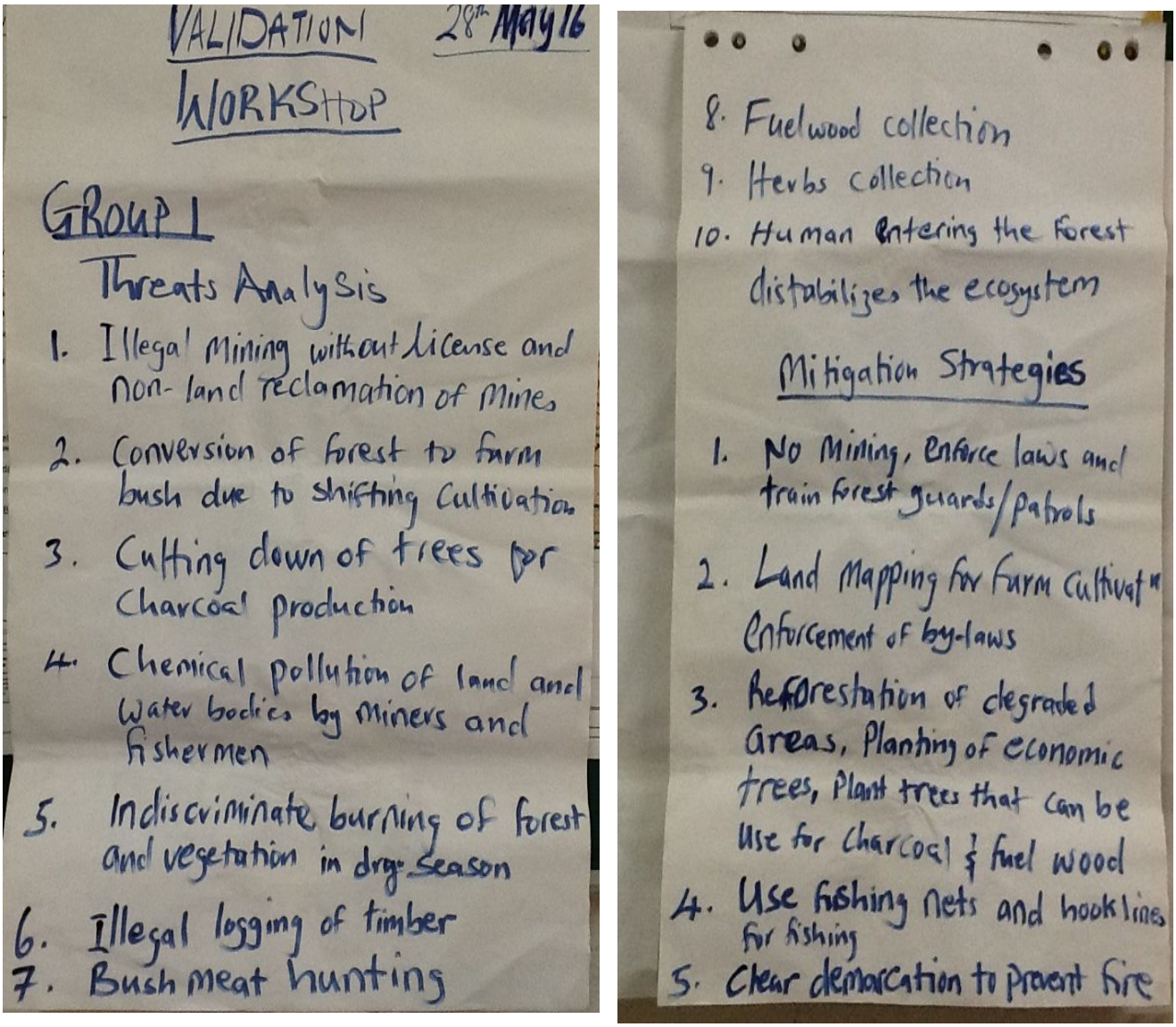
Group Two
Threats Analysis

- Farming in the vicinity of the forest, using more upland to cultivate land for rice growing
- Logging –Commercial timber sales and domestic timber requirement for building purposes
- Stone mining
- Mining of mineral deposit
- Use of chemicals for agriculture and mining
- Cutting down of trees for charcoal and fuel wood
- Bush clearing for housing
- Bush meat hunting
- Poor waste management
- Poor hygiene and sanitation
- Lack of innovation to manage the natural resources; land, water and forest
- Wild bush fire in dry season
-

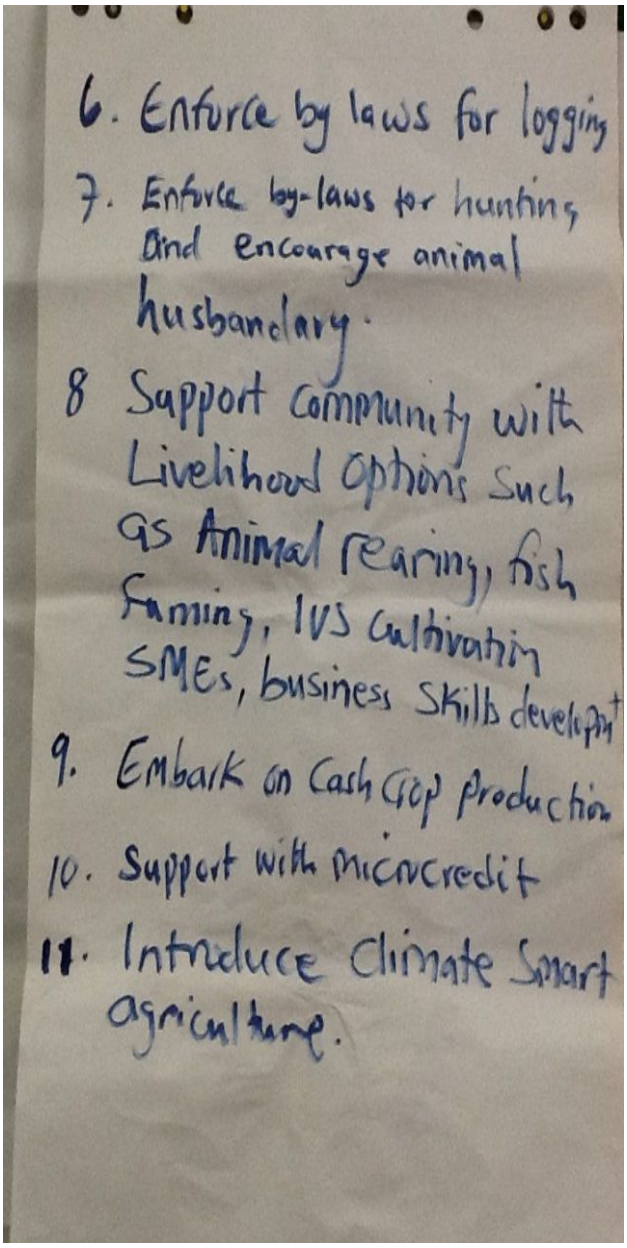
Mitigation

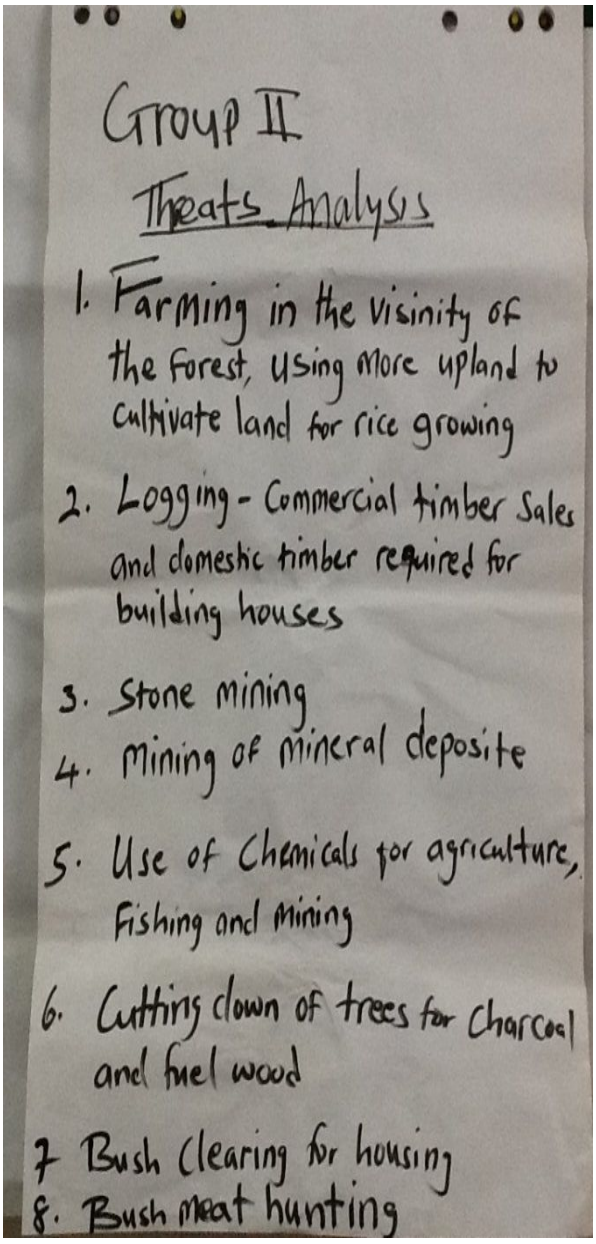
- Regulate the issuing of licenses for mining and logging
- Afforestation of degraded land
- Reclamation of mine

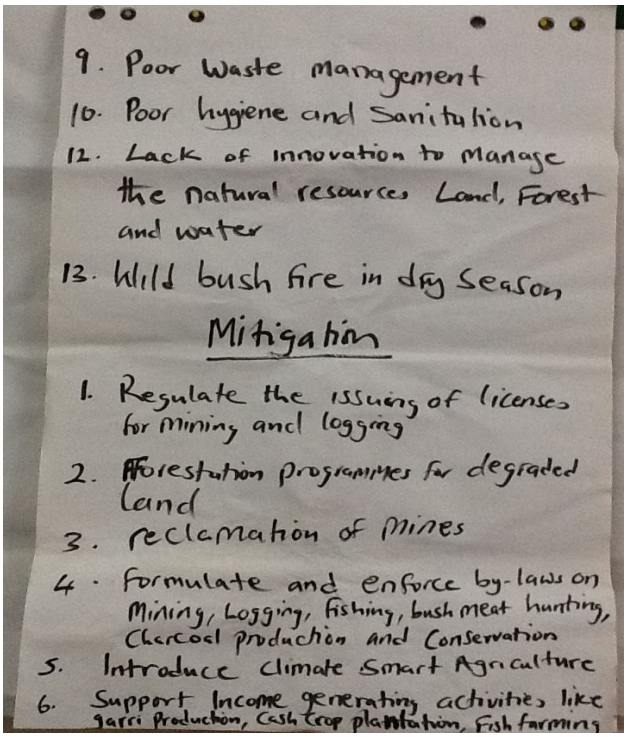
- Formula and enforce by-laws on mining, logging, fishing, bush meat hunting, charcoal production and conservation
- Introduce climate smart agriculture
- Support income generating activities such as garri production, cash crop plantation, fish farming, vegetable production, microcredit and animal husbandry.
- Capacity development for co-management of Gola Rainforest,
- Environmental management. Waste and chemical management and environmental friendly utilization of the land.



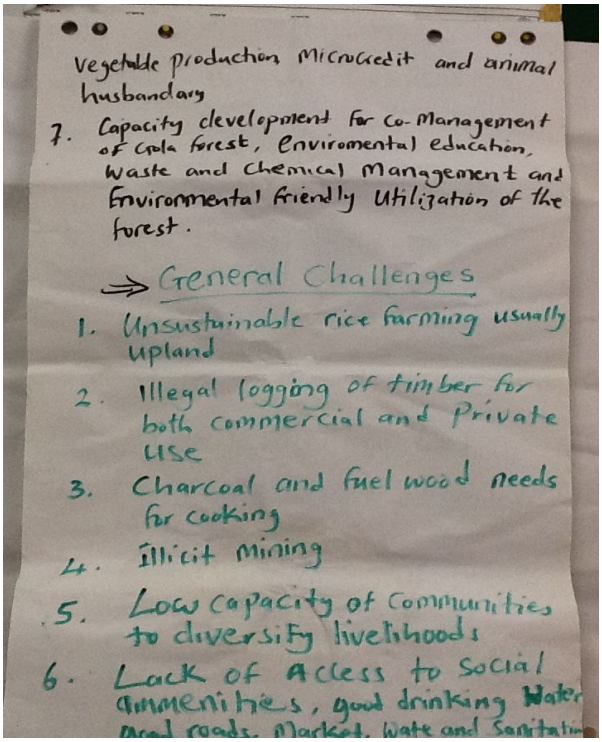
Group 1: Presentation on Threats and Mitigation


6. Enforce by laws for logging
7. Enforce by-laws for hunting and encourage animal husbandary.
8 Support community with Livelihood Options Such as Animal rearing, fish faming, IVS Cultivatin SMEs, busines Skills developt
9. Embark on Cash Crop production
10. Support with microcredit
11. Introduce Climate Smart agriculture.


Group II
Threats Analysis
1. Farming in the visinity of the forest, using more upland to cultivate land for rice growing
2. Logging - Commercial timber Sales and domestic timber required for building houses
3. Stone mining
4. Mining of mineral deposite
5. Use of Chemicals for agriculture, Fishing and mining
6. Cutting down of trees for Charcoal and fuel wood
7 Bush Clearing for housing
8. Bush meat hunting



Group 2: Presentation on Threat and Mitigation



General Challenges of Forest Edge Communities

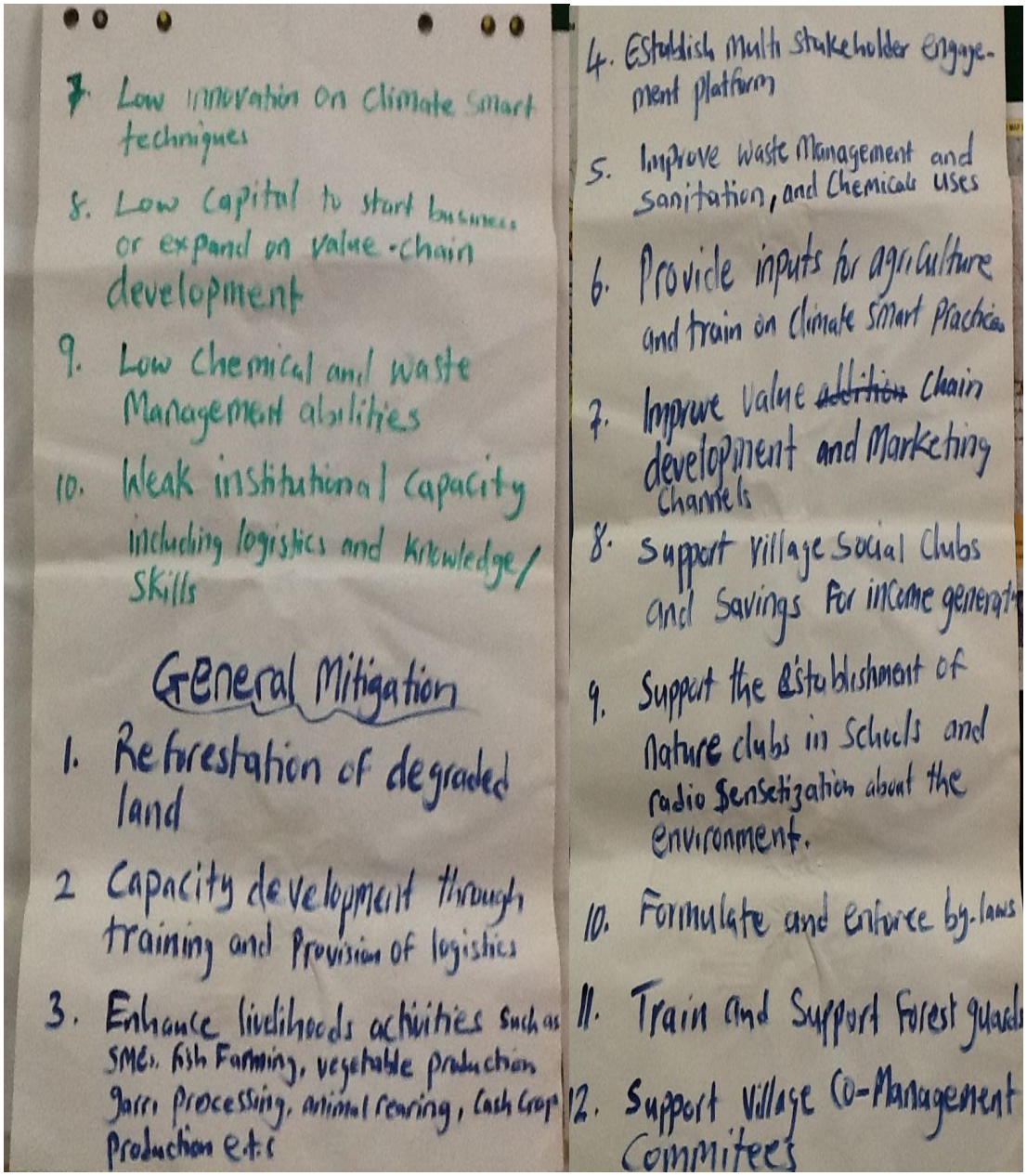
General Challenges

- Unsustainable rice farming usually upland leading to clearing of large area of forest.
- Illegal logging of timber for both comercial and private use
- Charcoal and fuel wood needs for cooking and domestic use
- Illicit mining
- Low capacity of communities to divrsify their livelihood activities
- Lack of access to social amenities: good & safe drinking water, good roads, market, water and sanitation,
- Low innovation on climate techniques
- Low capital to start business or expand on value chain development
- Low chemical and waste management knowhow or abilities
- Weak institutional capacity including logistics and knowledge/skills

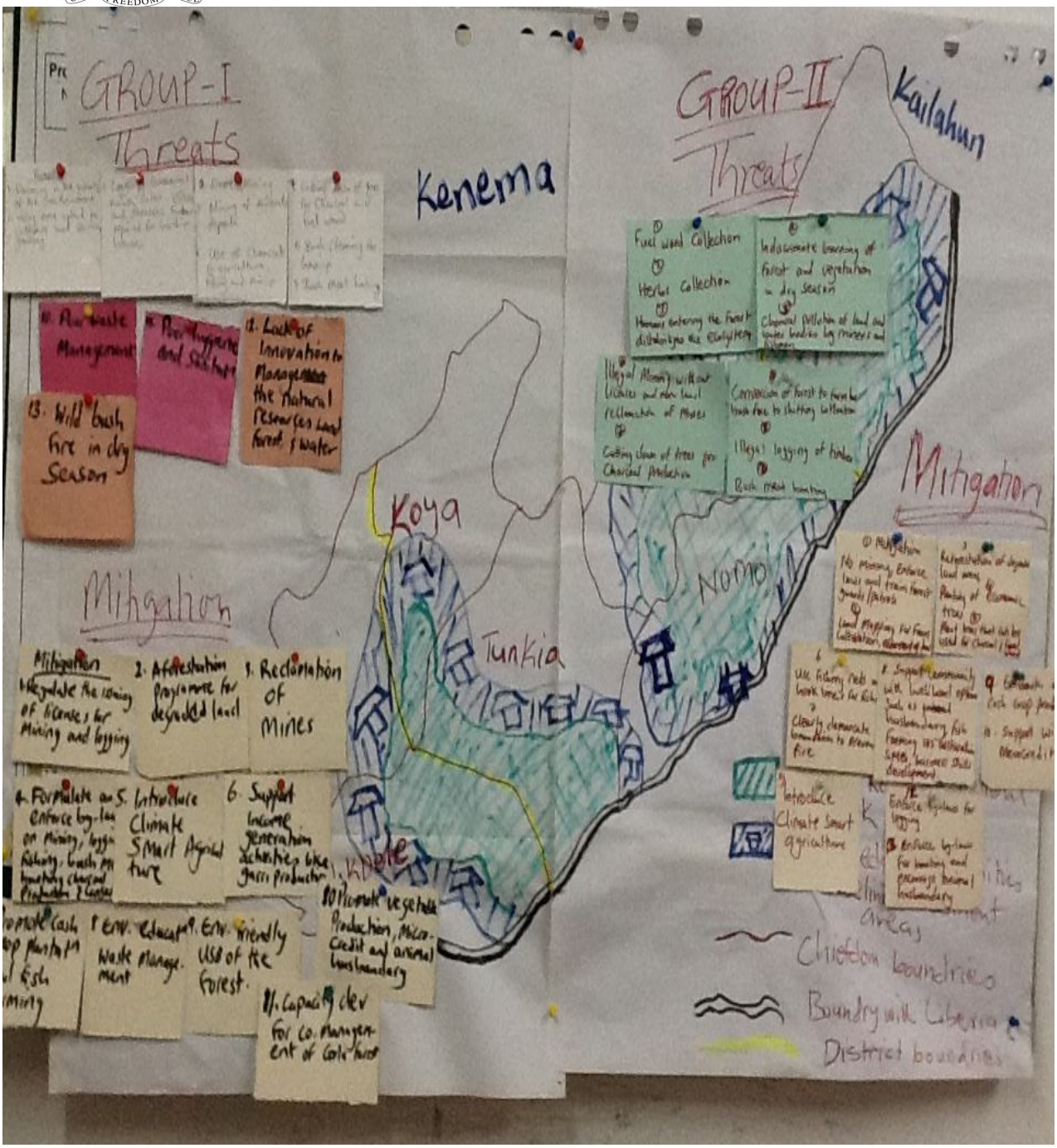
General Mitigations

- Reforestation of degraded land
- Capacity development through training and provision on logistics
- Enhance livelihood activities such as SMEs, fish farming, vegetable production, garri processing, animal rearing, cash crop production etc.
- Establish multi-stakeholder engagement platform
- Improve waste management and sanitation, and chemical uses
- Provide inputs for agriculture and train farmers on climate smart practices
- Improve value chain development and marketing channels

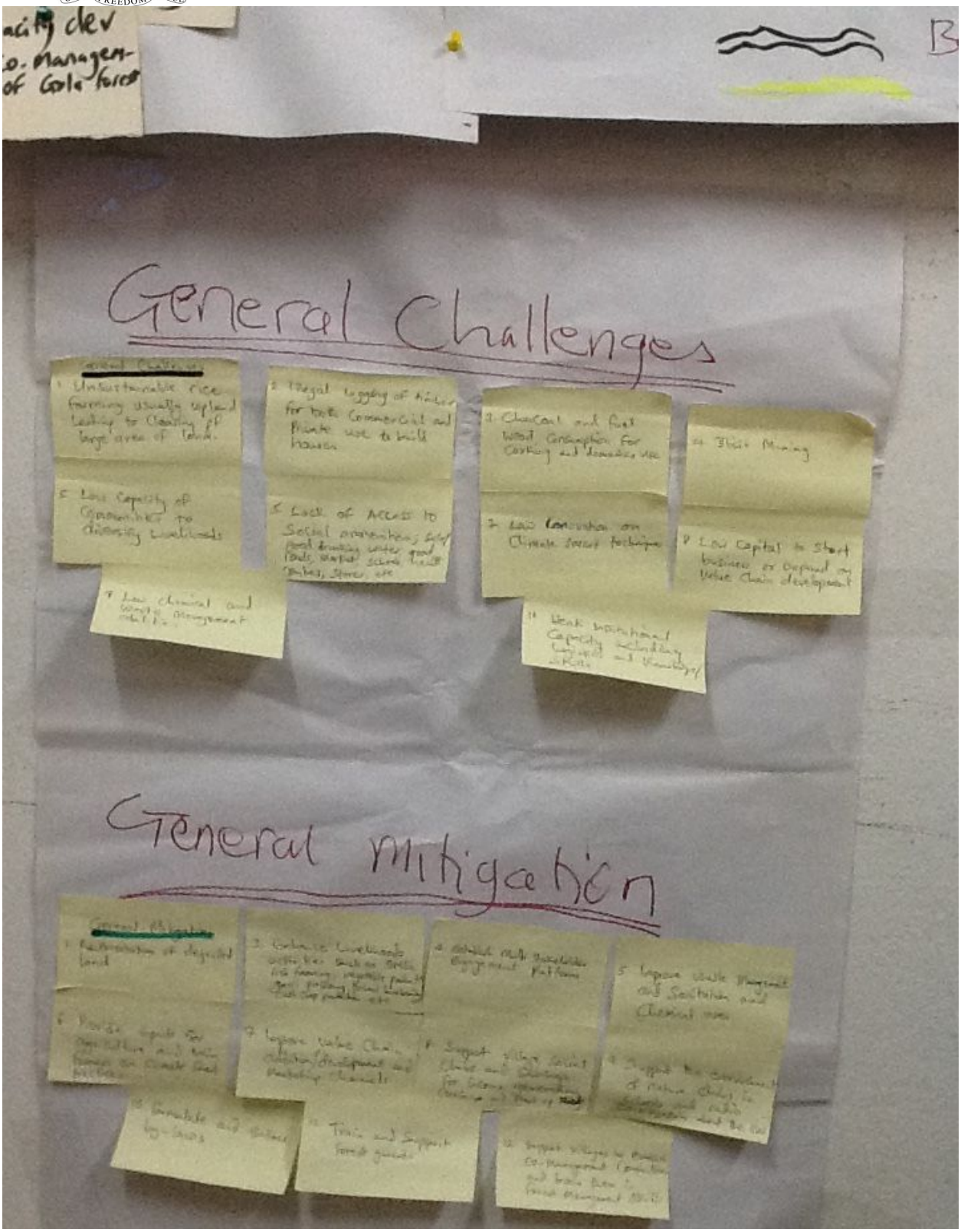
- Support village social clubs and savings for income generation
- Support the establishment of nature clubs in schools and radio sensitization about the environment
- Formulate and enforce by-laws
- Train and support forest guards
- Support village co-management committees



General Mitigations proposed by Forest Edge Communities



Threats and Mitigations from Groups 1&2


General Challenges
General mitigation

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Appendix II Community Stakeholders

ANNEX II

REPORT

ON

MULTI STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND SCOPING EXERCISE

FOR

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME OP6

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY ELABORATION

SIERRA LEONE

BY:
INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY CONTROL
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ACRONYMS

CBO Community Based Organization
CSO Civil Society Organization
EPA Environment Protection Agency
GEF Global Environment Facility
IPs Implementing Partners
IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MAFFS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
MDAs Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NGO Non- Governmental Organization
NPAA National Protected Area Authority
NSC National Steering Committee
OP5 Fifth Operational Phase
OP6 Sixth Operational Phase
SGP Small Grants Programme
SIM Stakeholder Identification Matrix
STEWARD Sustainable & Striving Environments for West African Regional Development
UNDP United Nations Development Programme

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 General Introduction

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) was established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, with the aim to provide sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". The Small Grant Programme is a GEF corporate programme, implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). GEF-SGP provides both financial and technical supports to small scale projects implemented by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Based Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for conserving and restoring the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. The grant enables CSOs/CBOs and NGOs in developing countries to tackle global environmental challenges while addressing local sustainable development needs.

In November 2015, the Small Grant Programme advertised for an Environmental Expert to provide technical support for the development of a Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the 6th Operational Phase (2015 – 2018) for Sierra Leone. The Institute of Environmental Management and Quality Control (IEMQC) was selected through an evaluation process by the National Steering Committee and notified in December 2015 to undertake the work. The Institute is a department in the School of Environmental Sciences at Njala University. Among its core responsibilities are teaching and research, capacity building and community outreach programmes. It has staff with the requisite experience and expertise in landscape/seascape management, multi stakeholder participatory processes and community-led initiatives as well as knowledge across the GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, sustainable forest management, international waters, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and capacity building).

In developing the Country Programme Strategy for SGP 6th Operational Phase, Multi Stakeholder Consultations involving community representatives is considered to be an integral component of informed decision-making and has been included as step one of the process. It aims to ensure that as many people as possible who are connected with the environment: land, water and forest use or are affected by decisions in this regard have the opportunity to be consulted about their needs and concerns prior to a decision being made. The stakeholders and community reinforced this requirement through the consultation process. This report presents a multi-stakeholder consultation and scooping exercise for the development of a CPS for SGP OP6.

1.2 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to generate information for selecting a landscape/seascape for further assessment to produce a Country Programme Strategy (CPS) document for Sierra Leone that will guide Small Grants Programme towards grant making during the 6th Operational Phase. This is one of the three key steps in achieving this: i) **consultations and scoping exercise, ii) selected landscape/seascape baseline assessment and iii) country programme strategy finalization based on steps 1 &2 above.**

The objective of this portion of the assignment was to provide technical support to:
Carryout multi stakeholder consultations and scoping exercise extending beyond the NSC to involve relevant stakeholders from government, civil society, UNDP country office, sector agencies and other partners. Its purpose is to identify the niche of SGP for programming in the sixth operational phase in order to deliver the strategic impact expected in terms of the OP6 directions and initiatives.

Specifically, this report presents results of the consultation and scoping process with the key agreement on selected landscapes/seascape by stakeholders for the CPS development in with step one of the

assignment. The landscape/seascape approach will be further elaborated in step two and the final CPS produced at the end of step three.

2. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION METHOD

The consultations and scooping exercise started with a stakeholder mapping and prioritization based on their strategic positioning regarding the Environment and Natural Resources utilization and management in Sierra Leone. An initial prospective stakeholders' list was developed by the grantee and matched against the main components of the project such as the location features, the project environment and the potential impacts in a matrix referred to as Stakeholder Identification Matrix (SIM) shown in Table 1 below. The SIM was used to identify the various institutions with respect to their relevance to be involved in the stakeholder consultations and scooping exercise. The list was shared with the National Steering Committee (NSC) in a half day workshop in Freetown and the NSC made comments/inputs after which it was finalized. Based on the final list, a questionnaire and discussion guide were designed to undertake the multi stakeholder consultative and scoping exercise to generate the desired information on landscape/seascapes and agree on SGP intervention area. The consultations were stratified by national and community levels and lasted for four weeks. The targeted respondents were heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), representatives of CSOs and NGOs at national level, and representatives of CBOs and chiefdom authorities at the community level. In total 33 respondents were interviewed across the country from different walks of life but mainly connected with land, water and forest use and management. Nearly 50% of the respondents were from the CSOs/CBOs and NGOs, 20% was from institutions/Agencies and 30% from the community.

In addition, the Consultant carried out an exhaustive review of reports and made field visitation to completed and ongoing SGP projects to collect success stories, failures, deviations, challenges, best practices and lessons learnt from the implementation of the past SGP OP5.

It should be noted however that not all of the stakeholders initially proposed by the consultant were reached because the Consultant largely pre-finance this exercise. The remaining institutions contributed during the baseline assessment. The representatives consulted were from the following organizations/institutions:

1. National Steering Committee - NSC (GEF/SGP)
2. Environment Protection Agency - Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)
3. National Protected Areas Authority - (NPAA)
4. SGP Grantee (CBOs, & NGOs)
5. Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, UNDP, Freetown
6. Paramount Chiefs/representatives
7. Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security
8. Civil society organizations,
9. Local Councils,
10. Community representatives
11. Statistics Sierra Leone

Table 1. Stakeholder Identification Matrix (SIM)

No.	Issues / Institution	NSC	EPA-SL	NPAA	SGP Grantees	MAFFS	UNDP	Paramount Chief/Rep	Stat. SL	Community	Local Council	Civil Society
1	Siting of Study area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	The list of the Country Programme Strategies to be reviewed	√	√	√	√	√	√					
3	List of relevant conventions Sierra Leone has ratified	√	√	√	√	√	√					√
4	Relief, Land Use and Land Cover Changes (2001, 2008 and 2016) in the study area	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
5	Plant species and characteristics in the study area	√	√	√	√	√	√					
6	Information on the Geology and Soil of the study area	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		
7	Annual Rainfall and Evaporation data of the study area	√	√	√	√	√	√					
8	Demographic Characteristics of the individual communities in the study area (i.e., estimated population, growth rates, percentage land take of the study area in relation to Sierra Leone, literacy percent of 11 yrs old and above, gender literacy percent, school attendance percent of 3 yrs and above, economically active percent of population aged 15 yrs and above, percent employment, percents of economically active/not active, percent employed / unemployed, types and percents of kinds of economic activities engaged in, etc)	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	
9	Population (both rural and urban) of the study communities between the 80's and 2020 at 5-year intervals (to see population change over time)	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	
10	Maps [(i) of the project/study Area, (ii) of the Geology of Project Area, (iii) of the Soil of the Project Area, (iv) of the Elevation of the Project Area, (v) 2001, 2006 and 2015 Land use land cover of the Project Area, (vi) Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI) of the Project Area (2001-2015)]	√	√	√	√		√		√	√		√

The consultation process included the following stages:

a) ***Communications, outreach and capacity development about OP6 and its strategic initiatives.*** The consultant liaised with existing community structures including the district and city councils, the National Steering Committee, the civil society networks and utilized telephone directories,

email contacts and local council meetings to reach the wider population and communicate with the target groups. In the process, this enabling environment made it possible to explain about the assignment and raise awareness about the SGP OP6 initiative focusing on landscape/seascape development, and the need for stakeholder cooperation during the consultation and scooping exercise. Meetings were organized by appointments.

b) ***Multi-stakeholder consultations.*** The consultant undertook a wide range of consultations in order to achieve a broad consensus on the SGP approach in OP6. There were face-to-face consultations and email based interviews, focus group discussions with question and answer sessions and clarifications. The stakeholders included the UNDP Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Unit, SGP National Steering Committee, National Protected Area Authority (NPAA), Environment Protection Agency, Min. of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security, SGP National Coordinator and registered civil society organizations, District and City Councils, Paramount Chiefs/representatives and community representatives.

c) ***Selection of the landscape/seascape area(s) of focus***. Based on the consultations with various stakeholders, and considering SGP's niche, the opportunities, challenges, and potential for synergies for OP6, the Consultant ranked the findings and made recommendations for a landscape to be selected based on concrete justifications from available information with the technical knowledge of the Environmental expert consultant.

d) ***Grant-making outside the selected landscape/seascape area(s)***. This report solicited information about twenty-one (21) landscape/seascapes which includes National Parks, community forest reserves, proposed forest reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and wetland of government interest. Discussions included the possibilities of utilizing some of the SGP funds to support projects outside the selected landscape for relevant environmental protection. In this regards criteria were proposed for prioritization of projects to benefit from this initiative. The criteria include inspiring projects for upscaling that were supported during the OP5 and falls within the OP6 niche. Other priority for this category include capacity building projects for CBOs, CSOs and NGOs.

2.1 Stakeholder Consultations and Engagement Plan

Consultation guideline and other interview guides such as the semi-structured questionnaire (Annex 2) were prepared to facilitate the required engagement with the stakeholders identified in table 1 above. The target group covers a large cross-section with a well-balanced gender & age representation. The consultation involved:

- identification (and often supply) of key information for the study
- identification of key issues of concern regarding landscape/seascape selection
- justification of appropriate strategies for the selected landscape
- Recommendations of criteria for selection of projects outside the selected landscape

At the community level, public meetings were held in several locations following procedures that included: invitation, attendant list, agenda and discussions. Further consultations were conducted during the baseline assessment in step two (2) from **28th April, 2016 to 5th May 2016**. The engagement plan is presented in Annex 3. The participants were drawn from the selected landscape (from both upstream and downstream).

- Representative(s) of the District Councils [District(s) of selected study area(s)];
- Representative(s) of Non-Formal Education Division;
- Representative(s) of the Sierra Leone Police Force;
- Representative(s) of the Sierra Leone National Fire Force;
- Representative(s) of the Paramount Chiefs;
- Representative(s) of the Chiefdom Speakers;
- Representative(s) of the Sectional Chiefs;
- Representative(s) of the District Officers;
- Representative(s) of the Health care facilities/Providers;
- Representative(s) of the nearby (to study area) communities;
- Representative(s) of landowners;
- Representative(s) of the men, women and youth groups;
- Representative(s) of the House owners;
- Representative(s) of Traditional Healers;
- Representative(s) of the Business People;
- Representative(s) of the Project Area People (PAPs);
- Representative(s) of the Transporters (Okada, Poda-poda, taxi, truck, etc)
- Researchers;
- Local Councilors;
- Representatives of NGOs/CBOs, etc;
- Opinion leaders (Imams, Reverend Fathers/Pastors, etc) and;
- Representatives of farmers (crops and animals), gari processors, charcoal producers, fishermen, hunters, etc.

2.2 Rationale for Stakeholder Involvement

Public involvement in the consultation processes ensured transparency. Relevant stakeholders including institutions, organisations, individuals, families and communities likely to be impacted (positively) by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) Sixth Operational Phase (OP6) were targeted. This process has laid down a solid foundation to avoid potential conflicts and minimise future misunderstandings. It is hoped that the process will promote the feeling of ownership and cooperation and also build good rapport. For these reasons, both institutional and community representatives with decision making authority were involved. The institutions identified for consultation have regulatory mandates or some oversight responsibilities for the sector in which the programme falls. The public on the other hand are the local people, individuals or communities likely to benefit from the programme.

3 FINDINGS

One key finding of the consultation is an enumeration of 21 landscapes/seascapes consisting of various wildlife sanctuaries, protected areas, forest reserves and wetlands as presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Landscapes/seascapes identified in Sierra Leone

No	LANDSCAPE/ SEASCAPE	LEGAL STATUS	IUCN CATEGORIES	AREA	DISTRICT	COORDINATES
1	Outamba-kilimi National Park	NP (Declared in 1995)	National Park	110,900	Bombali & Kambia	$11^0$30-$13^0$00W, $9^0$30-$10^0$00N
2	Gola Rainforests National Park	NP (Declared in 2010)	National Park	75,000	Kailahun, Kenema & Pujehun	$10^0$30-$11^0$00W, 7^0-$8^0$00N
3	Loma Mountains National Park	NP (Declared in 2012)	National Park	33,201	Koinadugu	$11^0$00-$11^0$30W, 9^0-$9^0$30N
4	Western Area Peninsular National Park	NP (Declared in 2012)	National Park	17,688	Western Area	$13^0$00-$13^0$30w, 8^0-$8^0$30N
5	Kuru Hills	Proposed Forest Reserve	-	7,001.21	Bombali & Kambia	$12^0$0-$12^0$30W, $9^0$30-$10^0$00N
6.	Kangari Hills	Non-Hunting Forests Reserve	Species Management Area	8,473.6	Bo & Tonkolili	$11^0$30-$12^0$00W, $8^0$00-$9^0$00N
7	Tingi Hills (SankaBiriwa)	Forests Reserve	Species Management Area	11,747.6	Kono	$10^0$30-$11^0$00W, $8^0$30-$9^0$00N
8	Kambui Hills	Forests Reserves	Species Management Area	21,228	Kenema	$11^0$00-$11^0$30W, $7^0$30 - $8^0$00N
9	Nimi Hills	Forests Reserve	Species Management Area	-	Kono	$11^0$00-$11^0$30W, $8^0$00-$9^0$00N
10	Bojeni Hills	Forests Reserve	Propose Protected Area	-	Bo, Kenema & Pujehun	$11^0$30-$12^0$00W, $7^0$30-$8^0$00N
11	Kasewe Hills	Forests Reserve	Species Management Area	-	Moyamba	$12^0$0-$12^0$30W, $8^0$00-$8^0$30N
12	Tiwai Island	Game Sanctuary	Game sanctuary – co-manage with MDAs and communities	1,200	Pujehun & Kenema	$11^0$0-$11^0$30W, $7^0$30 - $8^0$00N
13	Lake Sonfon	Game Sanctuary	co-manage with MDAs and communities	5,180	Koinadugu	$11^0$0-$12^0$00W, $9^0$0-$9^0$30N
14	Lake Mape&Mabesi	Game sanctuary	Co-manage with MDAs and communities	7,511	Pujehun	$11^0$30-$12^0$00W, 7^0-$7^0$30N
15	Mamunta - Mayosso Wildlife Sanctuary	Game Sanctuary	Co-manage with MDAs and communities	2,027	Tonkolili	$12^0$0-$12^0$30W, 8^0-$8^0$30N
16	Sierra Leone River Estuary	Propose NP	Ramsar Site (Designated 1999) and proposed MPA	34,234	Western Area	$13^0$00-$13^0$30W, 8^0-$8^0$30N
17	Sherbro River Estuary and Turtle Island	Game Sanctuary	Proposed MPA	99,854	Bonthe	
18	Scarcies River	Game Sanctuary	Proposed MPA	13,007	Kambia	

	Estuary					
19	Yawri Bay	Game Sanctuary	Propose Ramsar site and Proposed MPA	29,505	Western Area and Moyamba	$12^0$30- $13^0$00W, $7^0$30-$8^0$30N
20	Rhombe Wetland	No legal status	-	-	Pork Loko	$12^0$30- $13^0$30W, $8^0$30-$9^0$00N
21	Lake Taminsondara and Yankama	No legal status	-	-	Bombali	$12^0$0-$12^0$30W, $9^0$30-$1^0$00N

Source: National protected Area Authority (2016)

Table 2 above presents 21 landscape/seascapes identified in Sierra Leone. The results indicate their legal status, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) categories, area coverage, location and coordinates. The table reveals 4 National Parks in the country, Outamba-kilimi National Park (110,900ha^2) has the largest area followed by Gola Rainforest National Park (75,000ha^2). There are also four proposed Marine Protected Areas (PMA) which include the Sherbro River Estuary and Turtle Island (99,885 ha^2) the largest, followed by Sierra Leone River Estuary (34,234 ha^2) designated in 1999 as the only Ramsar Site, the Yawri Bay (29,505 ha^2) another proposed Ramsar site and finally Scarcies River Estuary (13,007 ha^2). There are seven community forest reserves for species management, 4 game sanctuaries and 2 community forest areas to be classified.

The results in Table 3 below indicates national and global importance of the three most highly rated **Landscape/seascape** and the level of environmental threats faced by each in a ranking order.

Table 3. Significance of Landscape /Seascape and threats to biodiversity

LANDSCAPE /SEASCAPE/ RANK	BIODIVERSITY CHARACTERISTICS	THREATS / ISSUES	POTENTIAL
Gola Rainforest National park (GRNP) Rank 1st	- Largest remnants of Upper Guinean Tropical Rainforest in Sierra Leone (approx. 74,000 hectares or 710.70 km2) with over 330 bird species have been recorded, 14 of which face global risk of extinction, including the endangered rufous fishing-owl, Scotopella ussheri and the Gola Malimbe, Malimbus ballmanni - Of global conservation concern and no doubt the most charismatic bird species in the area is the white-necked picathartes, Picathartes gymnocephalus. - A variety of other flagship species are also found in this forest including the elusive	- Deforestation: Biodiversity loss through illegal deforestation (indiscriminate/ illegal logging, timber extraction, fuel wood and charcoal production, land claims for construction, as well as through unsustainable agricultural practices, such as shifting cultivation and other activities) and hunting activities which had led and continue to lead to the destruction of large areas of the forest over decades. - Degradation: Some sections of the forest have been degraded by	- 122 communities directly adjacent to the Gola Rainforest National Park, located in 7 chiefdoms and 3 districts (Kenema, Kailahun and Pujehun) The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Sierra Leone (RSPB) has been active in Gola National Park for more than twenty (20) years [Since the 1990s the RSPB has been actively working with the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) in Sierra Leone to protect the Gola Forest through the Gola Forest Programme. The RSPB therefore has a long-term commitment to the Gola Forest and its surrounding communities who are the customary owners of the forest.); Previous successful partnerships with local NGO/CSOs through GEF SGP] with a rapid biodiversity survey. - This survey indicated the importance and

	pygmy hippo, Choeropsis liberiensis, threatened with extinction and only present in this part of Africa, an estimated population of 300 chimpanzees and 49 species of larger mammals. - Many medicinal plants are all found in Gola - These species (plants and animals) are only a few of those that drove the international recognition of this area as a global biodiversity hotspot (by Conservation International), requiring utmost effort and attention from the conservation community. - One of the 25 biodiversity hotspots identified by Conservation International 50 species of highly threatened mega fauna	commercial logging activities as well as gold and mineral prospecting and illegal hunting of large quantities of 'bushmeat'. - Substantial threats of encroachment by 122 forest edge communities for mining and agricultural expansion	the unique value of this site but also highlighted the threats it faced. - Gola Forest provides timber and fuel wood, key ecological services to the people, including the provision of clean water and air. - Gola Forest mitigates environmental hazards, such as floods, droughts and heavy storms, while stabilizing and controlling the erosion of the soils. - Gola Forest contributes to Sierra Leone's cultural diversity and heritage, while having spiritual and religious values. They are also a major asset for the development of ecotourism. - Relatively easily accessible for monitoring and follow up. - Substantial potential for partnerships with NGO/CSOs present in the South-East. - Easily accessible, and high potential for visibility of GEF SGP activities.

Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAP-NP) Rank 2nd	The Western Area Peninsula (17,486.67 hectares or 176.88 km^2), a part of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem, has lush rainforest, pristine beaches, breath-taking, steep mountains, a unique and long-standing culture and great history. - The beauty and natural significance of WAP-NP is still well preserved, hosting a range of hills with a highest peak at 971 meters, the forest vegetation can be described as still 60% pristine and has a manifold wildlife bordering directly to the coastline, making WAP-NP truly unique in West Africa. - The Reserve is one of the eight biodiversity hot-spots of the country and hosts 80-90% of Sierra Leone's terrestrial biodiversity.	Deforestation has become a major national environmental problem, in addition to the environmental degradation caused by increasing coastal population, urbanization, commercial activities and improper resource exploitation. - Additionally, climate change related issues and pollution from various activities and sources are gradually becoming a serious problem. - There is a serious environmental governance problem, whereby several entities interface over environmental management and it is sometimes difficult to see the synergies and inter-relationships of these institutions.	-It is located on the west coast of the country and is home to roughly 1 to 1. 5 million people (20% of the country's total population). - WAP-NP provides timber and fuel wood, key ecological services to the people, including the provision of clean water and air. - Substantial potential for partnerships with NGO/CSOs present in the Western Area. - Easily accessible, and high potential for visibility of GEF SGP activities.

	- Being a non-hunting reserve, rare animals are found such as Jenkins duikers and chimpanzees. - Furthermore, to its crucial role as a biodiversity hot spot, the peninsula creates an inspiring image as the ocean meets the mountainous forest. - Beaches in shining white colour are an attraction for national and international visitors. - In addition to the natural significance the Western Area Peninsula has also been host to a dynamic and interesting human history when Freetown was founded as a settlement for blackmen freed from slavery in England and America. - The Western Area Peninsula holds many tangible and intangible cultural resources around this history		

Sierra Leone River Estuary Rank 3rd	- The only Ramsar Site (Designated 1999) and proposed marine protected area - Situated in the Western Area and highly visible with coastal lagoons; Estuarine waters; Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats; Mangroves; Rivers & streams; Sand dunes and beaches - riverine - Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) - The estuary is lined by 110 ha of mud and sand foreshore, backed by mangrove - The predominant mangrove tree species are *Rhizophora* sp., *Avicennia africana*, *Laguncularia* sp. and *Conocarpus* sp., and these cover a total of 34,234 ha (19% of the total area of mangrove in Sierra Leone) - A total of 36 wader species have been recorded in the estuary and numbers are known to exceed 20,000 regularly	- Over fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources leading to moderate and severe population reduction - Domestic and urban waste water released into the river estuary causing pollution and death of aquatic life - Housing and urban development leading to cutting of mangrove and reducing breeding ground for aquatic life	-It is located in the Western Area -Substantial potential for partnerships with NGO/CSOs present in the Western Area. - Easily accessible, and high potential for visibility of GEF SGP activities.

	- This is one of the four major sites for wintering waders in the country. - Concentrations are usually found along the banks of the Bunce river and Aberdeen Creek, where mangrove provides suitable roosting sites, as well as breeding habitat for such species as *Butorides striatus*. Less common migrant Palearctic waders (less than 500 individuals) found include *Arenaria interpres*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa stagnatilis* and *Calidris temminckii*.		

Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve Rank 4th	It has an area of 729.6 hectares or 7.38 km^2 - Much data have not been recorded but it is one of Government's interest areas.	Much data have not been recorded but it is one of Government's interest areas.	-It is located within three (3) districts (Bo, Kenema and Pujehun) - Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve provides timber and fuel wood, key ecological services to the people, including the provision of clean water and air. - Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve mitigates environmental hazards, such as floods, droughts and heavy storms, while stabilizing and controlling the erosion of the soils. - Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve contributes to Sierra Leone's cultural diversity and heritage, while having spiritual and religious values. They are also a major asset for the development of ecotourism. - Less potential for partnerships with NGO/CSOs present in the Western Area. - Accessible, and moderate potential for visibility of GEF SGP activities

SOUREC: Research Data (2016)

Due to the available information, the consultant ranked landscape and seascape based on importance and threats. Gola Rainforest National Park is ranked in 1st position, Western Area Peninsula National Park in 2nd, Sierra Leone River Estuary in 3rd position and Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve in 4th position.

4 DISCUSSIONS

Generally, consultations with various stakeholders and review of available literature clearly show that protected areas, community forest reserves and game sanctuaries have similar trend of human interference in pursuit of their livelihoods. In particular, one common problem that was emphasized by District Environmental and Social Officers was the continuous loss of vast forest cover over the decades due to urban expansion, infrastructural development, farming, charcoal production, logging and mining activities. Deforestation was prominent in PortLoko, Bombali, Tonkolili and Moyamba districts as a result of massive charcoal production and lack of the necessary tree planting programme to ameliorate the loss of forest. Consultations revealed that Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) is one of the largest remnant of the Guinea Rainforest and has enormous global biodiversity conservation value. GRNP is recognized as internationally important sites for biodiversity conservation through a range of scientifically implemented conservation instruments, including Global Biodiversity Priority Conservation Hotspot (Conservation International), Ecoregion (WWF) and Endemic Bird Area (Birdlife International). It was declared a National Park in 2010. Relying on the local, national and international motions built over the last two decades, it has been nominated as a World Heritage Site for Sierra Leone. But the destruction of Gola Rainforest ecosystem has been severe. The forest edge communities consisting of 122 villages are very poor and heavily depend on the forest resources thus intermittently invade the forest to carry out their livelihood activities. These include farming, charcoal production, logging, hunting, mining and fire wood collection which directly contravene the principles of conservation of the forest. The consultations further revealed an outstanding richness in biodiversity yet the forest also proves exceptional levels of endemism and numerous globally threatened species. These reasons make Gola Rainforest not only unique nationally, but of immense importance internationally. The consultations futher revealed that Gola is recognized as one of the most important forests in Africa for bird conservation and it is now one of the best-documented forests in West Africa, making it an important representation of the Upper Guinea forest type. The high levels of diversity and endemism are indicative of the forest's role as a glacial refugium, which has been most clearly demonstrated by genetic analysis of Gola's herpe to fauna. The composition of the forest's Lepidoptera also places it in a local centre of endemism. Such refugia have served to both preserve and enrich the region's fauna and flora. Gola Rainforest provides the opportunity to study processes of disturbance and recovery which is of paramount importance for the effective management of the remaining forests throughout the Upper Guinea region. The forest is typical of the moist evergreen Upper Guinea Forest which is now a highly threatened habitat. Despite being at the western extremity of this forest type, and experiencing some disturbance in the past, the forest retains a remarkably high proportion of the representative fauna, including at least 49 large mammal species. It has one of the most important known populations of the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus, a species with a global range restricted to the western part of West Africa, as well as the endangered Western Chimpanzee and Forest Elephant. Notwithstanding, it was reported that hunting pressures in the region is high and if not regulated the primate densities will be lowered as a result of bush meat hunting. 313 birds species have been recorded of which 18 species are globally threatened or near-threatened, accounting for almost all forest species recorded in the Upper Guinea region. These include globally important populations of Gola Malimbe, and White-necked Picathartes which only nest on rarely occurring rock faces found under forest canopy. The Consultations revealed a recorded 41 species of bats making it one of the most diverse forests in West Africa for this group. An analysis of reports of a botanical surveys revealed that about 1000 plant species in the forest and immediate environs, including well over 300 species of trees. Due to

the forgone enumerated biodiversity of Gola Rainforest, the consultant ranked it in the 1st position for SGP intervention.
The consultations revealed that there is serious stone mining and clearing of forest for unban expansion in Western Area Peninsula National Park. There is also a small scale fuel wood collection for domestic cooking and fish processing and a significant charcoal production. Freetown and the Western Area Peninsula has suffered from reduce water supply and degraded water quality because of deforestation of the Western Area Peninsula National Park which houses the Guma valley water dam. The major pressure causing this problem was identified as population growth resulting in encroachment on the western area forest reserve for human settlement (urbanization) and infrastructural development. However, the forest has lesser biodiversity and little global attention as compared to the Gola Rainforest and it was only declared as a National Park in 2012. Thus the consultant ranked it in second (2nd) for SGP intervention.

The Consultations revealed that Sierra Leone has a large stretch of costal area starting from the Scarcies River in Kambia, Northern Province to Pujehun in the Southern province. SGP do not have a huge funding base and intervening in such a large seascape area requires huge funding to make meaningful impact that SGP cannot afford. This is exacerbated by the fact that CSOs lack the technical ability to manage marine protected area interventions. Even the Sierra Leone River Estuary of an area of 34,234 ha will require good technical ability and huge funding to make any visible impact. It was however noted that most of the marine problems are directly connected to poor land use for agriculture and mining in upstream. It is therefore prudent to design projects targeting the source of marine problems from landscape interventions. Communities that dwell alone the coastal areas depend on the water resources for their livelihood, but greater environmental issues are caused by land degradation and poor forest management. Chemical applications to agricultural land for instance will eventually contaminate both upstream and downstream water biodiversity. Due to these arguments, the Consultant ranked Sierra Leone River Estuary in the third (3rd) position for SGP intervention.

Finally, Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve with an area of 729.6 hectares or 7.38 km^2 is considered as an important landscape however, much data have not been recorded though it is one of Government's interest areas for further development. Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve contributes to Sierra Leone's cultural diversity and heritage, while having spiritual and religious values. They are also a major asset for the development of ecotourism but it has less potential for partnerships with NGO/CSOs. Due to the aforementioned, it is ranked 4th position for SGP intervention.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

It is concluded that Sierra Leone has more than 21 known landscape/seascape areas which includes wildlife sanctuaries, forest reserves, national parks, wetlands and coastal areas. Due to limited funding, SGP cannot select the entire country as a single landscape because of the biodiversity and the specific interventions required for each landscape/seascape area. Furthermore, monitoring of such intervention will be costly and will yield little impact, and there will be less visibility for SGP programme.

For the purposes of Landscape approach during OP6, Gola Rainforest (75,000 sq. hectares) in South-Eastern Sierra Leone is preferred in 1st position for SGP intervention. The reasons are stated above which include: its enormous national and international attention and being a priority for government in the country. With an already funding allocation from the government to implement REDD+ project, there is a greater opportunity for synergies and complementarities for co-funding from the project. There are at

least 10 CSOs, CBOs and NGOs with adequate capacity to work with the forest edge communities around the Gola Forest. Some livelihood programmes were being implemented by STEWARD (Sustainable & Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development), and forest conservation programme by Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL-BirdLife in Sierra Leone). Conservation efforts of the forest have also been supported by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB-BirdLife in UK), but funding have ended for some of these programmes, and it is an opportunity for SGP to take up from that point. Gola Rainforest is a priority for the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) as such, SGP would be able to collaborate with NPAA towards conserving the carbon stock in the forest and make the desired impact.

Western Area Peninsular National Park with a landscape of 17,688 ha^2 is ranked in 2nd position and cannot be selected for SGP intervention. The Western Area forest do not have high level of international conservation concern and already a good number of implementing partners (IPs) such as Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA), Tacugama Wildlife Sanctuary and Wealth Hunger (WHH).

Sierra Leone River Estuary with an area of 34,234ha is ranked in the 3rd position and cannot be selected for SGP intervention. It requires huge funding to make any visible impact in marine protected area and CSOs simply lack the technical ability to tackle the marine problems.

Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve with an area of 729.6 hectares or 7.38 km^2 is ranked 4th position cannot be selected for SGP intervention due to the reasons already stated above.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings**,** the Gola Rainforest National Park is recommended as the landscape for SGP OP6 implementation to create the desired impact subject to NSC approval. The key significance is national and international interest, government's funding support, presence of existing programmes for potential partnership and collaboration, availability of CBOs and NGOs with capacity to collaborate with SGP, and upscaling of projects supported by SGP OP5.
The 70% must directed to the Gola Rainforest National Park and the other 30% to support projects from the Western Area Peninsular National Park, the Sierra Leone River Estuary and other relevant projects across the country.

It is also recommended that the NSC approves funding for upscaling of inspiring SGP projects that were funded during OP5. For such projects, the community must be mentored to carry out baseline assessment for developing project proposals and funds must be provided based on their local initiatives to improve ownership and sustainability.
The Consultant also recommend provision of alternative livelihoods such as agro forestry, climate-smart post-harvest technologies, and inland valley swamp cultivation, planting of economic trees, community involvement in protected area management and entrepreneurship development for forest edge communities, fish farming, and ecotourism for coastal area communities.

It is recommended to promote environmental educating and establish "Nature Clubs" in school. And capacity development for civil society organizations to implement SGP initiatives.

Catchment communities within the Western Area Peninsula National park and coastal areas are recommended for developing recreational activities including fishing, picnicking, ecotourism and excursion.

5.3 Criteria for Grant-making outside the selected landscape/seascape area(s)

1. Part of the SGP funds should support projects that promote innovations and fall within the SGP OP6 strategic initiatives.
2. The fund should also be made available to projects that foster opportunities for partnerships and replication of best practice in other communities.
3. Project ideas that will help to translate landscape lessons into policy or promote uptake.
4. Projects that create CSO-government dialogue platforms promoting civil society engagement with government in the context of multilateral environmental agreements.
5. Projects from OP5 with visible successes that translate knowledge transfer and fall within the OP6 niche.
6. Projects that build the Capacity of CBOs and communities to maximize their participation and efficient service delivery to expand potential opportunities.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Detail List of People/Institutions consulted

No	Name	Position	Organization	Contact
1	Edward Aruna	Director	RAP- SL	076645130
2	Mohamed Nyallah	Director	CEFED	078218714
3	Ibrahim Sowa	Researcher	RAP- SL	078-363-691
4	Mohamed Dumarlu	Staff	RAP- SL	076-190-731
5	Dura Koroma	Staff	RAP- SL	088-416-749
6	Kate M.B. Karemo-Garnett	Director Protected Area	NPAA	076627320
7	Dr. Joseph Macarthy	Director, Institute of Geography & Development Studies	Njala University	079684818
8	Abdul Salim	Operational Focal Point-GEF	EPA	078363989
9	Momodu Bah	Director, Climate Change	EPA	078350627
10	Dr. Kolleh Bangura	Director	NPAA	088993707
11	Prof. Bashiru Koroma	Dean, School of Community Health Sciences	Njala University	076706819
12	Saskia Marijnissen	Head Energy, Env. And natural Resources Unit,	UNDP	078877986
13	Mrs. Haddijatou Jallow	Executive Director	EPA	
14	Dominic Sesay	Forestry Dept	MAFFA	O76761074
15	Mr. John D. Brima	District Forest Officer, W/Area	MAFFS	076 892833
16	PC Sheku Koroma	Paramount Chief	Pejeh Chiefdom Pujehun	078-253-407 078-459-297
17		Chief Administrator	Kenema City Council	

Local Council-Environmental and Social Officers				
	Name	Council	Contact	emails
18	Foday M. Marrah	Kono District	078238793 088818402	Fodaymarrah11@gmail.com
19	Sahr Kanneh	Kenema District	076406174 030379224	sahrkanneh@yahoo.com
20	Albert Coker	Tonkolili District	088616177	
21	Ibrahim A. Kanu	Bombali District	088591799 078914260	ibrahimahmedkanu@yahoo.com
22	Samuel HingaNavo	Bo City Council	076770288	samuelnavo@yahoo.com
23	Mustapha Kemokai	Moyamba District	076820692	Kemzod06@yahoo.com
24	Ibrahim Bockarie	Makeni City	078336938 077812882	Ibrahimbockarie785@gmail.com
25	Nancy I Tommy	Pujehun District	078773691	nancyiyetommy@yahoo.com
26	Marian Jusufu Tucker	BoDistrict	076914369	marianjusufutucker@gmail.com

27	Leslie Ibrahim Kemokai	Kailahun	078190813	ibrahimkemokai@yahoo.com
28	Monica A. Lamin	Western Area Rural District.	076751181	Monics1811@gmail.com
29	Albert Fornah	Bonthe Municipal	076591159	susanfornah@gmail.com
30	Eric H. Tommy	Koinadugu District	078311270	erichtommy@yahoo.com
31	Timothy A. Kamara	Port Loko District	077243416 079416468	Timothykamara001@gmail.com
32	Mark S. Bockarie	Kambia District	076402915 077030059	macbocksl@yahoo.com
33	Francis Foyoh	Koidu New Sembehun City	076556328	francistfoyoh@gmail.com

Annex 2. Questionnaire for Heads/Representatives of Unit/Department

Stakeholders' and Community Consultation Process
Small Grants Programme (SGP) Operational Phase 6

Instruction: Write as many pages as possible

(1) What are the main cost of living issues/pressures in the district where your unit/department or organization operate? List names of district.

(2) What are the predominant livelihood activities in the district (things that they do to survive)?

(3) What does the community in those district do with their forest, water and land resources? State for each resource.

(4) List any environmental problems resulting from the community use of their forest, water and land resources?

(5) For each of the environmental problems listed in 4 above, please rate them in order of priority/importance. (1=Very high; 2=High; 3=medium; 4= low; 5= very low).

(6) What solutions do communities suggest to these environmental problems and how are they implementing it?

(7) How can the communities be supported to create sustainable management of the natural resources and improve their living?

(8) Are there examples of good practice to address environmental problems in the communities? E.g. tree planting and plantation.

(9) Quotes from the community about the degradation/depletion of the resources as a result of their activities to meet the cost of living (e.g. how many acre of land has been converted to farm land or for mining activities in the last 10years?

(10) In your opinion which of **these Landscape and Seascape areas** in the country have greater Environmental problems that SGP can possibly make the greatest impact? (chose at least 3 in priorities of 1,2 & 3).

a) Wildlife Sanctuaries (Tacugama, Tiwai Island and SengbeMayosso)
b) Western Area National Park
c) Gola Rainforest National Park
d) Lake Mape/Mabesi National Park
e) Marine Protected Areas in Greater Freetown- (Seascape areas)
f) Loma Mountains No Hunting Forest Reserve
g) Kangari Hills Forest Reserve Reserve
h) Tingi Hills Forest Reserve
i) South Kambui Hills Forest Reserve
j) Kilimi National Park
k) Kuru Hills Forest Reserve
l) OutambaKilimi National Park
m) Lake Sonfon National Park
n) Bojeni Hills Forest Reserve
o) Other; please state ……

(11) Which GEF focal area (s) do you think your Unit/Department can contribute to?

(12) How will your organization contribute to the selected focal area(s)?

Annex 3: Engagement Plan for further Stakeholders consultations

Stakeholder	Person responsible	Time
Monday - 21st March, 2016		
Consultants' Meeting	All Consultants	09:00 am - 12:60 pm
Inception Meeting with the Client	Client's team members	2:00 - 4:30 pm
(1) NATIONAL LEVEL: Tuesday - 22nd March, 2016		
Visit to UNDP - members of the National Steering Committee	Some of the Client's team members	09:00 - 10:00 am
Visit to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	Some of the Client's team members	10:30 - 11:30 am
Visit to Environment Protection Agency - Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)	Some of the Client's team members	12:00 - 1:00 pm
Visit to National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA)	Some of the Client's team members	2:00 - 3:00 pm
NATIONAL LEVEL (CONTINUED): Wednesday - 23rd March, 2016		
Visit to Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment (MLCPE)	Some of the Client's team members	09:00 - 10:00 am
Visit to Ministry of Water Resources (MWR)	Some of the Client's team members	11:00 am - 12:00 midday
(2) LOCAL LEVEL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF THE LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (Meetings with Council Members, Paramount Chiefs, Speakers, Town Chiefs, Section Chiefs, Women's Leaders, Youth Leaders, CBOs and NGOs)		
(a) Neighbouring District Council	Some of the Client's team members	Thursday - 24th March, 2016
(b) Neighbouring District Council	Some of the Client's team members	Friday - 25th March, 2016
(c) Neighbouring District Council	Some of the Client's team members	Monday - 28th March, 2016
(d) Neighbouring Chiefdom	Some of the Client's team members	Monday - 28th March, 2016
(e) Neighbouring Chiefdom	Some of the Client's team members	Monday - 28th March, 2016
(f) Neighbouring Chiefdom	Some of the Client's team members	Monday - 28th March, 2016
(g) Neighbouring Chiefdom	Some of the Client's team members	Monday - 28th March, 2016