

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: AC1849

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 02/02/2006

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Sierra Leone	Project ID: P094307
Project Name: Sierra Leone Wildlife Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	
Task Team Leader: Edward Felix Dwumfour	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity	Global Supplemental ID:
Estimated Appraisal Date: February 17, 2007	Estimated Board Date: August 14, 2007
Managing Unit: AFTS4	Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan
Sector: General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (100%)	
Theme: Biodiversity (P)	
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	7.00
PCF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
Other financing amounts by source:	
<u>BORROWER/RECIPIENT</u>	<u>2.00</u>
	2.00

B. Project Objectives [from section 2 of PCN]

The Project Development Objective (PDO) will be to improve capacity development among all stakeholder groups for a sustainable protected area (PA) system management, wildlife resources protection and conservation of biological diversity within SL for an accelerated socio-economic development, expansion of environment-benign and -supportive employment opportunities and improvement of livelihoods of rural communities.

C. Project Description [from section 3 of PCN]

Component 1: Strengthening Institutional, Legislative and Policy Framework for Wildlife Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Support will be provided to develop capacities of and strengthen the enabling environment for Government agencies led by the Forestry Division of Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Food Security (MAFFS) and other line Ministries to prepare, pass, and enforce strong environmental policies and laws and test innovative approaches, and in particular Conservation Concessions. Collaborative frameworks will be established (if necessary) or strengthened and energized (if already existing) to ensure synergies and operational efficiencies within and between agencies

(public and private) that are responsible for environmental protection and conservation in the country. A key outcome from implementing these interventions should lead to the establishment of an effective legal protection status for the selected ecological (biodiversity) sites and development and implementation of collaborative resource management frameworks (and plans).

Component 2: Capacity Development and Awareness Raising at National and Local Levels

Government agencies and national NGOs will be provided with the tools and information to take conservation action at high biodiversity sites. Activities will focus on raising awareness and increasing national know-how and improving capacities to manage high-biodiversity sites (Protected Areas and non-Protected Areas) in ways that improve productivity while protecting biodiversity. This will include strengthened scientific and technical standing, improved tools for monitoring, advocacy and direct site conservation action, and improving data and information reliability, retrieval, accessibility and distribution through development of a geo-referenced biodiversity information management system, appropriate knowledge and experience through regional and global information networks. Institutional and operational structures of key institutions will be reviewed and strengthened, e.g. Forest Division, Wildlife Conservation Branch, and Environmental Protection Division. Actions proposed under the 'Cross-sectoral Action Plan' in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) will be reviewed and implemented where appropriate. At the local level, the project will broaden and strengthen local constituencies for conservation e.g. through the formation, development and strengthening of interest groups and site support groups (SSGs). Strategies will be designed and implemented to empower local communities to participate in the management and monitoring of high biodiversity sites (PAs and non-PAs). This component will focus on promoting and enhancing greater involvement of civil society at project sites through effective engagement strategies to be developed during the project planning stages.

D. Project location (if known)

The project will be implemented country-wide but activities will be location-specific mainly in the following protected area systems:

(i) Gola Forest Reserve: It is the only extensive patch of lowland tropical rainforest remaining in Sierra Leone and is situated in the southeast, between the Moa River and the Liberian border. It is a remnant of the swathe of Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem that once stretched from Freetown to Western Ghana. It is inhabited by more than 222 species of birds, 178 species of trees and 46 species of larger mammals have been observed here as well as small mammals and bats, insects and plants, amphibians and reptiles). Ten years ago, eight bird species and ten mammal species were considered to be threatened by global extinction (this number may have changed since then to include more species). A huge colony of the bare-headed rockfowl (*Picthartes gymnocephalus*) also exists in the Gola Forest.

(ii) Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary: The Tiwai Island, situated 45 miles south of the city of Bo, is a mixture of old secondary forest and regenerated farm bush. The sanctuary is host to more than 150 species of trees, 120 species of bird as well as an abundance and diversity of primate, including chimpanzees.

(iii) Loma Mountains Non-Hunting Reserve: The mountain massif in the northeast covers 330 sq km and includes the peak called Bintumani which is the highest mountain in West Africa west of Mount Cameroon. The reserve is characterized by forests and savanna covered mountains which are interspersed by gallery forests along the river banks. Leopard, bush cow, and primates

are being observed here, as well as the rare pygmy hippo in the Bafin and Bagbe rivers. 245 species of birds have been recorded, including the rare and endangered rufus fishing owl.

(iv) Outamba- Kilimi National Park: The Outamba-Kilimi is the only protected area in Sierra Leone with national park status. It is situated in the northwest corner, along the Guinea border. Outamba is characterized by the mountain with the same name, the three rivers named Kabba, Mongo and Lolo which create corridors of gallery forests, interspersed by swamps and closed forests and savanna woodland. More than 260 species of birds have been observed as well as elephants, waterbuck, wart hogs, Aardvark and genets. The pygmy hippo inhabits the Kabba River. The Kilimi section consists of open woodlands and short grass vegetation which attracts more savanna species such as the Kori bustard and baboons.

(v) Mamunta-Mayosa Wildlife Sanctuary: This is a small sanctuary, 20 square km, which mainly consists of Lake Roneita and the surrounding swamps and other small lakes. Besides being an important stop over for migratory bird species on their route to and from Europe and Africa, this wetland area is very important for many species of waterfowl and the endangered short-nose crocodile and a huge number of wetland snails. The threat from advancing farmers is eminent.

(vi) Kangari Hills Forest Reserve: The forest reserve at Kangari Hills is home to an important wildlife community, including forest- and savanna-dependent birds, chimpanzees and elephants and it protects the watersheds of many rivers (e.g. Pampana River to the northeast and the Moa River to the southwest), supplying towns and villages in central Sierra Leone. A recent survey identified 115 species of bird, representing 34 families and including three globally threatened species – the white-necked rockfowl, the black-faced rufous warbler and the green-tailed bristlebill. Threatened primate species that occur here include the Western Chimpanzee, red colobus monkey, black-and-white Colobus monkey and the Diana monkey. Other threatened mammals are the leopard, water chevrotain, black duiker (NT), Maxwell duiker, the forest elephant and the forest buffalo. Forest destruction and land degradation have been attributed to slash-and-burn farming, gold mining and logging, especially for building poles.

(vii) Yawri Bay: The Yawri Bay's rich tidal mudflats and mangroves are home to tens of thousands of birds for a third of the year. The Yawri Bay is a shallow coastal wetland with a 9,100 ha expanse of intertidal mudflats that extends along 60 km of foreshore. The mudflats are backed primarily by mangrove swamp interlaced with a network of creeks stretching to 24,505 ha. It accounts for 14.3% of the total mangrove swamp in Sierra Leone. Three rivers, Ribbi, Bumpe, and Kagboro, each with its own estuary, flow into the Yawri Bay. 46 species of palaeartic migrant birds including the avocet, the lesser-crested tern, the water dikkop, and the near-threatened damara tern are known to occur in the bay. An African Waterfowl Census (1994), covering about 60% of the bay, recorded 15,070 waterbirds.

The Yawri Bay's ecological diversity is under pressure from its local fishing industry and the mangroves have suffered from cutting for fish smoking and slash-and-burn farming. In spite of this, the bay also has great potential for ecotourism.

(viii) Western Area Reserve and Guma Valley Trail: This reserve was established almost 100 years ago in order to protect the remaining forests of the peninsula, which had been heavily exploited for the ship-building industry. The reserve status also protects the catchments of the Guma Valley reservoir for Freetown's water supply. It is also home to an endemic frog (*Cardioglossi aurcoli*) as well as the bare-headed rockfowl (*Picthartes gymnocephalus*). The Western Area Reserve provides for panoramic views and spectacular scenery. Furthermore, the Western Area Reserve is home to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary (TCS) which is the last resort to 73 chimpanzees who were formerly held captive as pets in Freetown and elsewhere and who can never return to the wild. The TCS plays a very important role in sensitizing and educating the public about wildlife and primates in particular, and is visited by a high number of school classes every week.

E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies [from PCN]

Sierra Leone's Environment Division of the Ministry of Land, Housing, Country Planning and Environment is the country's agency charged with the regulation of the environment through setting environmental standards (e.g., water and air quality) and enforcing compliance or due diligence. In addition, it has the institutional mandate for advising the sector Ministry on policies related to environmental protection. Sierra Leone has developed environmental impact procedures and guidelines, which is being operationalized. The Environment Division has a number of collaborators including other state agencies like the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Forest Division, Wildlife Branch that assist the Environment Division in the performance of its function. In Freetown and in the provinces the ED works with and through civil society organizations, principally non-governmental bodies (both local and foreign) and community-based organizations. Generally, the Division's work is hampered by failure of the central government to provide at all times and in the needed quantities and qualities resources such as financial, material and human. NaCSA has built capacity during the implementation of the National Social Action Project. Also, experience from the preparation and implementation of projects in health, education, hydro-electric power generation, social fund will be placed at the availability of project designers. There are firms and individuals in SL with great experience in developing and monitoring implementation of safeguard plans and remediation measures.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Ms Kristine M. Ivarsdotter (AFTS1)

Mr Robert A. Robelus (AFTS1)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
This safeguard policy will be triggered as the selected ecological sites identified as those needing urgent attention and to provide baseline data on biophysical, political, economic, social and institutional indicators related to the selected sites to enable the consideration of effective interventions and mechanisms for achieving project objectives. The borrower will prepare an Environmental Assessment for the selected sites.			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
Recognizing the dearth of data and information on SL's protected areay systems, wildlife resources and biodiversity it is suggested that a comprehensive assessment of the major			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
ecological systems and biological diversity be done.			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
This policy is triggered because the selected sites under the project needs to improve management effectiveness of high-biodiversity areas through policy, legislative and institutional reforms, establishment of long-term PA financing facility, the use of increased capacity and skills, site-based partnerships between Govt. agencies, civil society (NGOs), the private sector and the local communities.			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)		X	
Cultural Property (OPN 11.03)			X
This safeguard policy will be re-visited during project appraisal.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)		X	
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
The project activities will be implemented in locations which are to various degrees protected areas. It is therefore likely to expect that the access to natural resources by local communities will be restricted and limited. Therefore, according to OP 4.12, a Process Framework will be prepared, approved and disclosed before appraisal. The Process Framework establishes the process for how to involve potentially affected communities in planning and implementation of the project while at the same time it identifies how affected communities will be assisted in restoring their livelihood. During planning and implementation of the project, the final resettlement action plan (s), which should be reviewed and approved of by the Bank and thereafter disclosed, can, while taking into account all the requirements of OP 4.12, be very flexible depending on the scenario.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	

Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

- A. Target date for the Quality Enhancement Review (QER), at which time the PAD-stage ISDS would be prepared: 08/15/2006
- B. For simple projects that will not require a QER, the target date for preparing the PAD-stage ISDS: N/A
- C. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.
The SMU has agreed to accept transfer of the safeguard responsibilities. Safeguard reporting instruments plan will be disclosed prior to appraisal. An Environmental Assessment (EA), a

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in-country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

Resettlement Action Plan in case the people are resettled and a Process Framework will be done if people lose access to traditional natural resources or other resources.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Mr Edward Felix Dwumfour	01/31/2006
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Mr Thomas E. Walton	01/31/2006
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Ms Mary A. Barton-Dock	01/31/2006
Comments:		