

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization’s Legal Name:	Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia
Project Title:	Communities as Environmental Stewards of the Largest Guinea Rainforest Block
Grant Number:	CEPF-100786
Hotspot:	Guinean Forests of West Africa
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale
Grant Amount:	\$479,554.17
Project Dates:	November 01, 2017 - June 30, 2022
Date of Report:	June 30, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): sub-grantee with respect to the provision of a livelihoods advisor; provided other technical advice and support to SCNL.
- Vainga Agriculture Development and Management Consultancy (VADEMCO): contractor to carry out extension work for rainforest-friendly cocoa, lowland rice and intensive groundnuts.
- Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF): contractor to carry out extension work for beekeeping.
- Self Help Initiatives for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD): contractor to carry out adult literacy training.
- Alniaboh Liberia Inc.: contractor to carry out Quickbooks training.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Ca. 30,000 ha of Upper Guinea Rainforest, which serves as a critical wildlife corridor, will be officially designated as two Community Forests. These two Community Forests will be	The Normon and Tonglay Clans signed CFMAs with the FDA in 2021 to establish their Community Forests - Normon: 12,483 ha; Tonglay: 19,593 ha. The signing ceremony with FDA staff was held in

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<p>conserved and managed sustainably by the 2600 community members living in the area according to an approved Community Forest Management Agreement based on a land use plan for the forest.</p>	<p>May in Monrovia with all CFMB members present. The CFMAs were ratified by the FDA Board of Directors in August. The signed CFMAs are attached to this report. Work is ongoing to develop forest management plans for each CF. The communities have not yet finalised the zoning of the CFs for different land uses but are doing the work needed to inform the development of zones (e.g. inventory, compilation of previous studies). In the meantime, the clans have developed rules for hunting and for mining in the CFs and Citizen Conservation Teams are carrying out regular patrols and working with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data.</p>
<p>In the long term, the Normon and Tonglay Clans enjoy improved food security through the adoption of rainforest-friendly and climate-smart livelihoods activities introduced by the project.</p>	<p>56% of household respondents to the end-of-project (EOP) household survey said that their household's wellbeing was "better" or "very better" as compared to before the start of the GolaMA/CEPF project. With respect to food security, 80% of respondents saw improvement when asked "How would you describe the food your household eats today?". We note that the project's livelihoods activities, including cocoa production, lowland rice and groundnut production, and beekeeping reached a significant portion of the population with the EOP household survey showing that at least one person participated in a GolaMA/CEPF livelihoods activity in 67% of all households. Participation was noticeably higher (74%) in the Normon Clan where most residents are indigenous to Gola and are farmers compared to the Tonglay Clan (60%) where most residents are "strangers" who came to the area to mine or to hunt. Typically, about a third of all households participated in any specific activity.</p>

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>At EOP, at least 70% of all households report increased wellbeing due to project activities.</p>	<p>56% of household respondents to the end-of-project (EOP) household survey said that their household's wellbeing was "better" or "very better" as compared to before the start of the GolaMA/CEPF project. The percentages of respondents who saw improvement in specific areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How would you describe the food your household eats today? 80% saw improvement. - How would you describe the education of the children in your household? 48% saw improvement. - How would you describe the house you live in today? 74% saw improvement. - How would you describe the health of your household today? 74% saw improvement.

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	<p>- How would you describe the income of your household today? 70% saw improvement. The GolaMA EOP report, shared previously, provided a more detailed description of results, including clear improvement in the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI). The relevant excerpt from the GolaMA report is attached to this report.</p>
<p>At EOP, at least 80% of all households report that at least one member of the household has developed new skills to carry out rainforest-friendly and climate-smart activities (50% male, 50% female).</p>	<p>The livelihoods activities reached a significant portion of the population with the EOP household survey showing that at least one person participated in a GolaMA/CEPF livelihoods activity in 67% of all households. Participation was noticeably higher (74%) in the Normon Clan where most residents are indigenous to Gola and are farmers compared to the Tonglay Clan (60%) where most residents are "strangers" who came to the area to mine or to hunt. Typically, about a third of all households participated in any specific activity. In hindsight, we feel that the overall target of 80% did not fully take into account the high percentage of community members whose primary occupation was mining or other non-agricultural activities and we suggest that future initiatives incorporate more non-agricultural income-generating activities.</p>
<p>By December 2020, Normon and Tonglay Clans have completed all nine steps of the formal process to establish a community forest, including the signing of a Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) with the FDA.</p>	<p>We didn't meet the target of December 2020, but the Normon and Tonglay Clans did complete all nine steps of the formal process to establish a community forest and signed their CFMAs with the FDA in May 2021. The FDA Board of Directors ratified the CFMAs in August.</p>
<p>By EOP, the CFMBs are carrying out all activities described in the CFMAs.</p>	<p>At the time this impact description was written, the contents of CFMAs were not yet finalised. Today, CFMAs follow a standard template and are the legal instrument giving communities the right to manage and benefit from their forests but do not go into any detail about operational aspects of CF management. Instead, the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) is the document used to outline the operational aspects of forest management. Legally, work on the CFMP cannot start until the CFMA is signed. In the case of the Normon and Tonglay Community Forests, the CFMAs are signed and ratified and the CFMPs are nearing completion. In Tonglay, the forest inventory is complete and a draft plan is expected in early July. In Normon, a draft plan has been written but it does not yet include specific zoning. So there isn't a document yet that outlines ALL the forest management activities to be carried out in the CFs. In the meantime, the Normon and Tonglay Citizen Conservation Teams (CCTs) are carrying out regular patrols of the CFs and working with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. As</p>

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<p>At EOP, two CFMBs are managing a small loan scheme that is reliably producing revenue for CFM activities from interest payments on the loans.</p>	<p>well, they are carrying out environmental education work with community members.</p> <p>Using GolaMA/CEPF funds, SCNL worked with the Tonglay and Normon CFMBs to put in place a small loan scheme for women (note that CEPF funds were not used to capitalize the scheme). The loans were made by the CFMB to groups of 5 women who signed an agreement to not carry out any activities that were harmful to the forest (e.g. bush meat trading). 20 groups (100 women) completed three rounds of loans, the loans increasing in size each round, with a 98% repayment rate. An additional 6 groups (30 women) started later and completed one round of loans with a 100% repayment rate. In total, 26 groups (130 women) received loans with a total capital of 2,300,000 LRD.</p> <p>In 2020, SCNL received funding from the UKAID Darwin Initiative to scale up the loan programme and put in place "Citizen Conservation Teams" who will patrol and monitor the community forests. Importantly, SCNL will work with UK investment firm, Finance Earth, to establish an impact investment fund of GBP1.2 million to capitalise small loan programmes throughout the Gola Landscape. There are currently an additional 43 groups (215 women) receiving loans and Finance Earth is close to finishing a draft investment case in support of the planned impact investment fund.</p>
<p>At EOP, members of the Tonglay and Normon Clan have the skills and materials to adopt 4 rainforest-friendly and climate smart income generating activities (rainforest-friendly cocoa, intensive groundnut production, intensive (swamp) rice production, honey production).</p>	<p>VADEMCO carried out extension work in cocoa, groundnuts and swamp rice throughout the life of this project with at least one person in 67% of all households participating in a livelihoods training. 320 farmers (261 M, 59 F) participated in 10 cocoa farmer field schools with 194 (154 M, 40 F) achieving the minimum attendance required for graduation. 110 families established a lowland rice plot in 11 communal sites (10 families per site) and enjoyed harvests of 100-133 Kg per site, roughly 2-5 times typical harvests of upland rice and a 30% increase over lowland rice planted traditionally. 180 women participated in developing intensive groundnut plantations. This activity was less successful due to problems with rodents in some locations and some women later saying they preferred to plant beans. However, over half the women continued with this cash crop for at least another year.</p> <p>Thanks to the training and extension work by Universal Outreach Foundation, there are 187 beekeepers (161M, 26F) in the project area, managing 449 hives. According to Universal Outreach, the Gbarpolu Beekeepers Association,</p>

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	setup by lead beekeepers trained by the project, "has taken over the beekeeping sector now in Tonglay and Normon Clans by properly managing extension activities alongside UOF".
At EOP, CFMBs are keeping clear and accurate records of the revenue generated from interest payments and other sources, are keeping clear and accurate records of all expenses, and using the revenue to pay for CFM activities.	As noted earlier, the CFMBs are continuing to manage a small loan scheme and, with SCNL support, are scaling up to include more women in the programme. The CFMBs are keeping accurate records of the loans and loan payments, including the revenue generated from interest payments. Until recently, the CFMBs had been saving the revenue generated by the interest payments. At first, it was because the CFMBs were not yet legally recognised and they felt uncomfortable making use of the revenue until they were officially recognised. Once the CFMAs were signed, funding was available from the Darwin Initiative Project to pay stipends to the Citizen Conservation Teams (CCT), so the CFMBs did not use the interest revenue for this. Starting in June 2022 however, the CFMBs will be paying 20% of the CCT stipends. That percentage will increase as the number of women in the loan programme increases until the CFMBs are paying 100% of the stipends by the end of the Darwin Initiative Project.
By EOP, the ca. 30,000 ha designated as Community Forest, all of which fall within the LBR11 Lofa-Mano complex KBA, are managed according to Community Forest Management Plans agreed by the communities and the FDA.	The CFMPs for the Tonglay and Normon Community Forests are in progress but are not yet finalised. In the meantime, the two clans have developed rules to govern hunting and mining in the CFs while Citizen Conservation Teams are patrolling regularly and working with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. SCNL staff work with the CCT members to produce a written report after each patrol and the CCT members make a verbal report to the clan leadership. As a result, the clan leadership has dealt with several instances of people breaking rules in the CFs.
By EOP, the ca. 30,000 ha designated as Community Forests, considered to be production landscapes, are managed for biodiversity conservation through the development of Community Forest Management Plans that will cover production activities such as hunting, fishing, mining, farming, harvesting of NTFP's.	The CFMPs for the Tonglay and Normon Community Forests are in progress but are not yet finalised. In the meantime, the two clans have developed rules to govern hunting and mining in the CFs while Citizen Conservation Teams are patrolling regularly and working with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. SCNL staff work with the CCT members to produce a written report after each patrol and the CCT members make a verbal report to the clan leadership. As a result, the clan leadership has dealt with several instances of people breaking rules in the CFs.
By EOP, the Tonglay and Normon Clans have improved land tenure through the	The Normon and Tonglay Clans signed CFMAs with the FDA in May 2021 and the FDA Board of Directors ratified the CFMAs in August. The CFMAs give the

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establishment of legally-recognised Community Forests on their customary lands.	clans the right to manage the CFs and to benefit from the management of the forest.
By EOP, artisanal mining in 5 CFs in the Gola Landscape is carried out in an environmentally responsible way.	6 groups comprising 300 small scale and artisanal miners signed agreements with 4 CFMBs (Normon, Tonglay, Upper Sokpo, Lower Sokpo) in which the miners and CFMBs agreed to work together to manage the Community Forests. The miners also agreed to use forest-friendly mining techniques including no mercury, backfilling, and reclamation where possible. No systematic survey of the mine sites was completed but anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the miners who participated in the training workshops have stopped felling trees in order to mine and are not using mercury. We planned to also work in Gola Konneh but the CFMB there had already signed an agreement with a logging company and there was little interest in working on artisanal mining.
By EOP, there is no mining in the Gola Forest National Park.	As a result of 2 joint patrols that involved the Liberian National Police, the Ministry of Immigration as well as the FDA rangers, MME agents, and ecoguards, 188 illegal miners were removed from the Gola Forest National Park. There continues to be no mining in the southern part of the national park but recent patrols around Camp Alpha found illegal mining in the area. A joint mission of FDA and MME staff is planned for early July to deal with the issue.
By EOP, artisanal miners in 5 CFs are organised in formal associations and contribute to effective community forest management.	6 groups comprising 300 small scale and artisanal miners signed agreements with 4 CFMBs (Normon, Tonglay, Upper Sokpo, Lower Sokpo) in which the miners and CFMBs agreed to work together to manage the Community Forests. The miners also agreed to use forest-friendly mining techniques including no mercury, backfilling, and reclamation where possible. No systematic survey of the mine sites was completed but anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the miners who participated in the training workshops are not felling trees in order to mine and are not using mercury. The associations are fairly new and are not yet well embedded in the communities. We were therefore happy that these 6 associations will be part of a national UNDP-funded project working with artisanal miners and the UNDP project can build on the foundational work done supported by the CEPF grant.
By EOP, ASMSWG recommendations to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) are informed by lessons learned and incorporate biodiversity conservation objectives.	The ASMSWG recommended that the MME make use of the FDA's existing feedback and grievance mechanisms with respect to artisanal mining. They also recommend the establishment of "community compliance monitoring teams" that would monitor

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	whether miners were following the mining practices that they agreed to e.g. no mercury, backfilling. The teams would consist of community leaders and ecoguards. This is the approach being taken by the UNDP-funded project mentioned earlier and therefore the UNDP project provides a helpful continuation of the work started under this grant.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

While there were many things that happened during the implementation of this project that we did not expect (e.g. the very long delays experienced working with the FDA on the legal establishment of the Normon and Tonglay CFs, the really high popularity of the adult literacy programme among women in the two clans, the return of miners to the forest around Camp Alpha), there were no unexpected impacts either positive or negative.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

This CEPF project was two projects in one. The first project focused on livelihood activities to support the establishment of Community Forests by the Normon and Tonglay Clans in Kongba District, Gbarpolu County, Liberia. The second project focused on artisanal mining in and around Community Forests in the Gola Forest Landscape, including in the Normon and Tonglay Clans.

The livelihoods project supported 6 livelihood activities - small loans, rainforest-friendly cocoa production, lowland "swamp" rice production, intensive groundnut production, beekeeping, and adult literacy. The EOP household survey showed that at least one person in 67% of all households participated in a project livelihood activity. Participation was noticeably higher (74%) in the Normon Clan where most residents are farmers and indigenous to Gola compared to the Tonglay Clan (60%) where most residents are "strangers" who came to the area to mine or to hunt. Typically, about a third of all households participated in any specific activity.

The small loan programme, managed by the CFMBs with SCNL support, reached 130 women (26 groups of 5 members each) by EOP. 100 of the women (20 groups) completed three rounds of loans, increasing the loan size in each round, with a very impressive 98% repayment rate. The remaining 30 women (6 groups) completed the first round of loans with a 100% repayment rate. Women reported a significant impact on their lives by being able to cover costs such as sending a child to school or paying for food when their husbands could not do so. The interest paid by the women is used by the CFMBs to cover costs for management of the Community Forests while the repaid capital is rolled over to provide more loans. SCNL is currently implementing a grant from the UK-based Darwin Initiative to trial a limited expansion of the loan programme and to establish an impact investment fund that would capitalise a larger scale-up across the whole Gola Landscape.

320 farmers (261 M, 59 F) participated in 10 cocoa farmer field schools (FFS), with 194 (154 M, 40 F) achieving the minimum attendance required for graduation. 110 families established a lowland rice plot in 11 communal sites (10 families per site) and enjoyed harvests of 100-133 Kg per site, roughly 2-5 times typical harvests of upland rice and a 30% increase over lowland rice planted traditionally. 180 women participated in developing intensive groundnut plantations. This activity was less successful due to problems with

rodents in some locations and some women later saying they preferred to plant beans. However, over half the women are continuing with this cash crop. Beekeeping was new to the area and took a few years to catch on but by EOP there were 187 (161M, 26 F) beekeepers in the area managing 449 hives. Additionally, SCNL worked with the communities to install 3 rice mills (Kongbor, Normon, Camp Alpha) which will considerably reduce women's work in rice preparation. SCNL also worked with the communities to rehabilitate a fish pond in Kongbor and to build a new one for management by the Nature Club at the Kongbor public school (89 M, 76 F).

To support the agricultural activities, SCNL supported the improvement of adult literacy - 8 study circles at Level 1 and 2 at Level 2. A total of 288 community members (94M, 194F) participated in the classes and a total of 195 (73M, 122F) graduated. Prior to starting the study circles, facilitators were trained to lead each study circle and the literacy levels of all those wanting to participate in the programme were assessed.

In addition to supporting livelihood activities, the first CEPF project also supported the establishment of Normon and Tonglay's Community Forests by providing training to the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) and to the community ecoguards whose job is to patrol the CFs, collect biomonitoring data, and carry environmental education in the communities.

The second CEPF project (in reality, a cost-extension of the first project) focused on artisanal mining in the Normon, Tonglay, Upper Sokpo and Lower Sokpo Community Forests. Gola Konneh CF was also to be included but the Clan negotiated a concession agreement with a logging company and after that there was little interest in working on artisanal mining.

As part of the second project, SCNL carried out training for both community members (92 ecoguards and 3 CFMBs) and government officials (FDA rangers and MME field agents). The purpose was not only to train the participants on the legal, environmental and health aspects of artisanal mining but to start to build a strong working relationship among all those with responsibility for managing artisanal mining in a rainforest-friendly way. Eventually, patrols consisting of FDA rangers, MME field agents and community ecoguards carried out 1055 hours of patrolling over 322 kilometres.

In addition to the regular patrolling, this grant and others supported 2 large missions that also included the Liberia National Police and officials from the Ministry of Immigration. We note that the two latter groups are permitted to carry firearms while the others are not. The two missions resulted in the removal of 188 illegal miners from inside the Gola Forest National Park and the confiscation of their mining equipment. The southern part of the national park remains free of illegal mining activity but patrols in late June found that artisanal miners had returned to the park near to Camp Alpha. A joint mission of the FDA and the MME is planned for early July to deal with this situation.

To further support the MME field agents, SCNL also commissioned the development of a smart phone app that enables MME field agents to immediately determine if a Class C mining licence is valid or not. The app also enables miners to renew their Class C licence without having to travel to Monrovia.

For the miners, SCNL contributed to the development of a manual for artisanal and small scale miners that describes how to do mining in a legal, safe and environmentally responsible manner. Working in the 4 CFs mentioned above, SCNL supported 300 miners to form 6 associations (2 each for Upper and Lower Sokpo, one each for Normon and Tonglay)

and helped them to develop agreements with the relevant CFMBs to cooperate on managing the Community Forests. In particular, the miners agreed not to use mercury as well as to practice backfilling and where possible, reclamation of their mining sites. In return, SCNL, through the CFMBs, assisted the miners with equipment that would help them carry out environmentally responsible artisanal mining.

The mining associations are fairly new and not yet well embedded in the communities. We were happy therefore that the 6 miners associations will be part of a national UNDP-funded project that is supporting safe and environmentally responsible artisanal mining across the country. The new UNDP project will be able to build on the foundations established by the CEPF project.

In addition to the community-based livelihood and artisanal mining activities supported by this CEPF grant, SCNL was also grateful to CEPF for support to build its own capacity. With the help of a livelihood advisor from the RSPB, SCNL field staff greatly improved their skills in livelihood extension work. This grant also supported SCNL's finance team to put in place and use QuickBooks for all financial record keeping, a big improvement over the previous system of using various spreadsheets. Annual institutional audits were carried out for the first time starting in 2017 and showed improvement over the years of the grant. Finally, the CEPF grant enabled SCNL to develop a gender and social inclusion policy and to provide training to all SCNL staff in its implementation.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Empower and support 15 communities to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income generating activities in and around their community forests.	1.1	By EOP, new production methods of three commodities (cocoa, groundnut and swamp rice) introduced by FFSs are adopted in 15 communities as evidenced by annual VADEMCO staff report.	VADEMCO carried out extension work in cocoa, groundnuts and swamp rice throughout the life of this project. An EOP survey showed that at least one person in 67% of all households participated in a livelihoods training. 320 farmers (261 M, 59 F) participated in 10 cocoa farmer field schools with 194 (154 M, 40 F) achieving the minimum attendance required for graduation. 110 families established a lowland rice plot in 11 communal sites (10 families per site) and enjoyed harvests of 100-133 Kg per site, roughly 2-5 times typical harvests of upland rice and a 30% increase over lowland rice planted traditionally. 180 women participated in developing intensive groundnut plantations. This activity was less successful due to problems with rodents in some locations and some women later saying they preferred to plant beans. However, over half the women continued with this cash crop for at least another year. Additionally, SCNL worked with the communities to install 3 rice mills (Kongbor, Normon, Camp Alpha) which will considerably reduce women's work in rice preparation. Finally, SCNL worked with the communities to rehabilitate a fish pond in Kongbor and to build a new one for

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				management by the Nature Club at the Kongbor public school (89 M, 76 F).
1.0	Empower and support 15 communities to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income generating activities in and around their community forests.	1.2	By EOP, at least 40 individuals or groups are actively managing a total of at least 250 hives throughout the project area, as evidenced by the annual Universal Outreach staff report on adoption of beekeeping and beekeeping methods.	Thanks to the training and extension work by Universal Outreach Foundation, there are 187 beekeepers (161M, 26F) in the project area, managing 449 hives. According to Universal Outreach, the Gbarpolu Beekeepers Association setup by lead beekeepers trained by the project, "has taken over the beekeeping sector now in Tonglay and Normon Clans by properly managing extension activities alongside UOF".
1.0	Empower and support 15 communities to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income generating activities in and around their community forests.	1.3	The EOP household survey report demonstrates that at least 80% of households report increased wellbeing due to project livelihoods activities and that at least one member of each household has developed new livelihoods skills.	56% of household respondents to the end-of-project household survey said that their household's wellbeing was "better" or "very better" as compared to before the start of the GolaMA/CEPF project. The percentages of respondents who saw improvement in specific areas were: How would you describe the food your household eats today? 80% saw improvement. How would you describe the education of the children in your household? 48% saw improvement. How would you describe the house you live in today? 74% saw improvement. How would you describe the health of your household today? 74% saw improvement. How would you describe the income of your household today? 70% saw improvement. The GolaMA EOP report, shared previously, provided a more detailed description of results, including clear

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				improvement in the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI). The relevant excerpt from the GolaMA report is attached to this report.
1.0	Empower and support 15 communities to engage in rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income generating activities in and around their community forests.	1.4	By EOP, at least 50 community members have improved their literacy to a Level 2 (roughly Grade 6) competency and at least 50 community members have attained a Level 1 literacy competency as evidenced by test results	During the grant period, the project supported 10 adult literacy study circles, 8 at Level 1 and 2 at Level 2. A total of 288 community members (94M, 194F) participated in the classes and a total of 195 (73M, 122F) graduated. Prior to starting the study circles, SHIFSD trained facilitators to lead each study circle and assessed the literacy levels of all those wanting to participate in the programme. Study circles met three times per week, for 3 hours at a time. SHIFSD uses both Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) and REFLECT approaches in its work, the former being more instructor-led and the latter being more learner-led. The programme included literacy and numeracy skills as well as small business management. Those who completed Level 1 are able to write their own names, write simple sentences, and perform simple calculations using the four operational signs – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Literacy skills of those completing Level 2 are roughly equivalent to Grade 6 of the Liberian education system.
2.0	Build the capacity of 2 Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) to govern	2.1	By December 2018, the Normon and Tonglay Clans have each signed a Community Forest	While the achievement of this deliverable was much delayed, we are very happy to report that both the Normon and Tonglay Clans signed CFMAs with the FDA in 2021. The

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	community forests on behalf of their communities.		Management Agreements (CFMA) with the FDA.	signing ceremony with FDA staff was held in May in Monrovia with all CFMB members present. The CFMAs were ratified by the FDA Board of Directors in August. The signed CFMAs are attached to this report.
2.0	Build the capacity of 2 Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) to govern community forests on behalf of their communities.	2.2	EOP evaluations of CFMB governance by CFMBs, communities and external evaluator demonstrate that CFMBs have built capacity to manage community forests and identify any further capacity areas for development.	As part of an EOP evaluation, the evaluator made several observations that demonstrate that the CFMBs have grown in capacity over the life of this grant. In particular, the CFMBs have a structure in place to manage the small loan programme and are keeping records of all loans, repayments and operational expenses. Under the direction of the CFMBs, the CCTs are making regular patrols. Information gathered during the patrols is shared and discussed with the community leadership for action by the CFMBs. The CFMBs are also managing the running of the rice mills installed in Kongbor and Camp Alpha. They are learning about negotiating logging concessions but have not yet completed any negotiations.
2.0	Build the capacity of 2 Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) to govern community forests on behalf of their communities.	2.3	By end of project, the two CFMBs are producing regular forest monitoring reports.	Ecoguards, also known as Citizen Conservation Teams (CCTs), are now regularly patrolling the two Community Forests and are producing written reports at the end of each patrol. The reporting form has undergone revision based on feedback from the patrollers. With support from the Darwin Initiative, SCNL is working on a small loan project with the two clans and one goal is to

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				expand the small loan programme enough that interest payments on the loans will be sufficient to pay stipends for the ecoguards. SCNL conducted 4 training workshops over the life of the CEPF grant and trained roughly twice the number of ecoguards/CCT members as needed in order to ensure that there will always be trained people available to fill these positions if the original members move away or become ill, etc. Examples of patrol reports are attached to this report.
3.0	Support 2 Community Forest Management Bodies to manage a small loan scheme that supports community members to take up rainforest-friendly and climate-smart activities as well as securing resources for community forest management.	3.1	At EOP, CFMBs are competently managing a small loan scheme that supports individuals to take up rainforest-friendly and climate-smart activities as well as secure resources for CFM, as evidenced by CFMB and GolaMA staff reports .	Using GolaMA/CEPF funds, SCNL worked with the Tonglay and Normon CFMBs to put in place a small loan scheme for women. The loans were made by the CFMB to groups of 5 women who signed an agreement to not carry out any activities that were harmful to the forest (e.g. bush meat trading). 20 groups (100 women) completed three rounds of loans, the loans increasing in size each round, with a 98% repayment rate. An additional 6 groups (30 women) started later and completed one round of loans with a 100% repayment rate. In total, 26 groups (130 women) received loans with a total capital of 2,300,000 LRD. In 2020, SCNL received funding from the UKAID Darwin Initiative to scale up the loan programme and put in place "Citizen Conservation Teams" who patrol and monitor the community forests. Importantly, SCNL is working with UK investment firm,

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				Finance Earth, to establish an impact investment fund of GBP 1.2 million to capitalise small loan programmes throughout the Gola Landscape. There are currently an additional 43 groups (215 women) receiving loans and Finance Earth is close to finishing a draft investment case in support of the planned impact investment fund.
4.0	Deepen capacity of SCNL, FDA and MME to engage communities for biodiversity conservation.	4.1	By mid-Year 2, SCNL has developed a gender strategy for its work in the Gola Forest, including this CEPF project.	With funding from another project, SCNL staff traveled to Sierra Leone in 2019 for a gender and inclusion workshop together with Gola Rainforest Conservation LG (GRC LG) and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL). Following that workshop, SCNL staff developed a gender and social inclusion policy which has since been approved by the SCNL Board of Directors. Training in the policy was provided to all staff and the gender policy is now an integral part of all aspects of SCNL's operations. A copy of the policy is attached.
4.0	Deepen capacity of SCNL, FDA and MME to engage communities for biodiversity conservation.	4.2	EOP reports on external and self assessments (before and after) demonstrate improved capacity for implementing livelihoods activities among relevant SCNL staff.	At the start of the GolaMA/CEPF project, SCNL made the decision to hire field staff from the project area although this meant that staff were generally less experienced and less educated than if staff had been hired from anywhere in the country. Over the life of the grant, SCNL provided considerable training to the field staff, both in how to carry out extension work generally (e.g. how to hold meetings, how to demonstrate new farming techniques, how to collect information) and in

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				the technical aspects of the specific livelihoods activities. SCNL's field staff in Normon and Tonglay are now confident and competent field extension workers who continue to support farmers and other community members in the Normon and Tonglay Clans.
4.0	Deepen capacity of SCNL, FDA and MME to engage communities for biodiversity conservation.	4.3	EOP reports on external and self assessments (before and after) demonstrate increased capacity of relevant SCNL staff to carry out forest monitoring.	Over the life of this grant, 4 local staff received on-the-job training to become competent research technicians, able to gather relevant biomonitoring data from specific locations in the forest. To do so, they have to be able to use compass and GPS to first find the specific locations and then know the techniques needed to obtain the different kinds of information required e.g. using camera traps, observing along transects, recording distances to sightings. Over the years, the technicians increased their capacity to collect different kinds of data through various workshops and trainings offered by other organisations and visiting researchers. The 4 research technicians have reached the level that they were able to train the 92 ecoguards and citizen conservation team (CCT) members to patrol and collect biomonitoring data. With the support of this grant and other donors, the ecoguards and CCTs have carried out 1055 hours of patrols covering 322 km in the Gola Forest National Park and the Normon and Tonglay Community Forests.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
4.0	Deepen capacity of SCNL, FDA and MME to engage communities for biodiversity conservation.	4.4	EOP assessments of FDA rangers, MME field agents, and SCNL staff demonstrate increased capacity in law enforcement related to artisanal mining, the environmental impact of artisanal mining, how to monitor key environmental factors, and the main components	During the course of this grant, 2 joint patrols, funded by other grants, were carried out by FDA rangers, MME field agents and SCNL staff in collaboration with the Liberia National Police and agents from the Ministry of Immigration. As a result, 188 illegal miners left the Gola Forest National Park, 40 mining sites closed and 7 water pumps used for mining were confiscated. These miners have not returned to the southern part of the national park and patrolling continues by FDA rangers and community eco-guards. However, recent patrols around Camp Alpha found that miners in this area had moved back to the forest. A joint FDA/MME mission is planned for early July to deal with this issue. As part of this grant, SCNL also commissioned the development of a manual describing how to do artisanal mining in a safe, legal and environmentally responsible way. SCNL conducted a total of 12 workshops related to artisanal mining - 5 for the CFMBs and 7 for the rangers, eco-guards and MME mining agents.
4.0	Deepen capacity of SCNL, FDA and MME to engage communities for biodiversity conservation.	4.5	After workshop, MME field staff reports show that they make regular and consistent use of methodology for verifying Class C licences.	With support from the CEPF grant, SCNL commissioned the development of a smartphone app that MME agents could use for verifying Class C licences and for renewing Class C licences. They donated 6 smart phones to the MME for MME agents in the Gola area to use and provided training on how to

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				use the app to the MME agents. The app enables MME agents to quickly determine whether a particular mine site is legal or not and makes it easier for artisanal miners to follow the law with respect to licences as they don't have to travel to Monrovia to obtain or renew licences there. Thus far, MME reports that 6 C licences were renewed using the app in the Camp Alpha and Lofa Bridge areas.
5.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	5.1	Institutional capacity of SCNL evaluated through the Civil Society Tracking Tool and the Gender Tracking Tool has increased.	SCNL completed the CSTT and GTT at the start of the project. The end of project assessment were completed in July 2022. Both have shown an increase in the assessment scores.
5.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	5.2	The Health and Safety plan for working with live bees is effectively evaluated, implemented, and follow-up reports are prepared every six months to CEPF.	The Health and Safety plan for working with live bees was completed at the start of the project. A key component was ensuring that all beekeepers had access to working safety equipment such as bee suits and smokers which was done. When Universal Outreach Foundation completed their regular extension visits, they checked whether there were any safety issues. Generally, they found no safety issues but several times did find that beesuits were starting to get holes and therefore advised the beekeepers to fix the holes.
5.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	5.3	CEPF financial and programmatic reports are submitted online on time and accurately.	All the required financial and programmatic reports were submitted, mostly on time but there were several that were submitted late.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	5.4	Report focusing on the project impacts is completed online at project end.	Completed.
5.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	5.5	A grievance mechanism is established, its modalities disseminated to all communities within the project area, and any grievances dealt with promptly.	A grievance mechanism was designed during the first year of the project. However, it took a little longer to establish the mechanism as the two clans were slow to identify the elders to whom they wanted complaints brought. The elders were identified in the first half of 2019 and the grievance mechanism introduced to the communities. No grievances were reported using this mechanism during the life of this grant.
6.0	Sub-grantee RSPB provides livelihoods technical advice, support and coordination.	6.1	Sub-grant agreement with RSPB and regular monitoring reports on RSPB financial and programmatic performance	A sub-grant agreement was established with the RSPB for the provision of a livelihoods advisor. It was planned that the livelihoods advisor would work on the project for two years but had to leave Liberia for family reasons after 1 year. The livelihoods advisor supported SCNL staff to work with community members on livelihoods activities and provided monthly training on various aspects of working as a Community Mobilisation Officer. RSPB provided all quarterly financial and narrative reports related to the sub-grant.
6.0	Sub-grantee RSPB provides livelihoods technical advice, support and coordination.	6.2	Reports show that SCNL staff are supported to carry out Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.1.4; 1.2.1, 1.2.2; 1.3.1; 3.1.1, 3.1.2; 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3	The quarterly reports written by the RSPB livelihoods advisor showed that SCNL staff were supported to carry out all livelihoods activities. These quarterly reports were shared with CEPF as part of the relevant bi-annual narrative reports.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
6.0	Sub-grantee RSPB provides livelihoods technical advice, support and coordination.	6.3	By EOP, self-assessments show that SCNL staff have increased capacity to carry out livelihoods activities with communities.	At the start of the GolaMA/CEPF project, SCNL made the decision to hire field staff from the project area although this meant that staff were generally less experienced and less educated than if staff had been hired from anywhere in the country. Over the life of the grant, SCNL provided considerable training to the field staff, both in how to carry out extension work generally (e.g. how to hold meetings, how to demonstrate new farming techniques, how to collect information) and in the technical aspects of the specific livelihoods activities. SCNL's field staff in Normon and Tonglay are now confident and competent field extension workers who continue to support farmers and other community members in the Normon and Tonglay Clans.
7.0	Build financial capacity of SCNL and address audit findings.	7.1	Training evaluation show that all SCNL finance staff are competent in the use of QuickBooks.	SCNL finance staff participated in two Quickbooks training workshops. Unfortunately, the senior finance staff who participated in the first workshop left SCNL to take a better-paying position, thereby necessitating the second workshop. The second workshop took place after the theft of two computers and the safe from the SCNL finance office. As the two computers were the primary ones for the QuickBook files containing the CEPF and other project financial data, the Quickbooks trainers worked with SCNL staff to re-enter all the finance data from the paper documentation (which was not touched by the thieves). While

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				it was a difficult situation, it provided SCNL staff the opportunity to become very familiar with QuickBooks while trainers were present to provide ongoing help and advice. All of SCNL's financial data is now managed through QuickBooks and all reporting is done through QuickBooks.
7.0	Build financial capacity of SCNL and address audit findings.	7.2	Quickbooks is used to produce the information needed for all SCNL internal and external financial reports.	As described above, SCNL now uses QuickBooks to manage all financial data and to produce all financial reports.
7.0	Build financial capacity of SCNL and address audit findings.	7.3	Organisational and project audit findings show that issues raised in previous year's audits are successfully addressed.	Institutional and project audits conducted annually throughout the grant period show ongoing improvement in SCNL's financial management.
8.0	Build joint capacity of artisanal miners and personnel of 5 Community Forests to carry out responsible artisanal mining.	8.1	EOP assessments of ecoguards and CFMB members in 5 CFs demonstrate increased capacity in law enforcement related to artisanal mining, the environmental impact of artisanal mining, how to monitor key environmental factors, and the main components of enviro	With the support of this grant and other donors, SCNL trained 92 ecoguards and citizen conservation team (CCT) members to patrol and collect biomonitoring data. An additional 8 ecoguards received special training related to artisanal mining including how to detect mines, how to identify different kinds of forest land, ways to do mining in a more forest-friendly way. Altogether, these ecoguards and CCTs have carried out 1055 hours of patrols covering 322 km in the Gola Forest National Park and the Normon and Tonglay Community Forests.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
8.0	Build joint capacity of artisanal miners and personnel of 5 Community Forests to carry out responsible artisanal mining.	8.2	Patrol reports demonstrate effective collaboration among eco-guards, FDA rangers and MME field staff.	Ecoguards, FDA rangers and MME field staff attended 7 workshops together over the life of this grant and carried out some joint patrols together. Through this process, they built good working relationships. FDA rangers are not carrying out patrols as regularly as we might like but when they do, they collaborate with MME staff. In particular, the staff from the two different parts of government are bringing the same message to illegal miners in the national park. Previously, miners would say that the rangers had no authority over them, it was only the Ministry of Mines and Energy who could tell them what to do. Now both the rangers and the MME agents are telling miners that they cannot mine inside the national park.
8.0	Build joint capacity of artisanal miners and personnel of 5 Community Forests to carry out responsible artisanal mining.	8.3	CFMBs in 5 CFs have signed agreements with artisanal miners in which the miners agree to form formal associations, respect CF rules, and carry out mining in an environmentally responsible way.	6 groups comprising 300 small scale and artisanal miners signed agreements with CFMBs in which the miners and CFMBs agreed to work together to manage the Community Forests. The miners also agreed to use forest-friendly mining techniques including no mercury, backfilling, and reclamation where possible. 4 of the miners groups were in Grand Cape Mount County in the Upper Sokpo and Lower Sokpo Community Forests and the other two were in Normon and Tonglay Community Forests. In return, the miners received equipment to carry out environmentally responsible artisanal mining.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Engagement with the groups established through this grant will continue through a UNDP-funded project that is engaging with and providing training to artisanal miners throughout the country.
8.0	Build joint capacity of artisanal miners and personnel of 5 Community Forests to carry out responsible artisanal mining.	8.4	EOP survey of artisanal mines in 5 CFs shows that at least 50% of mines have adopted at least one environmentally responsible practice.	An EOP survey of artisanal mines was not completed. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the agreement to not use mercury is being followed by all miners. Those who took part in the training workshops are no longer cutting forest to do mining and are backfilling when they move on ("dig a hole, fill a hole").
8.0	Build joint capacity of artisanal miners and personnel of 5 Community Forests to carry out responsible artisanal mining.	8.5	Patrol reports at EOP show no artisanal mining in GFNP.	Patrol and community reports show that there is no further artisanal mining in the southern part of the Gola Forest National Park or in the buffer areas around the national park. Unfortunately, recent patrols found artisanal mining continuing around Camp Alpha and where the YDMC mining company is based. A joint mission of the MME and the FDA is planned early July to again try and address this issue.
9.0	Improve ASM policy to better incorporate conservation objectives	9.1	The ASMSWG's advice to the MME incorporates lessons learned from this project on how to incorporate conservation objectives.	The ASMSWG recommended that the MME make use of the FDA's existing feedback and grievance mechanisms with respect to artisanal mining. They also recommend the establishment of "community compliance monitoring teams" that would monitor whether miners were following the mining practices that they agreed to e.g. no mercury, backfilling. The teams would consist of

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				community leaders and ecoguards. This is the approach being taken by the UNDP-funded project mentioned earlier and therefore the UNDP project provides a helpful continuation of the work started in this grant.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

1. Handbook for Artisanal and Small Scale Miners: handbook describing how to do artisanal mining in a way that is legal, safe and environmentally responsible
2. Cocoa Farmer Field School Manual: prepared by VADEMCO for use by FFS facilitators
3. Adult literacy curriculum: prepared by SHIFSD, incorporating both Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) and REFLECT approaches, the former being more instructor-led and the latter being more learner-led, as well as incorporating some business numeracy.
4. Small loan scheme methodology: Based on ideas first developed by the Grameen Bank, adapted to the local context.
5. Smart phone app for C licence verification: An app for smart phones that MME agents can use to verify if a miner has a valid C licence and to transfer funds to pay for a C licence renewal.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.1	At least 15 local land-use plans elaborated and implemented to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves and concessions.	1	30,000 ha of rainforest will be officially designated as 2 Community Forests according to an approved Community Forest Management Agreement based on land use plan.	2	The CFMP for the Tonglay Community Forest is completed and has been approved by the Government of Liberia. The final draft of the CFMP for the Normon Community Forest has been developed and is awaiting final approval from the Government of Liberia. While working on the

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					CFMPs, the two clans developed rules to govern hunting and mining in the CFs while Citizen Conservation Teams patrolled regularly and worked with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. SCNL staff continue to work with the CCT members to produce a written report after each patrol and the CCT members make a verbal report to the clan leadership. As a result, the clan leadership has dealt with several instances of people breaking rules in the CFs.
4a	At least 60 local communities are empowered to engage in the sustainable management of priority sites and/or consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.	2	By December 2020, Normon and Tonglay Clans have completed all nine steps of the formal process to establish a community forest, including the signing of a Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) with the FDA.	2	The Normon and Tonglay Clans signed CFMAs with the FDA in 2021 to establish their Community Forests. The signing ceremony with FDA staff was held in May in Monrovia with all CFMB members present. The CFMAs were ratified by the FDA Board of Directors in August. Work is ongoing to develop forest management plans for each CF. The communities have not yet finalised the zoning of the CFs for different land

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					uses but are doing the work needed to inform the development of zones (e.g. inventory, compilation of previous studies). In the meantime, the clans have developed rules for hunting and for mining in the CFs and Citizen Conservation Teams are carrying out regular patrols and working with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. Sokpo has not yet signed a CFMA with the FDA and is therefore not yet officially "empowered to engage in the sustainable management" of the forests.
2a	Number of hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use (target: At least 100,000).	30,000	ca. 30,000 ha designated as Community Forests, considered to be production landscapes, are managed for biodiversity conservation through the development of Community Forest Management Plans that will cover production activities	32,076	32,076 ha (Normon: 12,483 ha; Tonglay: 19,593 ha) were legally designated as Community Forests. Work on the Community Forest Management Plans is not yet finalised but various management activities (e.g. patrols) are being carried out in the meantime.

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			such as hunting, fishing,..		
2.1	Number of conservation-related policies of national governments are informed or influenced by research, analysis and outreach supported by CEPF grants (target: At least 5).	1	By End of project, ASMSWG recommendations to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) are informed by lessons learned and incorporate biodiversity conservation objectives.	0	While the ASMSWG made several recommendations to the MME, they were not at a policy level.
1.2	Number of local and indigenous communities are trained to initiate and advocate for land tenure and forestry reforms in relation to management of community and private reserves and concessions (target: At least 10).	2	By end of project the Tonglay and Normon Communities have improved land tenure through the establishment of legally-recognised Community Forests on their customary lands.	2	While the achievement of this deliverable was much delayed, we are very happy to report that both the Normon and Tonglay Clans signed CFMAs with the FDA in 2021. The signing ceremony with FDA staff was held in May in Monrovia with all CFMB members present. The CFMAs were ratified by the FDA Board of Directors in August.
1.4	Number of local communities targeted by sustainable livelihood/job creation activities or benefit-sharing mechanisms show tangible wellbeing	2	At end of project members of the Tonglay and Normon Communities have the skills & materials to adopt 4 rainforest-friendly and climate smart income generating activities	2	VADEMCO carried out extension work in cocoa, groundnuts and swamp rice throughout the life of this project with at least one person in 67% of all households participating in a livelihoods training. 320 farmers (261 M, 59 F)

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	benefits (target: At least 30).		(ie. production of cocoa, groundnut, swamp-rice, honey)		<p>participated in 10 cocoa farmer field schools with 194 (154 M, 40 F) achieving the minimum attendance required for graduation. 110 families established a lowland rice plot in 11 communal sites (10 families per site) and enjoyed harvests of 100-133 Kg per site, roughly 2-5 times typical harvests of upland rice and a 30% increase over lowland rice planted traditionally. 180 women participated in developing intensive groundnut plantations. This activity was less successful due to problems with rodents in some locations and some women later saying they preferred to plant beans. However, over half the women continued with this cash crop for at least another year.</p> <p>Thanks to the training and extension work by Universal Outreach Foundation, there are 187 beekeepers (161M, 26F) in the project area, managing 449 hives. According to Universal Outreach, the Gbarpolu</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Beekeepers Association, setup by lead beekeepers trained by the project, "has taken over the beekeeping sector now in Tonglay and Normon Clans by properly managing extension activities alongside UOF".
2.3	Number of partnerships are formed or strengthened among civil society, government, private sector and communities to promote best practices in mining, sustainable forestry and agriculture by private companies (target: At least 20).	1	SCNL and ASMSWG will provide training for MME field staff, FDA rangers, community eco-guards, and CFMB members. Plus, this project will support the development and adoption of a mechanism for checking legitimacy of Class C (artisanal) mining licenses.	3	Ecoguards, FDA rangers and MME field staff attended 7 workshops together over the life of this grant and carried out some joint patrols together. Through this process, they built good working relationships. FDA rangers are not carrying out patrols as regularly as we might like but when they do, they collaborate with MME staff. In particular, the staff from the two different parts of government are bringing the same message to illegal miners in the national park. Previously, miners would say that the rangers had no authority over them, it was only the Ministry of Mines and Energy who could tell them what to do. Now both the rangers and the MME agents are telling miners

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					<p>that they cannot mine inside the national park.</p> <p>SCNL contributed to the running of the ASMSWG through this project.</p> <p>SCNL contributed to the running of the Community Forestry Working Group through this project.</p>
2.4	Number of private companies adopt new management practices consistent with biodiversity conservation at operations in the conservation corridors (target: At least 5).	1	By EOP, artisanal miners in 5 CFs are organised in formal associations and are practising mining in the Gola Landscape in an environmentally responsible way contributing to effective community forest management.	6	<p>Six groups (Kongbor Mining Cooperative, Pamayen Mining Cooperative, Fula Camp Mining Association, Handwork Mining Cooperative, Vague Mining Cooperative and Timba Town Multi-purpose Association) comprising 300 small scale and artisanal miners signed agreements with 4 CFMBs (Normon, Tonglay, Upper Sokpo, Lower Sokpo) in which the miners and CFMBs agreed to work together to manage the Community Forests. The miners also agreed to use forest-friendly mining techniques including no mercury, backfilling, and reclamation where possible. No systematic survey of the mine sites was completed</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					but anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the miners who participated in the training workshops have stopped felling trees in order to mine and are not using mercury.
5a	Number of networks are formed among civil society, government and private sector actors to facilitate capacity building, avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact (target: At least 15).	2	- 1 network established among the trained beekeeper by EoP. - 1 network established among the Artisanal miners by EoP.	1	- The Gbarpolu Beekeepers Association is made of all the lead beekeepers who were trained by the project. They provide technical support to other beekeepers in the area and undertake activities to promote beekeeping in Gbarpolu County. - While individual mining association were established with the support of the project, there was not enough time to develop a network bringing the individual associations together.
1	Number of Key Biodiversity Areas targeted by CEPF grants have new or strengthened protection and management (target: At least 20).	1	By EOP, the ca. 30,000 ha designated as Community Forest, all of which fall within the LBR11 Lofa-Mano complex KBA, are managed according to Community Forest Management Plans	1	The CFMP for the Tonglay Community Forest, which falls within the LBR11 Lofa-Mano complex KBA has been finalised and approved by the Government of Liberia. The final draft for Normon Community Forest, in the same KBA, is complete and awaiting final

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			agreed by the communities and the FDA.		government approval. While working on the CFMPs, the two clans developed rules to govern hunting and mining in the CFs while Citizen Conservation Teams patrolled regularly and worked with SCNL staff to collect biomonitoring data. SCNL staff continue to work with the CCT members to produce a written report after each patrol and the CCT members make a verbal report to the clan leadership. As a result, the clan leadership has dealt with several instances of people breaking rules in the CFs.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion

*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Lofa-Mano Complex	LBR11		32,076

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Tonglay Community Forest	7.648954	-10.552282	19,593	SCNL supported the Tonglay Clan to legally establish their Community Forest (CF) and to put the governance structures in place. SCNL also supported the clan to establish hunting and mining rules for the CF. SCNL provided training for ecoguards who now patrol the CF and put in place a small loan scheme to generate income to cover the costs of the ecoguard stipends. The clan agreed to put aside part of the CF for strict conservation purposes and in recognition of this, SCNL supported community members to improve their livelihoods in 4 areas - rainforest-friendly

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
				cocoa, lowland rice, intensive groundnut production, honey production.
Normon Community Forest	7.828578	-10.40122	12,483	SCNL supported the Normon Clan to legally establish their Community Forest (CF) and to put the governance structures in place. SCNL also supported the clan to establish hunting and mining rules for the CF. SCNL provided training for ecoguards who now patrol the CF and put in place a small loan scheme to generate income to cover the costs of the ecoguard stipends. The clan agreed to put aside part of the CF for strict conservation purposes and in recognition of this, SCNL supported community members to improve their livelihoods in 4 areas - rainforest-friendly cocoa, lowland rice, intensive groundnut production, honey production.

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
475	367	small loan modalities; rainforest-friendly cocoa production; lowland rice production; intensive groundnut production; honey production; literacy and numeracy; literacy facilitation skills; CFMB skills (e.g. leadership, CF laws, record keeping);

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		ecoguard skills (e.g. navigating with GPS, species identification, how to use camera trap); QuickBooks

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
451	284	increased production of cocoa, rice, groundnuts, honey; increased income from small business supported by loan programme; payment for conducting patrols

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i				
Normon Clan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liberia	592	571
Tonglay Clan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liberia	527	360
Sokpo Clan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liberia	7000	6500

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

- Tonglay Clan: Mix of landowners and immigrant miners
- Sokpo Clan: Mix of landowners and immigrant miners. Sokpo Clan is one clan with two community forests – Upper Sokpo and Lower Sokpo. The same CFOC manages both.

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation

C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Community Forest Management Bodies' hunting and mining rules	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Miners associations' and Community Forest Management Bodies' ban on mercury use	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Liberia	December 31, 2019	Conservation of species and habitat in areas in the Tonglay and Normon Community Forests that are important for conservation.	SCNL's first step was to carry out considerable education and environmental awareness with community members. Staff also carried out a survey/study of hunting and mining in the area. Eventually, SCNL organised two 2-day community consultations which brought together all interested parties, including community leaders, hunters, miners, bush meat traders,

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
				women leaders, youth leaders, government authorities. At the consultations, SCNL presented the results of the hunting and mining studies. Through small group discussion, the community used the study results to come up with draft hunting and mining rules.
2	Liberia	June 29, 2022	Protection of species and ecosystems from mercury contamination.	SCNL met with CFMBs and miners associations to explain the dangers of using mercury in artisanal mining as well as the fact of Liberia agreeing to an international ban on mercury use. They encouraged the miners associations and CFMBs to include a ban on using mercury in their agreements to work together to manage their community forests.

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Kongbor Mining Cooperative	Ban on use of mercury	Liberia
Pamayen Mining Cooperative	Ban on mercury use.	Liberia
Fula Camp Mining Association	Ban on mercury use.	Liberia
Handwork Mining Cooperative	Ban on mercury use.	Liberia
Vague Mining Cooperative	Ban on mercury use.	Liberia
Timba Town Multi-purpose Association	Ban on mercury use.	Liberia

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Gbarpolu Beekeepers Association	2018	Liberia	Yes	The Gbarpolu Beekeepers Association is made of all the lead beekeepers who were trained by the project. They provide technical support to other beekeepers in the area and undertake activities to promote beekeeping in Gbarpolu County.
Kongbor Mining Cooperative	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Tonglay Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Sector Working Group (ASMSWG)	2019	Liberia	No	This working group brings together all actors in Liberia concerned with artisanal and small scale mining in order to make recommendations to the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) about this sector.
Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG)	2007	Liberia	No	The CFWG brings together community forestry actors to a) advise the FDA on matters related to community forestry in Liberia and b) carry out certain validation functions in the 9-step legal process to establish a community forest.
Pamayen Mining Cooperative	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Tonglay Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.
Fula Camp Mining Association	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Sokpo 1 Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.
Handwork Mining Cooperative	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Sokpo 1 Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.
Vague Mining Cooperative	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Sokpo 2 Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.
Timba Town Multi-purpose Association	2022	Liberia	Yes	The miners formed an association to collectively contribute to the management of the Tonglay Community Forest and to benefit from training and materials to promote forest-friendly artisanal mining.

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
Small loan scheme.	With capital provided by donors, the CFMBs provide small loans to groups of 5 women who agree to not carry out any activities harmful to the forest (e.g. bush meat trading). The women pay back the loans with interest. The repaid capital is used for further loans while the interest	2017	small loan scheme	Liberia	Created and then supported a new mechanism	The small loan scheme has generated interest income but the CFMBs are only now starting to use that income to pay a portion of the CCT stipends.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
	income is to be used to pay the stipends of the CCTs who patrol the forest. The purpose is thus twofold - improving women's wellbeing and generating income to cover some of the CF management costs.					

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
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LESSONS LEARNED

Livelihoods: A key lesson learned with respect to livelihood activities was the effectiveness of training and supporting lead farmers. Lead farmers were chosen from all farmers trained in a particular crop based on their strong skill and/or interest and given extra training and sometimes extra tools or other materials. As neighbours of the other farmers adopting new techniques, the lead farmers were more readily available than project staff to provide advice and encouragement when needed.

With respect to livelihoods, it is important to take into account that it is very risky from a poor farmer's perspective to make changes in livelihood activities and therefore it takes time for farmers to fully adopt new crops or methods. For example, throughout Liberia, we find that it takes about 3-4 years for communities to really take up beekeeping after it is first introduced. This should be taken into account when designing projects.

Community relationships: It is not new but as a project focused on natural resource management which is something that can often create tension, we constantly saw the importance of building strong personal relationships with community members. This was especially important with community leaders and others who influenced decision-making.

Related to the above, we also experienced the effectiveness of "localising" activities. For example, rather than invite community members from a dozen villages to a meeting with government officials in a central location, it was usually more effective for the government officials to carry out numerous smaller meetings in the villages. Not only did this enable more community members to participate in the meetings but it also went a long way to building a good working relationship between the government officials and the community members.

Using local staff: We found that communication was often more effective, whether with community members or donors, when carried out by local staff as it was seen to be more authentic.

Generally, despite starting with less experience and lower levels of education than many of the Monrovia-based staff, the field staff who were hired locally became very competent community mobilisation officers when given relevant training and the space to develop professionally.

Collaboration among government ministries: Encouraging and supporting the FDA and the MME to work together on the issue of illegal mining was much more effective than working separately with the two ministries. Illegal miners and their supporters tended to ignore officials from one ministry by claiming that the other ministry was the only one that had the authority to, for example, ask them to leave the national park. When officials from both ministries worked together, their voice was stronger.

Project governance: We found that the Project Implementation Management Group (PIMG) was a very effective group for helping the project move forward, especially when disputes between villages or individuals were blocking progress. The PIMG consisted of community leaders, including women and youth leaders, as well as locally based government officials from the FDA and MME.

Road block: We found that when the FDA actually implemented road blocks on key transportation routes out of the Gola area, they were very effective at stopping the bush

meat trade as transporters simply stopped accepting to transport bush meat as it became too risky to do so.

Project visibility: We did not allocate enough resources in the project (time and budget) to project visibility and should increase this in future projects.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

1. Limited size and duration of project: Supporting subsistence farmers to make changes in their livelihood activities takes time as it can be very risky from a subsistence farmer's perspective to do something differently. Therefore, project size and duration needs to take this into account. For example, we found that lowland rice production has the potential to make a significant difference in people's lives. However, in order for it to be transformative over a significant geographical area requires significant and long term investment. CEPF grants tend to be of shorter duration and relatively small compared to some other donors. Continuing the example of lowland rice production, we could have used our entire CEPF grant only on lowland rice production and still not reached all of the communities in the Gola Landscape.
2. Weak government capacity and resources: While it is critically important to collaborate with government bodies, weak government capacity and resources is a challenge to the sustainability of some of our results. For example, we can provide training to FDA rangers and MME field agents, but unless the relevant ministries hold the field staff accountable to do their job (e.g. carry out regular patrols) and provide the resources needed (e.g. patrol rations), the field staff will not be able to put their training to use after the project ends and project resources (e.g. patrol rations) are no longer available.
3. Poor physical infrastructure, especially roads: The livelihoods training that this project provided contributed to improving the wellbeing of the communities we worked with. There could be far greater improvement if farmers could more easily access larger markets such as Monrovia. Cocoa farmers in Normon Clan, for example, find it much easier to sell across the border to buyers in Sierra Leone as it is not worthwhile for Liberian buyers to travel over the terrible roads to reach Normon. Businesses in Normon and Tonglay have to pay exorbitant prices for goods transported from Monrovia. Ask any community member in Normon and Tonglay what is the highest priority for supporting economic development in the area and the answer is always to improve the roads.
4. Commitment to national parks: It appears that SCNL's extensive work over the years has paid off in building community support for the establishment of national parks. Except for the anomaly of Camp Alpha, communities in the Gola Landscape appear to have accepted the presence of the national parks. Those who want to carry out forest-related activities are now looking first at forest located outside the national park boundaries. This is important for the long term sustainability of the project's results.
5. Political influence: There is a great deal of corruption in Liberia's political system that can be a challenge for the long term sustainability of some of the project's results. Despite a strong, long-term working relationship with SCNL, we have seen that communities can be very easily influenced by politicians from the area who can be more concerned about being re-elected than about, for example, biodiversity conservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

The Health and Safety plan for working with live bees was completed at the start of the project. A key component was ensuring that all beekeepers had access to working safety equipment such as bee suits and smokers which was done. When Universal Outreach Foundation completed their regular extension visits, they checked whether there were any safety issues. Generally, they found no safety issues but several times did find that beesuits were starting to get holes and therefore advised the beekeepers to fix the holes.

A grievance mechanism was designed during the first year of the project. However, it took a little longer to establish the mechanism as the two clans were slow to identify the elders to whom they wanted complaints brought. The elders were identified in the first half of 2019 and the grievance mechanism introduced to the communities. No grievances were reported using this mechanism during the life of this grant.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$256,000.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	GolaMA Project (EU): \$188,350 RSPB: \$17,250 SCNL: \$14,400 PAPFor Project (EU): \$18,000 Rainforest Trust: \$18,000

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL). info@scnlliberia.org