

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	17-014
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Development of a Cross-Sectoral Environmental Governance Platform for the Nimba Mountains</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Liberia; Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew Conservation International, Centre for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB) Conservation International (CI) - Liberia Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG), Guinea Government of Guinea – Environmental Management Authority for Nimba and Simandou Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba et Simandou – (CEGENS) Union des Volontaires pour le Développement Intégré de Zontompiézo, Guinea UVODIZ Aide Universelle pour le Développement de la Nouvelle Génération, Guinea AUDNG Arcelor Mittal, Liberia The Forest Development Authority (FDA), Liberia The Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia (EPA) Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) The National Environmental Agency, Cote d'Ivoire
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Pippa Howard</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>27 October 2009</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website</b>	

## **1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).**

1.1 Stakeholder mapping exercise has been initiated in the three countries identifying main stakeholders from the three sectors active in the Nimba mountains

1.2 In process of consultation in three countries to identify concerns and opportunities in Nimba mountains, biological data available and willingness of stakeholders to participate in the TCSEGP.

1.3 Participated in existing fora and held small workshops in Liberia to consolidate information, bring key stakeholders together and define priorities in each country

1.4 Launching the TCSEGP through participation in fundamental regional transboundary workshops (Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia) and initial workshops with bilateral parties, including representation from commercial interests in Guinea and Liberia (also bilateral) - integrating

commercial, community and conservation interest, and defining the mission and scope of the platform

2.1 Gathering the data and issues raised in previous in-countries workshops, consolidating and assessing to help identify the priority themes for the platform.

This data includes the commissioning of a Nimba Atlas, on a GIS platform, to enable interrogation and access for the future SEA and SMP.

2.2 Forming working groups at a country level, and cross-sectorally and transboundary, with the key stakeholders to prepare for engagement as the TCSEGP. These groups have been evolved from existing and/or dormant initiatives to capitalise on existing progress and dialogue and to avoid duplication of effort.

3.3 The project is leveraging funding from two business collaborators to ensure access to data and to support participation of key stakeholders in the platform. Additional funds need to be found, and FFI is preparing a NORAD and possibly GEF funding application for long term financial support to peripheral projects as outlined in the scope of work

4.1 Initiating the review of laws and regulations for ESIA in the three countries to ensure that the EIA process takes proper consideration of impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity and the follow-on social affects of these impacts. This forms a fundamental part of other work undertaken in related initiatives in both Liberia and Guinea.

5.1 Linked to previous stakeholder mapping exercise in 1.1 and consultation process in 1.2 – The project is gathering information on concerns and willingness of communities, CBOs and local NGOs to participate during the consultation – this is being supported by business ESIA results and sharing of findings in the Nimba. Information will be added to the Nimba Atlas

6 Website has not yet been uploaded, but will form a fundamental part of the next phase of work.

6.1 Carry out aerial and ground surveys of vegetation cover for the different types and look for evidence of functioning key ecosystem services – this is key information gathered by businesses and NGOs in these areas – and we have come to an agreement to access and share these data for the Nimba Atlas

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

1. TATA have withdrawn their mining operation in the Cote d'Ivoire Nimba World Heritage site. For this reason, the project will not need to engage with TATA. However, we have identified additional companies in Liberia and Guinea where iron ore mining poses the greatest threat to the Nimba Mountains: Rio Tinto (Simandou, Guinea) and Hummingbird Ltd (Nimba East, Liberia).

2. Guinea has experienced significant political unrest during the past month – this has impacted on field work to this region, delaying workshop schedule

3. Unanticipated shifts in the project collaborators in Cote d'Ivoire have also resulted in some delays to progress in the country.

Note: the project is therefore approximately one month behind schedule, but should be able to make up some of this as the year progresses. Other activities have been initiated to account for this and so there has been as slight shift in the scheduling of the project.

