



Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:

it is expected that this report will be no more than 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-022
Project Title	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest
Host Country/ies	Sierra Leone
Contract Holder Institution	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Partner institutions	Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP), Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Forestry Division, Cambridge University Department of Land Economy and Rainforest Alliance (RA).
Darwin Grant Value	£271,075
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID
Start/end dates of project	Start 1 st July 2013/End 30 th June 2017
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015 – Mar 2016) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 st May 2015-30 th April 2016. Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Nicolas Tubb
Project website/blog/Twitter	http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details.aspx?id=234389 http://www.golarainforest.org/ @golarainforest
Report author(s) and date	Nicolas Tubbs, Mark Hulme and Fiona Sanderson. 30 th April 2016

1. Project Rationale

The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) is the largest remnant of Upper Guinea Forest in Sierra Leone, an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. The park is in three distinct blocks which are separated by a mosaic of villages, agricultural land and forests. As resource demands and population growth both increase, forest isolation worsens, threatening forest integrity and resulting in human-wildlife conflicts increasing.

Efforts to revive the cocoa sector in post-conflict Sierra Leone have not fully succeeded due to the prevalence of unproductive varieties, aging plantations and the preoccupation of communities with subsistence agriculture. Efforts are underway to address this so that shade-grown cocoa restoration can be a key part of a carbon financing project being developed to secure sustained income for the GRNP. However, it is unclear whether rehabilitated cocoa is best used to promote forest connectivity for wildlife.

Shade-grown cocoa restoration on a large scale is underway, aiming to secure sustained income for GRNP communities. The partners to this project aim at determining the multi-benefits for cocoa rehabilitation, promoting improved livelihoods in conjunction with the promotion of forest connectivity for wildlife. Directing cocoa restoration to increase yields while benefitting wildlife and minimising human–wildlife conflicts is therefore crucial for the success of the GRNP, for habitat connectivity and for sustainable livelihood improvement.

All problems were identified based on our 25 year experience in country and after extensive consultation with stakeholders.

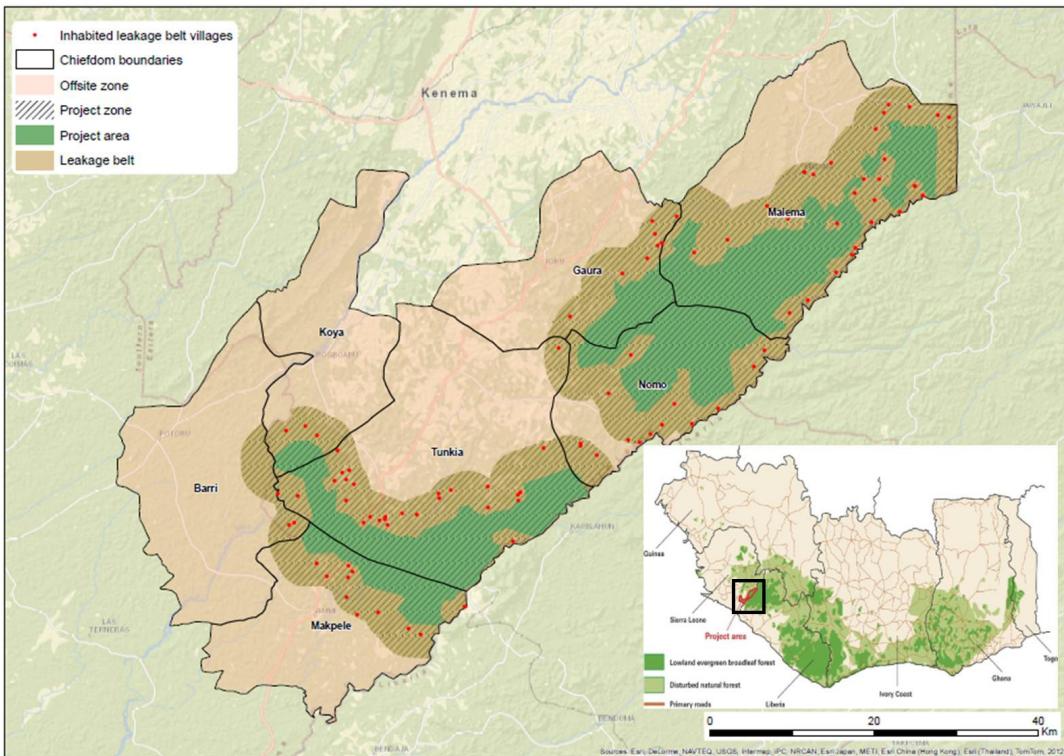


Fig1. Map of the Project Zone of this project (respecting REDD Terminology, the project area is the National Park).

2. Project Partnerships

The RSPB, CSSL and FD jointly manage the GRNP. All three have been partnering to conserve GRNP and its landscape for over 25 years.

WHH has been delivering agricultural improvement projects in Sierra Leone for over 7 years and is considered the lead international development agency in the agricultural (rice, cocoa, coffee) sector there.

Cambridge University is working with Wageningen University as part of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, conducting socioeconomic surveys around GRNP since 2009, building understanding of community development needs and measuring the success of the GRNP.

RA is an internationally recognised certification body which provides technical advice to ensure communities are aware of certification processes and requirements, build capacity on sustainable landscape practice and ensure this project meets certification processes and requirements. There is an increasing interest in certification in country as well as from international buyers.

In terms of decision making, RSPB, CSSL, FD, GRNP and WHH all sit on this project's Steering Committee. Day to day decisions are made jointly by the RSPB and the GRNP. In terms of achievements of this project's partnership, a true achievement has been to maintain strong ties amongst the partners throughout the Ebola epidemic which tailed off in September/October 2015 after it ravaged West Africa with over 4000 deaths in Sierra Leone alone. This partnership has managed to be highly adaptive and proactive considering the unique and extraordinary context. This can be evidenced by how swiftly the project's field activities resumed in what is today a post-Ebola recovery setting.

The partners forming the GRNP have finalised the registration of a non-profit company limited by guarantee, the Gola Rainforest Conservation LG. It is the first of its kind in Sierra Leone, consisting of an international organisation (RSPB), a local civil society organisation (CSSL) and government. All the legal documentation has been approved and finalised. The first Assembly General Meeting was held as well as the first meeting of the Directors.

The RSPB, in partnership with TWIN, the Gola Rainforest Conservation LG and the Rainforest Alliance have been awarded a grant from Comic Relief to develop the value chain for a Gola Cocoa brand, from the farm gates to export, hence further building a rainforest-friendly cocoa value chain with forest edge communities. This project was launched in December 2015 and would not have been awarded had it not been for the outputs delivered by this specific project. This project truly served as a spring board, providing its scientific backbone.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

The Gola Rainforest National Park has managed to complete its legal registration as a non-profit company limited by guarantee, the Gola Rainforest Conservation LG. This entity is therefore the one responsible for the ownership, marketing and sale of carbon credits for the Gola REDD Project, which is so intrinsically linked to this project.

Output 1: Assessing impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry (cocoa) systems

Activity 1.1: Mapping exercise to assess the extent of abandoned cocoa plantations

Completed. See AR2.

Activity 1.2: Camera trapping/point counts of wildlife (mammals/birds) to survey resident and transient wildlife in habitats surrounding GRNP, including restored and abandoned plantations, and within GRNP to compare wildlife populations to the NP forest baseline. This would include measuring changes in wildlife following cocoa restoration.

Analyses of the power of bird community indices to detect differences between habitats and to detect changes in bird communities, particularly in active cocoa, over time, are about to be completed. Preliminary work suggests little difference currently in bird communities between non-forest habitats outside GRNP. Simple indices of change such as Buckland's geometric index of occurrence, or weighting species by their dependence on forest and susceptibility to climate change, are able to detect simulated changes in bird communities in active cocoa of an overall decline in forest species and concurrent increase in non-forest species with 95%

confidence in <10 years. Work to refine these indices so that changes can be detected earlier, and to assess their power to detect other changes of conservation concern is close to completion.

Since January 2016, the focus has been on increasing the bird point count sample size in habitats where this was thought necessary following the 2013-2014 fieldwork and after hiatus resulting from the Ebola outbreak. Some additional mapping was also carried out where considered necessary due to further information on habitat management given the cyclical nature of land-use in the region. In total 48 additional points were conducted in 4 communities in Malema chiefdom including 5 in abandoned, 3 in active cocoa, 5 in community forest, 16 in farmbush and 19 in upland farm raising the total points by habitat to those seen in Annex 4 (Table 1). In total 371 points have been conducted and 171 bird species recorded thus far. Repeat point visits are planned for 2016-2017.

Activity 1.3: Analysing the camera trapping/point counts of wildlife in order to compare wildlife populations between different habitats (spatial comparison), in particular to the NP forest baseline but also between the farmed habitats studied, and before and after cocoa restoration (temporal comparison).

See Activity 1.2.

Output 2: Understanding of the costs of human–wildlife conflicts relating to cocoa farming is enhanced, together with knowledge of methods to mitigate these conflicts.

Activity 2.1 Monitor crop raiding throughout the project in restored and non restored sites

For the 2015 field season, during the cocoa harvest, field work focused on assessing cocoa losses to mammal species in a selection of previously mapped active cocoa patches in the leakage belt in Nomo and Malema Chiefdoms varying in size and distance to GRNP. This involved quadrats on a 50m grid system within plantations where cocoa trees are marked, cocoa pods counted alongside any damage by animals, identified if possible from signs, and whether pods are rotten, as an indicator of disease impact. These trees are visited at regular intervals and an estimate of proportion lost through wildlife damage and disease is obtained related to plantation size, distance to forest and type of adjacent habitat. This will show the extent of the problem and indicate where mitigation efforts should be concentrated most effectively. In addition signs of pod damage and animal activity on the ground are noted and further camera traps deployed to obtain evidence of the use of plantation by potential crop raiding species.

Please note that the cocoa harvesting season begins in late September as the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone was tailing off. Hence field activities need to follow the agricultural calendar. Sierra Leone is currently Ebola free. Therefore, fieldwork was completed on cocoa crop raiding (September-November 2015), during the cocoa harvesting season. At 3 communities within Nomo and Malema chiefdoms and despite particularly difficult access due to high rainfall, cocoa pod numbers and damage on trees and on ground were recorded within 71 10m x 10m quadrats in 14 active cocoa plantations with varying size and distance to GRNP. Quadrats were visited 3 times. Pod size, colour and damage were recorded with identification of the species responsible for any damage assessed by a local farmer and, via photographic evidence, by an experienced researcher. Damage by monkey, squirrel and chimpanzee were recorded. Including repeat counts, a total of 13832 pods were counted across all 3 visits to 514 trees, including 2097 undamaged growing pods and 725 damage incidents determined to be within 4 weeks of the survey across all 3 visits, with the remainder being older damage and rotten pods still on trees. More detailed analysis is still to be carried out on what this might represent in terms of loss across the harvesting period and potential contributions by the different species groups.

Furthermore, 9 camera traps were deployed in an attempt to record direct evidence of potential crop-raiding wildlife in cocoa plantations, in particular in plantations where farmers referenced chimp damage as a problem since chimps might remove pods so making field observations of damage more challenging. In addition to evidence of cocoa damage by chimps recorded at all 4 plantations where local information suggested they were present, this resulted in photos of chimps at 3 of these plantations including one photo of chimps eating cocoa and one of a chimp holding oranges. This exercise illustrates the validity and accuracy of local identification of at least some crop-raiders. No monkeys or squirrels were recorded on any of the cameras.

Activity 2.2 Review existing practices of HWC prevention and mitigation.

Completed. An extensive review of all available publications relating to crop raiding worldwide, especially in the context of cocoa has been completed. This not only focused on peer-reviewed publications but also on grey literature. Over 190 documents were identified, though only 10 specifically focused on cocoa and none of these had the combination desired of detailed estimates of proportionate yield loss due to specific crop-raiding species and associated assessments of mitigation method efficacy. We therefore decided to contact a selected number of experts to seek their advice and input to ensure our review was thorough and ensure we eventually pilot the most relevant and effective mitigation measures. The review identified over 60 mitigation methods across different crops either in use or suggested as potentially effective and this provides a wealth of material in order to learn from experience of best practice in other farming systems across the world.

Activity 2.3 Develop a list/framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with HWC which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.

This is dependent on *Activity 2.2* which has just been completed. As a result, a list of mitigation strategies has been drafted, yet this will be completed as planned by Q2 of Year 3.

Activity 2.4 Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand attitudes.

Completed. See AR2.

Activity 2.5 Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation tools are demonstrated in selected GRNP forest edge communities (FECs) and surrounding land owners.

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Activity 2.6 Dissemination through awareness building workshops FFS

3 additional groups were established in 2015 with a total of 47 members, and some existing groups registered additional cocoa farmers (60 in total), which brings the total number of Farmer Field Schools to 45 with a total of 1182 registered cocoa farmers. A total of 96 Master Farmers were trained in 2015 on two separate topics: (i) establishment of new cocoa plantation including out-planting (July-Sept which involved 82 participants including 7 women) and (ii) cocoa processing and quality (Oct-Dec which involved 60 participants, including 8 women).

Output 3 Selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods

Activity 3.1: Support thirty FECs to link with farmer field schools which support farmers with tools, advice and support to improve yields.

During 2015, no out-planting was carried out due to the Ebola outbreak which prevented nurseries being established in time for out-planting in June.

Activity 3.2: Analyses existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income.

Please see Activity 2.4 above concerning the existing socioeconomic data. This activity faced delays due to the Ebola outbreak. An activity survey was developed to monitor the impact of GRNP's livelihood activities which includes dedicated sections on cocoa and crop raiding. A random selection of FEC farmers is currently being interviewed (began January 2016) and will be completed before the rainy season begins (June). The survey can be provided upon request.

Results thus far show that among the cocoa farmers that harvested their cocoa the average yield in 2013, was 90 kg per hectares. 2013 season was selected as the reference year because 2014 season was disrupted by the Ebola outbreak.

Activity 3.3 Advice to promote a win-win solution to livelihoods and wildlife is given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations

The GRNP hosted a roundtable with the National Cocoa Working Group (also known as the Cocoa, Coffee Working Group, CCWG) which generated unique support for the win-win solutions being put forward by the project. This project is unique in the sense that it demonstrates the value of integrating environmental safeguards when wanting to improve cocoa yield and quality. The roundtable involved 33 participants from relevant ministries, NGOs, academia, farmer organisations and the private sector. Worth adding that the Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) which aims to conserve and sustainably manage Liberia's share of the Gola forest also attended, hence bringing a transboundary perspective.

A poster on the ongoing bird indices work was presented at the ICCB conference in Montpellier, France (August 2015) resulting in good levels of interest in the work from fellow plantation researchers, raising the profile of the project and of the Darwin Initiative. The opportunity was taken to meet with several international researchers in similar fields, particularly regarding crop raiding.

Activity 3.4 Multi-stakeholder workshops to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated.

The GRNP hosted a roundtable with the National Cocoa Roundtable which generated unique support for the win-win solutions being put forward by the project. Please see *Activity 3.3*.

Output 4 A livelihood development and habitat connectivity strategy that integrates cocoa rehabilitation is developed and adopted by the GRNP and disseminated for selected Protected areas in Sierra Leone

Activity 4.1 Criteria and principles for selecting priority cocoa development areas to enhance connectivity are produced

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Activity 4.2 Develop a map to demonstrate where cocoa can be used in the possible mosaic linking Gola South, with Gola Centre, and Gola centre with the Transboundary corridor to enhance habitat connectivity in the agricultural landscape

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Activity 4.3 Exercise to review and update GRNP management plan to include habitat connectivity

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Activity 4.4 National conference (end of Project) targeting selected Protected Areas focusing on replication potential focusing on habitat connectivity and human wildlife mitigation issues

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Output 5 Project managed efficiently and effectively and local staff trained so that they can continue to contribute to ensuring the project legacy.

Activity 5.1: Establish project steering committee from RSPB, GRNP, CSSL and FD and WHH to meet every 6 months

The project manager visited the team in country four times since the last Annual Report was submitted, which makes a total of nine times since the project's start to ensure efficiency and robust monitoring. The third Steering Committee took place on the 26th April 2016. It was attended by the Government of Sierra Leone representative, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, the RSPB, the Paramount Chief Representative and WHH. The technical and financial reports were approved. The Steering Committee recognised the significant progress made especially considering the unique national crisis it faced. Members agreed that all pending project outputs will be completed in this final year.

Activity 5.2: Hold project level workshop to develop monitoring and evaluation plan to establish, roles and responsibilities of partners and associated methods, tools and timetable.

Not applicable for this reporting period. See AR1 and AR2.

Activity 5.3: Conduct training programme for National Staff from GFP, CSSL, FD and other partners where appropriate

Not applicable for this reporting period. See AR1 and AR2.

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

Output 1: The impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry systems, in particular abandoned cocoa plantations, to different levels of production is assessed

This output is anticipated to be completed and achieved, data is currently being processed.

Indicator 1: Target research sites identified by EOY1

Completed (AR1).

Indicator 2: Fieldwork completed by EOY3

Field activities have resumed in full as the Ebola outbreak tailed off in September 2015, with the crop raiding monitoring which will be completed in the next months.

Indicator 3: Data Analysis done by EOY3

There has been good progress on the analysis of previous data as well as data collected thus far. This will be completed and achieved as planned.

Indicator 4: Mapping exercise of cocoa plantations completed year 1

Completed, however field results will add to and refine the existing maps of the cocoa plantations.

Indicator 5: Similarity index for wildlife in rehabilitated plantations verses pristine habitats is measured by end of project

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Indicator 6: Peer reviewed paper submitted by EOP

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Output 2 Understanding of the costs of human–wildlife conflicts relating to cocoa farming is enhanced, together with knowledge of methods to mitigate these conflicts.

There has been significant progress over the past year as field activities/data collection dedicated to this output were initiated in September 2015. Considering the one year no-cost extension, this output is anticipated to be completed very shortly. Field work is ongoing (April-May) as the cocoa is blooming. This output will be achieved despite the delays resulting from the epidemic outbreak.

Indicator 1: HWC attitude survey completed by EOY1

See AR1 and AR2. Initiated in January 2016, to be completed in the next months before the rainy season begins (June).

Indicator 2: Review of existing best practice done by EOY2

As reported under Activity 2.2, this is now completed. An extensive review of all available publications relating to crop raiding worldwide, especially in the context of cocoa was completed. This not only focused on peer-reviewed publications but also on grey literature. The review identified over 60 mitigation methods across different crops either in use or suggested as potentially effective and this provides a wealth of material in order to learn from experience of best practice in other farming systems across the world. This resulted in a report bringing together the relevant information from international publications and expert advice which will inform crop raiding work around GRNP.

Indicator 3: Fieldwork and analysis on impact of crop raiding on cocoa completed by EOY2

There has been significant progress made here with dedicated field activities and data collection which was (re) initiated in September 2015. This is ongoing and will be completed in the next months to match with the cocoa's agricultural calendar.

Indicator 4: HWC mitigation strategy demonstrated in at least 1community by EOP

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Indicator 5: 40% of the 30 focal communities have evidence based, agreed understanding of cause and impact of HWC by EOP as compared with baseline.

No progress to report here as a result of the Ebola crisis. This is expected to be completed by the new EOP.

Indicator 6: 10 dissemination workshops held in FECs by EOP.

Completed. 10 dissemination workshops were held last year alone, focused on two topics with Farmer Field Schools (i) establishment of new cocoa plantation and including out-planting and (ii) cocoa processing and quality.

Output 3: Selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods

This output is well underway, please see *Output 2 Indicator 6* above as dedicated capacity building for cocoa plantation benefited 82 and 60 participants for the establishment of new cocoa plantations and cocoa quality respectively.

Indicator 1 140 community members enrol with Farmer field schools by early Y2

Completed. See AR1.

Indicator 2 140 community members trained in improved techniques by EOY2

See Output 2 Indicator 6.

Indicator 3 Meetings held with 3 new plantations during project

WHH organised one exchange visit this past year, however logistical constraints prevented that from taking place. New opportunities are being sought.

Output 4: A livelihood development and habitat connectivity strategy that integrates cocoa rehabilitation is developed and adopted by the GRNP and disseminated for selected Protected areas in Sierra Leone.

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Indicator 1: Zoning map developed by year 2

The rehabilitation and connectivity zoning map will obviously not be produced until the end of the project as it relies on the full results of the cocoa biodiversity work which won't be available until the end of the project; however the cocoa plantation distribution map which is close to finalisation is a cornerstone to the zoning map to be developed here. The production of this zoning map is therefore not possible until EOP.

Indicator 2: Plans for cocoa rehabilitation incorporated into a revised GRNP management plan by the EOP

The format of the management plan to be used by GRNP has been updated and a draft management plan produced. To finalise this plan, consultative meetings will need to take place with staff and local stakeholders. We anticipate completing the GRNP management plan by the end of 2016 and integrate plans for cocoa rehabilitation once further results from this project are available. This is therefore on schedule to be completed by the revised EOP.

Indicator 3: National Workshop held and key community, government, private sector and NGO stakeholders attend year 3

See Activity 3.3. The GRNP hosted a roundtable with the National Cocoa Working Group (also known as the Cocoa, Coffee Working Group, CCWG) which generated unique support for the win-win solutions being put forward by the project. This project is unique in the sense that it demonstrates the value of integrating environmental safeguards when wanting to improve cocoa yield and quality. The roundtable involved 33 participants from relevant ministries, NGOs, academia, farmer organisations and the private sector.

Output 5: Project managed efficiently and effectively and local staff trained so that they can continue to contribute to ensuring the project legacy.

Considering the one year no-cost extension now approved for this project, this output is anticipated to be completed and achieved despite the delays resulting from the epidemic outbreak.

The Gola Rainforest National Park has managed to complete its legal registration as a non-profit company limited by guarantee, the Gola Rainforest Conservation LG. This entity is therefore the one responsible for the ownership, marketing and sale of carbon credits for the Gola REDD Project, which is so intrinsically linked to this project. Verified carbon credits are now for sale on <https://standfortrees.org/en/protect-a-forest/gola-rainforest-project-connecting-forests-people>.

Indicator 1: M&E plan in place by mid yr1

Completed, see AR2.

Indicator 2: Staff training plan in place by EOY1 and carried out where appropriate throughout project

Completed, see AR2.

Indicator 3 Steering committee established by mid yr 1 and meets regularly

The third Steering Committee took place on the 26th April 2016. It was attended by the Government of Sierra Leone representative, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, the RSPB, the Paramount Chief Representative and WHH. The technical and financial reports were approved; the Steering Committee recognised the significant progress made especially considering the unique national crisis it faced. Members agreed that all pending project outputs will be completed in this final year.

Indicator 4 Financial reporting system in place by end of first month and financial expenditure remains within contractual limits

Completed (AR1). Please see the financial report for the third year of the project.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The Project's outcome statement is:

“Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefits of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

The project will contribute to reducing poverty through supporting the re-emerging cocoa sector cocoa in 30 forest edge communities. 70 households will increase incomes by 10% as a result of improved cocoa farming.

Human wildlife conflict research will inform a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to areas that minimises loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to conflicts.

The National Cocoa Working Group will recognise the strategy and interest shown by other protected areas in country.”

Though this report is the Annual Report for 2015-2016, the project has been operating for 27 months since the start date was the 1st of July 2013 and in 2014 at least 6months worth of field activities had to be almost fully suspended due to the Ebola crisis. However, considering (i) the very high success in the enrolment of farmers into farmer field schools, (ii) the completion of all bird counts, (iii) the biodiversity and plantation monitoring being close to completion and (iv) the field work focusing on assessing crop raiding being close to completion, we remain confident that with the one year no-cost extension approved, the project is likely to achieve the purpose/outcome by the revised end date of the project. We are confident that the purpose level assumptions still hold true and that the indicators are adequate for measuring outcomes.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

There have been no changes in outcome and output level assumptions. However, the risk of an epidemiological outbreak such as Ebola had not been considered as a critical condition and risk to the project. The 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak was the first in West Africa and took the entire international and regional community by surprise. Hence the risk of such an epidemic repeating itself and/or scaling up again is now being considered by the management team as part of its

risk assessments. However, the project has gained full momentum again, operating back to normal.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The Impact in the project's original application form was:

"The habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Forest is improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and forest dependent wildlife.

The project will contribute to poverty alleviation efforts by improving the livelihoods of cocoa growing communities in key forest habitat connectivity areas and showing how improved cocoa farming can work alongside wildlife conservation. This will be rolled out across the landscape so that mosaic of habitats favourable to livelihoods and wildlife link all GRNP forest blocks together and to the proposed Gola National Park in Liberia."

This project is providing an important contribution to this higher goal as it provides critical information on the biodiversity that exists outside the Gola Rainforest National Park, all within one of the largest remnants of the Upper Guinea Forest biodiversity hotspot and in areas that are important for habitat connectivity (*Outcome Indicator 3 and 4*). Attention has for long been on the biodiversity within the National Park's boundaries whilst not considering the immediate surroundings whether it be in community forests or plantations. This project is also of high importance to poverty alleviation as it targets the poorest of the poor in one of the nations at the bottom of the human development index and aims to sustainably improve their livelihoods (see *Outcome Indicator 1 and 2*). Also, it addresses a long standing grievance from local communities; that forest related wildlife reduces crop production. This project is a robust illustration of conservation and development being complementary and jointly addressed.

4. Contribution to SDGs

SDG	Target (add target number)	Contribution of the project
1. Poverty - End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1a,	<p>The project contributes to poverty alleviation efforts by improving the livelihoods of cocoa growing communities in key forest habitat connectivity areas and showing how improved cocoa farming can work alongside wildlife conservation. This is rolled out across the landscape so that mosaic of habitats favourable to livelihoods and wildlife link all GRNP forest blocks together and to the proposed Gola National Park in Liberia.</p> <p>At least 40% of the 180 households (450 people) from the 30 project communities that enrolled with farmer field schools and farmer field schools are still actively engaged in them by the EOP.</p> <p>10% increase in incomes from rehabilitated cocoa for 70 households by EOP.</p> <p>The GRNP's approach to restore local cocoa plantations for the dual benefit of livelihoods and biodiversity is recognised by the National Cocoa working group</p>
2. Food - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2a, 2b, 2c	Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefits of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity. The project contributes to reducing poverty through supporting the re-emerging cocoa sector cocoa in 30 forest edge communities. 70 households will increase incomes by 10% as a result of improved cocoa farming. Human wildlife

		conflict research informs a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to areas that minimises loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to conflicts. The National Cocoa Working Group will recognise the strategy and interest shown by other protected areas in country.
3. Health - Ensure healthy lives and promote <u>well-being</u> for all at all ages	3d	The habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Forest is improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and forest dependent wildlife, hence contributing to resilient livelihoods in post-conflict and post-Ebola contexts.
4. Education - Ensure <u>inclusive</u> and <u>equitable</u> quality education and promote <u>lifelong learning</u> opportunities for all	4.3, 4.4, 4.7	Through the Farmer Field School Model, selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods
5. Women - Achieve <u>gender equality</u> and <u>empower</u> all women and girls		
6. Water - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		
7. Energy - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all		
8. Economy - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and <u>decent work</u> for all	8.2, 8.4, 8a	Project analyses existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income. Project promotes win-win solutions to livelihoods and wildlife to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations. Project develops a framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with Human Wildlife Conflict which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.
9. Infrastructure - Build resilient <u>infrastructure</u> , promote inclusive and <u>sustainable industrialization</u> and foster <u>innovation</u>		
10. Inequality - Reduce <u>inequality</u> within and among countries	10.1, 10.2,	The project targets forest edge communities which are part of the poorest and most isolated in the country.
11. Habitation - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable		
12. Consumption - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns		
13. Climate - Take urgent	13.1, 13.2,	Project promotes win-win solutions to livelihoods and

action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.3, 13b	tropical rainforest conservation to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations, hence supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
14. Marine-ecosystems - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		
15. Ecosystems - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems , sustainably manage forests, combat desertification , and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.9, 15a, 15b,	The habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Forest is improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and forest dependent wildlife. The project contributes to poverty alleviation efforts by improving the livelihoods of cocoa growing communities in key forest habitat connectivity areas and showing how improved cocoa farming can work alongside wildlife conservation. This is rolled out across the landscape so that mosaic of habitats favourable to livelihoods and wildlife link all GRNP forest blocks together and to the proposed Gola National Park in Liberia.
16. Institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development , provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels		
17. Sustainability - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development		

Outline of key successes to date relevant to the SDGs (in bullet point form):

- 323 point counts, 143 different bird species identified. 28 and 92 species have high and medium forest dependency respectively. 1 endangered, 5 vulnerable, 4 near threatened.
- 1085 farmers (53 communities, 2000 households) actively involved in farmer field schools, surpassing our anticipation by over seven folds (20% of those farmers are women). Trainings following the agricultural calendar for cocoa has already resulted in 160,000 trees in nurseries.
- Species recorded: in GRNP: Western Chimpanzee. Community forest: Black Duiker, White-breasted Guineafowl, African Civet. Abandoned cocoa: Bushbuck, Sooty Mangabey, Brush-tailed Porcupine. Active cocoa: African Civet, Brush-tailed Porcupine, Crested Guineafowl, Water Chevrotain.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements)

The project is supporting Conventions by contributing to the following objectives and targets:

Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 5. Cooperation between Sierra Leone and UK for the benefit of an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot and to improve local livelihoods.

Articles 7c/7d. Identifying and Monitoring HWC and bushmeat hunting dynamics in the project area.

Articles 8e/8j. In-situ Conservation by promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development in communities around GRNP and ensuring their traditional knowledge and lifestyles are a core part of development.

Article 10c. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity, in particular customary uses will be incorporated into the plans for enhancing habitat connectivity developed by the project.

Article 12 b/c. Research and Training in field work and analytical approaches for assessing ways of integrating agricultural productivity with conservation at local/landscape scales and quantifying real/perceived extents of HWC as part of balancing wildlife conservation and sustainable use.

Article 13a. Public Education and Awareness through education programmes in the 30 target communities to raise awareness of the importance of the conservation of biological diversity.

Article 18. Technical and Scientific Cooperation between the UK (though RSPB) and Sierra Leone results in the development of policy briefings and improved capacities to implement.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 7 and 14

When travelling to Sierra Leone, the project manager normally meets with Dr Kolleh Bangura (Director to the National Protected Areas Authority, and the CBD Focal point). Likewise, the project manager has met the new Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) twice already since he was appointed last January. This project is therefore well understood and recognised in Sierra Leone and directly contributes to Sierra Leone's commitments to the Paris Agreement, which it became a signatory to in April 2016.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

There is evidence that the project is working to alleviate poverty alleviation as we are specifically targeting local communities' livelihoods and income at household level. The project contributes to reducing poverty by catalysing and supporting the re-emergence of cocoa as an effective way of reducing poverty in forest-edge communities. 70 households from project communities were targeted to enrol with farmer field schools in year 1 though this was surpassed by over seven folds. These farmers are being actively engaged in modern cocoa-farming that we anticipate to increase household incomes by 10% by the end of the project.

Please see the project's outcome and the indicators to *Outcome 2,3 and 4*, but specifically 3, for more detail.

7. Project support to Gender equity issues

This project is not directly working to address gender equality, nor are there any direct gender equality impacts here. However, this project tackles areas of development which indirectly impact gender equality. We work directly with cocoa producers with who we integrate a gender-sensitive approach, to simultaneously be working directly with producers to increase sustainable productivity and improve quality to raise incomes through higher yields and a higher sale price. This will impact household incomes and could indirectly benefit gender equality by allowing women to access and make use of cash owned from cocoa farming. Also, supporting the development of democratic, gender-just governance systems will provide a strong foundation for inclusive business. The evidence which can be used here is the

employment policy of the GRNP which favours members of forest edge communities and women (see GRNP Staff Handbook, available upon request).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

In addition to what has been already mentioned in other sections: during this past year and since the Ebola outbreak greatly impacted field activities, project staff invested particular effort in setting a strong framework for monitoring and evaluation for this project as well as for the GRNP institutionally. This resulted in the production of an activity tracking document dedicated to cocoa as well as a report analysing relevant socio-economic data previously collected which directly informs this project (see *Activity 2.4*).

9. Lessons learnt

A key lesson learnt for us this year has been to make sure we maintain systems in place to detect early signs of epidemiological outbreak and to have mitigation strategies and contingency plans in place as well as procedures for closing operations down and repatriating expatriate staff at very short notice. We do so by holding regular refresher trainings for all GRNP staff. The wider impacts of the Ebola outbreak are still to be clearly assessed.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

As previously mentioned, this project is closely linked to the Gola REDD project which reached a major milestone this year which would not have been possible without this project. Gola REDD project successfully passed its independent audit against the two leading standards on the voluntary carbon market; demonstrating that we avoided the emissions of 1.19 million tonnes of CO₂ over the period between August 2012 and December 2014. This is the very first project of its kind in West Africa, thereby demonstrating Sierra Leone's leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The project aims to reach a sustainable end point. The project builds upon, and links closely to, components of the GRNP, an ongoing programme that is close to securing its future sustainability (through an established trust fund and upcoming carbon revenues, see www.golarainforest.org). The project targets issues that are important to the success of the wider GRNP. Project actions are in the interest of GRNP, specifically the improvement of the delivery of its commitments to support livelihoods and the reduction of tension and hostility towards the aims of GRNP resulting from human wildlife conflict.

The sustainability of project actions is being ensured by engaging communities with established agricultural support structures, building their capacity and linking them with reputable traders. The A4D and carbon projects will go beyond this project and will take cocoa through to the international markets with certification.

The RSPB, in partnership with TWIN, the Gola Rainforest Conservation LG and the Rainforest Alliance have been awarded a grant from Comic Relief to develop the value chain for a Gola Cocoa brand, from the farm gates to export, hence further building a rainforest-friendly cocoa value chain with forest edge communities. This project was launched in December 2015 and would not have been awarded had it not been for the outputs delivered by this specific project. This project truly served as a spring board, providing its scientific backbone.

13. Darwin Identity

- The Darwin Initiative logo was used on the Gola Rainforest National Park website (www.golarainforest.org). The Darwin Initiative's support was repeatedly communicated by the Project Manager at all stakeholder Meetings.
- The larger programme, the Greater Gola Landscape was profiled at the UNFCCC Paris Conference (December 2015) during a side event organised by BirdLife International.
- A poster presented about the project at ICCB-ECCB conference, Montpellier, France, August 2-6th 2015 on bird density and diversity by habitat based on first set of bird point counts. This generated good interest during the poster sessions.
- The Darwin Initiative's support was clearly recognised in an article at the World Forestry Congress (September 2015) which is now part of the congress' proceedings.

Finally, a series of tweets (from @golarainforest) were issued as well as a blog on the RSPB website.

14. Project Expenditure

Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2015/16 Grant (£)	2015/16 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)			+5.58%	We've had to catch-up delays resulting from the Ebola Outbreak which brought field activities to a halt. Resuming and planning this resulted in an increase in dedicated staff time to ensure project outputs and activities were delivered.
Consultancy costs			0.00%	N/A
Overhead Costs			0.00%	N/A
Travel and subsistence			-12.65%	Field activities halted due to the Ebola outbreak (which tailed off in Sept/Oct), resulted in an under spend here.
Operating Costs			-4.34%	Field activities halted from the Ebola outbreak (which tailed off in Sept/Oct), resulted in an under spend here.

Capital items (see below)	0.00	0.00	0.00%	N/A
Others (see below)			-15.69%	Field activities halted from the Ebola outbreak (which tailed off in Sept/Oct), it allowed savings in equipment and other costs and resulted in an under spend here
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2015-2016

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2015 - March 2016	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact The habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Forest is improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and forest dependent wildlife.		n/a	
Outcome Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefits of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity. The project will contribute to reducing poverty through supporting the re-emerging cocoa sector cocoa in 30 forest edge communities. 70 households will increase incomes by 10% as a result of improved cocoa farming. Human wildlife conflict research will inform a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to areas that minimises loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to conflicts. The National Cocoa Working Group will recognise the strategy and interest shown by other protected areas in country.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% of the 180 households (450 people) from the 30 project communities that enrolled with farmer field schools and farmer field schools are still actively engaged in them by the EOP 10% increase in incomes from rehabilitated cocoa for 70 households by EOP. The strategy to secure GRNP's habitat connectivity is implemented as part of the GRNP's Annual Operations Plan by EOP. The GRNP's approach to restore local cocoa plantations for the dual benefit of livelihoods and biodiversity is recognised by the National Cocoa working group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1085 farmers enrolled in 45 farmer field schools, reaching out to an estimated 2000 households. Surveys being carried out, to be completed before the rains Integral part to the Gola REDD Project's AOP, integrity will be evaluated by external auditors at the next verification event Roundtable table with the National Cocoa working group hosted by GRNP was held. GRNP's approach acknowledged and recognised 	

Output 1.		
Output 1. (insert original outputs with activities relevant to that outputs in lines below. Activities relevant to more than one output should be cross-referenced rather than repeated) The impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry systems, in particular abandoned cocoa plantations, to different levels of production is assessed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target research sites identified by EOY1 2. Fieldwork completed by EOY3 3. Data Analysis done by EOY3 4. Mapping exercise of cocoa plantations completed year 1 5. Similarity index for wildlife in rehabilitated plantations verses pristine habitats is measured by end of project 6. Peer reviewed paper submitted by EOP 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed (AR2). 2. Crop raiding fieldwork assessment well advanced 3. Initial data analysis underway, especially to assess species densities and bird community composition is completed 4. Mapping of cocoa for point counts in study sites completed 5. Initial data analysis completed re species densities and bird community composition 6. Planned for EOP
Activity 1.1 Mapping exercise to assess the extent of abandoned cocoa plantations		Completed. Additional mapping likely to be carried out to refine as habitat management changes
Activity 1.2 Camera trapping/point counts of wildlife (mammals/birds) to survey resident and transient wildlife in habitats surrounding GRNP, including restored and abandoned plantations, and within GRNP to compare wildlife populations to the NP forest baseline. This would include measuring changes in wildlife following cocoa restoration.		<p>Analyses of the power of bird community indices to detect differences between habitats and to detect changes in bird communities, particularly in active cocoa, over time, are about to be completed. Preliminary work suggests little difference currently in bird communities between non-forest habitats outside GRNP.</p> <p>Since January 2016, the focus has been on increasing the bird point count sample size in habitats where this was thought necessary following the 2013-2014 fieldwork and after hiatus resulting from the Ebola outbreak. In total 48 additional points were conducted in 4 communities. In total 371 points have been conducted and 171 bird species recorded thus far. Repeat point visits are planned for 2016-2017.</p>
Activity 1.3 Analysing the camera trapping/point counts of wildlife in order to compare wildlife populations between different habitats (spatial comparison), in particular to the NP forest baseline but also between the farmed habitats studied, and before and after cocoa restoration (temporal comparison).		See above for Activity 1.2
Output 2.		
Understanding of the costs of human–wildlife conflicts relating to cocoa farming is enhanced, together with knowledge of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HWC attitude survey completed by EOY1 2. Review of existing best practice done by EOY2 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey underway (since January 2016), data being processed and to be completed before the rainy season begins 2. Literature review of crop raiding activities combined with expert advice

methods to mitigate these conflicts.	3. Fieldwork and analysis on impact of crop raiding on cocoa completed by EOY2 4. HWC mitigation strategy demonstrated in at least 1 community by EOP 5. 40% of the 30 focal communities have evidence based, agreed understanding of cause and impact of HWC by EOP as compared with baseline. 6. 10 dissemination workshops held in FECs by EOP.	is completed 3. Crop raiding monitoring underway 4. n/a for this reporting period 5. n/a for this reporting period 6. Completed. The past year alone 10 dissemination workshops were held, focused on two topics with Farmer Field Schools (i) establishment of new cocoa plantation and including out-planting and (ii) cocoa processing and quality.
Activity 2.1. Monitor crop raiding throughout the project in restored and non restored sites		<p>Field work focused on assessing cocoa losses to mammal species in a selection of previously mapped active cocoa patches in the leakage belt. This involved quadrats within plantations where cocoa trees are marked, cocoa pods counted alongside any damage by animals, identified if possible from signs, and whether pods are rotten, as an indicator of disease impact.</p> <p>Pod size, colour and damage were recorded with identification of the species responsible for any damage. A total of 13832 pods were counted across all 3 visits to 514 trees, including 2097 undamaged growing pods and 725 damage incidents determined to be within 4 weeks of the survey across all 3 visits, with the remainder being older damage and rotten pods still on trees. More detailed analysis is still to be carried out</p> <p>9 camera traps were deployed in an attempt to record direct evidence of potential crop-raiding wildlife in cocoa plantations, in particular in plantations where farmers referenced chimp damage I resulted in photos of chimps at 3 of these 4 plantations including one photo of chimps eating cocoa and one of a chimp holding oranges. This exercise illustrates the validity and accuracy of local identification of at least some crop-raiders. No monkeys or squirrels were recorded on any of the cameras.</p>
Activity 2.2. Review existing practices of HWC prevention and mitigation.		Literature review of crop raiding activities combined with expert advice

		completed.
Activity 2.3. Develop a list/framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with HWC which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.		List of mitigation strategies collated, prioritisation process for the most suitable one(s) to be carried out shortly.
Activity 2.4. Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand attitudes		Completed
Activity 2.5. Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation tools are demonstrated in selected GRNP forest edge communities (FECs) and surrounding land owners		n/a for this reporting period
Activity 2.6. Dissemination through awareness building workshops FFS		Completed. The past year alone 10 dissemination workshops were held, focused on two topics with Farmer Field Schools (i) establishment of new cocoa plantation and including out-planting and (ii) cocoa processing and quality
Output 3. Selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods	1. 140 community members enrol with Farmer field schools by earlyY2 2. 140 community members trained in improved techniques by EOY2 3. Meetings held with 3 new plantations during project	
Activity 3.1. Support thirty FECs to link with farmer field schools which support farmers with tools, advice and support to improve yields.		Completed. The past year alone 10 dissemination workshops were held, focused on two topics with Farmer Field Schools (i) establishment of new cocoa plantation and including out-planting and (ii) cocoa processing and quality.
Activity 3.2. Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income		Please see Activity 2.4 above concerning existing socioeconomic data. An A random selection of FEC farmers is currently being interviewed (began January 2016) and will be completed before the rainy season begins.
Activity 3.3. Advice to promote a win-win solutions to livelihoods and wildlife is given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations		A Roundtable with the National Cocoa Roundtable was held by GRNP to promote win-win solutions A poster on the ongoing bird indices work was presented at the ICCB 2015 conference

Activity 3.4. Multi-stakeholder workshops to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated	A Roundtable with the National Cocoa Roundtable was held by GRNP to promote win-win solutions
Output 4 A livelihood development and habitat connectivity strategy that integrates cocoa rehabilitation is developed and adopted by the GRNP and disseminated for selected Protected areas in Sierra Leone.	1. Zoning map developed by year 2 2. Plans for cocoa rehabilitation incorporated into a revised GRNP management plan by the EOP 3. National Workshop held and key community, government, private sector and NGO stakeholders attend year 3
Activity 4.1. Criteria and principles for selecting priority cocoa development areas to enhance connectivity are produced	n/a
Activity 4.2. Develop a map to demonstrate where cocoa can be used in the possible mosaic linking Gola South, with Gola Centre, and Gola centre with the Transboundary corridor to enhance habitat connectivity in the agricultural landscape	n/a
Activity 4.3. Exercise to review and update GRNP management plan to include habitat connectivity	n/a
Activity 4.4. National conference (end of Project) targeting selected Protected Areas focusing on replication potential focusing on habitat connectivity and human wildlife mitigation issues	n/a
Output 5. Project managed efficiently and effectively and local staff trained so that they can continue to contribute to ensuring the project legacy.	1. M&E plan in place by mid yr1 2. Staff training plan in place by EOY1 and carried out where appropriate throughout project 3. Steering committee established by mid yr 1 and meets regularly 4. Financial reporting system in place by end of first month and financial expenditure remains with contractual limits
Activity 5.1. Establish project steering committee from RSPB, GRNP, CSSL and FD and WHH to meet every 6 months.	3 rd Steering Committee took place on the 26 th April 2016. It was attended by the Government of Sierra Leone representative, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, the RSPB, the Paramount Chief Representative

	and WHH.
Activity 5.2. Hold project level workshop to develop monitoring and evaluation plan to establish, roles and responsibilities of partners and associated methods, tools and timetable.	n/a
Activity 5.3. Conduct training programme for National Staff from GRNP, CSSL, FD and other partners where appropriate	n/a

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal:			
Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.			
Outcome: Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefits of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.			
Outputs: 1. The impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry systems, in particular abandoned cocoa plantations, to different levels of production is assessed 2. Understanding of the costs of human–wildlife conflicts relating to cocoa farming is enhanced, together with knowledge of methods to mitigate these conflicts.	1a. Target research sites identified by EOY1 1b. Fieldwork completed by EOY3 1c. Data Analysis done by EOY3 1d. Mapping exercise of cocoa plantations completed year 1 1e. Similarity index for wildlife in rehabilitated plantations verses pristine habitats is measured by end of project 1f. Peer reviewed paper submitted by EOP 2a. HWC attitude survey completed by EOY1 2b. Review of existing best practice done by EOY2 2c. Fieldwork and analysis on impact of crop raiding on cocoa completed by EOY2 2d. HWC mitigation strategy demonstrated in at least 1 community by	Indicator 1. Research site selection report. Indicator2. Field work summary reports Indicator3. Peer reviewed articles submitted. Indicator4. Presentations & Posters at international arena (e.g. World Parks Congress 2014) Indicator5. HWC mitigation best practice review report Indicator6. Community attitude survey baseline, monitoring and end line reports Indicator7. 10 forest edge community road shows including HWC awareness Indicator8. 20 radio talk shows including HWC awareness Indicator9. Forest edge community Workshop reports and feedback. Indicator10. Cocoa plantation	1. Local communities and staff are receptive to the training and capacity-building we offer. 2. The global market for cocoa does not collapse unexpectedly. 3. WHH are successful in their A4D funding bid.

	EOP 2e. 40% of the 30 focal communities have evidence based, agreed understanding of cause and impact of HWC by EOP as compared with baseline. 2f. 10 dissemination workshops held in FECs by EOP.	distribution Map Indicator11. Rehabilitation and connectivity Zoning Map Indicator12. Revised Management plan Indicator13. National workshop report and attendance list. Indicator14. The GRNP through the National Protected Area Authority has disseminated report to selected Protected Areas in Sierra Leone. Indicator15. M&E monitoring reports Indicator16. Revised Log frame where appropriate Indicator17. Training plan document Indicator18. Training session reports and content Indicator 19. Steering group TOR and minutes. Indicator20. Financial guidance document and quarterly financial reports	
3. Selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods	3.a 140 community members enrol with Farmer field schools by earlyY2 3b. 140 community members trained in improved techniques by EOY2 3c. Meetings held with 3 new plantations during project		
4. A livelihood development and habitat connectivity strategy that integrates cocoa rehabilitation is developed and adopted by the GRNP and disseminated for selected Protected areas in Sierra Leone.	4a. Zoning map developed by year 2 4b. Plans for cocoa rehabilitation incorporated into a revised GRNP management plan by the EOP 4c. National Workshop held and key community, government, private sector and NGO stakeholders attend year 3		
5. Project managed efficiently and effectively and local staff trained so that they can continue to contribute to ensuring the project legacy.	5a. M&E plan in place by mid yr1 5b. Staff training plan in place by EOY1 and carried out where appropriate throughout project 5c. Steering committee established by mid yr 1 and meets regularly 5d. Financial reporting system in place by end of first month and financial expenditure remains within contractual limits		

Activities

- 1.1. Mapping exercise to assess the extent of abandoned cocoa plantations.
- 1.2. Camera trapping/point counts of wildlife (mammals/birds) to survey resident and transient wildlife in habitats surrounding GRNP, including restored and abandoned plantations, and within GRNP to compare wildlife populations to the NP forest baseline. This would include measuring changes in wildlife following cocoa restoration.
- 1.3. Analysing the camera trapping/point counts of wildlife in order to compare wildlife populations between different habitats (spatial comparison), in particular to the NP forest baseline but also between the farmed habitats studied, and before and after cocoa restoration (temporal comparison).
- 2.1 Monitor crop raiding throughout the project in restored and non restored sites
- 2.2 Review existing practices of HWC prevention and mitigation
- 2.3 Develop a list/framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with HWC which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.
- 2.4 Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand attitudes.
- 2.5 Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation tools are demonstrated in selected GRNP forest edge communities (FECs) and surrounding land owners.
- 2.6 Dissemination through awareness building workshops FFS
 - 3.1 Support thirty FECs to link with farmer field schools which support farmers with tools, advice and support to improve yields.
 - 3.2 Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income.
 - 3.3 Advice to promote a win-win solutions to livelihoods and wildlife is given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations
 - 3.4 Multi-stakeholder workshops to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated.
- 4.1 Criteria and principles for selecting priority cocoa development areas to enhance connectivity are produced
- 4.2 Develop a map to demonstrate where cocoa can be used in the possible mosaic linking Gola South, with Gola Centre, and Gola centre with the Transboundary corridor to enhance habitat connectivity in the agricultural landscape
- 4.3 Exercise to review and update GRNP management plan to include habitat connectivity
- 4.4 National conference (end of Project) targeting selected Protected Areas focusing on replication potential focusing on habitat connectivity and human wildlife mitigation issues
 - 5.1 Establish project steering committee from RSPB, GRNP, CSSL and FD and WHH to meet every 6 months.
 - 5.2 Hold project level workshop to develop monitoring and evaluation plan to establish, roles and responsibilities of partners and associated methods, tools and timetable.
 - 5.3 Conduct training programme for National Staff from GFP, CSSL, FD and other partners where appropriate.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
5	Farmer Field Schools	45	45	45		30	30	
5	Community members enrolled to Farmer Field Schools	1075	1075	1182		140	140	
5	Cocoa Extension Officers (Sierra Leoneans)	4	4	4		4	4	
5	Research Technicians monitoring cocoa plantations and crop raiding (Sierra Leoneans)	1-2	1-2	1-2		1-2		
8	Mark Hulme spends half his time in Sierra Leone and half in the UK (#weeks)	19	0	28		24	84	
	Steering Committee TOR and minutes	1	0	1		1	5	
	Community attitude survey baseline, monitoring and end line reports	1	0	1		1	1	
	Financial guidance document and quarterly financial reports	3	4	4		4	12	
23	Co-funding from the A4D project							

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (author s, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publisher s (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park REDD project	Technical Paper, Congress Proceedings	Nicolas Tubbs, Jonathan Barnard, Sheku Kamar	Male	French	XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, Durban, South	http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/technical-papers-and-posters/en/

improving livelihoods of 122 Forest Edge Communiti es		a, William Bangur a, Michae l Garbo. 2015			Africa, 7- 11 September 2015	

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, questionnaires, reports etc.) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

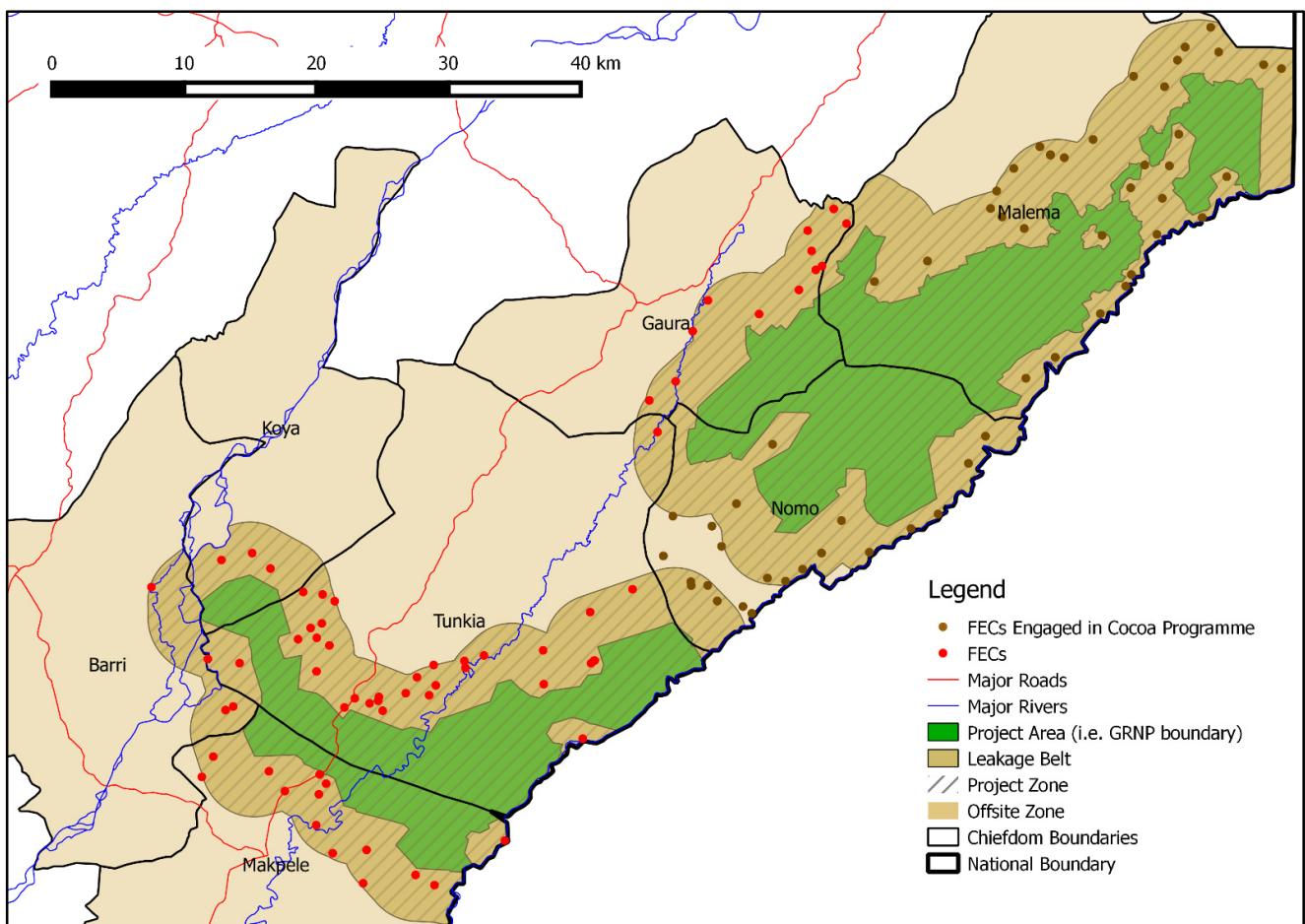


Figure 2. Location of FECs currently participating in Cocoa Programme.

Table1. Total number of bird point counts by habitat to March 2016

Habitat	Active cocoa non-FEC	Active cocoa FEC	Abandoned cocoa	Farmbush	Upland farm	Community forest	GRNP forest
No. Points	36	53	49	48	32	52	100

Period	Topic	No. of workshops	No. of participants
Quarter 4* (Jan-Mar)	NA		
Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun)	NA		
Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) July	Establishment of new cocoa plantation including out-planting	7	82(75 men and 7 women)
Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) October	Cocoa processing and quality	3	60 (52 men and 8 women)

Table 2.3 Master Farmer training workshops *Note: the quarters are numbers following the financial year, which runs from April till end of March

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	