

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

25-03-2021

CEPF Grant 111730

Global Wildlife Conservation

West Africa Team for Critical Habitat Protection (WATCH) of Primates

Guinean Forests of West Africa

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Global Wildlife Conservation
2. Grant title: West Africa Team for Critical Habitat Protection (WATCH) of Primates
3. Grant number: CEPF 111730
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 65,483
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast.
7. Date of preparation of this document: 25/03/2021

8. **Introduction:** Most species of primate are in the midst of a precipitous decline in West Africa. The population of western chimpanzees has dropped by 80% in the last 24 years. One of the most urgent, widespread and catastrophic threats to primates in West Africa is the exploding mining activity, especially for bauxite, gold and iron-ore. Another direct threat to primate habitat is the building of hydroelectric dams and associated infrastructure such as roads and powerlines. Energy, extractive, and associated infrastructure projects (hereafter called EEAI projects), exacerbate the already-existing threats to primates by destroying and fragmenting vast areas of their habitat. Such projects often reduce primate numbers specifically, by facilitating hunting through increased access to remote areas. In response to the scale of the threat of large-scale EEAI activities to apes, the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG), Section on Great Apes (SGA) and Section on Small Apes (SSA) launched the “ARRC” Task Force with the goal of ensuring avoidance (A), reduction (R), restoration (R), and compensation (C) of EEAI project impacts in ape habitat by providing advice to those banks financing the projects, and those industries implementing the projects, as well as government and decision-makers in the ape-range countries where the projects are taking place. The ARRC Task Force wishes to strengthen the capacity of West African primatologists who may then advise EEIA projects, through the launch of the WATCH-Primate project.

9. **Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:** The IUCN ARRC Task Force has been engaging with civil society, governments, and private companies since 2016. Type of engagement held:
 - Phone calls, letter correspondence, zoom calls and webinars;
 - All parties have agreed not to sign any confidentiality agreement during these exchanges which render a free exchange of information;
 - Engagements have been around issues of impacts to great apes, and how best to minimize these impacts, and align with best practice standards;
 - All comments and responses from the companies are included in a ‘statement’ that is public and will be made available on the ARRC Task Force’s website.

10. **Project Stakeholders:**
 - a) The eight primatologists to take part in the primate WATCH program. The selection of candidates will take place in April 2021, and the selection criteria will ensure: 1) a gender balance with at least three women on the team; 2) possess a Masters or PhD degree; 3) at least 5 years of professional experience in primate conservation; 4) interest in advising and working for EEIA projects; 5) preferably but not mandatory, previous experience with the private sector. A call for applications will be posted through the African Primatological Society and the Western Chimpanzee Action Plan Community Network, and applicants will have c. two weeks to apply (submitting a letter of interest, a CV and two references). The call for applications will mention that applicants that are government employees will not be eligible to the 3,000\$ stipend. Rebecca Kormos, Dirck Byler and Genevieve Campbell will review applications and list their top

candidates for interview. The final list of candidates to be interviewed (top three candidates per country) will be run by the steering committee for the ARRC task force to see if there are any objections. Interview will be held by Genevieve Campbell who will make the final decision. The final list of primatologists to be part of the WATCH program will need to be approved by the steering committee from the ARRC task force, as well as by Rebecca Kormos and Dirck Byler.

- b) Key stakeholders that will be informed and participate in some of the meetings as part of this project:
- Environmental Agencies responsible for reviewing ESIA's (e.g. BGEEE in Guinea)
 - Universities and research centers (e.g. Njala University in Sierra Leone)
 - NGOs active in primate conservation (e.g. Wild Chimpanzee Foundation)
 - Private companies (e.g. Global Alumina Corporation, Alufer, Sierra Rutile)
 - Lending banks aligning with international best practice standards (e.g. IFC and World Bank).

11. **Stakeholder Engagement Program:** Stakeholder engagement will take place mostly during the two workshops to be held tentatively in Conakry and Freetown. Information will be presented in these different formats:

- Powerpoint presentations;
- Questionnaires; and
- Reprint of Primate Action Plans and Best Practice Guidelines.

12. **Consultation methods:** The project will consult with stakeholders through:

- Workshops to be held in Conakry and Freetown;
- Questionnaires to assess areas needing to be improved for better collaboration between the different stakeholders.

13. **Other Engagement Activities:** NA

14. **Timetable:** Engagement will take place during two workshops:

- Workshop 1 in Conakry, Guinea: May 2021
- Workshop 2 in Freetown, Sierra Leone: November 2021

15. **Resources and Responsibilities:** Stakeholder engagement will mainly occur between the project coordinator, Genevieve Campbell and the different parties involved. She will oversee the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

16. **Grievance mechanism:** At the beginning of both workshops, the project will provide contacts to the participants to which they can raise any grievance. Grievance can be presented in both French and English. Contacts will include:

- a. Global Wildlife Conservation: Genevieve Campbell, Project Coordinator (gcampbell@globalwildlife.org); Dirck Byler, Great Ape Conservation Director (dbyler@globalwildlife.org); Alex Quintero, Chief Operating Officer (aquintero@globalwildlife.org).
- b. CEPF Regional Implementation Team: Mariana Carvalho, Team Leader (Mariana.Carvalho@birdlife.org); Emmanuelle Mahe, Sub-Regional Officer for Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire (Emmanuelle.Mahe@birdlife.org).
- c. CEPF Secretariat: Peggy Poncelet, Grant Director (pponcelet@cepf.net).

We will share all grievances – and a proposed response with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director - within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

17. Monitoring and Reporting: The completed grievance mechanism procedure and contacts will be submitted to CEPF within the first three months of the project starting date for final approval. Twice (July 2021 and January 2022) during the implementation of this project we will submit a report on the implementation of this plan as part of the CEPF progress report.