

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
Project Title:	Conserving the Yawri Bay Ecosystem in Sierra Leone's Coastal Corridor
Grant Number:	CEPF-110588
Hotspot:	Guinean Forests of West Africa
Strategic Direction:	2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels
Grant Amount:	\$169,906.00
Project Dates:	March 01, 2021 - June 30, 2022
Date of Report:	October 29, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

1. National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) : Played significant role in the design phase of the project proposal by providing a letter of support which was submitted to the CEPF. Also, they formed part of the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group (YaRSWoG) which reviewed all assessment reports and acted as a decision-making body for the project. They also contributed to generating and compiling Ramsar Nomination materials and further initiated the filling of the online Ramsar Nomination form which would be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for the designation of Yawri Bay as a Ramsar Site.
2. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources: Also supported CSSL in the design phase by providing a letter of support submitted to the CEPF. They also constituted part of the YaRSWoG which reviewed all assessment reports and acted as a decision-making body for the project.
3. The local government: Through the Moyamba and Western Rural Area district councils, contributed immensely to the successful implementation of the project. They were highly involved in the formulation of community bye-laws, and also formed part of the YaRSWoG that contributed to the delivery of the project deliverables through reviewing all assessment reports including socio-economic, biodiversity, and private sector engagement reports, and the reviewed boundary of Yawri Bay.
4. Paramount chiefs and chiefdom stakeholders: Supervision and monitoring of community participation in all components of the project at the chiefdom level.
5. The Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group (YaRSWoG): Constituted of key stakeholders including representatives from the aforementioned key partners and other stakeholders. It

was composed of 17 members who were highly involved in the review of all assessment project reports.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>By January 31, 2025, Yawri Bay is recovering, as defined in the Yawri Bay Management Plan, (and demonstrated through biodiversity monitoring) - e.g. showing stable or increasing populations of water birds and other taxa, and no reasons exist to doubt that the recovery will not continue</p>	<p>During the project implementation period, we conducted 2 water birds censuses; one was conducted in June 2021 which recorded a total of 3451 individual birds belonging to 26 species and the 2nd was in January 2022 which recorded a total of 16799 individual birds belonging to 56 species. Further to this, a biodiversity survey was conducted with six taxonomic groups (avifauna, mammals, plants, and herpetofauna) recorded. Results from this study showed that 676 individual birds were recorded belonging to 25 species; 20 plant species were recorded with a total of 990; 14 herpetofauna species, and 8 mammal species were recorded. Furthermore, results from these assessments showed that there was a steady increase in the population of biodiversity during the reporting period. For example, the population of birds recorded in January 2022 was far greater than that recorded in June 2021.</p>
<p>By January 31, 2025, at least 5 of the 7 fishing and salt producing companies are contributing to conservation and supporting local community benefits in return for good conservation management; and gaining increased recognition for their work on nature based solutions in collaboration with communities and government (NPAA)</p>	<p>In the course of project execution, through a consultant, we engaged and consulted six (6) private companies including salt and fishing companies, communities through their local authorities (i.e., Paramount chiefs), the artisanal fishers, and the National Protected Area Authority in building a framework that would lead to developing a conservation agreement between the artisanal fishers, communities, the private sector companies, and the National Protected Area Authority. The consultation, however, was expedient as it allowed stakeholders clearly understand the need for having a conservation agreement.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Recognition: By December 31, 2021, the relevant authorities have nominated Yawri Bay as a Ramsar site</p>	<p>With various assessments completed including socio-economic, biodiversity, boundary delineation, institutional laws and policies assessment, and the development of Yawri Bay Management Plan, we generated and compiled the offline Ramsar Nomination Form. This information was submitted through the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Group to the</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) as the host for the Ramsar Focal Person in Sierra Leone to lead the process of completing and submitting the Ramsar online nomination form to the Ramsar Secretariat. As a way of committing to the process, we have received a letter of endorsement from the Executive Director of the NPAA in support of the process.
Strategy: By March 31, 2022, a first draft of the Yawri Bay Management Plan, including specific ecological and socio-economic targets, has been consulted on (all stakeholders) and agreed steps incorporated to achieve the impact of conservation and sustainable management of the Bay	Through a consultant and in collaboration with Wetland International the project succeeded in developing the first ever 5 years State-of-Art Yawri Bay Management with detailed financial plan. The Management Plan was validated by key stakeholders including Ministries, Department and Agencies.
Protection: By March 31, 2022, at least 3 villages introduce or amend community by-laws on community use of natural resources to strengthen conservation of KBA, trigger species and their habitats	With collaborative effort and partnership strengthened with communities, we have in consultation with communities, the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group, the two district councils developed community bye-laws in three chiefdoms including Western Rural district. However, seven communities in the Yawri Bay landscape comprised Tombo, Kent, Babar village, Sunyeih, Kissy Town, Shenge, and Bridgette opted to be forerunners to championing the implementation and enforcement of the set bye-laws formulated and adopted in the Yawri Bay landscape.
Funding: By April 30, 2022, at least three long-term funding sources have been pursued and applications or concept notes submitted.	As part of having sustainable funding to continue working on the legacy of the CEPF project and to tackle some of the gaps left by the CEPF project, we developed and submitted three project proposals to Blue Action Fund, BIOPAMA, and PaPBIO. Of the three proposals, we secured the PaPBIO grant which will last for one year (September 2022 to August 2023). Through a collaborative effort with the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA), we supported the NPAA in securing a fund from Wetland International that gear towards 'Effective Law Enforcement for Protection of Mangroves Ecosystem in the Yawri Bay Landscape'. It is a two years' project which commenced in 2022 and is expected to end by 2024.
Compliance: By June 30 2022, at least 5 fishing and 2 salt producing companies and least 5 village governing councils have been involved in consultations to build a framework for conservations agreements	In the course of project execution, through a consultant, we engaged and consulted six (6) private companies including salt and fishing companies, communities through their local authorities (i.e., Paramount chiefs), the artisanal fishers, and the National Protected Area Authority in building a framework that would lead to developing a conservation agreement between the artisanal

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	fishers, communities, the private sector companies, and the National Protected Area Authority. The consultation, however, was expedient as it allowed stakeholders clearly understand the need for having a conservation agreement.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- Notwithstanding the absence of alternative livelihood options not provided by the CEPF project, but with collaborative effort, transparency, and involving communities and other stakeholders in project implementation, the communities fully demonstrated ownership of the project, embraced, and provided minimum adherence to the community bye-laws which contributed to slowly conserving the biodiversity of the bay.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

- We documented the biodiversity and socio-economic importance of Yawri Bay. The report from the biodiversity study showed that Yawri Bay is a biologically diverse ecosystem that hosts various endangered mammal species including many invertebrates in mangroves. However, one of the findings from the socio-economic survey indicated that there are approximately 30,000 men who are engaged in active fishing while 200,000 men and women are directly engaged in some aspect of the artisanal fishing effort.
- We reviewed and verified the boundaries of the Yawri Bay site and produced a map that depicts the extent of the new boundaries.
- We engaged the private companies, communities, artisanal Fishermen, and relevant government institutions (NPAA, and the Ministry of Fisheries ad Marine Resources) and produced and report on the framework for the conservation agreement. Although we did not have the conservation agreement signed the concept was supported. However, the communities, artisanal fishermen, and the private sector companies had legitimate concerns that it was unrealistic for them to enter into any formal agreement before the state actors (NPAA/MFMR and study team leaders) have agreed to themselves on the best way forward and that includes receiving Government endorsement and establishing the Yawri Bay Management Board.
- We established the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group (YaRSWoG) to act as the decision-making body of the project and to help review all assessment reports from the consultants.
- With reports from the various assessments including socio-economic, biodiversity, boundary delineation, institutional laws and policies assessment, and the Yawri Bay Management Plan developed, we generated and compiled the offline Ramsar Nomination Form. These reports laid the foundation and evaluated Yawri Bay to be designated as a Ramsar Site. This information was submitted through the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Group to the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) as the host for the Ramsar Focal Person in Sierra Leone to lead the process of completing and submitting the Ramsar online nomination form to the Ramsar Secretariat. As a way of committing to the process, we received a letter of endorsement from the Executive Director of the NPAA in support of designating Yawri Bay as a Ramsar Site.

- We documented the status account of Yawri Bay through waterbird censuses, biodiversity and socio-economic studies, and shared the reports with Birdlife International for posting on the World Database of KBAs. However, the information generated from the studies was posted on the CSSL website (www.cs-sl.org).
- We developed and distributed 100 copies of the guide to Yawri Bay to key stakeholders including communities. Also, we produced and distributed 100 copies of posters on the socio-economic and biodiversity importance of the Bay. We further documented and published two stories in newspapers. In addition, we conducted three radio and two television programs in which we popularized the Yawri Bay Guide to the public.
- Through a consultant, we assessed institutional laws and policies (NPAA/CTF, EPA, and MFMR) and produced a report with recommendations that would help protect Yawri Bay if designated as a Ramsar Site. We shared the report with key stakeholders including the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on the Environment for further actions.
- The project team together with the Yawri Bay Ramsar Working Group (YaRSWoG) in a quarterly review meeting developed and agreed on the following actions if provided could improve the assimilated conservation and management of Yawri Bay. These include the following;
 - Provide means of transportation (e.g., speed boat and vehicle)
 - Communication set (VHF radios) for eco-guards and NPAA Game Rangers
 - Logistical supplies such as in-built GPS, GPS, Camera trap, tablets, binoculars, drones, protective gears,
 - Set up administrative office and outpost with the required office furniture and equipment
 - Ration for patrol staff and stipend for volunteers
 - Training support and capacity building
- In consultation with communities and support of the local conservation officers, Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group, and the two district councils (Moyamba and Western Area Rural District), we developed community bye-laws in three chiefdoms including the Western Rural district. However, eight communities in the Yawri Bay landscape comprised of Tombo, Kent, Babar village, Sunyeih, Kissy Town, Shenge, Tombo, and, Bridgette opted to be forerunners in championing the implementation and enforcement of the set bye-laws formulated and adopted in the Yawri Bay landscape.
- Through a consultant and in collaboration with Wetland International, we developed the first-ever 5 years State-of-the-Art Yawri Bay Management with a detailed financial plan. The Management Plan was validated by key stakeholders including Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.
- As part of having sustainable funding to continue working on the legacy of the CEPF project and to tackle some of the gaps left by the CEPF project, we developed and submitted three project proposals to Blue Action Fund, BIOPAMA, and PaPBIO. Of the three proposals, we only secured the PaPBIO grant which will last for one year (September 2022 to August 2023).
- We conducted two assessments in April 2021 and June 2022 respectively to evaluate the gender sensitivity and considerations in the daily operations of the institution. In April, based on the assessment with a score of 6 out of 21, we realized that there was low gender consideration in the operation of the institutions. While in June 2022, a score of 11 out of 21 was recorded. With this, we realized that the institution has considered gender inclusion in

most of its programs. To commit to this, the institution has developed a gender policy that laid more priority on the recruitment of women in leadership roles.

- We have uploaded a summarized version of the socio-economic, biodiversity assessment, institutional policy assessment, and boundary delineation reports on the CSSL website (www.cs-sl.org). Also, we have published a guide to Yawri Bay on the same website.
- We conducted a private sector assessment and engaged communities to have a conservation agreement drafted. Results from the assessment showed that the concept of Conservation Agreements was supported by the communities. However, the communities had legitimate concerns that it was unrealistic for them to enter into any formal agreement (as anticipated in the original project submission by CSSL) before the state actors (NPAA/MFMR and study team leaders) have agreed to themselves on the best way forward and that includes; validating the Draft Management Plan, receiving Government endorsement and establishing the Yawri Bay Management Board.
- We established and trained 16 community eco-guards and four local conservation officers to help in monitoring the Bay at the community level.
- We engaged the school nature club pupils and their teachers in an awareness-raising campaign on the importance of biodiversity conservation.
- We established a conflict resolution and redress mechanism in the four chiefdoms that allowed communities to channel any grievance that may have surfaced in the course of project implementation.
- The constituted eco-guards engaged in a five months monitoring (from January to May 2022) of Yawri Bay. The data collected by the eco-guards were submitted to the project team and analyzed and reported.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Recognition: Importance of Yawri Bay is documented and assessed against the criteria for Ramsar site designation.	1.1	A report evaluating Yawri Bay as a Ramsar site is completed and the site nominated by the NPAA to the Ramsar Secretariat	With reports from the assessments including socio-economic, biodiversity, boundary delineation, institutional laws and policies assessment, and the Yawri Bay Management Plan developed, we generated and compiled the offline Ramsar Nomination Form. These reports laid the foundation and evaluated Yawri Bay to be designated as a Ramsar Site. This information was submitted through the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Group to the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) as the host for the Ramsar Focal Person in Sierra Leone to lead the process of completing and submitting the Ramsar online nomination form to the Ramsar Secretariat. As a way of committing to the process, we have received a letter of endorsement from the Executive Director of the NPAA in support of designating Yawri Bay as a Ramsar Site.
1.0	Recognition: Importance of Yawri Bay is documented and assessed against the criteria for Ramsar site designation.	1.2	Updated site account for Yawri Bay posted on the World Database of KBAs	We have documented the status account of Yawri Bay through biodiversity and socio-economic studies and have shared the reports with Birdlife International for posting on the World Database of KBAs. However, the information generated from the studies has been posted on the CSSL website (www.cssl.org) and Facebook page.
1.0	Recognition: Importance of Yawri Bay is documented	1.3	Documentation and "Communication Resource	The project developed and distributed 100 copies of guide to Yawri Bay to key

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	and assessed against the criteria for Ramsar site designation.		Materials” on the biological and socio-economic importance of Yawri Bay e.g.” Guide to the Yawri Bay Ecosystem” are produced and distributed appropriately	stakeholders including communities. The two page document is essentially a summary of different aspects of the Yawri Bay. These include a map and brief geography of the bay, the demography and economy of the bay, the environmental importance of the bay especially in relation to ecotourism, and the current threats to the bay and management interventions by the CSSL in an attempt to curb the impacts on the bay. Also, we produced and distributed 100 copies of posters on the socio-economic and biodiversity importance of the Bay.
2.0	Protection: Laws and regulations to implement the management plan are in effect	2.1	Assessment report produced on the current laws and regulations that would protect Yawri Bay if designated a Ramsar Site	Through a consultant we assessed four institutional laws and policies (NPAA/CTF Acts of 2012, the EPA Act of 2008, Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2018, and the National Forestry Policy, of 2010.) and produced a report with recommendations that would protect Yawri Bay if designated as a Ramsar Site.
2.0	Protection: Laws and regulations to implement the management plan are in effect	2.2	Plan developed and implemented to provide increased logistical support for improved integrated conservation management at Yawri Bay	The project team together with the Yawri Bay Ramsar Working Group (YaRSWoG) in a quarterly review meeting developed and agreed on the following actions if implemented will improve the integrated conservation and management of Yawri Bay. These included the following; <input type="checkbox"/> Provide means of transportation (e.g., speed boat and vehicle)

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#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<input type="checkbox"/> Communication set (VHF radios) for eco-guards and NPAA Game Rangers <input type="checkbox"/> Logistical supply such as in-built GPS, GPS, Camera trap, tablets, binoculars, drones, protective gears, <input type="checkbox"/> Set up administrative office and outpost with the required office furniture and equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Ration for patrol staff and stipend for volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Training support and capacity building The latter was implemented.
2.0	Protection: Laws and regulations to implement the management plan are in effect	2.3	Community by-laws that govern use of resources in the local communities are reviewed and if necessary amended or new ones produced	In consultation with communities, the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group, the two district councils, we developed community bye-laws in three chiefdoms (Bumpeh, Ribbi, and Kargboro) including Western Rural Area district. However, eight communities in the Yawri Bay landscape comprising Tombo, Kent, Babar village, Sunyeih, Kissy Town, Shenge, Tombo, and, Bridgette opted to be forerunners to championing the implementation and enforcement of the set bye-laws formulated and adopted in the Yawri Bay landscape.
3.0	Strategy: Management plan is complete and accepted by all stakeholders	3.1	Detailed and updated description of the biological and socio-economic importance of Yawri Bay	We documented the biodiversity and socio-economic importance of Yawri Bay. The report from the biodiversity study showed that Yawri Bay is a biologically diverse eco-system that host various endangered mammal species including many invertebrates in mangroves. However, one of the findings from the socio-

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				economic survey indicated that there are approximately 30,000 men who are engaged in active fishing while 200,000 men and women are directly engaged in some aspect of the artisanal fishing effort.
3.0	Strategy: Management plan is complete and accepted by all stakeholders	3.2	Management Plan prepared, reviewed and validated	Through a consultant and in collaboration with Wetland International the project has developed the first-ever 5 years State-of-Art Yawri Bay Management with a detailed financial plan. The Management Plan was validated by key stakeholders including Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.
4.0	Funding: Support to implement the management plan has been explored	4.1	Report produced on sources of continuing funding	As part of having sustainable funding to continue working on the legacy of the CEPF project and to tackle the gaps left by the CEPF project, we have written and submitted three project proposals to Blue Action Fund, BIOPAMA, and PaPBIO. Of the three proposals, we only secured the PaPBIO grant which will last for one year (September 2022 to September 2023). A sustainable financing report was produced and highlighted three recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a financial management structure (FMS): to increase the confidence of the stakeholders to sign up to a Conservation Agreement, there is a need to establish a financial management structure in which all contributions from the parties for the management of the Bay are directed into.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition of the FMS: It is recommended that for transparency and credibility, the FMS should constitute a representative from each of the parties involved in signing any conservation agreement. • Explore additional funding opportunities: to continue in the part of having a CA with all the parties, CSSL should explore and source additional funding to fasten engagement with all the parties involved to have a recognized and accepted CA.
5.0	Compliance: communities and others using the Bay are following the management plan	5.1	Report showing compliance of at least three communities with their MOUs and Conservation agreements	<p>The concept of Conservation Agreements was supported by the communities. However, the communities had legitimate concerns that it was unrealistic for them to enter into any formal agreement (as anticipated in the original project submission by CSSL) before the state actors (NPAA/MFMR and study team leaders) have agreed themselves on the best way forward and that includes validating the Draft Management Plan, receiving Government endorsement and establishing the Yawri Bay Management Board.</p> <p>We have validated the management plan and had endorsement from not only the government but also other organizations during the validation of the management plan. Now, establishing the Yawri Bay Conservation Board would guarantee communities to</p>

Component		Deliverable		
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				formally enter into any conservation agreement (ref: private sector engagement report).
5.0	Compliance: communities and others using the Bay are following the management plan	5.2	MoUs signed and Conservation Agreements drafted	The communities and other institutions are yet to sign an MoU because there is a lack of trust among the stakeholder as to who will control resources and how resources are utilized.
6.0	Monitoring and Evaluation	6.1	Two gender and civil society self-assessments conducted and reported to CEPF at commencement and at the end of project	We conducted two assessments in April 2021 and June 2022 respectively to evaluate the gender sensitivity and considerations in the daily operations of the institution. In April, based on the assessment with a score of 6 out of 21, we realized that there was low gender consideration in the operation of the institutions. While in June 2022, a total score of 11 out of 21 was recorded. With this, we realized that the institution has considered gender inclusion in most of its programs. To commit to this, the institution has developed a gender policy that laid more priority on the recruitment of women in leadership roles.
6.0	Monitoring and Evaluation	6.2	Process Framework implemented, monitored and reported to CEPF every six months	During project implementation, actions listed in the process framework that contributed to the achievement of the short-term goal were successfully completed and regularly reported on once every six months. In consultation with village authorities and communities, district councils, and a cross-section of YaRSWoG, we developed and validated community by-law which are led by communities and aligned with the conservation of the bay.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
6.0	Monitoring and Evaluation	6.3	Impacts monitored and reported online at project end	This present report is compiling all the projects impacts. We have uploaded a summarized version of the socio-economic, biodiversity assessment, institutional policy assessment, and boundary delineation reports on the CSSL website (www.cs-sl.org). Also, we have published online the guide to Yawri Bay on the same website.
6.0	Monitoring and Evaluation	6.4	Outreach materials produced and shared with Regional Implementation Team by email or other email data transfer	We designed and printed 100 copies posters and 100 copies of guide to Yawri Bay. Samples of the two documents were shared with the Regional Implementation Team.

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

- Community consultation and stakeholders' involvement: - The project could not have been successful if communities were not fully consulted and involved to grip ownership of the project. The communities' participation in almost every facet of project implementation immensely contributed to the successful outcome of the project. Also, the involvement of key stakeholders through the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working who acted as the decision-making body of the project served as a catalyst to the successful outcome of the project.
- Outreach: - To strengthen advocacy and promote awareness-raising among the general public, and showcase the values of Yawri Bay both locally and internationally, the project used the media (radio and television), the print (newspapers) to communicate the significance of the project, and the need for promoting biodiversity conservation in Yawri Bay ecosystem. Also, CSSL's social media page (Facebook) and website were also useful platforms used to communicate the successes of the project. The printing of communication materials such as posters and guides to the Yawri Bay also helped and, contributed to the project results.
- Monitoring of project performance: - At the start of project implementation, CSSL developed project baseline indicators. These indicators were strictly monitored and evaluated.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4a	Number of local communities are empowered to engage in the sustainable management of priority sites and/or consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale (target: At least 60).	6	6 of 37 Local communities around the Yawri Bay Landscape: Tombo, Brigrate, Kent, Kissy Town, Babba Village and Suyeih Village	4	Of the 6 communities targeted, the project supported four communities; Tombo, Brigitte, Kent, and Kissy Town to engage in climate-smart actions such as tree planting, beach cleaning and road maintenance leading to the site. Furthermore, we have supported several other communities to establish community by-laws that provide some amount of restrictions on accessing resources illegally in the Bay. We further supported communities through awareness-raising that allows them valued the resources they have in Bay.
1	Number of Key Biodiversity Areas targeted by CEPF grants have new or strengthened protection and management (target: At least 20).	1	1 KBA - A new management plan for Yawri Bay	1	The project developed and validated a comprehensive and detailed 5 years' State-of-the-Art management plan with detailed financial plan for the Yawri Bay ecosystem.
2a	Number of hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity	33,605	33,605 ha of the Yawri Bay Landscape	116,225	Prior to the intervention of the CEPF project, the total hectares of the Marine protected area which only took into cognizance the

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	conservation or sustainable use (target: At least 100,000).				Bay excluding the extent of the mangroves inland was 29,505 hectares. During the CEPF project implementation, we undertook a boundary demarcation exercise of the Yawri Bay now taking into account the extent of the mangroves inland. This gave overall hectares of 145,730 ha. The report from this exercise was validated by relevant stakeholders.
2b	Number of conservation corridors with public policies and/or private sector business practices incorporating provisions for biodiversity conservation (target: at least 6).	1	The Sierra Leone Coastal Corridor - with at least 5 companies with conservation provisions in their business plans and/or practices	1	During project implementation, CSSL through a private sector study engaged 6 private companies of salt and fish processing: the Chung Ghang Fishing Company, Two Brothers, Ricma, Korean Fishing Group, White pole and a California-based salt-producing company known as SALVEST-LTD to enter into a conservation agreement with communities and other relevant government institutions. Throughout these engagements, these companies expressed interest to enter into a

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					<p>conservation agreement where they could further incorporate conservation measures into their business plan. Though some of these companies have already been practising some conservation actions contributing to the conservation and management of resources in the Bay. For instance, the Chung Ghang Fishing Company has been providing some artisanal fishers with appropriate fishing gear to embark on a good fishing method. The CEPF project succeeded in increasing advocacy on this through consultation meetings, and radio and television programs.</p> <p>Also, by the end of the project, we realized that EPA and NPAA reviewed and amended their Acts. And the NPAA Acts of 2012 which was amended in 2022 enshrined in their Acts, the conservation and management of Wetlands. With these reviews, Yawri</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Bay stands to greatly benefit. Furthermore, the EPA Acts of 2010 as amended in 2022 in Section 79 (1) of the Acts now provides maximum protection for the environment including the marine and coastal.
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).	2	2 Policies - Recommendations from legal professional on the adequacy of current laws relating to marine life/ecosystem sustainability for adequate enforcement measures	2	Through a consultant, we reviewed the following institutional laws and policies governing biodiversity conservation, the NPAA/CTF Acts of 2012, the EPA Act of 2008, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act of 2018, and the National Forestry Policy, of 2010. Regarding the gaps and recommendations identified by the consultant on the institutional laws and policies assessed protecting the wetlands/the bay, the said report was shared and validated with the relevant institutions during the quarterly YaRSWoG meetings. Through advocacy and awareness-raising programs, stakeholders were urged to look at the gaps and

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					<p>recommendations of the report and see if they could take actions. As of now, the NPAA/CTF and EPA Acts have been reviewed, tabled in parliament and have been passed into law. This is a testimony that our engagement with these institutions to some extent contributed to the review and amendment of these laws. Furthermore, as a way to act on one of the recommendations, the NPAA has deployed 20 Game Rangers to embark on joint monitoring and patrolling with the eco-guards around the Bay. Likewise, in addition to the institutional laws and policy examination, CSSL further worked with communities in the three chiefdoms including the Western Rural Area District to review existing bye-laws and formulated new ones where there were no bye-laws to increase the protection of the Bay. This process was fully embraced by the communities and supported the process to the end.</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2.2	Number of key biodiversity areas with locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems generated and used to influence political and economic decision-making in favor of their conservation (target: for at least 20).	1	1 KBA - Yawri Bay KBA assessment report for management decision	1	The information we generated from the biodiversity assessment and waterbird monitoring of Yawri Bay was used to assess Yawri Bay as a KBA using the multi-site KBA assessment form. This information was submitted to BirdLife International to be uploaded on the World KBA Database.
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).	3	3 Partnerships - with companies in at least 3 of 7 fisheries/ salt producing communities around the bay	0	With regard to partnership formation with companies, we did not succeed in entering into a partnership. However, we initiated the process by engaging a consultant to work with the companies in the Bay for a conservation agreement. Additionally, CSSL also increased its collaboration with companies and other institutions in the project landscape. For example, the Chung Ghang Fishing Company became part of the YaRSWoG who were regularly participating in project review meetings and made major contributions and took crucial decisions that

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					<p>contributed to the protection of the Bay. We also worked with Chung Ghang and Ricma Fishing companies to support beach cleaning around the bay and to promote the use of appropriate fishing gear by artisanal fishermen, an initiative which they had already started. These actions have contributed to improving the fish catch size in the Bay.</p> <p>With our increased collaboration with these companies, the CEO and founder of the SALVEST-LTD, during the validation workshop of the Yawri Bay Management Plan, expressed interest in forming a partnership with CSSL.</p>

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
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*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
Yawri Bay	SLE9		116,225

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
Yawri Bay - mangroves inland area	0	0	116,225	Prior to the intervention of the CEPF project, the total hectares of the Marine protected area which only took into cognizance the Bay excluding the extent of the mangroves inland was 29,505 hectares. During the CEPF project implementation, we undertook a boundary demarcation exercise of the Yawri Bay now taking into account the extent of the mangroves inland. This gave overall hectares of 145,730 ha. The report from this exercise was validated by relevant stakeholders.

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
17	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Monitoring and surveillance (MS)? • What benefits are obtained from MS? • What services will I get? (eco-guard, trainees) • Steps in monitoring and surveillance in Yawri Bay biodiversity management • Sea/marine turtle(s) identification, tracking, rescue and protection • Monitoring and surveillance equipment

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

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			
Tombo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Leone	150	50
Brigette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Leone	100	40
Kent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Leone	80	30
Kissy Town	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Leone	100	50

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

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	The the National Protected Area Authority/CTF Act	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	EPA Acts	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Community bye-laws for Bumpeh Chiefdom	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Community Bye-laws for Kargboro Chiefdom	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Community By-Laws for Ribbi Chiefdom	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	Sierra Leone	January 02, 2022	As a way to act on one of the recommendations, the NPAA has deployed 20 Game Rangers to embark on joint monitoring and	Through a consultant, we reviewed the following institutional laws and policies governing biodiversity conservation, the NPAA/CTF Acts of 2012, the EPA Act of 2008, the Fisheries and Aquaculture

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			patrolling with the eco-guards around the Bay. More impacts are expected.	Act of 2018, and the National Forestry Policy, of 2010. Regarding the gaps and recommendations identified by the consultant on the institutional laws and policies assessed protecting the wetlands/the bay, the said report was shared and validated with the relevant institutions during the quarterly YaRSWoG meetings. Through advocacy and awareness-raising programs, stakeholders were urged to look at the gaps and recommendations of the report and see if they could take actions. As of now, the NPAA/CTF and EPA Acts have been reviewed, tabled in parliament and have been passed into law. This is a testimony that our engagement with these institutions to some extent contributed to the review and amendment of these laws.
2	Sierra Leone	July 02, 2022	The amendments of the EPA Acts are particularly geared towards providing effective and efficient protection and management of the	Through a consultant, we reviewed the following institutional laws and policies governing biodiversity conservation, the NPAA/CTF Acts of 2012, the EPA Act of 2008, the Fisheries and Aquaculture

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			<p>environment. It is anticipated that the Acts will provide effective and efficient monitoring tool for the wetland environment through the enforcement of the laws that will debar coastal communities and other people from perpetrating negative activities that reduce the integrity of the environment. With this, Yawri Bay stands to benefit greatly from the new bill. Section 79 (1) of the Acts mandates that the EPA shall develop, guidelines, standards, programs and activities for the protection and management of the marine and coastal environments to prevent or mitigate negative impacts in these environments as a result of human</p>	<p>Act of 2018, and the National Forestry Policy, of 2010. Regarding the gaps and recommendations identified by the consultant on the institutional laws and policies assessed protecting the wetlands/the bay, the said report was shared and validated with the relevant institutions during the quarterly YaRSWoG meetings. Through advocacy and awareness-raising programs, stakeholders were urged to look at the gaps and recommendations of the report and see if they could take actions. As of now, the NPAA/CTF and EPA Acts have been reviewed, tabled in parliament and have been passed into law. This is a testimony that our engagement with these institutions to some extent contributed to the review and amendment of these laws.</p>

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			activities or natural occurrences. Moreover, the enforcement of the new acts will help to maintain and improve the biodiversity status in Yawri Bay.	
3	Sierra Leone	October 18, 2021	Will govern the use of resources in the local communities	CSSL worked with communities in the three chiefdoms including the Western Rural Area District to review existing bye-laws and formulated new ones where there were no bye-laws to increase the protection of the Bay. This process was fully embraced by the communities and supported the process to the end.
4	Sierra Leone	October 18, 2021	Will govern the use of resources in the local communities	CSSL worked with communities in the three chiefdoms including the Western Rural Area District to review existing bye-laws and formulated new ones where there were no bye-laws to increase the protection of the Bay. This process was fully embraced by the communities and supported the process to the end.
5	Sierra Leone	October 18, 2021	Will govern the use of resources in the local communities	CSSL worked with communities in the three chiefdoms including the Western Rural Area District

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
				to review existing bye-laws and formulated new ones where there were no bye-laws to increase the protection of the Bay. This process was fully embraced by the communities and supported the process to the end.

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

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

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?
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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

- The involvement of the community members in the design of the project provided them a sense of ownership of the entire process ensuing in their full participation of the project.
- Engaging communities in awareness-raising and education are often found to be valuable during community entry to build the capacity of stakeholders to contribute to planning and management.
- At a minimum, consult or facilitate the active participation of all those stakeholders whose cooperation is necessary for success.
- Yawri Bay KBA is a diverse landscape with three (3) noticeable tribes (i.e. Sherbro, Mende, and Temne) in the target communities. Each tribe disseminated key conservation and environmental messages effectively using their own dialect to community members.
- Establishing a project working group with diverse institutions represented and building amiable relationships with members of the working group as well as designing roles and responsibilities had greatly influenced the successful outcome of the project.
- A community-based project without alternative livelihood options is likely bound to fail. Therefore, institutions should include livelihood options in any community-based proposals.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The project sustainability depends on the commitment of NPAA and other stakeholders to work with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone for the designation of Yawri Bay as a Ramsar Site. For instance, the NPAA has committed to take a lead in pushing the Ramsar Secretariat for the designation of Yawri Bay as a Ramsar Site. However, NPAA's commitment was manifested in a letter written to CSSL by the Executive Director on behalf of the institution pledging support to the entire process of Yawri Bay Ramsar Site designation process.

The project also remains sustainable through the Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group that was established. This platform usually met every three months and was constituted of 17 members from diverse groups comprising key stakeholders including MDAs, CSOs, NGOs, and community stakeholders. The overall mandate of the working group was to review all assessment reports, work with NPAA to propose Yawri Bay as a Ramsar site to the Government of Sierra Leone (through NPAA), and to work with NPAA to facilitate the submission of Ramsar nomination materials to Ramsar.

Also, we have deepened our relationship with the National Protected Area Authority and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Through this collaboration, we have established 16 community eco-guards and have created synergy between the NPAA Conservation Officers and the community eco-guards for effective patrolling and monitoring of the Bay. With this, the NPAA through their project "effective law enforcement for the protection of mangroves in the Yawri Bay landscape" has deployed 25 Game Rangers who are closely

working with our eco-guards to offer maximum protection for the Bay through monitoring and surveillance of the Bay.

To complement the actions of the CEPF project and to ensure that CSSL continues working on the stride and gains made by the CEPF project, we have secured one-year funding from PAPBIO to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to sustainably manage Yawri Bay. This project will further work with the existing Yawri Bay Ramsar Site Working Group (YaRSWoG) to further promote advocacy for the protection of Yawri Bay.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

At the start of the project implementation, the project team visited all the chiefdoms in the project area and briefed them about the project. Further to this, several community engagement meetings were held to ensure community participation in the project implementation. Prior to the implementation of any project activity that requires community support such as boundary delineation; the establishment of community by-laws; the formation of community eco-guards and local conservation officers; development of Yawri Bay management plan; the Free Prior and Informed Consent was duly followed to allow community involvement, participation, and gave them the right to actively take a decision. Furthermore, communities were actively involved in all assessments undertaken by the project such as biodiversity, socio-economic study, and the private sector engagement that led to the development of a draft frame work for conservation agreements. Additionally, the project team extensively worked with communities and other relevant stakeholders to understand the need for establishing a conflict resolution and grievance mechanism. With this, the project team established a conflict resolution and redress mechanism. This allowed community members and other stakeholders who would have felt aggrieved during project implementation to raise a grievance with the grantee, in the commonly accepted local language of Krio/creole, to the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat, or the World Bank. To ensure that the process was transparent and inclusive, the contact information including phone numbers and email addresses of the grantee organization, the Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF grant Director, World Bank, and the CEPF Executive Director were publicly displayed on signed posts and were installed in strategic locations in all the four chiefdoms. However, throughout the project implementation, CSSL did not receive any complaints from individuals or any group of people nor was CSSL informed by those whose contacts were publicly displayed on the signposts of which communities were asked to direct their complaints in case they feel dissatisfied of the way CSSL is handling their complaints. In order to avoid conflict between the NPAA Game Rangers charged with the responsibility of monitoring and enforcing protected area laws and local eco-guards charged with the mandate of patrolling locally around the Bay, the project, therefore, created a synergy between these two groups to allow collaborative patrol and monitoring around the Yawri Bay ecosystem.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

We want to thank CEPF for making a big difference and for promoting the good work of CSSL. Promoting and helping grantees spend time with prospective new funders (through the final assessment workshop) to carry on work to build on this project work was much appreciated.

Despite the huge effort made in alleviating the major challenges in the project location, we still believe that there is a considerable need to further upscale financial and technical investment in the Yawri Bay ecosystem given its most important status in biodiversity conservation.

Only through collaborative and transparent approaches, involving all stakeholders in the process, and taking a long-term planning approach, will there be a possibility for sustainably conserving the Yawri Bay ecosystem.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$167,946.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The 17,946 funding support contributed by RSPB dedicated to annual personnel cost for CSSL Programme Manager’s support to the implementation this project. ii. In-kind contributions of the GIS Unit of NPAA and Paul Robinson, lecturer at Fourah Bay. iii. The 38, 000 PaPBIO grant support to CSSL to Strengthen stakeholder capacity for sustainable management of Yawri Bay ecosystem in Sierra Leone’s Coastal Corridor iv. The 112, 000 Wetlands International grant support to NPAA for "Effective Law Enforcement for Protection of Mangroves Ecosystem in the Yawri Bay Landscape"

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.

Name of organization: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Email: info@cs-sl.org