

### **Project Update: December 2013**

Following up from the Chimpanzee National Census in 2010, Port Loko district was found to have a high density of chimpanzees and at the same time, there had been many reports of human-wildlife conflict. To validate this information as well as to gather more detailed evidences we selected a study area of approximately 150 km<sup>2</sup> within this district to undertake the camera trap project.

The study area is characterised mostly by cultivated and fallow farms with a few patches of secondary forest. We have conducted 98 semi-structured interviews in 20 human communities. We set 17 cameras in two distinct areas where chimpanzees seem to occur more frequently.

Preliminary findings indicate the presence of wild chimpanzees living in close proximity of human settlements and seem to mostly raid oil palms.

At the same time, we use the opportunity to sensitize about chimpanzee conservation. The villagers have shown the willingness to participate in this project to better understand and help find solutions to this conflict.

