

Project Update: August 2022

This update is a counterpart of the first update submitted toward the implementation of the approved Rufford small grant project on the subject - Impact of human activities on the population status of three threatened primates in Jaibui Island, Sierra Leone, significance for ecotourism and livelihood. The first update brought to light the activities which were delivered at the initial stage of the project. In the first update report, the activities delivered as at that time were: questionnaire design to ask relevant questions for the intended project objective, administration of the questionnaires to 68 community members from the project communities, and initiated meeting with individual stakeholders from conservation, research and academic institutions/organisation following a structured interview guide.

This second update will report on the project outputs planned and executed following the first update. In line with that, the individual stakeholder's engagements were progressed through formal appointments with stakeholders at their office space and engaged them in discussion on the conservation, threats, existing policy options, benefit and livelihood opportunities as well as recommendation towards the long-term conservation of the three primate species (western chimpanzee, Diana monkey and the western black-and-white colobus). A total of 20 stakeholders were engaged individually from 11 different institutions/organisations working on the conservation and management of wildlife, ecosystems and the environment in Sierra Leone.

Following the end of the stakeholder engagement initiated the planning for training community volunteers in commencement of the ecological survey (systematic line transect survey and reconnaissance walks) within the study area. A total of six community volunteers (bio-monitors) benefited from the training both in theory and in practice. The training captured elements on transect survey techniques for primate population study as well as thorough teaching on the use of the survey equipment such as: the GPS, compass, binoculars, range finder and hand camera. Data collection and recording while in the field were covered to record direct and indirect signs of the three primates and other species as well as human activities occurring on the island.

The training provided insights to the community volunteers for the actual transect survey in the field. Two project team members (Edward K. Marah and Ambrose Bockarie Kanneh) together with the six community bio-monitors completed the transect survey within the island on a field work duration of 13 days during October 2021. In total, the 21 lines transects were successfully walked on a single visit while counting the primates and recording the direct and indirect signs of the primates and human activities. This was accompanied by reconnaissance walks moving from one transect start point to the next to collect additional information on the species. At the end of the transect survey, sets in the data analysis and compilation of the project finding into a thesis for the award of a master study.

The data analysis and compilation lasted for months and with relevant findings observed from the data, a stakeholder engagement workshop was organised at the FAO/UN office, Freetown on 8th December 2021. The stakeholder workshops brought together the 20 stakeholders who took part in the initial stakeholder engagement. The

stakeholder workshop provided a platform for the publication of the project findings with relevant recommendations and feedback for policy and the overall conservation of the species for environment and human benefits from the stakeholders. Stakeholders who could not join the workshop were reached with the initial draft of the thesis for their feedback.

Additionally, the findings of the project were presented as a poster on 17th May 2022 to stakeholders in a graduation ceremony and a stakeholder engagement workshop organised by the West Africa Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (WABES) programme in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

To complete the project activities, an education and sensitisation activities will be delivered in October 2022. This will involve engaging approximately 300 pupils from four primary schools at the project area and teach them with insightful knowledge on biodiversity and environment conservation. The pupils will also participate in the community sensitisation using posters to talk to small groups of community members across the seven project communities on the importance and benefits of species, habitat and environment conservation drawing messages from the project findings.

Stakeholder engagement workshop at the FAO/UN office, Freetown on 8th December 2021





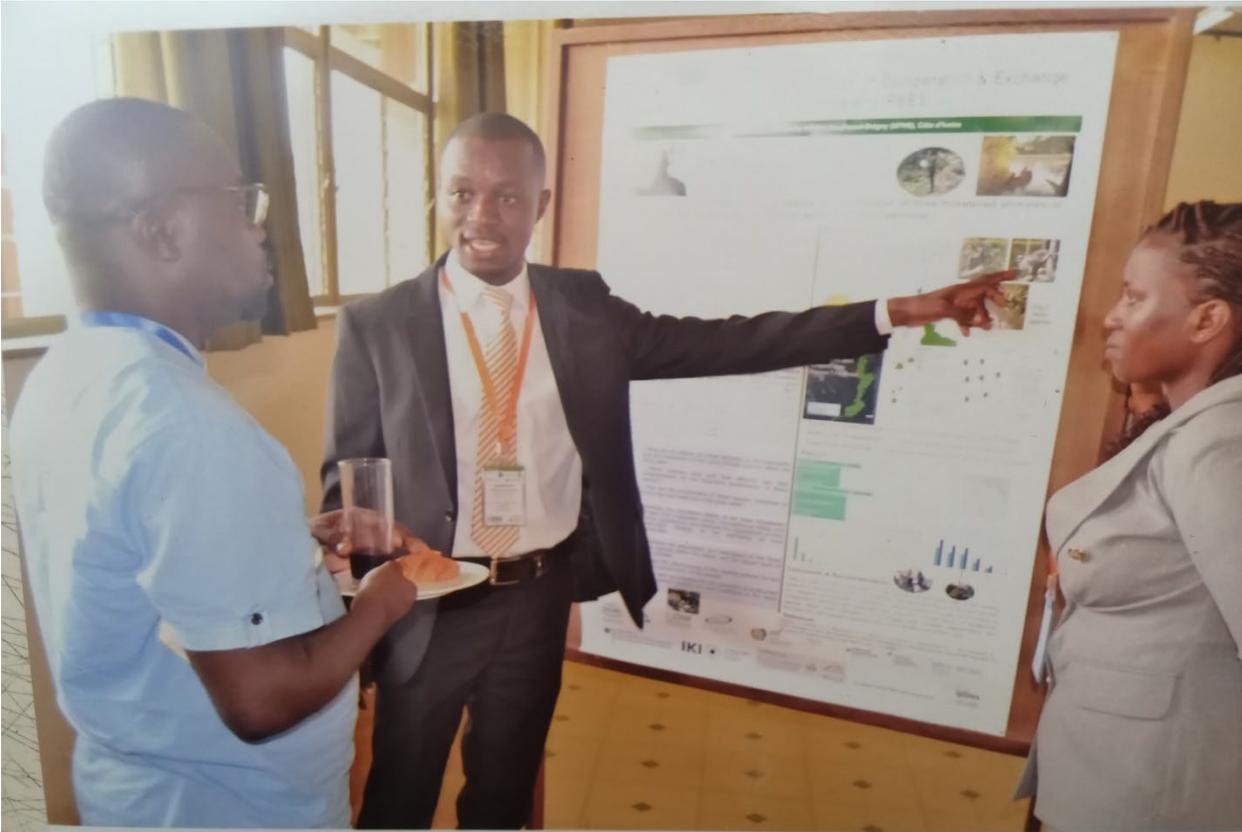
Training of community volunteers (Bio-monitors)



Transect survey



Poster presentation of project findings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – 17th May 2022



Newly carved boat to support project activities on the Island



