



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Sustainable and Integrated landscape Management of the Western Area Peninsula		
Country(ies):	Sierra Leone	GEF Project ID: ¹	9903
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5542
Other Executing Partner(s):	Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (MOTCA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)	Submission Date:	August 31, 2017
		Resubmission Date:	September 28, 2017 October 2, 2017
GEF Focal Area(s):	MFA: BD, LD	Project Duration (Months)	72
Integrated Approach Pilot:	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of parent program:	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	494,941

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-1 Program 1	GEFTF	2,567,496.5	2,925,000
LD-2 Program 3	GEFTF	1,300,000	5,850,000
LD-3 Program 4	GEFTF	1,342,412.5	9,225,000
Total Project Cost		5,209,909	18,000,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To strengthen the sustainable and integrated management of the protected area landscape in the Western Area Peninsula Landscape to protect globally significant biodiversity and safeguard streams of ecosystem services generating local and national socio-economic benefits.						
Project Component	Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
	TA	Improved management of the Western Area Peninsula (WAP) Multi-Use Landscape, covering 66,500 ha of multi-use terrestrial landscapes with significant biodiversity, indicated by: <i>(i) incorporation of biodiversity considerations into sector policies and regulatory frameworks that are relevant for land-users in the WAP; ii) approved and enforced zoning master plan for natural areas;</i>	1.1 Gaps in legal, sectoral policy, institutional and enforcement frameworks identified and addressed, providing improved enabling conditions. 1.2 An open-access spatial planning system is developed for the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape that can serve as a model for other key landscapes, and applied for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into land-use decision-making. 1.3 Master Plan is developed for the Western Area Peninsula Landscape, including detailed Management Plans for PAs, and	GEFTF	900,000 BD 400,000 LD 500,000	9,100,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT guidelines](#).

		<p>(iii) improved institutional capacity for integrated natural resource governance and management as per UNDP institutional capacity development scorecard.</p> <p>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</p>	<p>with clear cross-sectoral governance, implementation structures.</p> <p>1.4 Stakeholder capacity is strengthened for collaborative land-use decision-making and management through provision of tools and targeted training, specifically focusing on the NPAA to directly manage and to oversee the management of PAs in the Western Area Peninsula Protected Areas Complex; EPA-SL for environmental monitoring and compliance; Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs for effective management of tourism activities within PAs.</p>			
<p>2. Implementation of Integrated Management of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape</p>	<p>TA INV</p>	<p>Improved, coordinated and collaborative management of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape and its key natural areas including approx. 19,000 ha of forest, mangroves, low-human-pressure coastal areas and islands, enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring protection of biodiversity, indicated by: (i) increased METT scores for the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAP-NP); (ii) stable or increased population of targeted endangered species within the landscape (e.g. chimpanzee, Colobus, manatee); (iii) designation of at least two new community coastal/mangrove PAs; (iv) 2,000 ha covered under SLM, thereby reducing loss of natural habitats and land degradation.</p> <p>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</p>	<p>2.1 The existing WAP NP Management Plan is updated and operationalised in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, leading to its effective protection.</p> <p>2.2 New community coastal/mangrove PAs are proclaimed and designated, with site management programs rolled out, including in the Sierra Leone River Estuary Ramsar site (approx. 1,000 ha).</p> <p>2.3 Land users in targeted areas within the landscape are supported with training and tools (e.g. seeds, nursery materials, equipment) to transition towards implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) practices.</p> <p>2.4 Sustainable income generating activities (e.g. ecotourism, waste-to-wealth, processing of agricultural products) are implemented, micro-grants, training opportunities, and tools provided to generate alternative sources of income for targeted groups, including local youth in critical high-impact communities.</p> <p>2.5 Education strategies targeting local communities, schools, universities, and relevant sectors, are developed and implemented to increase knowledgs and promote solutions for environmental, health and social effects of deforestation and land degradation.</p>	<p>GEF TF</p>	<p>3,000,000</p> <p>BD 1,500,000 LD 1,500,000</p>	<p>7,000,000</p>

3. Financing frameworks for sustainable integrated landscape management	TA	<p>Increased financing for landscape management for the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape, indicated by:</p> <p><i>(i) substantive³ increase in the government allocation for landscape management; and (ii) number of operationalised new financing mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG</i></p>	<p>3.1 The role of ecosystem services is mapped and valued for supporting both the ecological integrity of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape’s natural assets and human well-being, including detailed quantitative analysis of the environmental, economic, and social benefits delivered by the ecosystems under business-as-usual and sustainable management scenarios.</p> <p>3.2 Financing plan is developed based on the Master plan for the Western Area Peninsular Landscape, with clear costing for basic and optimal management, current financing level and gaps to be addressed.</p> <p>3.3 A range of sustainable financing options explored to fill the gap, including use of fiscal policy reform, development of financial incentive mechanisms from diverse sources (e.g. carbon financing, performance payment mechanisms etc.). The incentive mechanisms will be designed and tested at target sites within the landscape with technical cooperation support under components 1 and 2, to make biodiversity conservation and sustainable landuse practices economically more attractive.</p>	GEF TF	<p>883,000</p> <p>BD 400,000 LD 483,000</p>	600,000	
4. Gender Mainstreaming, M&E and Learning	TA	<p>Gender Mainstreaming, Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E are used to guide adaptive management, collate and share lessons, in support of upscaling.</p> <p>At least 3 project lessons are used by other conservation initiatives.</p> <p><i>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</i></p>	<p>4.1 Gender strategy and action plan operationalised and used to guide project implementation, monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>4.2 Participatory project monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy developed and implemented</p> <p>4.3 Project lessons and best practices collated and disseminated for uptake and upscaling strategy developed and implementation supported.</p>	GEF TF	<p>181,000</p> <p>BD 147,002 LD 33,998</p>	442,858	
Subtotal					4,964,000	17,142,858	
Project Management Cost (PMC) BD: 120,495 LD 125,414					GEF TF	245,909	857,142
Total Project Cost						5,209,909	18,000,000

³ “Substantive” will be expressed as an X amount, based on the financing plan that will be developed by the project.

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: (BD: USD 125,701.24 and LD: USD129,532.52)

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	Grants	17,500,000
Recipient Government	Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	In-kind	100,000
Private Sector	Venture capital investors (mainly diaspora nationals) involved in eco-tourism project	Grants	100,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grants	300,000
Total Co-financing			18,000,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Program m-ing of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Sierra Leone	Biodiversity	n/a	2,567,496.5	243,912.17	2,811,408.67
UNDP	GEFTF	Sierra Leone	Land Degradation	n/a	2,642,412.5	251,029.19	2,893,441.69
Total GEF Resources					5,209,909	494,941.36	5,704,850.36

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$150,000					PPG Agency Fee: 14,250		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEFTF	Sierra Leone	Biodiversity	n/a	73,500	6,982.5	80,482.5
UNDP	GEFTF	Sierra Leone	Land Degradation	n/a	76,500	7,267.5	83,767.5
Total PPG Amount					150,000	14,250	164,250

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	66,500 ha
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	2,000 ha

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sierra Leone falls under the Guinean Moist Forest of the Global 200 Ecoregions, harbouring globally significant biodiversity. The project focus areas in Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape are particularly important in terms of rich biodiversity and vital ecosystem services. The Landscape covers a total area of 66,500 hectares,

comprising: (i) the peninsula's land mass (55,700 ha); (ii) the largely unprotected mangrove forests to the northeast of the peninsula (part of the Sierra Leone River Estuary); (iii) the Banana Islands and the small Bureh Town Forest; and (iv) a perimeter of over 200 km of coastal areas. The main refugia of terrestrial and coastal biodiversity is the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAP-NP)⁴ covering 18,337 hectares. Proclaimed in 2012, the national park is a Key Biodiversity Area that represents 80-90% of Sierra Leone's terrestrial biodiversity and has been proposed for nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It forms part of the upper Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot and is ranked high by the Protected Planet Consortium in terms of irreplaceability (site 5179). Despite its proximity to the densely populated capital Freetow (estimated population of 1.49 million), the WAP-NP harbours high levels of biodiversity. This includes over 50 species of mammals, including seven species of primates (five of which are threatened: Western chimpanzee (Cr), Red Colobus monkey (Vu), Black-and-White Colobus Monkey, Sooty Mangabey (NT), and Diana monkey (Vu)) as well as leopard (Vu), Jentink's Duiker (Vu), Black Duiker (NT) and Maxwell Duiker (NT), the rare White-necked Rockfowl (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*) (Vu) and endemic toad *Cardioglossus aureolli*. The NP also harbours a great diversity of plants and tree species, including wild food resources such as *Parkia biglobosa* and *Parinari excelsa.*, as well as species with medicinal qualities such as *Cassia sieberiana*, *Cassia siameae*, and *Carapa procera*. In total, the NP harbours 5 of the 22 globally threatened and near-threatened species, 4 of 14 restricted range species, and 91 of the 174 Guinea-Congo forest biome species recorded in Sierra Leone. Falling under IUCN Category II, the NP is a non-hunting area and should be a non-consumption area.

The forested surface of the Peninsula acts as the main water tower for Freetown, and contains two dams (Guma and Congo dam). The demand for water in the Western Area Peninsula is 26 million gallons each day, however the current supply only delivers 14 million gallons. While infrastructural interventions (mini-dams, mending of water points, flood management, waste and bulk treatment) are being addressed with international support, preservation of the forest and the ecosystem services it delivers is crucial to assure future water supply. Inside the target landscape is the estuary of the Sierra Leone River delta which is the site of the world's third largest natural harbour. Its wetlands comprise 19% of the country's mangrove forests, and includes 295,000 hectares that were proclaimed as a Wetland of International Importance in 2000 (Ramsar site no. 1014). The mangrove areas are key for sustaining local livelihoods, including fishing, artisanal aquaculture and production of wood for smoking fish. The coastal habitats around the peninsula harbour abundant marine biodiversity, including African manatees (Vu), five species of sea turtles (leatherback, green turtle, hawksbill, loggerhead, and olive ridley; ranging from Vu to En), three species of dolphin, porpoises, whales, and sharks. Pressures on coastal areas and mangroves is affecting marine biodiversity and fish breeding grounds. Fisheries contribute about 10% of GDP. The sector currently employs over half a million inhabitants, and fish is a major source of animal protein for over 80% of the country's population. Artisanal fish production yields around 120,000 tonnes (industrial is 20,000 tonnes), and mainly serves local markets with little or no value addition.

Sierra Leone continues to rank extremely low on the UN Human Development Index (179 out of 185 countries in 2016). An estimated 70% of its population of 6.1 million people lives below the poverty line, and 26% lives in extreme poverty. While after almost a decade of development and private sector investments the country had finally started to recover from its 1999-2001 civil war, the Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015 combined with falling global commodities prices, substantially affected economic growth. The main economic sectors are: mining (15–18% of GDP and 90% of export earnings); agriculture (30% of GDP and 16% of total export earning providing employment for about 85% of the population). Domestic production of food crops, especially rice, has increased in recent years. Cocoa and coffee exports increased between 2007 (105%) and 2011 (220%). Despite this growth, agricultural exports remain low and undiversified, with access to markets and credit posing severe constraints. The tourism sector

⁴ Legislation from colonial times considered only the forested block in the peninsula in Sierra Leone's Western Area as a 'no-hunting' site. The area had 17,688 hectares and was called Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve. That land-use legal status was repealed in 2011 and the new bill passed proclaiming the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAP-NP). The National Park extends over 18,337 hectares (i.e. larger than the original forest reserve) and now includes the southern tip of the peninsula at Kent, as well as the Turtle, Banana and Ricketts Islands, areas that were previously unprotected. In turn, the re-gazetting excluded from the park areas that are today urbanized around Gloucester, but which were part of the original Forest Reserve.

of Sierra Leone contributed about \$25 million to GDP in 2007, growing to around \$37 million in 2011, and \$42 million of Government revenue was generated in 2012. The Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape is the prime tourism destination in the country.

Threats: The important biodiversity and ecosystem services are under severe threat. Key drivers of biodiversity loss in the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape are:

- *Overexploitation:* Over-harvesting of trees for construction materials, firewood, charcoal production, and fish smoking (mangroves). Unsustainable fisheries and exploitation of endangered marine species including sharks and sea turtles. The bushmeat trade is rampant in Sierra Leone, and can heavily impact populations of targeted animals.
- *Unsustainable land-use:* Increased (unplanned) urban expansion and squatting, industrial and artisanal mining (stone quarrying and sand extraction), marijuana farming, commercial agriculture and slash & burn subsistence agriculture, conversion of mangrove forests for rice production.
- *Invasive alien species:* The status of invasive species in the Western Area is unknown, however, at least 31 invasive species have been reported to be (potential) threats to biodiversity in Sierra Leone.
- *Pollution:* Waste management on the peninsula is extremely weak. The main Freetown landfill is situated in a former mangrove forest, resulting in continuous flushing out of waste during high tide and floods with coastal as well as marine habitats being inundated with plastics.
- *Climate change:* Erratic weather and changing hydrological patterns affect water supply in the Western Area, and this is expected to worsen under current climate change scenarios. Sea level increase is expected to substantially impact coastal habitats. Results from studies carried out as part of the second National Communication (2012) indicate climate change trends with records of extreme rainfall events, extensive flooding, and erosion as a result of heavy rainfall and tidal activity.

The **root causes** of these threats include demographic change that is resulting in rapidly increasing urban expansion and prevailing poverty.

If managed properly, the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape will function as a key site for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development, and provide essential ecosystem services such as water supply, while the mangrove areas of the Sierra Leone river estuary will continue to provide coastal protection and fish habitats.

The long-term solution to protect biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services in the landscape is to halt and revert unsustainable land-use practices. Legislative frameworks are harmonized and conflicting mandates resolved. Institutional mandates and competencies are mapped. Buffer zone law is enhanced, and built upon with corresponding enforcement in place around the periphery of the NP. Breaches of land policy are quickly and effectively policed, and dealt with by effective and fair justice mechanisms.

The value of the ecosystem services provided by the forests and wetlands of the peninsula is understood, sustainably managed and capitalized upon towards fulfilment of the SDGs. Deforestation within PAs is put to a halt, reducing risks of water shortages and landslides. The best scientific solutions, such as terracing of exposed hillsides, planting soil-conserving reeds/shrubs/trees, and agroforestry, are increasingly implemented, thereby sustainably enriching livelihoods. Mangroves within the Sierra Leone River estuary are mapped, studied and proclaimed as a Protected Area, where use within limits is allowed but key natural features are preserved.

Conservation efforts including biodiversity monitoring, outreach, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods are expanded so that their reach extends throughout all targeted areas within the landscape. Local communities understand the value of natural capital, the economic and social costs associated with deforestation versus protection. Environmentally sustainable livelihoods are promoted and proliferate to a level where they meaningfully address drivers of degradation, with support and investment including new channels of private sector growth capital. Gender and community considerations are mainstreamed in all protective activities and plans.

Baseline: Several key initiatives supported by the Government as well as development partners target and/or affect biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable development in the Western Peninsula landscape. A Management Plan for the WAPNP covering the period 2014-2018 was developed in 2014, which will be used as the basis for this project. The EU funded a project on Conservation of the Sierra Leonean Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve (WAPFR) and its watershed (EUR 3.1million; 2011 - 2017) which included a REDD+ Scoping Study for the targeted landscape, capacity enhancement of the National Protected Area Agency (NPAA), consolidation of park management infrastructure and training of rangers. Other relevant initiatives are the ongoing USAID-funded (\$48.9 million total, 7 focal countries) programme on West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BICC, 2015-2020) that includes relevant biodiversity assessments and conservation activities in the WAP, as well as the RSPB-supported Gola Forest REDD+ Project (2012-2042), which is investing in capacity enhancement of the NPAA. FAO with support from the WB and other partners is in the process⁵ to support the Government in implementation of the reformed National Land Policy. In addition, investments are being made by multilateral partners (e.g. the European Commission, AfDB, IDB, Kuwait Fund, Saudi Fund, and OFID) to address the lack of road infrastructure along the peninsula. The associated financial baseline was estimated at \$15 million from the infrastructure Program, and co-financing of at least \$2.5 million is expected from the Government under the Road Maintenance Fund in support of environmentally sensitive infrastructure. The baseline investment associated with tourism is estimated at \$3 million for the duration of the project. Potential co-financing from tourism private sector partners at this stage is a modest \$100,000. Ecotourism remains underdeveloped in Sierra Leone, however, modest investments made by the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and GEF SGP (community-based waste management and ecotourism initiative at River No. 2) could serve as examples of good practice that can be upscaled. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy estimates cumulative expenditure commitments of \$205.5 million for climate change mitigation and adaptation. \$1 million is considered as a possible co-financing for this project to support community resilience enhancement in the target landscapes.

Barriers: Although the initiatives described above address issues that are relevant for the improved management of the peninsula ecosystems, deficiencies and impediments exist to the conservation of its unique biodiversity as well as to the effective management of its ecosystems and the services they provide. These barriers, which will persist in the absence of the GEF intervention, include:

Barrier	Description
1. Insufficient systemic and institutional capacity for adequate management of the multi-use landscape	The jurisdiction of different agencies for regulating land-use is minimally defined by law. Securing conservation results is only possible when land-use is stabilized. To the extent that land tenure is insecure, urban and agricultural expansion will continue to be a threat to the integrity of the landscape and its ecosystem services. There is a lack of an overarching policy guidance and planning framework that applies to the multi-use landscape, little clarity on what steps are needed for authorizing or impeding changes in land-use, and overlapping mandates between authorities. Issuing a permit for tourism development, addressing urban or agricultural expansion, or small-scale mining on the fringes of the WAP-NP can be controversial as the park’s buffer zone is not defined. Government entities in charge of regulating urban development, agriculture or mining can endorse changes in land-use that may jeopardize the integrity of the forest. Weak institutional and policy capacities exacerbate the effects of scattered legislation and regulations amidst poor institutional coordination and a paucity of data. Coordination mechanisms are ineffective, lacking coherent administrative jurisdictions, land planning enforcement and other provisioning for PAs.
2. Suboptimal on the ground mechanisms and management effectiveness of the WAP multi-use landscape	The existing management plan does not include a buffer zone for the WAP-NP, and is insufficient on its own as a tool for protecting the area’s biodiversity across the landscape. The mangrove areas, including those that enjoy the Ramsar status of globally important wetlands, remain unprotected in the framework of national legislation and management. There is insufficient capacity to adequately manage the landscape in an integrated manner, to implement the existing management plan for the WAP-NP, nor to expand the network of PAs within the landscape based on their biological value. There is insufficient knowledge and appreciation of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by the landscape. The NPAA itself is a relatively young agency, which has limited ability nor the means for influencing land-use decisions in the buffer zone of the National Park. Substantial capacity gaps also exist in other key Government agencies that influence management of the landscape, including the Ministry of Lands, Country

⁵ This process was started in 2016 in collaboration with UNDP. Total partner investments in the land policy implementation process are not clear at this stage, and will be assessed in more detail during the PPG phase.

	<p>Planning & Environment, MAFFS, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Disaster Risk Management Department (DMD) in the Office for National Security, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Tourism & Recreation. The mandate for the highly effective Tacugama chimpanzee sanctuary programme under MAFFS falls short of its potential as a key stakeholder in broadening and enhancing conservation efforts. The potential for active community engagement and eco-tourism remains underutilized due to low levels of local capacity. Limited familiarity and technical expertise of smallholder farmers and village entrepreneurs forms another impediment to the sustainable management of the landscape.</p>
<p>3. Insufficient financing to support biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable land management</p>	<p>Despite national and donor investments, there continues to be insufficient funding to adequately manage the WAP-NP and other areas of key biological importance within the landscape. To an extent, this is caused by the fact that there is insufficient knowledge of the economic value that is associated with the range of ecosystem services provided by the landscape, and the significant inherent value presented by the forest and coastal habitats for harbouring unique biodiversity. As a result, there is low prioritisation to invest in infrastructure and activities to support better management of these areas. In addition, the actual costs of managing the WAP-NP and other key areas are poorly defined, resulting in arbitrary budgeting decisions. In addition to inadequate funding, there is untapped potential for investment by the private sector. The potential for revenue generation through (eco)tourism and recreational activities within the protected area remains largely untapped. Other than the Tacugama programme that generates limited revenue (which is re-invested in chimpanzee conservation), there is no clear tourism concession system or a payment for ecosystem services systems that directly contribute to the protection of the park. The absence of bankable propositions on the demand side is a main impediment to private investments, which is closely linked to the above-described capacity challenges. On the supply side, there is a lack of credit facilities, specialized financial tools and risk-mitigation measures to incentivize investments in protected area management and sustainable land management technologies. This issue has the potential to be sustained in Sierra Leone despite a wider context indicating an inflection point between the proliferation of mobile technologies and the availability of innovative and risk adjusted smallholder finance.</p>
<p>4. Weak knowledge management and gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>Reliable data, information and knowledge collection and storage/sharing remains a substantial hurdle to ensuring effective support for biodiversity and ecosystem management in Sierra Leone. Similarly gender disaggregated data and mainstreaming into policies and programmes is not routinely practiced. Additionally, the minimal amount of information available creates challenges regarding sharing and scaling-up of successes and lessons learned in various efforts being supported by international, national and local actors in the environment and natural resource management field throughout the country. Promoting robust M&E and gender mainstreaming monitoring and sharing of information, lessons and best practices are essential for improved management of environmental governance and upscaling of project results.</p>

Project Strategy: The project directly addresses the immediate causes of unsustainable land management and biodiversity loss in the targeted landscape. In the baseline situation, the insufficient policy framework and capacity for sustainable land management will result in further loss of biodiversity, degradation of natural habitats, reduction of essential ecosystem services, increase in vulnerability to “natural” disasters, as well as loss of opportunities for emission abatement and associated revenue opportunities. In the alternative scenario enabled by the GEF, systemic and institutional barriers to sustainable, integrated landscape management will be removed at the national and local levels, supported by incentives for making investments in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use practices economically attractive. Targeted stakeholder capacity development support and local level integrated land use planning will demonstrate improvement in protected area management, increased use of environmentally sustainable land use practices, and improvement in biodiversity conditions. Piloting of incentive packages will further strengthen these actions and increase the potential for sustainability and scale-up.

Component 1: Systemic and institutional capacity for sustainable multi-use landscape management

This component aims to improve management of the Western Area Peninsula (WAP) Multi-Use Landscape, covering some 66,500 hectares of globally significant tropical biodiversity and ecosystems. This will be achieved through incorporation of biodiversity considerations into sector policies and regulatory frameworks that are relevant for land-users in the WAP, as well as development and operationalisation of a zoning Master Plan. The goal of the land-use planning and zoning assessments, focusing on the GEF investment in natural assets, is to create the means for stabilizing land use in the wider landscape. Spatial planning will include demarcation across a range of area types using customized monitoring & information systems. Areas covered by the Master Plan are part of the WAP Multi-

Use Landscape that encompasses both natural, production and built up areas. Concrete actions will be identified for enforcement of the Master Plan (e.g. through improved demarcation, monitoring, capacity enhancement for PA rangers and police). In collaboration with FAO who are supporting the Government in enhancing capacity for implementation of the National Land Policy, strategies will be developed to address land tenure insecurities. Gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement, including local communities and the private sector, will support adequate and collaborative decision-making on land-use at the landscape level. Improved biodiversity impact assessments, due diligence and enforcement will better control high-impact sectors (illegal firewood collection, poaching, agriculture, sand mining etc.).

Integrated natural resource governance and management structures will be strengthened. During the PPG, gaps in legal, sectoral policy, institutional and enforcement frameworks will be identified, and the project will subsequently support addressing these gaps to establish improved enabling conditions for integrated landscape management. Clarity is brought to institutional roles with respect to land-use management, and a national-level policy mainstreaming committee is established to help facilitate coherence between infrastructure/urban/tourism development and environmental management. Strategic Environmental Assessments are conducted to inform development plans about spatial areas where further infrastructure development is desirable/acceptable from the biodiversity standpoint, where they may be permitted subject to management-mitigation-offsetting, and where they should be altogether avoided. Furthermore, biodiversity concerns and biodiversity offsetting requirements are integrated in EIA and landscape planning; regulatory, institutional and financial arrangements for biodiversity offset mechanisms are established to define offset activities/outcomes and site selection and create a supply/demand database.

In order to aid decision making, an open-access spatial planning system is developed for the WAP Multi-Use Landscape that can serve as a model for other key landscapes, and be applied for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into land-use decision-making. A Spatial Planning system is established and sustainably maintained after project end by a suitable entity. The system provides both public and private users with: (i) land-use data (e.g. it identifies natural assets, urbanized areas, means of transport and key economic activities in a geo-located and fine-scale way); (ii) up-to-date threat and impact assessment (areas of concern for biodiversity and ecosystem services); (iii) key information needed for sectoral analysis to enable biodiversity mainstreaming actions (e.g. identifying areas of actual and potential land-use conflict and land-use incompatibility in close dialogue with sectors and stakeholders); and (iv) user-friendly land-use planning tools. The role of ecosystem services is mapped, valued and enhanced to secure their sustainable supply for supporting both the ecological integrity of the Wider Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape's natural assets and human well-being. The landscape's water cycle and carbon assets, including forest habitats prone to deforestation, as well as both reservoirs located within the peninsula uplands, are integrated into its overall management with a view to sustainability. Detailed quantitative analysis of the environmental, economic, and social benefits delivered by the ecosystems under environmentally unsustainable and sustainable scenarios will be done to inform the development of a Master Plan for the integrated management of the landscape.

The project will support development of a Master Plan for the WAP Landscape, taking into account ecosystem service valuations and spatial planning recommendations, including detailed Management Plans for protected areas, and with clear cross-sectoral governance and implementation structures. Stakeholder capacity will be strengthened for collaborative land-use decision-making and management through provision of tools and targeted training, specifically focusing on the NPAA to directly manage and to oversee the management of PAs. The project will support the EPA-SL to strengthen its capacity for environmental monitoring and compliance, and the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs for effective management of tourism activities within PAs.

Component 2: Integrated Management of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape

Under this component, the project aims to establish improved, coordinated and collaborative management systems in the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape and its key natural areas including approx. **19,000 ha** of forest, mangroves, low-human-pressure coastal areas and islands, enhancing their ecological integrity. The project will enhance management effectiveness of the Western Area Peninsula National Park (WAPNP) will provide technical

support to increase uptake of sustainable land management (SLM) practices in the landscape covering at least 2,000 ha, and establish at least two new community managed coastal/mangrove PAs.

The existing WAPNP Management Plan is updated (using the results of analyses under output 1.2) and operationalised in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, including Government, research institutes, NGOs, local communities and the private sector. The plan will include buffer zones, and time bound and costed actions. A National Park Council comprised of relevant partners (e.g. NPAA, EPA, MLCPE, NGOs, private sector) is formed to promote collaborative land-use management within the PA and in its bordering areas. Species management initiatives are supported with collection of key technical data (e.g. population status, monitoring data) and necessary tools (e.g. camera traps, GPS units) in collaboration with the Tacugama Programme, NGOs, academia and the private sector. New coastal/mangrove PAs are proclaimed and designated, with site management programs rolled out. This should include a mangrove protection program in the Sierra Leone River Estuary Ramsar site with conservation and restoration actions implemented in selected habitats in the estuarine area (approx. **1,000 ha**). The boundaries and key biodiversity features of the Ramsar site will be mapped in detail, and later proclaiming the site (or individual sites) as protected (possibly PA category V or VI). Locations for the community managed coastal/mangrove PAs will be selected based on set criteria including biodiversity value, accessibility, and potential for community buy-in (detailed criteria will be developed during the PPG phase).

Land users in targeted areas within the landscape are supported to transition towards implementation of SLM practices. Training will be provided to smallholder farmers as well as relevant staff from Government agencies to increase knowledge and build relevant skills for SLM. The project will facilitate the establishment of nurseries, and provide initial seeds/seedlings as well as other relevant tools and equipment to support the implementation of SLM activities. Sustainable income generating activities (e.g. ecotourism, waste-to-wealth, processing of agricultural products) are implemented, micro-grants, tools, and training opportunities provided to generate alternative sources of income for targeted groups, including local youth in critical high-impact communities. Increasing incomes by helping local communities to establish or expand environmentally sustainable enterprises is key to the successful management of PAs. Buffer zone enterprises, or an “economic buffer zone” will alleviate pressure on the NP while supporting and diversifying livelihood opportunities through the identification of viable income generating opportunities, identified by markets needs assessments.

Biodiversity conservation education strategies targeting local communities, schools, universities, and relevant sectors, will be developed and implemented to increase understanding and promote solutions for environmental, health and social effects of deforestation and land degradation in the landscape.

Component 3: Financing frameworks for sustainable integrated landscape management

This component will support the increase financing for landscape management for the WAP Multi-Use Landscape through development of government revenue streams and operationalisation of new financing mechanisms. To make the case for increased investment in ecosystem management, the role of ecosystem services is mapped and valued, including detailed quantitative analysis of the environmental, economic, and social benefits delivered by the ecosystems under business-as-usual and sustainable management scenarios. A financing plan is developed based on the Master plan for the Western Area Peninsular Landscape, with clear costing for basic and optimal management, current financing level and gaps to be addressed. In addition, a range of sustainable financing options explored to fill the gap, including use of fiscal policy reform, development of financial incentive mechanisms from diverse source (e.g. carbon financing, performance payment mechanisms etc.).

The project will design and promote appropriate incentive-based financing approaches to support integrated landuse planning and land use changes that are supported under Component 2. This could include climate financing and performance-based incentive mechanisms, private sector investments (e.g. ecotourism). Feasibility assessments will be conducted during the PPG phase. Pilot incentive packages will be developed and tested at targeted sites within the landscape including the WAP NP. The role of the private sector in implementation of the Master Plan is enhanced and enabled – e.g. creating sustainable jobs through ecosystem restoration activities, alternative biomass provision, eco-tourism initiatives etc. Enabling actions for creating a market for sustainable products and services from the

Landscape’s natural assets. The financial flows from such a mechanism will enable the sustainability of efforts towards reducing the pressure on natural assets in the landscape.

Component 4: Gender Mainstreaming, M&E and Learning

This component will focus on ensuring gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation and lesson collation and dissemination with a view to guiding adaptive management and promotion of uptake of successful approaches and best practices. Based on the gender analysis and action plans to be developed during the PPG, the project will ensure that decisions made, and interventions proposed for implementation, take into account the potential impacts and outcomes for different groups within society, with particular focus on the roles played by men, women and youth.

In line with the principles of Integrated NRM and ILM, the project will promote a participatory approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning. It will therefore support the development of monitoring and evaluation protocols that involve all relevant stakeholders, including local institutions such as CBOs, land users and communities at large. It will establish multiple platforms for sharing experience, knowledge and skills among the project beneficiaries (i.e. communities) as well as within the institutions tasked with management of resources in the landscape.

In addition, the project will ensure a systematic and thorough documentation and collation of lessons learnt from the implementation of the project, and share this learning/knowledge with other stakeholders beyond the project, including at the national level, with policy-makers, and at the regional and global levels with other similar projects/programmes. The project will develop knowledge products and conduct analysis of specific project results and share these at local, regional and global workshops and conferences, and through other fora and platforms.

Incremental Reasoning and Global Environmental Benefits

<i>Baseline situation</i>	<i>Alternative practices to be facilitated by project</i>	<i>Global benefits</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing deforestation, land degradation, and loss of biodiversity in the landscape, resulting in loss of ecosystem services, decreased environmental resilience, and increased risks of disasters. ▪ Insufficient collaboration among government and non-government entities with respect to land-use planning and land allocation within the Western Area Peninsula and beyond. ▪ Absence of an adequate land management strategy and plan for Freetown and its surroundings, and lack of legislation and enforcement capacity for buffer zones. ▪ Land speculation and unplanned land allocation causes conflicts between Government institutions. ▪ Sustainable finance for managing the National Park is unresolved. Buffer zone degradation is a persistent issue. ▪ The tourism industry is growing, but very limited investment is made by the sector in environmentally-sustainable infrastructure or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land-use change is stabilized, biodiversity protected and ecosystem services safeguarded. Deforestation and environmental degradation are halted, erosion and landslide risks eliminated, and endangered species effectively protected. ▪ Legislative frameworks are harmonized and conflicting mandates resolved. Institutional mandates and competencies are mapped. Buffer zone law is enhanced and built upon with corresponding enforcement in place around the periphery of the NP. Breaches of land policy are quickly policed, summoned and dealt with by effective and fair justice mechanisms. ▪ The value of ecosystem services provided by the landscape is sustainably managed and capitalized upon towards fulfilment of the SDGs. The NP’s own systems and ecosystem management and protection measures are strengthened. ▪ The best scientific solutions, such as terracing of exposed hillsides, planting soil-conserving reeds/shrubs/trees, and agroforestry, are recognized, understood and implemented extensively. ▪ The Tacugama programme and other local (NGO/community-based) conservation activities expand so that their positive influence and protective reach extends to the broader landscape ▪ Environmentally sustainable sources of income are expanded with support and investment including tourism, and private sector growth capital. ▪ Gender and community considerations are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved management of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape, covering 66,500 ha of terrestrial landscapes including approx. 19,000 ha of forest that forms part of the upper Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, and the Sierra Leone River Estuary Ramsar site of approximately 1,000 ha. ▪ Enhanced protection of globally significant biodiversity, including critically endangered chimpanzees, and other threatened primate species as well as other vulnerable, endemic

conservation-focused activities.	mainstreamed in all plans and activities.	and rare species.
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Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up:

Innovation is embedded in the project’s landscape approach to changing the way ecosystems, species and biodiversity are sustainably used. It leverages key factors of Sierra Leone’s situation to advantage. Biodiversity is presently not highly valued as a sustainable development asset for the people, and the project will introduce a different perspective by emphasising the value of sustainable use, and appealing to youth and other groups that can drive innovation towards changing attitudes, and have impact beyond the landscape directly targeted by the project. Sierra Leone is not widely regarded for its eco-tourism but by emphasizing its substantial biodiversity including endangered and rare species the project will contribute to enhancing the country’s image and tourism potential. The focus on a landscape approach to address the loss of ecosystem services (e.g. water provisioning, environmental resilience) is a novel approach in the Sierra Leonean context, where at present access to water and disaster risk reduction issues are mostly dealt with by treating the symptoms rather than addressing the immediate causes. Promoting alternative activities for those that degrade land and harm biodiversity assets will reduce the pressure on ecosystem integrity, biodiversity and water resources. Self-reliance is key to financial sustainability, and can facilitate scaling up of biodiversity benefits through replication of best practice on enforcement and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Finally, the country will benefit from the innovative facilitation of mechanisms to provide sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management.

Sustainability will be ensured partly through the awareness raising and capacity enhancement activities that are planned for the project, which will result in both knowledge and skills required to maintain environmentally-sound landscape management and livelihood activities. By identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in legal, sectoral policy, institutional and enforcement frameworks, and by building on existing arrangements sustainability of governance structures will be facilitated. The project further seeks to secure the longer-term continuity of the achieved outcomes through establishment of financing mechanisms as well as a defined, robust, and functioning institutional and legal framework for environmentally sustainable use and protection of the environment. The project will have substantial potential for scaling up of the expected outcomes, and aims to catalyse a transformation by using the landscape approach to maintain essential natural capital and ecosystem services by promoting the use of best practices in planning and decision-making processes, which can serve as an example of good practice for nation-wide replication.

2. STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes /no) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes /no)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The following stakeholders have been identified for consultation during the project development phase. A full stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the PPG phase.

Key Stakeholder	Relevant Roles
Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA)	The EPA coordinates with national and local Government institutions on issues relating to environmental protection and management. The Agency advises government on the formulation of policies on aspects relevant to the environment as well as climate change impacts.
Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment (MLCPE)	The Ministry is responsible for managing state lands; compulsory acquisition of land; surveying and mapping; planning; development; and establishment and enforcement of building codes. Although its new Land Policy is a priority, the capacity of the Ministry for implementation of the policy is weak.
Min Agriculture, Forestry & Food Security (MAFFS)	It is responsible for forest management and biodiversity conservation. The Forest Departments sits in MAFFS. The Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary is part of a programme coordinated by MAFFS. It has a strong interest in biodiversity conservation and outreach, and has an impressive reach across the NP (including camera traps throughout).
National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA)	The NPAA falls under the coordination of MAFFS. It holds a strategic plan for all PAs and has re-demarcated the new WAP-PA boundaries. It is responsible for conserving the park

Key Stakeholder	Relevant Roles
	area. It has ambitious reforestation targets, as well as plans for fencing and other enforcement measures. It has 150 game guards in the WP who need better systems (cellular has limited coverage).
National Commission on Environment and Forestry (NaCEF)	It is responsible for managing the country's natural and environmental resources; and advising the Ministry on policy, project implementation, environmental monitoring, and setting priorities. The Forestry and Wildlife divisions within NaCEF are responsible for natural forest management, management of forest plantations, and management of rangeland and national parks. There is considerable overlap in environmental responsibilities of the NaCEF and other ministries, such as the MAFFS, MLCPE, MMMR.
Water Companies	The Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC) is responsible for Freetown, while the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) is responsible for other urban and peri-urban areas and for rural water supply, including the provision of technical support to local councils.
Education & Research	Key research institutes include the University of Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute, Njala University, and Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography Research.
Private landowners, and private sector	The activities of private landowners, developers and the private sector are key drivers of land degradation and biodiversity loss. Landowners will be encouraged to work closely with the project to adopt environmentally sustainable approaches. The private sector will be engaged for investments in sustainable activities, such as ecotourism and landscape restoration.
NGOs	Among the most active NGOs are Green Scenery, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA), Reptile and Amphibian Program – SL (RAP-SL). The Environment Forum for Action (ENFORAC) plays an overall coordinating role. CSOs helped to delineate the WPA-NP, but do not currently have co-management or implementation/enforcement responsibilities. Local women and young people's groups will make contributions on designing adaptation activities, and support the participation processes.
Local Communities	Local communities will be engaged through existing governance and leadership structures, including by consulting Paramount Chiefs and Mamie Queens (traditional female leaders).

3. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes /no).

The project adopts a participative approach to guarantee maximum coverage of impact: the inclusion of all relevant social groups, including marginalized people (e.g. unemployed youth), with attention to the participation and inclusion of women. Gender considerations will be part of the formulation process, and appropriate forms of benefitsharing will be promoted that acknowledge and reward the different contributions of women and men to sustainable management of natural resources. A project specific gender mainstreaming plan will be developed during the PPG with actions to be taken under each component and necessary budgetary provision as appropriate. This aligns with the 2013-2018 Agenda for Prosperity (GoSL/A4P, 2012) that has the overall goal to empower women and girls through education, participation in decision-making, and access to equal justice and economic opportunities.

4. RISKS

The following risks have been identified with preliminary mitigation measures. Risks will be reviewed and mitigation measures will be strengthened during the PPG phase.

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Controversy, social unrest and/or reputational risks if project activities are associated with forced evictions and relocations of (indigenous) people that have encroached on key biodiversity areas.	H	The project will respect applicable national and international laws as well as customary rights and claims to natural resources, while working closely together with targeted communities, seeking to avoid physical and economic displacement as a result of the implementation of its activities. In exceptional circumstances and where avoidance is not possible, displacement may only occur with full justification, appropriate forms of legal protection and compensation, and following standard requirements. Measures have already been put in place by the SL Government to reduce encroachment and illegal activities within the Western Area Peninsula NP,

		and the project will only serve to strengthen these to respect existing boundaries. There could, however, be increased risk if decisions are made to establish PA's in coastal areas that have been encroached upon, for instance within the mangrove forests that are a Ramsar site. Measures will be put in place during the PPG phase to establish a system that closely monitors this risk, possibly with support from CSOs, and include Livelihood Action Plans. Furthermore, the project will aim to achieve free, prior and informed consent on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned.
Insufficient political will to improve transparency and accountability related to land management.	H	Ensure that policy and corresponding enforcement and communication mechanisms are adequately strengthened, so that the interests of those making gains on encroachments cannot prevail.
Paucity and commercialization of qualitative and quantitative data that is key to the success of the project.	M	The project will proactively support focused efforts in consolidating essential data and improving accessibility and application of data and information. This will be done through the open-access spatial planning system which will be developed under component 1.
Climate change and related impacts, and natural disasters such as the recent severe mudslide and flooding may set back progress of the project.	M	The Project will work to address the anticipated negative impacts of climate change by increasing resilience of the target landscape, through improving management of protected areas and ecosystem functioning. Through this, the project will contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem resilience under the climate change conditions, so as to secure sustainable flow of ecosystem services.
Difficulties in reconciling different stakeholder agendas, interests and positions.	L	A thorough stakeholder analysis will be conducted including their interest and potential conflict, institutional and political context analysis. The project will ensure active engagement of all key stakeholders, documenting their roles and attempting to find middle-ground during all phases of design and implementation.

5. COORDINATION

The project will integrate lessons learned, and link to other relevant past and ongoing interventions, including the following GEF-funded enabling activities and projects: UNDP-GEF 3510 “Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Sierra Leone” 2009-2012 (\$475,000); UNDP-GEF 86632 “Building Adaptive Capacity to Catalyze Active Public and Private Sector Participation to manage the Exposure and Sensitivity of Water Supply Services to Climate Change (\$13 million) 2013-2018; UNDP-GEF PIMS 90575 “Energy Efficient Production and Utilization of Charcoal through Innovative Technologies and Private Sector Involvement in Sierra Leone (\$7.3 million) 2015-2019; UNDP-GEF 5902 “Adapting to climate change induced coastal risks” (\$30 million) 2017-2022. Coordination with ongoing projects will be assured through regular coordination and joint planning meetings that will be organised in order to maximize synergies, avoiding risk of duplication. The project will integrate assessments, lessons learned and good practices from the ongoing regional USAID-funded West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BICC) programme, as well as from the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)-supported Gola Forest Programme and other relevant initiatives. In addition, the project will work closely together with FAO to ensure that advances related to the implementation of the reformed National Land Policy are integrated in the project. Coordination will be facilitated by the Project Manager, and will involve ongoing contacts with project implementers as well as through formal project structures such as steering committees and working groups.

6. CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no).

The project is consistent and fully in line with national plans, priorities and policies, including the following:

- Relevant multilateral environmental agreements of which Sierra Leone is party, including the UNCBD and UNFCCC, as well as the UNCCD, for which the country is setting baselines and targets for attaining Land Degradation Neutrality (targets validated in June 2017).

- The third national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP III) Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018, which aims to mainstream inclusive green growth in development processes.
- The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2006) for Sierra Leone, which recognises the important role biodiversity plays in poverty alleviation and sustaining life on earth, and seeks conservation measures that provide the framework for the sustainable exploitation of the country's biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations. It advocates for an increase in the number and size of Protected Areas, and calls for the development and implementation of management plans. It encourages the active participation of NGOs in the management of protected areas, co-management and seeks to involve important local institutions with appropriate gender balance. The project will directly contribute to Aichi Target 7, 11, 12 and 20.
- The National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA) and Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Act that was passed in 2012 and calls for management of designated protected areas and forest reserves to meet the objectives of the CBD.
- The National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007), which prioritises actions to i) establish and maintain the integrity of forest reserves, protected Areas and National Park/Sanctuaries; ii), rehabilitate and protect coastal areas; and iii) manage water resources more sustainably.
- The National Water and Sanitation Policy (2010) and the government's policy on water and sanitation as laid out in PRSP II (Agenda for Change, 2008-2012), which recognize that country's water resource base and the environment and its sustainability are threatened by human activities, and advocate for environmentally sustainable approaches in the effective exploitation and utilization of water resources.
- The National Land Policy (2015), which sets ambitious targets for enhanced transparency and accountability around land tenure.
- The Forestry Act of 1988, which empowers the Minister to declare any area to be a protected area for the purpose of conservation of soil, water, flora, and fauna.
- The national Low-Emission Climate-Resilient Development Strategy (LECRDS).
- The Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, which provisions for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), mitigating measures and fines measured in US\$.

7. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management will be an integral part of the project, enabling institutional memory, promoting learning and continuous improvement, generating documents for up-scaling of lessons and best practices. Specific knowledge management activities are incorporated under component 4 and will be carried out in an integrated way and in support of the various capacity building and training actions under the different components. The broader dissemination of experience and lessons learnt generated by the project will be also pursued through engaging national and regional technical and educational institutions, and regionally and internationally through South-South cooperation mechanisms.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT⁶ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this SGP OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Abdul Bakarr Salim	GEF Focal Point Assistant Deputy Director CCS, EPA-SL	Environment Protection Agency - Sierra Leone Office of the President	08/31/2017

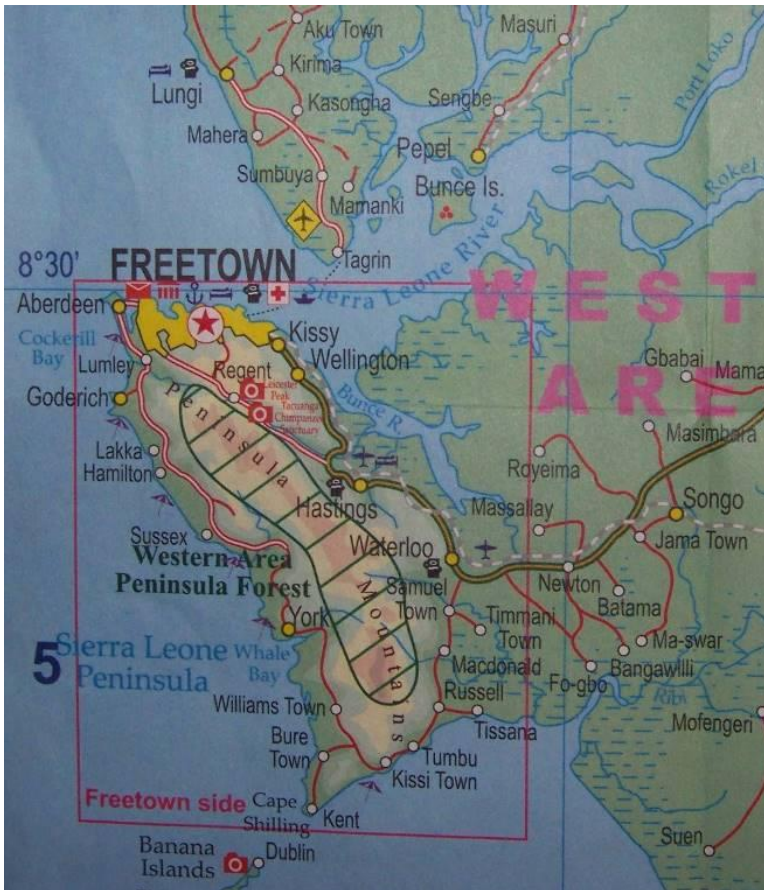
B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

⁶ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁷ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu Executive Coordinator, UNDP Global Environmental Finance		08/31/2017	Saskia Marijnissen RTA, EBD	+251 944026135	saskia.marijnissen@undp.org

Annex I: Maps



⁷ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT

WESTERN AREA PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK (WAPNP)

