



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR GRANT For Round 12 competition: Stage 2

Ref (Defra only): 13008

1. Name and address of organisation

Africa Programme, Fauna & Flora International, Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2TT

2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Establishing community-based forest biodiversity management around Sapo Park, Liberia

3. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Suter	Kay	Richard
Forename(s)	Jamison	Farmer	Sambola
Post held	Senior Projects Advisor, Liberia Programmes Director	Science and Policy Advisor to Liberia	Programme Officer
Institution (if different to above)	same	FFI-Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia	FFI-Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia
Department	Africa	Africa	Africa
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

4. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Aims
 The Africa Programme of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) aims to conserve threatened species and habitats across Africa, ensuring that human needs are protected and basing all decisions on sound science. FFI works through local partners, building their capacity to deliver effective and sustainable conservation solutions.

Activities
 To achieve its mission in Africa FFI has adopted an innovative, bottom-up approach that gives prominence to the socio-economic elements of effective conservation. In all its projects in Africa FFI seeks to:

- Build local partnerships with African conservation and community development organisations;
- Maintain long term relationships, even under conditions of conflict and post-conflict;
- Strengthen institutions to bring sustainability and added value to projects;
- Reconcile conservation goals with the needs of local people; and
- Incorporate sound science in decision-making.

In Liberia, FFI has supported management of Sapo National Park since 2000 (with Darwin support 2000-02), leads a national-level forest re-assessment to identify forested areas that should be set aside for conservation

or for communal use (rather than commercial logging), builds the capacity of the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Liberian environmental NGOs, and advises the international community on the importance of Liberia's forests and how to address reforming Liberian forest management.

Achievements

Fauna & Flora International's (FFI's) 2003 Africa budget was approximately £1 million, with active projects in 11 countries and projects under development in 7 more.

Since 1997, FFI has made Liberia a central pillar of its Africa programmes. FFI has played crucial roles restarting management at Sapo National Park, working through the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Liberian NGOs. In 2001, FFI helped establish the biological monitoring programme underway at the Park. FFI used this program to develop a rapid ecological assessment tool that has been applied across southeast and central Liberia to select priority areas for upgrading into national parks and nature reserves.

FFI is leading in-country activities of the Liberian National Forest Re-assessment project, a 4-year initiative (2001-04) executed in collaboration with three Liberian Government agencies and Conservation International (CI). The project combines satellite imagery analyses/GIS (led by CI), field surveys (FFI-led) and protected forest policy review (FFI-led) to develop recommendations for reclassifying Liberia's protected forests and correct an historical imbalance favouring commercial use of forests over conservation and communal/subsistence uses. It represents the most comprehensive and updated source of information on Liberia's forests available, as well as the most comprehensive review effort in the Liberian forest sector since the 1970s.

Since international peacekeepers arrived in August 2003, FFI contributed extensively to debates on supporting Liberian reconstruction including the UN Needs Assessment, to UNEP's Desk Study on the Environment in Liberia, and Liberia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. For many years, FFI has played a quiet but influential role advising donors, diplomatic agencies, the Taylor Administration and now the Transitional National Government on strengthening and reforming forest management in Liberia.

In 2001, FFI was the first international environmental NGO set up an office in Liberia since the 1980s. Today FFI remains the only international environmental NGO with significant in-country field programs.

5. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

FFI has previously received the following Darwin Initiative grants: Protected Areas Management Planning in the Andaman Islands, India (1997; 162/06/173); Tabunan Forest Biodiversity Conservation Project, Cebu, The Philippines (1998, 162/07/149); Re-starting Management of Sapo National Park and Creation of Liberian Protected Areas System (2000; 162/9/15); Research, survey and biodiversity planning on the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau, China (2000; 162/10/009); A National Strategy for Sustainable Use in Dominica (2000; 162/10/010); Community-based conservation of Hoang Lien Mountain Ecosystem (2000; 162/10/011); and Institutional Strengthening and capacity for Guyana's protected areas system (2002; 162/11/016) .

6. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in the project and explain their role and responsibilities in the project. The extent of their involvement at all stages in the project should be detailed, including in project development. Please provide written evidence of this partnership.

Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA): The FDA worked with FFI to prepare laws and regulations on communal forests (2002-03) and co-facilitated the workshops developing management plans for Sapo Park (2001, 2002). It has run community awareness and development (agro-forestry) programmes. The FDA would work with communities to create communal forests (CFs), helping them to develop management plans and monitor their execution. The FDA has explicitly requested assistance to pilot the legal mechanism at Sapo Park (letter to follow).

Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA): Responsible for overseeing affairs relating to indigenous Liberians and local government. 'Tribal Reserves' (TRs) fall under their mandate, a legal category that is being reconciled with 'Communal Forests' in discussions between FFI, FDA and MIA. Because it must issue a 'tribal land certificate' for a tribal reserve/communal forest to be created, MIA will be involved in every step of the creation of communal forests.

Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL): Ran a communal forest project in 2000-01 with fundign from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Actively involved in community outreach around Sapo Park since 1986 and participated in Park management planning workshops. Will assist target communities with management plan development and implementation.

Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU): Runs a community-based forest management programme in the village of Naai (central Liberia). Interested in assisting communities with management plan development and implementation.

Mercy Corps: the main international partner in this initiative. An international NGO specialising in community-based participatory development and strengthening of civil society, Mercy Corps is USAID's primary implementing arm in Liberia. Since early 2002, Mercy Corps has planned to extend its programmes into south-east Liberia, and today is poised to do so at a significant scale. Mercy Corps intends to replicate lessons learned in the context of this project to all relevant forested areas of south-east and central Liberia in the coming years. Its primary responsibilities in this project will be to work with communities to build up their communal forest management committees, and to support sustainable livelihood initiatives (technically and financially) to complement the objectives of communal forests (CFs). USAID will fund Mercy Corps' collaboration. A letter of support from Mercy Corps will be forwarded when FFI receives it.

7. What steps have been taken to (a) engage at all appropriate levels within the host country partner organisations to ensure full support for the project and its outcomes; and (b) ensure the benefits of the project continue despite staff changes in these organisations?

A) This proposal was designed in close collaboration with FFI's in-country partners, namely the FDA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and environmental NGOs active in Liberia. Discussions with Mercy Corps/USAID defined their roles. The National Forest Re-assessment, esp. the FDA and FFI, prepared the legal clarifications of 'communal forests' and the process by which they are created, which were debated and approved by the National Legislature and the President. FFI's Liberia manager, who helped design the project and will oversee finalisation of the Communal Forest Manual, is author of Liberia's Environmental Laws. Therefore this project is fully consistent with and supportive of Liberia's broader environmental policy framework. UNEP's Desk Study on the Environment in Liberia (to be released Feb-04) highlights the critical roles CFs can play in protecting both rural Liberians' rights & well-being as well as Liberia's biological diversity by serving as buffer zones and forest corridors for strictly protected areas. At the Sapo Park management planning workshop of Nov-02, over 100 representatives of local villages and CBOs around the Park unanimously endorsed the idea of creating communal forests, primarily as a means to empower them against intrusions from hunters, miners and loggers. In 1998 and again in 2002, socio-economic surveys of Sapo Park villages that identified their urgent development needs which will be addressed starting with this initiative.

Thus from the level of local beneficiaries around the Park, to the Ministry responsible for local government and rural land management, to the technical Liberian governmental and NGO partners involved in forest management, to the highest levels of the Liberian government, to the international community, all relevant partners have provided input and/or their support to the project and its intended outcomes.

B) The FDA is revising its organisational structure. In the latest draft (December 2003), it created positions with specific responsibility for community-related forest management. This will ensure continuity within the FDA. This project related to MIA's core responsibilities, including administering tribal reserves. Thus MIA has staff appointed for this work. Otherwise, the only other structures that need permanency are the CF management committees, which will benefit from capacity-building support under the project.

8. What other consultation or co-operation will take place or has taken place already with other stakeholders such as local communities. Please include any contact with the government of the host country not already provided.

This is adequately addressed above. For more details, copies of the following are available on request:

- Draft communal forest manual, 2004, prepared by the Liberia Forest Re-assessment project, FFI-Liberia, Monrovia.
- Magin, C and Suter, J. 2003. Report on the November-December 2002 Workshops to Develop a 5-Year Management Plan for Sapo National Park, Sinoe County, Liberia. FFI, Cambridge, UK.
- Murray, J. and Sambola, R., 2002. Report on the socio-economic surveys of communities around Sapo National Park, March 2002. FFI-Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia.
- Suter, J. ed. 2001. .An 18-Month Operational Plan for the Management and Development of Sapo National Park, Sinoe County, Liberia. FFI, Cambridge, UK.
- Suter, J. 2001. Report on the Workshop to Review the 1986 Integrated Management and Development Plan for Sapo National Park, to Develop an Operational Plan and to Outline a Long-Term Management Plan for the Park. FFI, Cambridge, UK.
- Liberia's National Environmental Policy (2001), Environmental Protection and Management Law and the Act to Create a Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (2002)

PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose of the project in line with the logical framework.

The project purpose is to ensure conservation of threatened Upper Guinean rainforest biodiversity and sustainable rural livelihoods in forested areas of Liberia based on a legally grounded, working model of community empowerment and forest resource use. This will be pursued through piloting communal forests in 3-4 sites with up to 40 villages around Sapo National Park, securing in perpetuity a forested buffer zone around the Park. To do this, project partners will implement and establish operational links between four activity themes: (1) refining and testing the legal/regulatory framework for CFs, (2) building the community-based, NGO and governmental institutions to implement CFs, (3) ensuring sound management of environmental/biological resources in the forest, and (4) assisting local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods and common property resources management. The model developed at Sapo Park will be replicated across Liberia in the following years.

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Establishing communal forests has not been tested in Liberia in a manner that fully integrates their legal, institutional, biological and livelihood sustainable dimensions. However this proposal builds primarily on the following previous initiatives:

- support to managing Sapo National Park (incl. from Darwin) during which were highlighted the needs for securing a functional buffer zone and forested corridors to nearby forest areas proposed for strict protection, and empowering local communities to control the forests surrounding the Park;
- a pilot project in 2000-01 to establish communally managed forests led by Catholic Relief Services and SCNL. While the project was not sustainable, many lessons were drawn from it; and
- the Liberia National Forest Re-assessment's, the FDA's and the international community's priorities for forest sector reform and correcting the historical imbalance favouring commercial forest uses (viz. logging and hunting) to the near exclusion of community and conservation objectives.

11. How will the project assist the host country in its implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Please make reference to the relevant article(s) of the CBD, thematic programmes and/or cross-cutting themes (see Annex C for list and worked example) and rank the relevance of the project to these by indicating percentages. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD national focal point in the host country? Further information about the CBD can be found on the Darwin website or CBD website.

The project would assist the Government of Liberia (GoL) to address the following CBD articles:

- Art. 5 Co-operation (b/t Government, indigenous communities, NGOs and development agencies, 15%)
- Art. 6 General measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use (conservation corridors and environmental awareness, 15%)

Article 8 *In-situ* Conservation (protected area buffer zone creation, 20%)

Article 8j Traditional Knowledge (survival of traditional knowledge and practices in rural Liberia, 5%)

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of Biological Diversity (NTFPs to be used sustainably, 15%)

Article 11 Incentive measures (empowering communities to control the forest resources they traditionally depend on is an incentive for them to manage and conserve forest rather than damage it, 15%)

Article 12 Training (of GoL agencies, Liberian NGOs and CBOs, 15%)

It would help GoL to address the following CBD themes, too:

Access to and benefit-sharing from genetic resources, ecosystems approach, forest biodiversity, protected areas, public education & awareness, and tradition knowledge, innovations & practices.

12. How does the work meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority within the host country? Please indicate how this work will fit in with NBSAPs if applicable.

Liberia contains two of the three large forest blocks remaining in the Upper Guinean Forest: the Lofa-Gola-Mano block in the north-west, and the south-east forest block contiguous with the Taï forest block in south-western Côte d'Ivoire. Because many species will survive only in large forest blocks, in 1999 the scientific community recognised Liberia as the highest priority country for biodiversity conservation in the Upper Guinean rainforest. However Liberia has only 2 fully protected areas – the Nimba Nature Reserve in the centre-north, and Sapu National Park in the heart of the south-east forest block. For Liberia's biodiversity to be conserved, models for conserving biodiversity in the productive landscape must be developed and replicated widely across the country. Otherwise strictly protected areas in Liberia will not have functional buffer zones, and forested corridors will not be maintained between these areas. Because of rural Liberians' present destitute economic conditions (post-conflict), they may rapidly degrade Liberia's forest biodiversity without external assistance. But they could also be guided to re-establish their livelihoods in sustainable ways, consistent with sustainable use/CBD principles, using forest biodiversity as a source of subsistence, income and a safety net, maintaining traditional knowledge and uses of biodiversity (esp. medicinal plants).

Liberia's NBSAP is still in draft form. A version from 5 January 2004 includes the following action: "Establishment of [communal] forests in Sinoe, Gbapolu, Nimba, Lofa, River Gee and Grand Bassa counties" that would lead to 30 community forests established by 2005 (page 121).

13. If relevant, please explain how the work will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the host country

Liberians – urban and rural – are economically and culturally dependent on their forests. Especially in rural areas, the loss of forests would result in the loss of the economic goods & services they provide, in products used in the cash economy, in subsistence safety nets and in cultural identity. Establishing a model, with the intention of wide replication, that not only protects forests but integrates sustainable forest-based livelihoods is essential to Liberia pursuing its economic development while remaining a largely forested country.

14. What will be the impact of the work, and how will this be achieved? Please include details of how the project outputs will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve this impact.

The project would develop a model to replicate across Liberia that assists strictly protected areas (national parks/nature reserves and their biodiversity) by creating functional buffer zones and forested corridors between them. The project would pilot a model of CFs in a manner to protect rural traditions of forest use, developing livelihoods based on sustainable forest use that offer Liberians attractive options to conserve forest cover/biodiversity and maintain their rural lifestyles. The project will be evaluated internally and externally, with the results published and disseminated to facilitate replication.

Consistent with Liberia's NBSAP and FDA's plan for forest sector reform and strengthening, Mercy Corps/USAID, FFI and other NGO partners intend to replicate this model widely across Liberia. This project will have a more modest Phase 2 to monitor CF management issues after the requested Darwin grant

ends, and will be evaluated in years 3 and 5 to draw out and record lessons and refine the CF model.

15. How will the work leave a lasting legacy in the host country or region?

In addition to legacies described in (13) and (14), if successful the project would help keep a large portion of Liberia's remaining forests (covering 45,000 km²) under permanent forest cover, subject to a sustainable use regime. In the Upper Guinean Forest from Togo to Sierra Leone, no other country has the potential to conserve landscape-level forest blocks in a mosaic of forests set aside for conservation, community and cultural uses, and commercial uses (esp. sustainable logging). Because plant and animal species in Liberia are not found or are unlikely to survive in the fragmented forests of other Upper Guinean Forest countries, maintaining such a mosaic in Liberia represents these species' best or only chance of survival.

16. What steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact or legacy?

1. Establishing and managing CFs should not be costly or else they will not be replicated. This initiative will build the capacity of the FDA, MIA, Liberian NGOs and beneficiary communities, and learn initial lessons, so that more costly international assistance is not needed later.
2. The recurrent costs of CF management and oversight for the 3-4 pilot CFs will represent less than £12,000/year after the project ends. The average recurrent management cost is approximately £0.20/hectare-year, which is far less than for a park or reserve. In the context of overall FDA and forest sector reform & strengthening, a portion of severance and conservation fees from logging should be reserved for communal forest management. Thus when commercial logging is once again operational, the FDA will have adequate revenue to support CFs.
3. The involvement of Mercy Corps, with its experience in sustainable rural development and building up of community-based institutions, will help to address the risk that communal forest management committees do not manage their CFs properly from lack of capacity or inadequate financial incentives.
4. In separate initiatives (esp. the National Forest Re-assessment, soon to be superseded by broad forest sector reform and strengthening), project partners are addressing the creation of an integrated national network of protected forest areas. This provides the context for communal forests to play their role.
5. The project includes two discrete evaluations to identify, record and disseminate lessons to be applied as the CF model is replicated more widely.

17. How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

As with the first Darwin grant to Sapo Park/Liberia and based on experience from it, the Darwin name and logo will appear and be promoted in all publications, reports, press releases, articles, radio/television appearances, publicity materials, and local and national workshops related to the project. Given the planned publicity/promotion of CFs, this could result in significant in-country exposure in the forest sector.

18. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work? Are there completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects which are relevant to your work? Please give details, explaining the similarities and differences and how your work will be distinctive and innovative. Show how the outputs and outcomes of this work will be additional to any similar work, and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with such work for mutual benefits.

The SCNL/CRS community forest project nearby Sapo Park in 2000-01 yielded lessons for the design of this initiative, and will continue to do so as execution advances. Likewise the Darwin grant to re-start management of Sapo National Park (2000-02) yielded many lessons on how to and how not to do certain things in Liberia and around the Park. This proposal's project leader, J. Suter, was project leader for the first Sapo Park-Darwin grant and has integrated these lessons.

Expert technical assistance will be provided by Dr Karen Lawrence and/or Tunde Morakinyo (both British) who have extensive experience in community forest management in peri-park areas from Nigeria and the Philippines.

19. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection. How many will be involved, and from which countries? How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length and dates

(if known) of any training course. How will trainee outcomes be monitored after the end of the training?

Training will target several beneficiary groups and topics, but always using a learning-by-doing approach, minimising theoretical, classroom situations. Drawing on British and Liberian expertise, FFI (and possibly Mercy Corps) will organise field training and TA in CF/TR laws & regulations, community consultations, workshop/consultation facilitation, and message delivery for awareness campaigns. Training will target FDA communal forest staff, MIA tribal reserve staff and partner NGOs (like SCNL and SAMFU) who can then train further individuals in their organisations. At least 2 months of on-the-ground training and side-by-side TA in the above and the following topics will be delivered to 10 Liberian partner staff.

Mercy Corps and FFI will organise seminars and provide follow-up on-the-ground TA on management & administration for community-based organisations such as will be formed to manage CFs. FDA and MIA staff will be invited to participate so they can better support CF Management Committees with their jobs. At least 4 seminars/study tours and 4 or more months of on-going on-the-ground TA will be provided to at least 5 government staff and 4 CF management committees.

The FDA, FFI and SCNL will provide on-the-ground training and on-going advice in sustainable forest resource use to Mercy Corps staff, and communities if relevant, to assist with launching biodiversity-friendly livelihood activities. At least three field seminars are planned targeting 50 or more rural Liberians, accompanied by 3 months of TA.

20. How are the benefits and/or work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? Please provide a clear exit strategy.

Due to the timetable of when funds can become available for this project, the requested Darwin grant is intended as 'pump-primer' in years 1 and 2. However the project is planned for three years, followed by a more modest 2-year Phase 2, after lessons have been drawn from Phase 1 and overall costs drop significantly. The main objective of Phase 2 will be to monitor management of CFs and draw out additional refinements and recommendations. From a financial perspective, donor co-financing (from FFI, the EC, the GEF, the French GEF and the USA) will be provided starting in year 1, lasting through year 5.

Recurrent costs of the 3-4 CFs to be established will be modest and by end-year 3, FDA revenues are expected to cover these. The project is designed so that nearly all costs relate to the creation of a CF, while management of a CF requires few external inputs, and none that FDA, MIA and Liberian NGOs should not be able to provide in 3 years. This project emphasises investing in a core group of FDA, MIA and NGO staff so that they can replicate the model effectively and efficiently in future.

Replication of the model will require significant funding which USAID intends to make available. FFI will continue to target forests peripheral to high-priority conservation sites, such as the Nimba Nature Reserve and other Liberian parks and reserves to be created in the coming years.

21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year:	Key milestones
Aug 04	FY 04/05	Reconciliation of MIA and FDA (tribal reserve (TR) vs communal forest) law & regulations; completion of communal forest manual and adoption as FDA regulation
Sept 04	FY 04/05	Training of FDA, MIA and NGO partners in TR/CF law and regulations, community consultations and awareness-raising techniques
Jan 05	FY 04/05	Initial information/awareness campaigns completed for all Sapo Park communities on the possibility to establish, process to create + requirements for TRs/CFs. Tribal authorities meet to review establishing TRs/CFs
Jan 05	FY 04/05	First technical feasibility and market study underway on sustainable forest-based income generating activities

April 05	FY 05/06	On-the-ground seminars in sustainable forest use to CFECs and Mercy Corps delivered, on-going TA on this topic initiated; sustainable livelihood initiatives begun for at least 1 site targeting low-impact agriculture around and sustainable forest-based activities within proposed CF
May 05	FY 05/06	3-4 communal forest establishment committees (CFEC) formed/operational and have received assistance/training in management & administration; on-going TA for management & administration initiated; MIA, FDA & NGO staff receive training in meeting facilitation and on-going TA initiated; second technical feasibility and market study underway on sustainable forest-based income generating activities.
July 05	FY 05/06	Reports on initial inventories of proposed TRs/CFs completed (field work for inventories completed by May 05)
Dec 05	FY 05/06	3-4 reports on establishing TRs/CFs (1 report per proposed area) submitted to Tribal Authorities and MIA. NOTE: Reports should contain basic inventories, proposed boundaries, summary of consultations, possible conflicts and proposed solutions, justification of the TR/CF, management objectives and guidelines (initial) for proposed areas
Jan 06	FY 05/06	MIA completes field reconnaissance of proposed TRs/CFs
March 06	FY 05/06	Negotiations completed for solutions to conflicting claims over target areas; sustainable livelihood initiatives begun for all proposed CFs targeting sustainable forest-based activities + low-impact agriculture like agroforestry
May 06	FY 06/07	Review of requests for establishing TRs/CFs completed
June-July 06	FY 06/07	Public consultations/media campaign completed concerning 3-4 TRs/CFs to be established; conflicting claims resolved.
Sept 06	FY 06/07	3-4 CFECs officially transformed into communal forest management committees (CFMCs) with bylaws; land deeds requested and acquired for 3-4 TRs/CFs; management plans finalised and adopted by CFMCs
Oct 06	FY 06/07	Implementation of all CF management plans underway with FDA oversight
Jan 07	FY 06/07	Independent evaluation occurs seeking to to draw out lessons, improve CF process and policy, identify needs, assess sustainability and design Phase 2
March 07	FY 06/07	At least 6 technical feasibility and market studies completed on sustainable forest-based income generating activities
March 07	FY 06/07	Final project report prepared, evaluating the initiative internally and making recommendations on TRs/CFs, sustainable forest-based economic activities and financial & capacity needs for refinement replication of TRs/CFs; independent evaluation attached as an annex and the full report is printed and disseminated widely in Liberia and via the web.

22. How will the most significant outputs contribute towards achieving the purpose of the project?

The project will put in place and field test the legal and regulatory frameworks for communal forests in Liberia, as well as establish procedural precedent and train staff from FDA, MIA, Liberian NGO and communities to create, manage and replicate CFs across the country. If successful, the project will result in:

- improved biodiversity conservation inside Sapu Park (and other future Liberian parks/reserves) as well as in the CFs themselves (indicator: Forest cover + wildlife populations maintained or increasing in pilot CFs);
- improved standards of living for rural Liberians based on sustainable, forest-friendly livelihoods (indicator: Absence of non-seasonal or critical shortages of forest resources for beneficiary communities);
- rural community empowerment (indicator: Absence of complaints from beneficiary communities of external, uncompensated expropriation of natural resources within pilot CFs); and
- widespread, national replication of the model (indicator: Requests from other forest-dwelling

communities and INGOs to replicate the CF model, and donor interest to support this as required).

23. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the separate list of output measures

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month (starting April)	Standard Output Number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc)
September 04 onwards	6A	10 Liberians (FDA, MIA, NGOs) trained in TR/CF laws and regulations, and community consultation & awareness-raising techniques. Follow-on in-the-field TA in community consultation & awareness-raising techniques.
	6B	10 people x 1 week = 10 weeks (plus 8 weeks of TA x 10 people)
By April 05	6A	On-the-ground training in sustainable forest-use/NRM to 3-4 CFECs and Mercy Corps/partner staff, plus on-going TA in these topics
	6B	2 weeks x 50 people = 100 weeks (plus 12 weeks of TA to participants)
By May 05	6A	3-4 CFECs trained in management & administration; MIA, FDA and NGO staff trained in meeting facilitation with on-going TA in this topic
	6B	2 weeks x 50 people = 100 weeks (plus on-going TA to participants)
Same dates as above	7	5 sets of training materials prepared, one for each major topic listed directly above
Starting in May 04 but esp. after Sept 04	8	K Farmer – 31 months = 134 weeks K Lawrence/T Morakinyo – 4 months = 17 weeks J Suter – 4 weeks/year x 3 years = 12 weeks TOTAL = 163 weeks
By September 06	9	3 or 4 (depending on the number of CFs established) management plans finalised
October 04 to March 07	14A	80 (estimated) workshops/seminars to be organised, mostly in Sinoe County with villages, local authorities and County officials, a few in Monrovia, esp. in March 07 to present evaluation recommendations.
Beginning September 04 to March 07	15A	At least 10
	15B	At least 30
mid-2005 and late 2006 (est.)	15C	2 write-ups in FFI Magazine or <i>ORYX</i>
Throughout project lifetime, but esp. late 2004, May-July 06 and Mar 07	19A	At least 3
	19C	At least 20
April 04 to March 07	20	£40,000 (est.) although with depreciation over the project lifetime their value will be lower at the time they are handed over post-project
By late 2006	22	3-4 (one for each CF to be used as a control for monitoring the CF)
April 04 to March 07	23	£527,712 (est.) – see section 31 (page 15) for details

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

24. Describe how the progress of the project, including towards delivery of outputs, will be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its overall purpose, both during project lifetime and at its conclusion.

Monitoring will occur at several levels. J Suter (Cambridge) makes approximately 3 trips/year to Liberia to assess progress with projects and provide technical advice. FFI-Cambridge, too, has internal review processes in which project leaders participate. FFI-Liberia staff will prepare 6-monthly work plans with activities/expected outcomes, as set out in the logical framework, and will measure progress against these. FFI-Liberia will prepare written reports for Cambridge in anticipation of J Suter's visits, attaching past and proposed workplans and measuring progress against indicators.

Because this project intends to develop a model for nation-wide replication in Liberia, a specific evaluation component (external and internal) was included in order to draw out, record and disseminate lessons.

Project output-level indicators will be easily tracked as the means of verification will be integral documents to the project. Purpose-level indicators will be assessed during the independent and internal final evaluations. Some of the means of verification will come from parallel initiatives in Liberia like the GEF/French GEF-funded project to strengthen long-term management of Sapu Park, the establishment of the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (part of Liberian reconstruction) and CI's future satellite imagery analyses.

25. How will host country partners be involved in monitoring and evaluation of the project?

The FDA, MIA and Mercy Corps have their regular reporting schedules, too, to track progress and challenges which they may share with FFI as they wish. They will participate in developing 6-monthly work plans, which involves reviewing past progress and challenges, and making adjustments. They will all be consulted during the independent evaluation and participate in the internal final evaluation.

26. How will you ensure that the project achieves value for money?

This project represents an investment in developing a model intended for broad replication across Liberia. While the project may appear relatively costly for the approx. 80,000 hectares of forest in the targeted CFs, its cost-effectiveness resides in the multiplier effect it will have after this pilot phase, and in the relatively modest recurrent costs of communal forest management, estimated at £0.20/hectare-year.

Just over half of project costs arises from international inputs designed to cease for the target areas after 3 years, and from decommissioning related logging concessions and paying standard MIA land title fees. Most remaining costs relate to investments in capacity-building that will provide dividends when replicating the model. Approximately 5% of annual project costs are recurrent and will need to be met post-project.

27. Reporting Requirements. All projects must submit six monthly reports (by 31 October each year) and annual reports (by 30 April each year). Please check the box for all reports that you will be submitting, dependent on the term of your project. You must ensure that you cover the full term of your project.

Report type	Period covered	Due date	REQUIRED?
Six month report	1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004	31 October 2004	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005	30 April 2005	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2005 – 30 September 2005	31 October 2005	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006	30 April 2006	Yes
Final report	1 April 2004 – project end date	31 December 2007	Yes (see below)

NOTE: FFI will prepare a final project report in Darwin format at the end of the 3 years even though Darwin money will not be spent after year 2.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

28. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To ensure forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural livelihoods in Liberia based on a legally grounded, working model of forest community empowerment and forest resource use</p>	<p>Forest cover & wildlife populations maintained in pilot communal forest areas and Sapo Park</p> <p>Absence of non-seasonal or critical shortage of forest resources to appropriate communities</p> <p>Absence of community complaints of external expropriation of natural resources for CFs/TRs</p> <p>Requests from other forest-dwelling communities and INGOs to replicate the model, and donor interest to support this as required</p>	<p>Satellite imagery analyses, Sapo Park bio-monitoring programme, Sapo Park management reports</p> <p>Project management reports; FDA communal forest staff reports</p> <p>Local/district environmental committee meeting minutes; press releases (local newspapers, radio)</p> <p>Written requests + minutes of meetings when requests are made</p>	<p>Civil stability permits working at Sapo Park by October-04</p> <p>Governance in the forest sector and Liberia generally improves in a manner that balances commercial, community and conservation interests</p> <p>No natural calamity</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency Act (EPA) is implemented; FDA, MIA and EPA collaborate</p> <p>The CF/TF model turns out to be cost-effective, and INGOs + donors replicate the model</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Regulatory framework and legal amendments for CFs adopted</p> <p>2. 304 communal forests/tribal reserves in Sapo Park buffer zone established</p> <p>3. Model for sustainable natural resources & common property-based livelihoods developed</p> <p>4. Capacity of FDA, MIA, Liberian NGOs and communities strengthened to create and manage CFs/TRs</p> <p>5. Model developed for replication of sustainable forest livelihood integrated with biodiversity conservation, supported by written materials (guidelines, evaluations, recommendations, training materials)</p>	<p>1. FDA promulgates regulations through a communal forest manual, resolving any incongruencies/issues between MIA and FDA policy</p> <p>2a. At least 3 CFs/TRs legally established around SNP, covering 70,000-80,000 ha</p> <p>2b. Each communal forest has a mgt. plan under implementation</p> <p>3. Sustainable forest resource-based livelihood programmes underway for 3 communities with CFs, possibly incl. agro-forestry, rattan furniture, others tbd.</p> <p>4. Efficient, effective monitoring and management of CFs, including formalising and implementing the mechanism within FDA to support recurrent costs of CFs, i.e. allocating certain forestry fees to CFs</p> <p>5. Report with clear lessons learned, procedures, recommendations for future CFs</p>	<p>1. Signed FDA publication of relevant regulations; CF manual; signed MIA document adopting CF/TR regulations</p> <p>2a. MIA-issued Tribal Land certificates, and later FDA - issued CF-creation regulations</p> <p>2b. Management plans; FDA CF staff reports</p> <p>3. INGOs (Mercy Corps) reports; FDA CF reports</p> <p>4. FDA CF reports; follow-on CF creation programmes; FDA regulation adopted allocating certain forestry fees to CFs</p> <p>5. FFI evaluation report; independent evaluation report</p>	<p>Interim Govt proceeds with forest sector reforms incl. enacting the Forestry Law Amendment Act and its outline for forest sector reform</p> <p>Communities still desire establishment of CFs (as expressed at Sapo Park workshops)</p> <p>FDA allocates the required staff + money to CF creation and management</p> <p>INGOs in Liberia replicate sustainable forest resource-based livelihoods</p> <p>Successful CFs require sustainable forest resource-based economic activities in parallel</p>

Activities	Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)
<p>1. Prepare communal forest manual, reconciling MIA Tribal Reserve and FDA Communal Forest policy and procedures; ensure its adoption as FDA regulations</p> <p>2. Legal creation of 3-4 Communal Forests; resolution of concessionary or other claims to the areas; preparation of management plans; implementation of mgt plans; monitoring of plans' execution by FDA</p>	<p>1. Draft annual by June 04, completed manual and adoption by FDA end-August 04</p> <p>2. Information/awareness meetings with communities on CF/TR objectives, procedures and requirements, beginning October 04. Tribal authorities have met by end-January 05 to review all initial plans.</p> <p>3-4 Communal Forest Establishment Committees (CFES) operational, preparing required information for submission to create TRs/CFs by May 05; field work for inventories completed by end-May 04, written inventories completed July 05.</p> <p>CFECs (with assistance) finalise reports on establishing TRs/CFs December 05.</p> <p>MIA completes field reconnaissance of proposed TRs/CFs by end-January 06.</p> <p>Negotiations completed resolving any competing claims over the proposed areas by March 06.</p> <p>Requests reviewed by all appropriate authorities, up to the Ministerial level by May 06; public consultations.</p> <p>Public consultations + media campaigns on establishing TRs/CFs, and resolution of competing claims, completed by end-July 06.</p> <p>CFECs transformed into CF Management Committees with bylaws, land deeds issues for 3-4 TRs/CFs, and management plans finalised and adopted by September 06.</p> <p>Implementation of CF management plans underway with FDA oversight by October 06, continuing beyond project closure.</p>
<p>3. Conduct technical feasibility and market studies on sustainable forest resource-based income-generating activities</p> <p>Promote sustainable agricultural, agro-forestry, hunting and other NRM practices supporting subsistence needs compatible with CFs and biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Involve INGO and its local partners in all steps of Component 2</p>	<p>3. First technical feasibility and market study underway on sustainable forest-based income generating activities by January 05</p> <p>Sustainable livelihood initiatives begun for at least one proposed FC/TR site by April 05</p> <p>Sustainable livelihood initiatives begun for all FC/TR sites in accordance with actual or draft management plans by March 06</p> <p>At least 6 technical feasibility and market studies completed on sustainable forest-based livelihood activities by March 07</p> <p>September 04 onwards: participation of INGO designated representative in all major processes, no particular milestones.</p>
<p>4. Capacity-building/TA for FDA, MIA, Liberian NGOs and participating communities in natural resources mgt., management & administration, TR/CF laws and regulations, consultation and facilitation techniques, other topics if needed</p>	<p>4. Training of FDA, MIA and NGO partners in TR/CF law and regulations, community consultations and awareness-raising techniques in September 04</p> <p>On-the-ground training in sustainable forest use/NRM to CFECs and Mercy Corps & partners, plus on-going TA in these topics, initiated by April 05</p> <p>By May 05: CFECs trained in management and administration with on-going TA in these topics underway; MIA, FDA and NGO staff receive training in meeting facilitation and on-going TA in this topic initiated.</p>
<p>5. Independent evaluation</p> <p>Preparation of internal report evaluating the initiative, outlining the practicalities of CF establishment and mgt., making recommendations on CFs, sustainable rural livelihoods and</p>	<p>5. Independent evaluation occurs January 07, in time for recommendations and lessons to go into internal evaluation report</p> <p>Internal evaluation and report preparation completed by March 07, dissemination in print in Liberia and via the web internationally.</p>