



APP2 197



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 12 COMPETITION: STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate A4 sheet if necessary. Do not reduce the font size below 12pt or alter the paragraph spacing.

Submit by 19 January 2004

Ref (*Defra only*):

1. Name and address of organisation

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest

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	Hipkiss	Technical Adviser – to be appointed	Siaffa
Forename(s)	Alexander James		Daniel D.
Post held	International Officer		Executive Head
Institution (if different to above)			Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
Department	International		–
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 RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and other wildlife, both in the UK and overseas. It is the UK partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of national conservation organisations that share common objectives and work together in advocating and carrying out priority conservation actions. The aims of this partnership are as follows:

- to prevent the extinction of any bird species in the wild
- to maintain and where possible improve the conservation status of all bird species
- to conserve and where appropriate improve and enlarge sites and habitats important for birds
- to help, through birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's lives
- to integrate bird conservation into sustaining people's livelihoods.

Activities

Internationally, the RSPB works mainly by providing financial and technical support to partner organisations in the UK Overseas Territories and more than 20 countries in southern and eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. Capacity-building underpins all of the work we do with these partners, as our ultimate aim is to help them to become fully self-sufficient.

Together with our partners and a wide range of other local stakeholders, we work to:

- protect endangered species of birds
- identify and conserve the most important sites for birds
- influence international, national and local policies affecting birds and other wildlife
- learn more about the problems facing birds and possible solutions to these problems
- teach children and adults about the importance of the environment and ways in which they can help to conserve it.

In addition, we run a training programme called *Building on Experience*, which aims to improve the effectiveness and long-term viability of BirdLife partners and will be delivered to all 100+ partners over a 5-year period.

Achievements

Over the past 20 years, the RSPB has provided direct support to 32 BirdLife partners. Many of these have become the foremost conservation organisations in their countries, with active programmes of conservation, public awareness, education and advocacy and close working relationships with government.

We have made a major contribution to the conservation of many endangered birds – for example, the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), the Seychelles magpie-robin (*Copsychus sechellarum*) and the northern bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*). In addition, we have helped our partners to identify and document several thousand key sites for birds – known as Important Bird Areas – and to formulate conservation strategies for many of these sites. As one of the largest conservation NGOs in the world, we have had a significant impact on the development and implementation of several key international treaties and directives, and in discussions on world trade, energy use, marine conservation and other topics of global importance. We have carried out vital research on numerous endangered species, and on issues such as agricultural intensification, the palm oil industry, climate change and introduced predators. Together with partners, we have implemented highly successful large-scale environmental education programmes in Ghana, Sierra Leone and South Africa, and will shortly be initiating additional programmes in India and Kenya.

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

We have been awarded the following funding under the Initiative.

- £84,000 in Round 3 for a project to compile a directory of important ornithological sites in Tanzania. This project has been completed successfully.
- £136,000 in Round 7 for a three-year project entitled *Management planning for conservation of mesotrophic fen mire biodiversity in Belarus*. This project has been completed successfully.
- £158,000 in Round 9 for a project entitled *Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa*. This project is in its third and final year.
- £98,000 in Round 10 for a project entitled *Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: improving monitoring, management and conservation action*. This project is in the second year of three.
- £231,975 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Prediction and management of declines in Gyps species vultures*. This project is in the first year of four.
- £154,117 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Empowering the people of Tristan to implement the CBD*. This project is in the first year of three.
- £109,889 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Implementing urgent conservation actions in mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus*. This project is in the first year of three.
- £78,770 in the first round of Follow-Up Funding for a project entitled *Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa* – a follow-up to the Round 9 project described above. This project will start in April 2004 and last for two years.

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.

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL): CSSL has been a partner of the RSPB since 1990. During the development of this project, CSSL staff have co-written proposals, implemented and coordinated Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) studies, organised workshops and led meetings. CSSL's role in the project will be as joint implementer, bringing expertise in nature conservation, environmental education and renewable natural resource management. It is the foremost national wildlife conservation NGO in Sierra Leone with offices in Freetown, a staff of 18 people and a membership of 300 adults and 2000 children. It promotes sustainable management of renewable natural resources and is currently engaged in three major projects. In addition, it carries out a large amount of environmental education work. CSSL's mission is "to promote conservation (wise use) and management of natural resources for sustainable development in Sierra Leone".

Forestry Division, Government of Sierra Leone (FD): The FD has also been a partner of the RSPB since 1990. During the development of this project, it has been involved in discussions and the implementation of forest studies, and has led and coordinated several workshops. It will be an equally important implementing partner in the project, taking a lead in reserve administration and general management, and will be carry out all law enforcement activities. The FD is responsible for the management of forestry resources in Sierra Leone, including the implementation of forestry regulations and the administration of forest concession agreements. In 1993 it produced an Interim Management Plan for the Gola Forest Reserves with support from the RSPB.

Letters of support are appended in Annex 1.

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) The RSPB has worked in partnership with CSSL and the FD for 14 years, both in Gola and on a wide range of other issues. CSSL is the BirdLife International Partner in Sierra Leone, and it is in the interests of both the RSPB and CSSL to foster our partnership in the long term with the aim of building the capacity of CSSL. Within the FD, the RSPB has strong links both with senior management and with staff 'on the ground' in Gola. As noted above, both CSSL and the FD have been fully involved in the development of this project and collaborate well together.

(b) The project will not be seriously affected by staff changes within CSSL or the FD for four main reasons.

- The training element of the project targets five people in each of these organisations (as well as 70 members of local communities). Therefore, the loss of one or two staff members from these organisations would not create serious problems.
- The RSPB is committed to providing long-term support to CSSL. As a result, CSSL will be able to continue its work regardless of staff changes or other potentially damaging events.
- Throughout the development of the project, support has been sought and obtained from high-level officials within the Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (of which the FD is a part). Therefore, staff changes within the FD will not affect the extent to which this organisation is committed to the project.
- In general, the activities planned for the project are not dependent on specific individuals for their success.

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.

In March 2002, representatives of the RSPB, CSSL and key Sierra Leone government ministries met to discuss the re-establishment of the Gola Forest Conservation Programme following the return of peace to Sierra Leone. The meeting was highly successful, and resulted in the production of a signed document approving a proposed Gola Conservation Concession Framework and a Framework Vision for the conservation of the Gola Forest. Both of these documents are appended in Annex 3.

Following this meeting, the RSPB applied for and received a grant from Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund (GCF) to assess the feasibility of a conservation concession programme in Gola. During the feasibility study, which was co-funded by the RSPB, we went through a project assessment and planning process involving as many stakeholders as possible. We carried out a PRA, forest condition survey and a cost-benefit analysis with the involvement of all seven Gola communities, and completed the process with a fully participatory planning workshop. The final report from the study is in Annex 4.

The planning workshop resulted in the production of a project outline and a Joint Statement by the participants demonstrating their support for the conservation concession concept (see Annex 5 for the Joint Statement). It was followed by a meeting between CSSL, the RSPB and the Sierra Leone Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (see letter of thanks from CSSL to the Minister in Annex 6), the production of a Statement of Intent by the RSPB (Annex 7) and the provision of a letter of support by the Minister (Annex 8).

PROJECT DETAILS

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

The purpose of the project is to establish an innovative, participatory management programme for the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone, using a conservation concession strategy. The conservation concession concept is relatively new to Africa, although it has been applied very successfully in Latin America (Peru and Bolivia) and South-East Asia (Cambodia). Efforts are being made to introduce it in Gabon and Congo, but these are in their early stages. Establishment of a conservation concession involves the formulation of an agreement (with a management plan integral to the agreement) under which an area important for biodiversity is conserved in the long term but government and local people receive benefits of the same value as those they would receive if logging or other damaging activities were permitted.

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

The initiative builds on collaborative efforts to conserve the Gola Forest that began in 1990. Most work to date has been funded by the RSPB, including the development of a management plan in 1993 and awareness-raising, education and boundary management in the mid-1990s. Since stability returned to the country, the partners have received a pre-feasibility grant from Conservation International which has enabled them to investigate the project concept and its potential; please see answer 8 for more details of this.

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 will help Sierra Leone implement several articles of the CBD, especially 6 (general measures – 5%), 8 (in situ conservation – 20%), 10 (sustainable use – 10%), 11 (incentive measures – 5%), 12 (research and training – 5%) and 13 (public education and awareness – 5%). In addition, it will be relevant to the *Forest Biodiversity* thematic programme (20%) and the *Economics, trade and incentives* (5%), *Ecosystem approach* (5%), *Protected areas* (10%), *Public education and awareness* (5%), and *Sustainable use of biodiversity* (5%) cross-cutting issues.

CSSL has a long-standing relationship with the CBD focal point in Sierra Leone, who is now also the Director of Forests. The focal point worked with CSSL on the NBSAP for Sierra Leone, sits on the National Liaison Committee for a GEF-funded Important Bird Area project in which CSSL are heavily involved, and is a member of the CSSL's Forest Policy and Advocacy task force. He will be kept fully informed of progress on the Gola project.

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 National Biodiversity Strategies or Environmental Action Plans if applicable.

The Gola Forest forms part of the Upper Guinea Forest Hotspot identified by Conservation International (CI), and has been designated by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Moreover, it is one of the highest-priority fragments of the Upper Guinea Forest: at a workshop held in 1999 to set conservation priorities for this forest, it was agreed that the complex including Gola should be placed in the highest-priority category (Exceptionally High Priority – see the maps in Annex 9). Gola harbours nine globally threatened bird species, at least 138 species of large tree and numerous rare mammals including Chimpanzee, Elephant and Pygmy Hippopotamus. Although its overall integrity is not immediately threatened, illegal logging is on the increase. If the forest does not come under conservation control, it is only a matter of time before logging rights are allocated to a commercial logging enterprise.

The NBSAP for Sierra Leone was completed in late 2003. It highlights a number of key priorities, one of which is the conservation of the Gola Forest (see Annex 10). Our project will cut across many additional themes in the Strategy, including *Capacity-building, Reforestation and rehabilitation, Non-timber forest product identification, Mammal assessment, Post-conflict reconstruction and Medicinal plant assessment*.

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

The project is expected to lead to the establishment of a conservation concession in Gola. This will include a long-term financing mechanism to fund community development priorities, and will also provide long-term employment for a significant number of community members. In the shorter term, the project will give employment and training to local communities in a range of forestry-related areas (e.g. tree growing, surveying and boundary maintenance). The project will build on community development initiatives that are currently being implemented in Gola. These include activities that are related to conservation (such as the marketing of non-timber forest products) and others that have more immediate 'development' benefits (e.g. bridge repair, school renovation, agricultural assistance). Throughout the project, efforts will be made to ensure that conservation and development messages go hand in hand.

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 impact of the project will be to create a detailed framework for the future management of the Gola Forest, and to secure support for this framework from all relevant stakeholders. The project will thus create the foundation for the successful implementation of a long-term programme of conservation and sustainable resource use.

This impact will be achieved as follows.

- Knowledge of the biodiversity and natural resources of Gola and the ecosystem services it provides will be improved by means of a year-long programme of carefully planned and targeted research. Measurable outputs from this programme will include papers in peer-reviewed journals, study reports and forest inventories; these will be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders locally and nationally.
- A detailed management plan will be developed through a consultative process involving all stakeholders. Local communities will be involved in forest surveys, and a role will be developed for them in project monitoring to generate a greater sense of ownership. The management plan will be disseminated to all bodies involved in its preparation, and to all other relevant individuals and organisations.
- The capacity of the FD, CSSL and local communities to play their roles in the new management arrangement will be increased through the renovation of an office and field station in Gola, the purchase of vehicles (two motorcycles and a used car) and office and field equipment, and the provision of high-quality training. The training programme will be developed following a thorough needs analysis.
- Awareness of the importance of the Gola Forest will be raised locally and nationally by means of leaflets and posters, booklets for school pupils and teachers, seminars, press releases to the local and national media, newsletters, broadcasts on TV and radio, and a series of events. The precise nature of the awareness-raising campaign will be determined at the start of the project.

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

The project will by its nature have a sustained impact, as its main purpose is to lay the foundations for a long-term programme. While the project is running, the partners will establish a trust fund to cover the relatively modest annual costs that will be incurred once a conservation concession agreement is in place; potential donors to this fund include Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. Importantly, in the highly unlikely event that a conservation concession cannot be established; the work carried out in the project will provide an excellent basis for a 'conventional' long-term conservation programme.

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

Political and social stability is of course a concern in Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia. All trends seem to suggest that there is the greatest cause for optimism in this respect for 15 years. Sierra Leone has undergone disarmament and reconciliation, and in Liberia a peace accord has been agreed and a new disarmament process initiated. These developments have been significantly bolstered by the UN and other key supporters such as the UK Government.

We have carried out extensive preparatory work to ensure that the project is feasible and likely to succeed. This has included a cost-benefit analysis for both local communities and the FD, and a PRA for the communities. With our partners, we are continuing to work to build trust among all stakeholders, and to maximise political commitment to the conservation concession concept. The support letter from the Minister (Annex 6) is indeed a great step forward in this process. This work has also received a boost with the imminent publication of the NBSAP for Sierra Leone, which, as mentioned above, puts political weight behind the conservation of Gola, mentioned as a priority project in the NBSAP.

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

All outputs, both technical and popular, will bear the new Darwin logo. The project will be publicised in the UK and West Africa, using the websites of the agencies involved as well as all other appropriate media. Articles will be published in the magazine of the RSPB (which has a readership of 1.6 million) and that of the BirdLife Africa Secretariat, and there will be opportunities to publish articles in commercial magazines.

The Darwin logo will be used on prominent equipment purchased and on buildings renovated.

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.

Conservation International is working on conservation concession programmes globally, with notable success in South America and some initial progress in Congo and Gabon. This project will use a similar strategy and follow similar principles. However, there have not yet been any notable conservation concession successes in Africa, and there is a real opportunity for this project to be the pioneer in West Africa, if not the entire continent.

BirdLife International is currently implementing a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to build the capacity of national NGOs to conserve the Upper Guinea Forest in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. This project will build on the skills developed with the help of the RSPB in Sierra Leone, but will also strengthen NGOs throughout the region and thus make a significant contribution towards the conservation of the Upper Guinea Forest.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK) and the University of Sierra Leone have received a pre-project grant from Darwin for work on remote sensing and vegetation mapping in Sierra Leone. The project proposed here will seek to complement and build on this work, using the skills developed at the University of Sierra Leone. We also plan to collaborate with Fauna and Flora International, which has a large programme in Liberia, on transboundary issues such as the timber and bushmeat trades.

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?

Yes, the project will include training. A total of four weeks of training will be delivered to five individuals from CSSL, five from the FD, and 70 members of local communities (10 from each of the seven Gola chiefdoms). Trainees will be selected in consultation with the relevant organisations and communities, and we expect that those trained will be able to train others.

Training topics and programmes will be determined following a training needs analysis. Broadly, however, the FD will receive training relating to community collaboration in forestry, and forest survey and monitoring techniques; CSSL will receive support in organisational development, community conservation, and forest survey and monitoring; and local communities will receive training in forest monitoring, tree nursery management and forest product marketing.

The effectiveness of training and trainee outcomes will be monitored through assessment of the overall progress and success of the project, as it will be clear from this whether or not training has had the desired effect. As explained in answer 24, a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation plan will be drawn up at the start of the project.

We are aware that Africa Secretariat of BirdLife International are submitting a proposal to Darwin for a project to strengthen capacity for biodiversity conservation in West Africa, and would like to emphasise that this project and the Gola project will complement rather than overlap with one another. More specifically, the training inputs to CSSL in the two projects will be coordinated: the training delivered to CSSL in the Gola project will relate specifically to the implementation of field projects and will focus on the situation in Gola, whereas that provided in the BirdLife project will cover more general aspects of capacity building.

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.

This 3-year project will result in the production of a management plan and the establishment of a management structure for the conservation concession. Simultaneously, we will work to set up a trust fund to finance the concession in the long term. Given the vital importance of Gola and the large amount of preparatory work that has been carried out there, we are confident that we will be successful in creating this fund. Money from the trust fund will be disbursed in accordance with conditions set out in the management plan and as decided by a management committee to be established.

If for any reason we are unable to set up a trust fund, the work carried out in the Darwin project will still provide an excellent foundation for the long-term conservation of Gola. Knowledge and awareness will have been improved, a detailed management plan will have been developed and local capacity will have been increased. Alternative sources of funding will be sought by the partners, and all will maintain their interest in the forest. In particular, the RSPB is committed to supporting conservation in Gola and the rest of Sierra Leone for as long as is necessary.

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

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year: Apr-Mar 2004/5 Apr-Mar 2005/6 Apr-Mar 2006/7	Key milestones
By Aug 04	2004/5	Recruitment project staff
By Sep 04	2004/5	Renovate office and field station in Gola
By Sep 04	2004/5	Provide two motorcycles, used car, office equipment and field equipment to FD and CSSL
By Dec 04	2004/5	Plan forest studies on biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services
By Dec 04	2004/5	Identify target groups and methods for awareness-raising by means of meetings with all relevant stakeholders (precise dates to be determined)
By Jan 05	2004/5	Initiate forest studies
By Jan 05	2004/5	Initiate awareness-raising activities and preparation/dissemination of awareness-raising materials
By Jun 05	2005/6	Identify the training needs of FD, CSSL and local people by means of meetings with all relevant stakeholders (precise dates to be determined)
By Dec 05	2005/6	Complete forest studies
By Dec 05	2005/6	Provide 2 weeks of training to 80 people from the FD, CSSL and local communities
By Jan 06	2005/6	Initiate preparation of management plan, incorporating a significant role for local communities, with the involvement of all stakeholders (precise dates of meetings and other consultation exercises to be determined)
Apr 05– Mar 06	2005/6	Continue awareness-raising activities and preparation/dissemination of awareness-raising materials throughout year 2
By Dec 06	2006/7	Complete management plan
By Dec 06	2006/7	Provide 2 additional weeks of training to 80 people from the FD, CSSL and local communities
By Mar 07	2006/7	Complete awareness-raising activities and preparation/dissemination of awareness-raising materials

22. How will the most significant outputs contribute towards achieving the purpose of the project? (This should be summarised in the Log Frame as Indicators at Purpose level)

The purpose of the project is to establish an innovative, participatory management programme for the Gola Forest using a conservation concession strategy. This will be achieved through four main outputs: knowledge of the biodiversity and natural resources of the forest will be increased, a detailed management plan will be developed, local capacity will be improved and awareness of the Forest and its importance will be raised.

The key indicators at the project purpose level are that the management plan will be agreed by all stakeholders, and that support for the conservation of Gola (measured using attitude surveys and membership records for CSSL and wildlife clubs) will be increased locally and nationally. Agreement of the management plan will be the cornerstone for future work and is the point towards which we are all working. It will mean that the stakeholders are contractually obliged to work for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the Gola Forest, and that all parties are clear about their their roles and responsibilities. Increased popular support will be highly important, as it will strengthen political backing for the conservation concession and make it very difficult for future governments to disregard commitments made during the project and permit logging in Gola.

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)
Training		
By Dec 05	6A, 6B	2 weeks of training delivered to 80 people (5 Forestry Division, 5 CSSL, 10 from each of the 7 Gola chiefdoms)
By Dec 06	6A, 6B	2 more weeks of training delivered to 80 people (5 Forestry Division, 5 CSSL, 10 from each of the 7 Gola chiefdoms)
By Mar 05	7	Leaflet and 2 posters produced
By Dec 05	7	2 booklets produced for schools (1 for pupils, 1 for teachers)
Research		
Jul 04– Mar 05	8	6 months plus 3 weeks of UK staff time spent in-country (Technical Adviser 6 months, Project Leader 3 weeks)
Apr 05– Mar 06	8	8 months plus 3 weeks of UK staff time spent in-country (Technical Adviser 8 months, Project Leader 3 weeks)
Apr 06– Mar 07	8	2 months plus 4 weeks of UK staff time spent in-country (Technical Adviser 2 months, Project Leader 4 weeks)
By Dec 05	9	3 forest inventories produced (biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystem services)
By Dec 06	9	1 management plan produced
By Mar 07	11A	4 papers published in peer-reviewed journals (2 submitted in year 1, 2 in year 2)
Apr 06– Mar 07	11B	2 papers submitted to peer-reviewed journals
Dissemination		
By Mar 07	14A	3 dissemination seminars organised (1 per year)
By Mar 07	15A	6 national press releases in Sierra Leone (2 per year)
By Mar 07	15B	6 local press releases in Sierra Leone (2 per year)
By Mar 05	15C	1 national press release in UK
By Mar 07	16A	3 newsletters distributed (1 per year)
By Dec 04	18A	1 feature broadcast on Sierra Leone TV
By Mar 07	19A	6 features broadcast on Sierra Leone radio (2 per year)
By Sept 04	20	£36,775 invested in capital items and building renovation
By Sept 04	21	1 field station renovated
By Mar 05	22	Approx 10–15 permanent field plots established
By Mar 07	23	£164,659 of co-funding provided

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. This should be both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please make reference to the indicators described in the Logical Framework.

At the beginning of the project a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan will be developed and agreed by all relevant stakeholders. This inclusive approach has proved to be effective in previous projects in which the Project Leader has been involved. The M&E plan will incorporate all of the indicators described in the logical framework. For example, key milestones for the awareness-raising output will be that target audiences and methods will be agreed by the end of 2004, and that all materials will be produced and activities completed by March 2007. Similarly, key indicators for the project as a whole will be that a detailed management plan will be developed and agreed by all stakeholders, and that support for conservation (measured using tools such as attitude surveys and the membership records of CSSL) will be increased locally and nationally. The process of management plan development will be monitored throughout the project, against key milestones established as part of the M&E plan.

As well as specifying milestones, the M&E plan will detail how monitoring will be carried out and who will be responsible for it. The project will be overseen by an expert Steering Group, which will keep track of overall progress. However, this group will not be involved in detailed monitoring and evaluation. This will be the responsibility of the Technical Adviser in years 1 and 2 and the Project Leader in year 3, assisted by a CSSL or FD employee based in the field and tasked with collecting the data needed to permit effective project management.

We expect that the project will be quite straightforward to monitor and evaluate, as many of the planned outputs will be relatively 'hard' – i.e. it will be reasonably easy to determine if they have been achieved and whether this has occurred on time.

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

Both the FD and CSSL will be fully involved in the development and implementation of the M&E plan. The main responsibilities of the FD will be to monitor the key steps in the development of the management plan, the status of the forest and the occurrence of illegal activity. CSSL's key role will be to monitor the extent of community participation and engagement in the project.

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

As a charity heavily dependent on membership subscriptions, legacies and other donations for its income, the RSPB places great emphasis on value for money in all its operations. This project will be run in the same cost-conscious manner as all other RSPB activities. For example, cost will be a key criterion in the process for selecting external contractors for the project (e.g. consultants or printers), and careful control will be maintained over the salaries and expenses of project staff.

As far as possible, project work will be implemented by the local partners, with the RSPB providing technical expertise and quality control. The number of (relatively expensive) RSPB person-hours will therefore be lower than would be the case if the partners had a less active role. Local communities will also play a major role in the project; moreover, a significant proportion of the work these communities contribute will be free. Most RSPB input will come from a dedicated Technical Adviser, who will be based in Sierra Leone and will therefore have low travel costs.

All aspects of the project will be thoroughly planned in advance, to ensure that cost-effectiveness is maximised. For example, research and training activities will be preceded by detailed needs analyses, and awareness-raising activities will be preceded by discussions to identify the key target audiences and most efficient methods.

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
Six month report	1 April 2006 – 30 September 2006	31 October 2006	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2006– 31 March 2007	30 April 2007	No
Six month report	1 April 2007 – 30 September 2007	31 October 2007	No
Final report	1 April 2004 – project end date	3 months after project completion	Yes

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 establish an innovative, participatory management programme for the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone, using a conservation concession strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan agreed by all stakeholders • Support for conservation of Gola in particular and biodiversity in general increased locally and nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed statements of commitment to plan • Results of attitude surveys, membership and enquiry records of CSSL, membership records of children's Wildlife Clubs 	<p>The political situation in Sierra Leone remains stable so that implementation of the long-term programme is possible</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>Knowledge of the biodiversity and natural resources of Gola and the ecosystem services it provides is improved</p> <p>A detailed management plan is developed with the involvement of all stakeholders</p> <p>The capacity of the Forestry Division, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and local communities to play their roles in the new management arrangement is increased</p> <p>Awareness of the importance of the Gola Forest is raised locally and nationally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed studies of biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services complete by 12/05 • 7 local chiefdoms and all other stakeholders consulted throughout • Plan finalised by 12/06 • Field station and office renovated by 09/04 • Used car, 2 motorcycles, office equipment and field equipment provided to FD and CSSL by 09/04 • 2 weeks training provided to 80 people by 12/05 • 2 more weeks training provided to 80 people by 12/06 • Target audiences and methods agreed by 12/04 • All materials produced and activities complete by 03/07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study reports, inventories, published papers • Records of consultation process • Management plan • Invoices for renovation work • Invoices • Training reports • Training reports • Records of planning process • Materials (leaflet, posters, press releases, etc) and records of activities (broadcasts, etc) 	<p>Consensus is reached on the practical implications of the study results</p> <p>The final management plan is agreed by all stakeholders</p> <p>Political changes do not prevent stakeholders from making use of their increased capacity</p> <p>Raised awareness leads to an increase in support for the conservation of the forest</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Forest studies</p> <p>Management plan</p> <p>Capacity-building</p> <p>Awareness-raising</p>	<p>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</p> <p>Plan studies by 12/04. Initiate studies 01/05. Complete studies by 12/05.</p> <p>Start preparation of plan 01/06. Complete plan by 12/06.</p> <p>Renovate field station and office by 09/04. Provide used car, 2 motorbikes, office and field equipment to FD and CSSL by 09/04. Identify training needs of FD, CSSL and local people by 06/05. Provide 2 weeks training to 80 people by 12/05. Provide 2 further weeks training to 80 people by 12/06.</p> <p>Identify target groups and methods by 12/04. Initiate activities 01/05. Disseminate all materials and complete all activities by 03/07.</p>		

