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**Sustainable land-use in and around
the Western Area Peninsula Forest**

Kamara, Sheku | Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

Funding sought
Project start/end

£9,996.00
1 Jul 2018 - 30 Nov 2018

1. Contact Details

Q1. Lead applicant contact details

Please enter the contact details for the lead applicant. The lead applicant is the same as the Flexi-Grant account holder. Please note that the Flexi-Grant account holder will be the only contact point for the application.

Dr Sheku Kamara

Lead

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

Primary Applicant

<https://www.facebook.com/conservations/>

14A King St., Off Congo Cross, Freetown, ,
Sierra Leone

Q2. Lead organisation contact details

Please enter the applicant organisation details

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

<https://www.facebook.com/conservations/>

14A King St., , Off Congo Cross, Freetown, ,
Sierra Leone

Please add any 'Committee Feedback' to the field below:

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Please add any 'Specific Ineligibility' feedback to the field below:

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Please add any 'Conditions' to the field below:

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Please add any 'Positive Feedback' to the field below:

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2. Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

Sustainable land-use in and around the Western Area Peninsula Forest

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Scoping trip)

Sierra Leone

Q4b. Other collaborating country/ies

United Kingdom

Q5. Is this a resubmission of a previous scoping application?

No

3. Scoping Principals & Lead Organisation Summary

Q6. Principals in Scoping work i.e. the travellers

Please give the details of the individuals (up to 2) from the lead organisation who would be directly involved in the Scoping work - i.e. making a visit to a host country. One page CVs must be provided.

Details	Main traveller	Second traveller
Surname	Charles	Wolf
Forename(s)	Showers	Claudia
Post held	Chairman	Communications & Advocacy Officer
Department	Board of Directors, CSSL	Advocacy, Communications and Education
Telephone/Skype		
Email		
Country travelling from	Already present in host country, Sierra Leone	Already present in host country, Sierra Leone
Please attach the traveller's CV		

Q7a. About the lead applicant organisation

Briefly discuss your expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record you have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record.

CSSL was founded in 1986, and is a non-profit, voluntary and (general public) membership organisation, and is the BirdLife Partner in Sierra Leone. It has a published constitution with an Executive Committee elected at Biannual General Meetings.

CSSL's Mission is to "promote the wise use and conservation of Sierra Leone's natural resources so that wildlife and people benefit" through Education, Advocacy, Research and Site Action. It has a long history of protecting the environment, working in partnerships and educating communities on sustainable uses of natural resources across the country in coastal/mangrove key biodiversity areas, Lake Sonfon, Tonkolili Forest, Gola Rainforest National Park, Kambui Hills community forests and the Western Area Peninsula (WAP) Forest.

CSSL has a long engagement in the WAP, including a 2017 Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund) planning grant to conduct, a stakeholder/actors analysis. CSSL took humanitarian and advocacy action following the 2017 mudslide raising >£3000 for communities and calling publicly for immediate action and a national conference.

The recently retired and experienced Global Director for Partnership and Capacity Development at BirdLife International (a Sierra Leonean) volunteers with CSSL provides technical support.

CSSL is well connected with Government (Forestry, Environment, and Protected Areas Departments) and local NGO Networks.

Q7b. Would you like to include a letter of support from the lead applicant?

Yes

The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.

5. Project Partners

Q8. About the partner organisation(s)

Please list all the partners involved and explain their roles and responsibilities in the Scoping work. Briefly discuss your partner's expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record they have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record. If there is more than 1 partner organisation, you can enter the details of more partners below. Please specify which of the partners is new to the partnership.

1. Partner Name:	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Website address:	https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	<p>As part of the BirdLife Partnerships, it supports the development of CSSL, through in both programmatic and organisational advancement for global biodiversity.</p> <p>The RSPB will support CSSL to plan and organise the partnership formations of the Darwin Planning workshops, and in particular provide guidance and project design support.</p>
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	<p>The RSPB operates across 20 countries in addition to its UK work and is extensively experienced in the conservation of biodiversity, illustrated by its long term engagement with the Darwin Initiative.</p> <p>The RSPB has supported the long-term and large scale Gola Rainforest National Park / Greater Gola programme which it operates in partnership with CSSL and the GoSL.</p> <p>Sustainable use of resources in the context of conserving forest biodiversity while ensuring community benefits and livelihoods are central to RSPB's work and to the needs of the WAP.</p> <p>Through both strategic and day-to-day operations in-country and internationally, RSPB will provide supportive inputs and facilitation according to the needs of the WAP including towards sustainable land use and conservation of the WAP Forest, both an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).</p>

Name of main contact point and post held:	Simon Burdett Partner Development Officer
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Letter of Support:	The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.

Do you have more than one partner involved in the Scoping work?

Yes

2. Partner Name:	National Protected Areas Authority
Website address:	https://www.facebook.com/NPAASL/
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	The NPAA provides oversight and authority over National Parks, including the WAP Forest National Park and promotes sustainable land use practices and sustainable environmental management. NPAA will provide the necessary support to CSSL, such as convening meetings, explaining and clarifying the laws behind the governance of the WAP Forest National Park
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	As noted the NPAA is the lead authority in the management of the countries protected area network
Name of main contact point and post held:	Kate Garnett, Acting Executive Director.

Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Letter of Support:	

3. Partner Name:	UNDP
Website address:	http://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home.html
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	<p>UNDP has been a key stakeholder in land use analysis on the WAP and is a key player supporting the Government in seeking to achieve a sustainable solution to the crisis in the WAP.</p> <p>Through the scoping award, CSSL will be able to build a main Darwin project that will also leverage additional donor funding via UNDP, GEF and other sources. UNDP has submitted a concept note (a PIF) to the GEF for future work on the WAP with will take several years to become active should it be successful.</p> <p>CSSL is already recognised this UNDP's concept paper to GEF as a key stakeholder.</p>
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	UNDP is an International Agency, and for example on of the biggest recipients of GEF funding. It is one of the leading global authorities in conservation.
Name of main contact point and post held:	n/a -see below
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input type="radio"/> No

Please explain why.	We are not specifically partnering with UNDP for this Scoping award. However, they are a key player in the future of the WAP.
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4. Partner Name:	Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL)
Website address:	https://www.facebook.com/Environment-Protection-Agency-Sierra-Leone-800051143354161/
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	EPA and CSSL are on the Board of Directors of NPAA (also partner) CSSL has had some collaboration with EPA but through the scoping grant seeks to work together specifically for WAP sustainable land use.
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	CBD National Focal point for Sierra Leone. GEF projects from UNDP have been implemented through EPA. Instrumental in environmental legislation including biodiversity, climate change.
Name of main contact point and post held:	Momodu Bah Director of EPA-SL & CBD National Focal point for Sierra Leone
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Letter of Support:	

5. Partner Name:	
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Website address:	
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	
Name of main contact point and post held:	
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

6. Partner Name:	
Website address:	
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	
Name of main contact point and post held:	
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Q9. Can you confirm that none of the partners (excluding the lead applicant) have led a Darwin Initiative Main Project before?

| No

Please provide further details

The RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) had led numerous Darwin Initiative Main Projects beforehand, and in this respect it is using its expertise and institutional knowledge to support CSSL to develop its project design capacity and to be able to lead a future main project.

CSSL (BirdLife in Sierra Leone) has not led a Darwin Initiative Main Project before.

6. Justification & Concept Notes

Q10. Justification of need for a Scoping Award

Please provide written details of why alternative funding is not available from within your own organisation or from other sources. Will matched funding be provided?

CSSL is a relatively small but growing National NGO and funding for Environmental NGOs in Sierra Leone is particularly constrained when competing with multiple development priorities in the country.

CSSL has already raised funds (Over £3000) nationally and internationally to take emergency humanitarian action following the 2017 Mudslide (with background support from RSPB, BirdLife). This fund raising has indicated that the organisation may be reaching its limits in raising significant funds for this issue nationally. It has raised a further £1500 in pledges for strategic actions towards sustainable land use on the WAP (including from RSPB). Both CSSL and RSPB are actively seeking additional matched funding for CSSL's lead.

Current funds are not sufficient for this small-scale yet high profile scoping and partnership building effort that is required to undertake the huge challenge of improving WAP Land Use and thereby conserving biodiversity, eco-systems services and livelihoods. CSSL has been actively consulting with UNDP in looking at the causes of environmental disasters on the WAP and is aware of UNDP's GEF project that will shortly be in start-up planning phase. The scoping grant will enable CSSL to take a modest but significant and proactive role in establishing partnerships for positive planning and actions. Ideally, it will enable significant financial leverage of additional funds towards sustainable land use on the WAP including the UNDP GEF project. Even more crucially, it will ensure that civil society and grass roots are better represented in planning towards sustainable land use on the WAP.

Q11. Concept note for the Scoping Award

This question concentrates on the scoping study work and should demonstrate the objectives of the Award including:

- objectives of the visit
- what work (including research, remote communications or other collaborations) has been carried out prior to applying for this Award
- what work will be carried out under the Award – please see the guidance for advice on what type of activity can be funded
- evidence of the proposed partners' intentions to collaborate in your Scoping work

The Western Area Peninsula (WAP) is nationally important and has global biodiversity and cultural heritage values and is a 'Tentative' World Heritage site. The WAP National Park covers the peaks and valleys of the length of the WAP. The north-west tip of the peninsular that juts out into the ocean and the Sierra Leone River Estuary, is also

home to Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital. The forest (of which 60% is considered fairly pristine primary forest) holds a wealth of biodiversity including over 300 bird species. Critically, it protects the water supply catchment area for Freetown.

The WAP Rural and Urban areas are home to a fast growing population of 1.5million, putting immense pressure on the WAP Forests. The result has been massive environmental degradation; land grabbing, deforestation (0.7%/yr) on the peninsula's steep slopes, sand mining, stone mining, illegal and unregulated construction, hunting and poor land use, compounded by crime and weak law enforcement.

The WAP receives the highest rainfall in the country 5,000mm/yr. The twin disasters of mudslide and flooding struck western Freetown in August 2017, killed 500+ leaving over 1000+ buried beneath the rubble after a heavy downpour. The NPAA forecasts a bigger calamity as drone photos show fissures on the mountain.

In the mudslide aftermath, the government declared a national disaster, and called for external assistance. In response CSSL issued a 'call for action' for better forest management and regulation enforcement to prevent further disasters.

Currently CSSL is conducting a community questionnaire in high-risk residential areas around WAP and plans a land use planning symposium (May) and conference (August/Sep) to promote and facilitate sustainable land use planning, management and enforcement in and around the WAP Forest.

The objective of the scoping is to support the implementation of the conference and facilitate a 'side event' where technical experts and partners will review conference outcomes and develop a full Darwin project outline. The Conference will:

1. Examine the status quo of land use in the WAP:

- Analysis of how/why the 2017 Mudslide happened;
- Current land use practices

2. Discuss measures towards preventing a recurrence of environmental disasters in and around the WAP:

- Improving stakeholder coordination
- Short-term measures; protecting the forest/hills.
- Plans to preventing mudslide recurrence – mapping settlements "at risk"; early warning; disaster preparedness plans.

3. Towards developing, adopting and implementing a land use plan for the WAP.

- Potential initiatives for protecting the Forest
- Progress with developing the National Spatial Development Plan
- Road map for developing a land use plan for the whole Western Area Peninsula (written stakeholder commitments including government authorities).

4. Develop a template for future Initiatives (see 3):

- Project situation analysis, logical framework and resource needs for a Full Darwin Project Proposal
- Outline template for a project at scale.

Project partners: CSSL works closely with the NPAA and RSPB and has been interacting with UNDP on the causes of the recent WAP disasters. We hope to bring in more partners as a result of the Scoping Project.

Q12. Concept note for the resultant project

This question concentrates on the full Darwin application you intend to submit after the Scoping Award and should discuss:

- the expected outcome and outputs of the resultant Darwin project
- how the resultant Darwin project would meet a need in the host country (and the wider region if applicable e.g. if the proposed project would be based in a UMIC)
- how the project would contribute to any or all of the following Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- how the project will contribute to sustainable development in the country concerned
- briefly what the proposed partner's/s' expected role in the resultant Darwin project will be
- briefly the expected role of the Scoping travellers in the resultant Darwin project.

The Resulting Darwin Project will have an expected outcome of: Enhanced Civil society support and action for improved land use planning in the WAP for the benefit of sustainable development and livelihoods and protection of critical forest biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In order to achieve the Outcome the following Outputs are expected:

1. Effectively run project coordinated and delivered by a multi-stakeholder partnership of Government agencies, NGOs and civil society.
2. Multi-stakeholder Communication Strategy developed and implemented to improve land use on the WAP and particularly in forest and water catchment areas.
3. Early warning plans to avert environmental disasters on the WAP developed and adopted by all partners.
4. Drivers of environmental destruction and degradation in the WAP National Park are collaboratively developed and addressed through local catchment land use and management plans.
5. Pilot-site catchment communities are benefitting and are strong advocates for sustainable land use practices.
6. Open and transparent methods for measuring improvements or changes in land use and civil society mechanisms for sounding the alarm developed and implemented.
7. National Land use Plan and National Spatial Development Plan recommends incorporating clear and binding sustainability and biodiversity targets for all relevant ministries to implement a Land Use Plan for the WAP.

Sierra Leone developed a comprehensive National Land Policy (NLP) in 2015 with support from the UNDP. The NLP aims to “promote and enforce sound land use, regulation and management” and notes that “The land administration system, particularly its authority in the Western Area is fragmented and experiencing a bureaucratic impasse resulting in inadequate planning and oversight and strewn with uncoordinated activities facing the potential of inefficient use of assets and donor aid” (GOSL 2015). The NLP Proposed to resolve this through: (a) establishment of a National Land Commission and (ii) development of a National Spatial Development

Plan. This failed to prevent the 2017 mudslide and much more needs to be done.

The project will contribute to the following CBD Articles:

6 – general measures for sustainable use – Land-use planning.

8 – In-situ conservation.

12 - Research and Training

13 – Public Awareness and Education

14 – Impact Assessment and Minimising Adverse Impacts.

The project works across all of the Aichi targets A-E of biodiversity mainstreaming, reducing pressures, safeguarding ecosystems, ensure benefits are equitable and participatory planning.

The Project will protect both a vital biological resource, and the stability of the forest, supported by responsible land-use planning and management, ensuring reliable water supplies and the protection of human lives by avoiding the improper development of unstable slopes and mountains.

To implement this project in such a complex and challenging environment, CSSL will coordinate project and ensure collaboration with national institutions including the Environment Protection Agency; NPAA; the Ministries of Lands, Agriculture & Forestry, Housing and Works, the Office of National Security, University of Sierra Leone; UNDP and leading local NGOs and humanitarian, NGOs. The RSPB will mentor CSSL towards winning its first Main Darwin project, providing technical support if awarded the grant.

7. Costs

Q13. Costs

Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative in GBP.

	Main traveller	Second traveller	Total
Airfare including travel to airport			0.00
Visas and other travel documents			0.00
Total daily subsistence claimed (please provide details below)			0.00
Workshop costs (please provide details below)			£3,925.00
Other costs (please provide details below)			£6,071.00
		Total request from Darwin (must not exceed £10,000)	9,996.00

Additional details to support the figures above

	Main traveller	Second traveller
Daily subsistence rate per day		
Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)		

Workshop costs

Please provide further details on your workshops costs.

Including Tea Breaks, Lunch, water, Hall rental;
Various materials such as Stationery, T-shirts, Printed files, printing, invitations, DVDs, and other branding;

Lodging for University of Sierra Leone (USL in Freetown), University of Makeni (UNIMAK) and Njala University (NU).
40 Participants' transportation refund
Facilitation fees
Rapporteur fees

A full budget breakdown is available on request.

Other costs

Please provide further details on your other costs.

Pre-conference Consensus Building
National Awareness-raising Activities e.g. Concert; Photographic exhibition
Tree Planting
Bus hire for Site visit
Communications
Coordination meetings/consultations
Advocacy (TV, Radio, newspapers, 3 banners)

A full budget breakdown is available on request.

8. Timetable & Activities

Q14. Activities and timings

Please complete the Scoping Award Timetable to include your anticipated dates of travel (start and finish) and activities to be undertaken on your trip. **N.B.:** this question is specifically about your travel plans – your dates and specific milestones during travel – NOT your timetable to Stage 1 application. Your application will be considered ineligible if this section does not specifically cover your planned scoping trip.

Date	Milestone
01/07/2018	START
21/07/2018	Pre-Conference events completed. Local momentum and consensus for conference, and of the need for planning and action established.
28/07/2018	Conference and Planning events (Darwin/proposal planning meetings) happen Clear action plan outlined for the partners and duty bearers (written stakeholder commitments including government authorities)
12/09/2018	Conference and project planning written up. Possible Main Darwin application (stage 1). Template for future Initiatives developed.
31/10/2018	All scoping documentation finalised and reported on with recommended next steps for each partner outlined

30/11/2018	FINISH

Q15. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 25

9. Certification

Q16. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

I apply for a grant of

£9,996.00

in respect of all expenditure to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the scoping schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have uploaded CVs for project principals
- I have uploaded letters of support from the lead application organisation and the partner(s)



Name	SHEKU KAMARA
Position in the organisation	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Signature (please upload e-signature)	

Date	02/02/2018
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If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

10. Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your Scoping trip?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you read the Guidance documents for both <u>Main projects</u> and <u>Scoping awards</u> , and are you satisfied that your concept would be eligible for a main project application?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you read the current <u>Terms and Conditions</u> for this fund and can you confirm you are willing to be bound by these if your application is successful?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you uploaded 1 page CVs and letters of support as required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you checked the <u>Darwin website</u> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>