CONSERVATION WORKS

Promoting Biodiversity Conservation and Enhancing Economic Prosperity in Liberia through a One Health Approach

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Conservation Works (CW) activity is a five year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development designed to protect threatened and endangered species by strengthening Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs). CW supports communities in becoming less reliant on forest resources by providing livelihood alternatives, including sustainable agriculture and ecotourism. CW promotes strong partnerships with the Government of Liberia, private sector, and local conservation stakeholders and communities.

TARGET RESULTS

• Increased area under improved conservation status
• Strengthened protection and management of PCAs
• Improved prosperity and prospects for communities living in and around PCAs
• Economic growth via conservation-compatible investment
• Integration of One Health policies into PCA policy, planning and prioritization

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE:

Liberia, West Africa
1. East Nimba Nature Reserve
2. Marshall Wetlands
3. Cestos-Senkwehn Proposed Protected Area
4. Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area
5. Sapo National Park
6. Grand Kru-River Gee Proposed Protected Area

FAST FACTS:

GOAL:
Preserve biodiversity while increasing sustainable economic growth in Liberia

LIFE OF PROJECT:
October 2021-October 2026

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: EcoHealth Alliance, with Fauna & Flora, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, Partners in Development, and Solimar International

KEY GOVERNMENT PARTNER:
Liberia Forestry Development Authority
**BACKGROUND**

Liberia is home to nearly half of the remaining Upper Guinean Rainforest, a key biodiversity hotspot housing myriad endangered species. Additionally, thousands of Liberians rely on these 6.6 million hectares of forest for their livelihood. Although Liberia’s forests are invaluable, they have not been sustainably managed, and continue to face mounting pressures including slash-and-burn agriculture, logging, mining, and illegal hunting.

Protected and Conserved Areas provide critical habitat for wildlife and have great potential for ecotourism, a proven source of sustainable income for communities. Despite significant international donor support for forest conservation in Liberia, only five protected areas currently exist. The establishment and effective management of PCAs simultaneously allows for biodiversity preservation, sustainable livelihoods and conservation-compatible economic growth.

**STRATEGIC APPROACHES**

- **Harmonize Establishment Process of PCAs**
  Define and implement an accessible, transparent process to designate new conservation areas in Liberia that harmonizes government mandates and laws and considers community rights and voices.

- **Strengthen Management of PCAs**
  Build government and community capacity to protect and manage PCA landscapes.

- **Develop, Establish and Facilitate Sustainable Livelihoods**
  Introduce inclusive, sustainable livelihoods and long-term income generating activities to improve the economic wellbeing of communities in and around PCAs.

- **Develop Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity**
  Support the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable tourism development and investment, and build capacity of local communities to participate in this market.

- **Integrate the One Health Principle**
  Broaden recognition of the value of PCAs through facilitation of multi-sectoral coordination and information sharing.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**ONE HEALTH**

An integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.

— Working definition of One Health from the One Health High-Level Expert Panel