



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

REPORT ON THE
SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE
TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION FOR THE TAI-
GREBO-SAPO FOREST COMPLEX BETWEEN CÔTE
D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA



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June 2014

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ACRONYMS

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
CF	Classified Forest
CCF	Cavally Classified Forest
CI	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
CIPEXI	Compagnie Ivoirienne de Promotion pour l'Exportation et l'Importation
ELI	Environmental Law Institute
EU-FAO	European Union – Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Fund
FCGD	Goin-Debe Classified Forest
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMC F	Forest Management Contract F
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
MD	Managing Director
MinEF	Ministry of Water and Forests (CI)

MLME	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (Lib)
MRU	Mano River Union
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
OIPR	Office of Parks and Reserves (CI)
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PGNP	Proposed Grebo National Park
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SC	Steering Committee
SCM	Steering Committee Meeting
SODEFOR	Forest Development Corporation (CI)
STBC	Société de transformation de bois de Cavally
TC	Technical Committee
TGS	Tai-Grebo-Sapo
TGSFC	Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex
TNP	Taï National Park
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEP-GRASP	United Nations Environment Programme-Great Ape Survival Partnership
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCF	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second annual Steering Committee meeting took place on the 3rd and 4th June 2014 at the Bella Casa Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia, funded by UNEP-GRASP and BMZ (German Government funds through WWF/WCF) and was organized by the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. The aim of the meeting was for various government agencies, NGOs and other organizations to work together towards transboundary collaboration for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex (TGSFC) between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The meeting was attended by the forest and park management authorities representing the Liberian Government (Forest Development Agency, FDA), the Ivorian Government (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves, OIPR and Société de Développement des Forêts, SODEFOR), Liberian based NGOs (Fauna & Flora International, FFI), Ivorian based NGOs (Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, WCF) and donors/technical and financial partners (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ). Dr Johannes Refisch (United Nations Environment Programme-Great Ape Survival Partnership, UNEP-GRASP) facilitated the meeting whilst the Managing Director of the FDA presided. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Elias Shoniyan) officially opened the meeting and colleagues from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Agriculture of Liberia made brief remarks on behalf of their respective ministries.

During the meeting, FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR, FFI and WCF gave updates on the progress made over the past year in relation to the aims and objectives of the transboundary initiative. Johannes Refisch summarized the outcome of the 1st steering committee meeting and decisions on a) functioning of the platform for transboundary collaboration and b) the general road map towards the development of a transboundary plan. Participants agreed that the full development of a transboundary plan needs time, but at the same time urgent action is needed as well as financial backing/support. A number of urgent activities were identified during the 1st steering committee – this matrix of urgent action was updated. In light of the changing environment and conditions, it was necessary to add new urgent actions and assign responsibility of these actions to the most relevant organizations.

The Steering Committee provides guidance on the overall process whilst specific Technical Committees will be set up to oversee and monitor the technical operations and work at sustainable time intervals. Technical Committees on legislation, land-use planning including corridor work, and economic incentives will have their first meeting before the end of 2014. Conflict resolution was identified as a cross-sectoral issue, and a meeting of the conflict resolution platform will be organized in the same time frame. The Steering Committee set about deciding on lead organizations for each of the committees, possible consultants to help each of the committees, and also possible further funding opportunities for each of the committees to fulfill their objectives. KfW completed a corridor feasibility study. KfW did not attend this meeting and GIZ offered to liaise with KfW, brief them on the outcomes of the deliberations of

the steering committee and discuss how the planned KfW interventions would fit under the larger umbrella of this initiative and could potentially help in implementing the objectives of this initiative. Leading on from this, a table of action points was developed to ensure the smooth running of the SC in future. Steering committee members agreed that there is a need to communicate regularly between the annual physical meetings of the SC and to inform each other of progress in activities and eventual opportunities for joined activities and fundraising.

Overall, some of the main points that came out of the Steering Committee Meeting were geared towards maintaining transparency to prevent duplication of funding and any overlapping functions of programs, activities and avoid parallel processes. The SC members should aim to reach higher echelons within the government and it is also their responsibility to secure further funding in order to ensure success of the project. The studies and reports from the various technical committees and platforms would make up the chapters for the Transboundary Plan to be developed over the next twenty-four (24) months. Lastly, the SC also agreed that this initiative would need high level support from both governments and a bi-partite agreement. This would be an appropriate vehicle to ensure commitments from both governments. Legal expertise will be sought to develop a draft bi-partite agreement.

It is hoped that the steering committee remains the guiding voice for transboundary activities and partners should liaise with the steering committee to ensure that activities are in line with the vision, goal, aim and objectives of the SC to complement other interventions, and to make sure that there are no parallel processes and duplication of efforts. The Steering Committee has all agreed to hold the next meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone by 2015, to be presided by the MRU.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2009, the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia have been working towards a transboundary collaboration for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex (TGSFC), which spans across the border of both countries and forms part of the world's thirty-four (34) biodiversity hotspots. This region is extremely important for the conservation of numerous endangered and endemic species, such as the West-African chimpanzee, the red colobus, the pygmy hippopotamus, various exotic species of duikers, and the Liberian mongoose.

Overall, this remarkable tropical forest habitat harbors over 1,200 species of flora (300 of which are endemic), over 230 bird species, 145 mammal species, and countless other rare and endemic species. The Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex represents the largest contiguous block of tropical rainforest within the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem. In Côte d'Ivoire, it consists of Taï National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere reserve), and three (3) adjacent classified forests (Cavally, Goin-Débé, Haute-Dodo). In Liberia, it consists of Sapo National Park, Proposed Grebo National Park and a large forest concession (known as FMC F). The two governments have been working together with both local and international actors since 2009 to develop the Taï-Grebo-Sapo transboundary collaboration.

A first steering committee meeting was held in March 2013 in Abidjan, hosted by the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR) and organized by the WCF and UNEP-GRASP. During this meeting, the final focal members (MRU, OIPR, SODEFOR, FDA, WCF, FFI, and the German Cooperation, facilitated by UNEP-GRASP) were decided upon as well as the global vision: ***“Conservation of biodiversity and participatory sustainable management of natural resources of the ecosystems of the TSFC while taking into account the well-being of the local populations”***. It was also agreed that the role of the SC is to: ***“Promote and encourage the transboundary collaboration to reach the objectives leading to the global vision”***. A full report on the first meeting is available online (www.tai-sapo.org).

The 2nd Steering committee meeting was held on the 3rd and 4th of June 2014 in Monrovia, Liberia. It was attended by the forest and park management authorities representing the Liberian Government (Forestry Development Authority, FDA), the Ivorian Government (Office of Parks and Reserves (CI) OIPR and Forest Development Corporation (CI)-SODEFOR), Liberian based NGO (Fauna & Flora International -FFI), Ivorian based NGO (Wild Chimpanzee Foundation-WCF) and donors/technical and financial partners (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit-GIZ). Dr Johannes Refisch (United Nations Environment Programme-Great Ape Survival Partnership-UNEP-GRASP) facilitated the meeting whilst the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority presided. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Elias Shoniyin) officially opened the meeting whilst other colleagues from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Agriculture of Liberia made additional brief remarks on the first day of the meeting. The present report details the outcomes of the meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (SCM)

The general objective was to monitor and evaluate the current development of the actions led so far for the TGSFC since the first steering committee meeting.

Specifically, the meeting aimed to:

- Evaluate the progress and validate proposed adjustments made for the urgent actions
- Discuss options for a bi-partite agreement between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire
- Discuss the development for a Transboundary Plan
- Agree on future funding for the steering and technical committees
- Validate the ToRs of the proposed technical committees

PROGRAM OF THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date	Activities
Day 1	Recap on TGSFC Corridor Tai – Sapo/Summary of SCM1 meeting
	Presentations FDA – Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations OIPR – Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations SODEFOR- Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations WCF – Progress from the past 12 months
	Brief presentation on transboundary process and formalization (GRASP)
	Presentation of completed urgent actions matrix with needs to be done highlighted
Day 2	Discussion on the work of the Steering committee
	Discussion on the work of the Technical Committees and Identification of lead organizations
	Discussion on the way forward for Trans-boundary Strategic Plan
	Development of steps towards a bi-partite agreement
Discussion on future funding possibilities for the Steering committee	
Presentation on ToR of proposed technical committees	

PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

During the morning of the first day of the second SCM, presentations were given by various parties outlining their progress in the year that has passed.

OIPR presented data relating to their surveillance work in the Tai National Park, with 183 patrols having taken place during 2013, which total 7925 man hours by OIPR officers in the forest during patrols. This effort led to the arrest of 327 people in the forest (188 gold-miners and 73 poachers) with a conviction rate of 71%. Whilst other activities involving OIPR include biomonitoring, communication, environmental education and ecotourism, OIPR have also been

involved in various workshops and meetings regarding the feasibility of creating corridors in the TGSFC.

SODEFOR presented data relating to their extensive eco-guard program that takes place in the Cavally Classified Forest. During 2013, 16 missions took place in the Cavally Classified Forest, during which time the ecoguards destroyed 150ha of illegal planted cacao and arrested numerous offenders in the forests for offences including mining, hunting and farming.

FDA presented an update of their activity in the previous year having recruited 11 park rangers now assigned to the Proposed Grebo National Park. FDA has also worked in conjunction with KfW to perform feasibility studies of the TGS corridor and has also been working alongside WCF to perform sensitization and education to the local population surrounding the proposed Grebo National Park.

FFI gave a short presentation on research activities carried out under the Sapo Conservation Centre in Sapo National Park. This includes having supported the recommencement of the FDA biomonitoring programme in the park, a continued bushmeat and conservation awareness creation among local communities and schools living around the park communities, as well as an avian survey within and around SNP. FFI also described the field courses held at the centre and the creation of two conservation courses of 12 modules inserted in the forestry curriculum of the University of Liberia.

WCF updated the members of the Steering Committee Meeting with their joint activities with partners from the previous year in both Liberia (partner FDA) and Côte d'Ivoire (partners OIPR and SODEFOR). Extensive bio-monitoring programs in Taï National Park (in partnership with OIPR) have continued into the 9th phase, whilst, in Liberia bio-monitoring is continuing in the proposed Grebo National Park (3rd phase). Bio-monitoring is also ongoing in new zones in the proposed Grebo National Park, which include the logging Forest Management Contract (FMC)-“F” concession area and the proposed corridor that leads through the logging concession area, and the identified corridor linking FMC-F to Sapo National Park. Specific baseline studies have also been completed relating to: conflict prevention and resolution, land use, sociological studies and a study on the bushmeat trade and consumption. All reports will be made available online. Two (2) other baseline studies are still on-going which are investigating land use in the identified corridors in Liberia and a camera trap study on the Cavalla river investigating which animals cross the river in the transboundary corridor areas. Environmental sensitization is also continuing with community consultations regarding the creation of the proposed Grebo National Park as a legal national park in Liberia, whilst regular environmental education around Taï National Park continues. Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) also provides support and training to ecoguards in the Cavally Classified Forest (in partnership with SODEFOR), in Taï National Park zones of particular importance (in partnership with OIPR) and lastly in the Proposed Grebo National Park (in partnership with FDA). WCF has also launched the FLEGT program in Cavally Classified

Forest to discourage illegal logging and a partnership with CIPEXI (Compagnie Ivoirienne de Promotion pour l'Exportation et l'Importation) which is looking into alternative agroforestry to promote the growth of a corridor along the Hana River between TNP and PGNP.

UPDATE ON THE URGENT ACTIONS MATRIX

The urgent actions matrix was developed at the first SCM to guide all of the parties involved, by producing a set of pertinent activities that needed to be executed over a period of twenty-four (24) months initially. The table below was discussed at the 2014 SCM, the activities were reviewed and any new urgent actions deemed to be necessary were added to the table.

Urgent Actions Matrix: In the progress column, the green color signifies that the activity has either begun or been completed (on-going and OK) and thus is on track with what had been discussed in 2013. The red color signifies that it has either not been looked into at all so far, or is a new urgent action identified in 2014. SC members are encouraged to use this matrix as a guideline of results expected to be achieved before the next steering committee meeting in 2015. Comments made on the various urgent actions are described in detail below the table

Threats	Expected Result	Activities	Responsible	Progress
Transboundary bushmeat markets	Protected species of Liberia are no longer sold on the market	Station two (2) FDA officers at Tempo and Tassara border towns to confiscate bushmeat of protected species.	FDA	On-going
		Lead sensitization campaigns in Djouroutou, Taï, Tempo and Tassara.	WCF, FFI, OIPR, FDA, SODEFOR	On-going
		Station two (2) Water and Forestry agents in Daobly and Djouroutou to confiscate protected species of Liberia.	OIPR and SODEFOR	Need to get more info and get Eaux et Forêts more implicated in the project.
Illegal Human pressure	Signs of hunting decrease by 50%	Increase the presence of anti-poaching teams	FDA, OIPR	On-going (Kfw funds expected in 2014 to boost law enforcement activities)
		Increase the number of field personnel	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR	on-going (KfW funds expected in 2014 to contribute)
	All illegal mining activities in PAs are stopped	Stop illegal mining activities through law enforcement and sensitization	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR	Needs clarification with Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME) in Liberia.

				FDA to lead further investigation and increase discussions with MLME. FDA to reorganize mission to Southeast region to see illegal mining operations
	The forest damaged by these illegal plantations are rehabilitated and reforested	Rehabilitate forest by cutting illegal plantations and developing reforestation programs	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR	On-going
Lack of land-use planning	Land-use plans are in place	Clarify the locations of official mining sites	FDA-Land Commission / SODEFOR	Liberia nation-wide issue, work is on-going by other organisations. Will be a longer process than maybe first thought in CdI, SODEFOR to clarify this and report back to SC.
		Clarify the situation of Concession F and the planning of land to the north of Grebo	FDA	OK
		Develop land-use plans with all stakeholders	FDA	On-going
Lack of management plans	Management plans are developed and updated	Validate management plans of Cavally and Goin-Debe CF	SODEFOR	On going (at minister level), but Goin-Débé Classified Forest needs to be pushed. Additional funding needed.

Inadequate implementation of law	Official laws are applied	Support implementation of law through training of prosecutors, magistrates, wildlife authorities, police and customs	FDA, SODEFOR OIPR	No funding available so far
Security issues along the border may hinder work in the field	Security becomes less of an issue for field work	Intensify security coverage on border (Grand Gedeh, River Gee) to reduce hunting and chewing stick extraction	OIPR, FDA, SODEFOR, MRU	NEW - MRU to promote the importance of Tai-Grebo area.
State of CF threaten integrity of TGSFC	Action plan to ensure curbing of forest cover loss in Classified Forests is established	Stakeholders to develop key ideas on enforcement of strict management of the forests	SODEFOR	NEW
Chewing stick trade is degrading Grebo National Forest	All chewing stick extraction is stopped in the Proposed Grebo National Park (PGNP)	FDA leads joint awareness and patrols in and around Grebo with MOJ, BIN etc	FDA	NEW

Discussions held during the updating of the Urgent Actions Matrix:

With regard to the bushmeat markets on the Liberian side, the Managing Director (MD) of the FDA has instructed agents (FDA Region IV and the Proposed Grebo National Park staff and the local governments/authorities of River Gee County and Grand Gedeh County) to intensify patrols along the border with Côte d'Ivoire. Discussions are to be held with the Joint Security in the region and the local authorities on how to better patrol the border for both illegal trade and security issues whilst on the Ivorian side, sensitization to the dangers of bushmeat consumption has increased in recent times due to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. These sensitization efforts have been concentrated in primary schools in and around the area between Taï National Park and the Liberian border. As to the stationing of two (2) Water and Forestry agents in Djouroutou and Daobly on the Cavalla River, OIPR stated that they had no information on this activity, but added that the decision to prevent the bushmeat trade in Taï was made at the Prefect level, but efforts would be made to discuss this issue with the relevant Ministry.

Illegal human pressure in the TGSFC is a big issue that needs to be tackled in the long term. FDA stated that sensitization within the communities needs to occur before any form of law enforcement can take place. This will ensure that communities are aware of the legislation and penalties and if they contravene these laws, punitive measures will be taken against them. FDA also stated that patrolling on the Liberian side is limited by funding, logistics and trained state security manpower. There are over thirty (30) trained forest rangers and thirty (30) longer serving park auxiliaries around Sapo National Park, but no funding, logistics and equipment to keep them operational. On the Ivorian side, SODEFOR have introduced an extra seven (7) agents into the Cavally Classified Forest over the last year in order to increase patrols within the area. In 2013, OIPR increased its presence in the Taï National Park considerably with an extra thirty (30) agents-in-training being deployed within the park and this year (2014) another sixty (60) agents-in-training were added to the park's staff. As such, there are now one hundred and fifty (150) elements currently involved in the conduction of regular surveillance checks across the park whilst some zones are being patrolled much more intensively i.e. the research and ecotourism zones of the park, as well as sites known to be prone to miners and illegal farmers. SODEFOR also added on this point in order to curtail further illegal destruction of plantations within the Cavally National Forest. This initiative is also ongoing and funded by both STBC and WCF.

Some of the Classified Forests, which were in 2009 considered to be important stepping-stones for a corridor project have been heavily deforested and degraded, or completely disappeared. This trend continues, and has a regional/transboundary component as deforestation by migrating farmers has been observed on the Liberian side as well. The continued loss of the Classified Forests jeopardizes CdI's commitment to REDD, but also to the Transboundary process. There is also an urgent need to correct forest cover maps in CdI. The government still refers to the official 2006 figures, but these figures are outdated, and many forests have disappeared since then. This is a very complex issue since immigrants have occupied some of the forests within the Taï

region, and some of these elements are armed, preventing the forest management authority from access to the forests they are supposed to manage.

Regarding mining, FDA maintains that this is still a threat in Liberia, but that they are in a similar situation with regards to funding and logistics on this issue on how to patrol and prevent illegal mining. OIPR and SODEFOR are both members of a committee, which follows the actions of mining within the periphery zones of Taï National Park. This committee brings together all of the administrative and law enforcement agencies within the Nawa region (eastern side of TNP) and the first workshop of this Committee was held in May 2013. A strategy is now being developed by the members to see how they can monitor and combat illicit mining activities within the region. Lack of land use planning was also identified as an urgent action during the first SCM and updates from both sides were given on these issues. FDA stated that Liberia has been working with USAID and had brought in cadaster experts to work on all concessions in Liberia and a preliminary report has been released by MLME. The Land Commission of Liberia will soon become the Land Authority .It will be solely responsible for all land issues in Liberia, which should facilitate this issue in the future. A map has also been produced by MLME to look at overlapping concessions in order to harmonize all concessions operations and avoid overlapping. FDA has also been commissioned to perform a land (forest) cover mapping study and the inception report is currently being worked on. The study will then be performed alongside another complimentary study (by ITTA) investigating the same issue. FDA also updated that the FMC concession (run and owned by Euro Logging Company) which adjoins the Proposed Grebo National Park. FDA and Eurologging are now committed to reducing it by 26,000 ha in order to accommodate the corridor which will join the Proposed Grebo NP and Sapo NP.

The lack of management plans for the Classified Forests of Goin-Debe and Cavally had previously been identified as a threat to the implementation of the SCM's aims and objectives. SODEFOR stated that the management plan for the Cavally Classified Forest had been accepted but remains to be ratified at a ministerial level. These corrections have now been made with the idea of commencing with the implementation of the management plan. The management plan for the Goin-Debe Classified forest is still being corrected but this should be completed by the end of 2014.

The implementation and enforcement of the rule of law in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia remain also an issue, and the SC felt that laws were not being enforced sufficiently to deter anthropogenic threats within protected areas. FDA stated that the old law relating to wildlife had not been strong enough and that a new, stronger law had now been drafted and sent to the office of the President of Liberia long ago (5years) for review and onwards submission to the House of Legislature but this is currently stocked within the president's office still. FDA added that this law should be signed off and in use before the end of 2014. SODEFOR stated that they had performed a work meeting with WCF looking into forestry infractions (funded by EU-FAO).

They have also signed an IOM (Independent observation mandate) project under FLEGT in an attempt to make the logging trade in Côte d'Ivoire more transparent and legal. OIPR leads various actions to improve the collaboration with the judicial authorities to ensure the proper enforcement of the rule of law around the Taï National Park. These actions are followed by OIPR and the objective is to bring these courts to impose exemplary sanctions on offenders. This regards for example enforcing prison sentences of at least 6 months. WCF stated that they requested funds in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute to train all levels of law enforcers on wildlife and natural resource legislation.

Three (3) new urgent actions were also added to the table. Security issues in and around the border area have increased over the last few months, so it was decided that this needed to be acted upon by the SCM to prevent any interruptions to activities in the region relating to the SC. All government agencies were tasked with aiding in this action, with the possibility of creating joint patrols to monitor security. MRU has already been performing joint patrols along the border for over a year, so was tasked with looking into the possibility of intensifying these patrols. SODEFOR was also tasked with looking into developing an action plan to prevent further forest cover loss in the Cavally Classified Forest, although, all stakeholders were tasked with developing ideas to help with this issue. Lastly, WCF and FDA during its bio-monitoring program in Proposed Grebo National Park (PGNP) had noticed a huge number of chewing stick camps within the limits of PGNP. FDA has been tasked with leading joint awareness programs and patrols within and around PGNP to stop this activity. The FDA has cancelled all the issuance of permits and will lead an investigation.

UPDATE ON THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND PLATFORMS

Discussions were held in-depth concerning the drafted ToRs for the technical committees and were developed further. It was agreed that with funding obtained by WCF (through WWF, BMZ and UNEP-GRASP), the TCs should all have met by the end of 2014. Furthermore, during the second SCM, lead organizations, donors, implementers and resource persons were all identified, along with some rough time frames of when the work of these committees could be completed. The tables below present the updated ToRs of each committee and platform, as well as identified responsibility and funding opportunities.

LEGISLATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Expected Results	Activities	Lead Organisation	Donor	Implementer	Resource Persons	Time frame	Comments
Review and do gap analysis of existing legislation relevant for the conservation of the transboundary landscape	Develop ToRs for legal expert and conduct technical study	UNEP	UNEP	Consultant	IUCN	End 2014/early 2015	(UNEP will fund this, maybe use Stephane Doumbe Bille who was present at the meeting in 2009) – If after 3 months UNEP cannot obtain the funds, GIZ has said they could potentially fund this study)
	Suggestions of harmonized laws to facilitate transboundary collaboration	UNEP	UNEP	Consultant		2015	The report should be written as a chapter of the Transboundary plan
Transboundary agreement is signed	Develop a bi-partite agreement to show and ensure commitment from the two (2) countries (Need person with legal background)	UNEP	UNEP	Consultant		2015	Need to identify person with legal background who has experience in such legal documents
Stopping of the trade of Liberian protected	Clarify the legality of the bushmeat						Completed-banned by FDA in 2014

species in the TB bushmeat market	trade between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire						
	Encourage the control of the illegal trade of Liberian protected species in transboundary markets and NTFP's harvested from PAs	FDA, SODEFOR, OIPR	UNEP / WWF (meeting)	Eaux et Forets/FDA	Local authorities and traditional chiefs, leaders etc, FDA conservation Dept (wildlife manager)	Continuous	The Eaux et Forêt in Côte d'Ivoire is responsible to assist FDA more in this and thus must be contacted by the Ivorian members of the SC. It was mentioned that A TC meeting on this issue could be held at the same time as the joint security meetings on the border.
	Build capacity in judicial system and support patrolling?	FDA, SODEFOR, OIPR	WCF/GIZ	ELI	ICCWC	2015	FDA needs to increase patrols along border. This can be first supported by WCF, then GIZ. ICCWC was also identified by UNEP-GRASP as a potential partner in this, but capacity is limited.
Identified natural corridors are secured (GDCF-CCF-PGNP)	Increase law enforcement patrols in natural corridors	SODEFOR/FDA	WCF/KfW	SODEFOR/FDA		End 2014	

It was decided that for the gap analysis, analysis of legislation and the transboundary agreement portions of this TC, no members of the SCM had the relevant expertise. Therefore it was agreed that a consultant would be required. UNEP-GRASP was identified as the lead organization to identify an individual who may be able to perform the relevant tasks related to these activities. UNEP-GRASP also stated that they may be able to fund these activities, but would require further internal discussion before confirming. The members of the SCM agreed that a deadline of three (3) months was given to UNEP-GRASP to gain authorization and if this was not granted, then GIZ would become the lead organization and finance that portion of the legislation and law enforcement committee. It was also proposed that once a transboundary agreement has been drafted, the IUCN could become involved to edit and validate each chapter of the transboundary agreement.

LAND USE AND TENURE COMMITTEE

Expected Results	Activities	Lead Organisation	Donor	Implementer	Resource Persons	Time frame	Comments
A land-use plan which allows for increasing the size of protected and sustainably managed forests	Clarify land-use in the complex (cartography)		KfW?	Consultant?	Rob Craig, AWF?, WCF	Mid 2015	WCF has started land use surveys on both sides of the TGSFC. It was stated that this project could be potential for GEF funding if both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire apply together. Consultant to lead the committee will be identified pending discussions with Kfw and GIZ
	Identify land use in the identified corridors		KfW?	Consultant?	Rob Craig, AWF?, WCF	Mid 2015	
	Propose location of new potential corridors		KfW?	Consultant?	Rob Craig, AWF?, WCF	Mid 2015	
	Identify limits of the TSGFC maximizing protected and sustainably managed		KfW?	Consultant?	Rob Craig, AWF?, WCF	Mid 2015	

	areas						
	Re-evaluate commercial Vs conservation use of the forest	GIZ/ FDA	GIZ	Consultant		Mid 2015	Liberian side

It was noted that regarding the complexity of land use and tenure issues it would be important that this committee would be managed in a very participatory and transparent manner. The SC members proposed that KfW, due to their significant available funds for corridor development and implementation, would be well placed to coordinate and support the required actions proposed under the land use and tenure committee. As KfW were not present at the second SCM and to prevent the overlapping of limited funding and activities, it was agreed that the GIZ representative would contact KfW to clarify their timeline, ToRs and proposed activities. All SC members should ahead of time inform and acquaint each other on any activity that they are performing or about to undertake

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES COMMITTEE

Expected Results	Activities	Lead Organisation	Donor	Implementer	Resource Persons	Time frame	Comments
Payment for Environmental services (PES) are identified and contribute to a sustainable funding for the TSFC	Identify potential PES		KfW/GIZ	Consultant	FFI, CI	2014/2015	On both sides of the border. GIZ on CI side looking into PES with OIPR.
	Launch a feasibility study for REDD in the TSFC		KfW?	Consultant	FCFP, UN REDD, FFI, Conservation International, REDD focal persons, FDA	2014/2015	
	Analyze land tenure systems, challenges and elaborate solutions		KfW?		UN Habitat		Cd'I government approached UN Habitat in 2013 to assist with Land tenure issues. UN Habitat is already active on this issue on a nationwide basis in Liberia.

Bushmeat consumption in TGSFC decreases by 50%	Propose trade and consumption alternatives to bushmeat in the TSFC,	FDA, OIPR, SODEFO R	GIZ, KfW, WCF,		Wildlife department FDA, FFI, WCF, communities		Studies have been done around Taï, Grebo and Sapo and it was thus suggested that a consolidated database for all bushmeat data should be created.
Sustainable harvest and economic benefits through NTFPs	Identify NTFP potentials as economic incentives for local communities	GIZ	GIZ (Liberia), and CI	Consultant	FFI,		

It was agreed by all members that this technical committee was probably the most difficult to become functioning correctly and that it can take over five years for a PES scheme to become functional and profitable. FDA declared that they are currently in negotiations with Norway to develop a long-term payment for ecosystem services scheme and those negotiations are ongoing. FDA added that all discussions on the documents relating to the Norwegian partnership will be shared with the NGOs in Liberia to ensure transparency. FFI stated that they had also had experience in implementing REDD+ Projects in some parts of Liberia (funded by Norad) over the last five (5) years. FFI has Piloted REDD+ projects within the Lake Piso Multiple Use Reserve and the Proposed Wonegizi Nature Reserve. One of those projects started in Tarjuowon District, Sinoe County, Liberia and yielded at 60% completion due to the issuance of a logging contract (Private Use Permit (PUP) within the same area by the local community and the district authority. FFI are hoping to continue with the REDD+ project within Liberia and hope to have a team from FFI Cambridge to assist those on the ground in Liberia in the near future. All partners agreed that pilot studies to fund the best PES scheme are necessary and that the money from KfW could possibly fund these studies. Cote d'Ivoire is a UN-REDD pilot country, and also a World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership funded country (FCPF), and has an operational national REDD coordination unit under the Ministry of Environment with focal points in other relevant ministries. Liberia is a World Bank FCPF country as well. Both countries' engagement in global REDD+ initiatives offer opportunities to channel some REDD+ funds towards a corridor project. There will also be a UN-REDD Academy opening in the near future in each region where it would be ideal to send representatives from each country to receive proper training.

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION PLATFORM

Expected Results	Activities	Lead Organisation	Donor	Implementer	Resource Persons	Time frame	Comments
A platform is set up and conflicts are prevented/solved	Identify potential conflicts related to the conservation of the complex	IISD	GIZ, KfW?	IISD			Baseline study has been done in CI.
	Create and implement a platform for resolution and prevention of conflicts	IISD	BMZ/WWF/ WCF, KfW?	IISD	(OIPR, WCF, Local authorities, chiefs etc), (FDA, WCF, GIZ, local authorities, chiefs etc)		More funding is needed for long-term basis. The first platform should be set up for Taï-Saro conflict immediately
	Set-up a better communication between stakeholders, including local population	IISD		Platform	FDA, SODEFOR, OIPR		A local advisory committee (national) should be set up to increase communication on project, avoiding conflict, etc.

The lead organization for this platform was decided on to be IISD who normally works through a local organization and have previously submitted joint proposals with UNEP-GRASP, and have in addition led the baseline study in Côte d'Ivoire. It was also agreed that a local advisory committee should be set up with the chief aim of increasing communication relating to the project and avoiding any further conflict. Funds on the BMZ side are currently available and could be used to organize the visit of IISD in order to try and resolve the Taï-Saro conflict on the Ivorian side of the border. Communication regarding the project is stalled due to the strong local opposition. This has created a friction and conflict between the project leaders (OIPR, WCF and others) and the local populations. Nonetheless, negotiations led in February and March 2014 between the different stakeholders has reduced some of this tension.

OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Brief discussions were held on the notion of a bi-partite Agreement and the Transboundary Strategic Plan, as well as future funding possibilities for the steering committee meetings. Both governments agreed that a bi-partite Agreement at a Ministerial level was important and should be the next step taken to formalize the transboundary collaboration. All government representatives stated that they would push for this and promote the project with their respective governments. As to the Transboundary Strategic Plan, the activities and studies led by the Technical Committees will be the baseline for each chapter of the plan, which can then be compiled by a consultant. The Steering committee would then comment on the draft and send it on to the governments for approval. Lastly, concerns raised over the future funding of the SC were briefly discussed during which GIZ and UNEP-GRASP both stated that they would be able to find adequate funding for this in the future.

ACTION POINTS DEVELOPED AT THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

A number of action points were developed at the second steering committee meeting which outlined certain activities, not listed in any of the tables above, which will help with the running of the transboundary collaboration and also to achieve its aims. The most important factor to come out of this discussion was about communication between SC members. They emphasized that this should be more regular and that there should be a quarterly bulletin dispersed so that members be aware of each other's actions and progress. It was agreed that for the time being WCF would be responsible to ensure quarterly communication between all committee members. Moreover, in order for the project to progress, the SC needs to reach higher echelons within the governments of both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, therefore plans for this to happen need to be outlined. On the Ivorian side, Eaux et Forêts need to be further implicated within the SC as they control all areas which are not National Parks or Classified Forests.

Expected Result	Activities/ Action points	Responsible	Deadline	Comments
Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment is known for Cote d'Ivoire	OIPR and SODEFOR liaise and find out together about the status of the report, and see if they can bring to the attention of larger donor communities, some of the issues involved concerning the TGSFC. They should then report back to SC.	OIPR and SODEFOR	1st September	
Implication of Eaux et Forêt is agreed on by Ivorian Government	OIPR and SODEFOR Contact Ministry to discuss the involvement	OIPR and SODEFOR	1st September	
Quarterly reports are prepared and distributed to partners and open dialogue is maintained	Communicate with SC members on a quarterly basis to ensure discussions are held on pressing issues, on work completed etc	WCF	Quarterly	Develop tool/template
Ministers are briefed on TGSFC project and steps towards bipartite are made	Organize Cabinet meeting in Liberia	FDA	1st September	Possibly during month of July
	Prepare a communication project to be presented to relevant ministers	SODEFOR, OIPR	1st September	
Timescale for TC meetings and conflict platform (Taï-Saro)	Plan dates for TC meetings in 2015.	WCF	30th June	WCF to look into it and communicate back to SC with proposition

Website is up-to-date	Send recent reports, docs from SCM 1 and 2 to UNEP-Grasp to update tai-sapo.org website	WCF	1st September	
Potential GEF funds are made available to TGSFC on Ivorian side	Reconcile the GEF in Côte d'Ivoire	OIPR	30th June	<u>UNEP can help with this as UNEP is involved in GEF projects in CdI</u>
	Contact Liberia to see possibilities to submit a joint proposal to GEF for the TGSFC	OIPR	30th June	<u>See above</u>

CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

In the end, the second steering committee meeting for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex enabled the committee to further build on the framework formulated in 2013. The committee recapped on the activities of the previous year, which displayed the commitment of all partners involved to push forward with the project and ensure its success. During the second Steering Committee Meeting, it was decided that the technical committees should have their first meeting before the end of 2014. Improvements to the existing urgent actions were made along with further activities decided upon and a list of action points were developed to aid with the success of the project. In order for the transboundary project to successfully implement its goals in conserving biodiversity in the Taï-Sapo region, various measures will need to be taken into account to ensure the wellbeing of the local populations in the area. The SC feels the need to implement some of the urgent actions in order to protect the TSFC and urgent funding is needed to allow both governments to implement these actions. The SC appeals to donors, including the KfW, to support the urgent actions listed and to liaise with the SC to avoid parallel processes and duplication of efforts.

One of the main threats to conservation in the region centers on the constant illegal bushmeat and chewing sticks trades as well as regular security issues currently ongoing between the Liberian-Ivorian borders within the south region. This year, the SC progressed, with the Liberian government banning the bushmeat trade in 2014. On the Ivorian side, increased sensitization to the threats of eating bushmeat and the closure of two (2) transboundary markets have proven to be a success in attempts to curb this trade. Although the trade is still on-going, further measures were outlined at the Second Steering Committee meeting with OIPR and SODEFOR agreeing to contact Eaux et Forêts in order to get further support in stopping this trade. Security is also an issue which could hinder SC members performing activities in the border region, and the FDA has already begun to contact agents to increase patrols along the border, whilst the MRU has had regular border patrols in the region over a year now.

Steering Committee members also agreed that, as funding is available, that the technical Committees need to meet before the end of 2014. To that end, during the 2014 SCM, lead organizations, donors, implementers and resource persons were all identified, along with some rough timeframes of when the work of these committees could be completed.

The need for higher-level government officials to champion the project was also outlined during the 2014 SCM. The FDA outlined its plan to communicate the work of the SC to a ministerial level by organizing a meeting with the Liberian cabinet, possibly scheduled for the month of July 2014. Awareness at a governmental level needs to be addressed, as the committee needs a high ranking government official to champion the project to ensure its success. On the Ivorian side, the SODEFOR representative ensured that this information would be passed to the head of his

organization (a minister), who would onwards communicate the message upwards to his state government officials.

The last thing developed at this year's meeting was a set of action points based on the results of discussions over the two-day event. These action points center primarily on the smooth running and advertising of the project. It was agreed that communications between members be increased at a quarterly level with further ad hoc communications as and when required. Apart from that, it was noted that the web space for the SCM has not been updated for some time, so documents should be sent to the developer on a regular basis to maintain a record of up to date information for anybody to peruse. GRASP offered to further maintain and update the website.

The overall message from the second steering committee meeting predicated on the need for promoting transparency throughout the process. All members of the SC need to be aware of each other's actions in order to prevent the replication of programs, activities and especially the replication of funding, which is always very limited. To that end all members agreed that an increase in communication would prevent any unnecessary replication of results.

Regarding financial support and filling in the donor slot for the SC, the problem has not been resolved because KfW, representing the technical and financial support, cannot represent different donors according to its assigned mandate. The role of the steering committee is one of guidance and facilitation. Steering Committee Members should facilitate contact to new partners and donors, and help to link the transboundary process to other large-scale national and international processes.

ANNEX1: List of participants present at the first steering committee meeting for the TSFC

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