



BIOPAMA



Securing the future of Kambui Hills, Sierra Leone

Type of priority area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA)

Key biodiversity area

Primary objective

Governance

Management effectiveness

Livelihoods

Target groups

Local Communities

Indigenous people


Main activity focus

Co-management


Ecosystem/habitat restoration

Awareness/education

 **Duration**
01.09.2020 – 31.08.2021

 **Type of grant & project budget**
Medium Grant | 399,845.09€

 **Location**
Sierra Leone, Western Africa

 **Protected & Conserved Areas**
Kambui Hills and Extensions Forest Reserve; Kambui South Forest Reserve

 **WDPA ID**
303925; 29972

 **BIOPAMA RRIS Link**
<http://rris.biopama.org/country/sl>

Project Lead

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

Description of the project:

Several years of neglect in terms of management has resulted in increased illegal and damaging human activities within the reserve. Large areas have been encroached upon and degraded through activities like chain saw logging, charcoal harvesting, mining, slash and burn farming and settlement development and hunting. The unclear boundary creates ambiguity as to where the reserve ends and where the salvage lands begin.

To reverse this situation a robust awareness campaign about the reserve, its purpose and its usefulness will be undertaken with the aim of getting the communities to subscribe to and support its conservation. The campaign will also popularize the laws governing the reserve. The ill-defined and ambiguous boundaries which rationalise encroachment will be made clearly visible through brushing of the border, beacon erection, sign posting and establishment of a buffer zone. The degraded areas will be rehabilitated.

Damage is done to the reserve as forest edge communities utilize forest resources to finance a living. The project will create opportunities for alternative livelihoods. Alternative livelihoods will divert human activities away from the reserve into the salvage lands and so reduce pressure on the former.

A management plan and local bye laws will be created in consultation with the communities and the project will obtain an agreement between all focal communities, and the National Protected Area Authority /Forestry Department, and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone to adhere to Forest protection laws. To ensure that all parties keep to the agreements a task force who will oversee and monitor events within the forest be instituted. A reserve governance structure will also be established.

The project will also contribute to the alleviation of poverty which is so high in the region, by establishing a loan scheme and promoting tourism.





Diagnostic Tools Used

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/sl/sl-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>)



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- ❑ Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations;
- ❑ Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management.



Priority Need Addressed

The priority need of the project is to deliver a well-managed forest reserve, clearly demarcated and highly visible and known and appreciated by local communities. The reserve should help conserve ecosystems and maintain a rich biodiversity. It should provide ecosystem services for both humans and biodiversity and help to combat climate change. The Kambui Hills Forest Reserve forest should be co-managed by the government and the communities.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The project will deliver a reserve with visible and well demarcated boundary known to all stake holders, and with a buffer zone around the perimeter. Stakeholders will be aware of governmental laws and regulations governing the reserve; and the reserve will be benefitting from people's improved attitude towards it. An agreement between forest edge communities on one hand and NPAA/FD, Kenema DC and CSSL on the other, to adhere to Forest protection laws will be in place. There will be increased support of the stakeholders for the protection of the reserve. The establishment of alternative livelihoods will redirect the activities of the communities to areas outside the forest and positively influence their economic capacity. A well trained task force will overlook the benefit sharing scheme which would have been established. Most of the degraded areas within the reserve would be rehabilitated. A popularised Governance structure will exist. The FMCs and FD staff will have greater capacity to undertake forest management as a result of training. Community members have appropriate opportunities to participate in management planning, processes and actions in collaboration with the NPAA and the department of forestry. Thus the project will leave behind a well-managed functional reserve, with highly protected rich biodiversity, and maintained ecosystem, with the species richness and diversity maintained or improved. It will provide an opportunity for threatened species to thrive again. Negative human activities will be minimal.

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Photo credits: George Ganda; Patrick Dauda

The project Securing the future of Kambui Hills, Sierra Leone is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

