

TGS-FL Project / SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

National expert for the elaboration of a baseline on the conservation values of the Grebo-Krahn National Park and its economic, legal and development context

Refers to the following activities in the TGS Operational Plan:

D.5	Support FDA in the elaboration of a 5-year management plan for the Grebo-Krahn park, following a participatory approach.
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1. CONTEXT

In October 2017, the Grebo-Krahn National Park (GKNP) was formally created, becoming the third national park of Liberia. GKNP is located in a landscape that protects some of the last large areas of upper Guinean forest between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia (the Tai-Grebo-Sapo (TGS) Landscape). In addition of the creation of the park, it is expected that ecological corridors will be established, linking the different protected areas in the landscape.

The National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of Liberia mandates the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to prepare and publish as soon as practicable after the establishment of a Protected Area a General Management Plan in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

In fulfilment of these legal requirements and in order to support communities adjacent to the GKNP in their meaningful involvement in the sustainable management of this protected area, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) through the TGS-FL project is supporting FDA in the development of a General Management Plan (activity D.5 of its Operational Plan). A complete description of the planning process for the development and validation of the management plan for the GKNP can be found in the document "Roadmap for the development of a General Management Plan and Livelihood Strategy for the Grebo-Krahn National Park in Liberia" (attached).

In order to appropriately inform the preparation of this plan, the first step is to conduct a systematic compilation of all data available about the geography, biodiversity, and human activities around the GKNP. In addition, the legal and development context around the national park as well as any planned and ongoing development interventions influencing land uses in the area shall be considered.

In order to fulfil this, the FDA and the TGS-FL project are recruiting (01) consultant to elaborate a report describing the GKNP and its economic, legal and development context.

This document aims to outline the specific Terms of Reference (TORs) for this assignment.

1. OBJECTIVES

Elaborate a baseline report describing the conservation values of the Grebo-Krahn National Park and its economic, legal and development context.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

In close collaboration with the TGS-FL project, FDA and in coordination with the lead planning expert, the consultant will:

1. Discuss approaches to this scope of work and its timeline.
2. Conduct a literature review and compile all available information about the geography, biodiversity values, human aspects, legal context and planned and ongoing development interventions around the Grebo-Krahn National Park.
3. Describe existing instruments and best practices in collaborative management of natural resources and voluntary forest conservation in Liberia.
4. Conduct additional interviews with stakeholders in Monrovia and around the Grebo-Krahn National park (NGOs, Counties and district officials, managers of the Tai National Park in Cote d'Ivoire, among other relevant stakeholders)
5. Following a table of contents agreed with the TGS-FL project and the FDA, draft a synthetic description of the GKNP and the TGS area to be included in the management plan, including:
 - a) A description of the purpose and significant resources that warrant its inclusion in the protected area network of the country;
 - b) A description of the area's exceptional values;
 - c) A description of the human and economic activities in the areas;
 - d) A description of the existing infrastructures and social services available around the Grebo-Krahn area;
 - e) A description of the legal and institutional framework for conservation in the Grebo Krahn region.
 - f) A description of existing plans and ongoing development interventions (infrastructure, agricultural and mining, electricity, etc) of importance and potential influence for the management of the GKNP and possible corridor areas between the two blocks of GKNP and toward Sapo National Park.
 - g) A description of trans boundary relations.
6. Develop an analysis of significant gaps, barriers, threats and opportunities, which could impede or support the development of the management plan and long term conservation objective in the GKNP and TGS context.
7. Present the document and result in an information analysis workshop with relevant stakeholders.

3. DELIVERABLES

- A comprehensive presentation of the Grebo-Krahn National Park, its legal and institutional framework, and general development context in the Grebo-Krahn space and the TGS region;
- A full list of bibliographical references of the Grebo-Krahn National Park;
- A brief analysis document describing direct and indirect threats, information gaps and barriers;
- A power point presentation with an overview of the work

4. INDICATIVE TIMELINE

Activity	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
1. Planning working session to develop a specific workplan with the TGS-FL project team and FDA	X			
2. Literature review and interviews in Monrovia	X	X		
2. Interviews with key stakeholders in the TGS area		X	X	
3. Final drafting of the document			X	
4. Presentation of results in a participatory diagnosis workshop				X

TOTAL CONSULTANCY DAYS: 31 consultancy days exc. travel days between Monrovia and Zwedru (no fee included during travel days between Monrovia and TGS area). All travel and accommodation expenditures will be borne by the TGS-FL.

5. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Consultant in forestry or management of natural resources;
- A minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in sustainable management of natural resources and management plans;
- Familiarity with the TGS Landscape and Grebo-Krahn area in Liberia;
- Experience in ecological connectivity preferred.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should submit their technical and financial offer, including a CV of the proposed expert based on these terms of references.

The technical and financial offer should describe:

1. An introduction describing the consultant understanding of the mission
2. Methodological approach during the mission
3. Experience of the consultant
4. Calendar of the mission

Proposals should be sent to AMBERO Consulting / TGS Forest Link Project

by email with the subject: TGS Forest Link Project / National Expert

fatormah@ambero.de

cc : ormeno@ambero.de

or hand deliver to:

TGS German Cooperation Technical Office-Liberia
Johnson Compound / in front of Chinese Clinic
Congo Town, Monrovia

For any additional information, please contact:

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Project Administrator TGS Project
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Deadline: **August 20th, 2018**



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical roadmap for the development of a General Management Plan and Livelihood Strategy for the Grebo-Krahn National Park in Liberia

Monrovia, 16th July 2018

Refers to the following activities in the Operational Plan of the GIZ/TGS-FL Project:

D.5	Support FDA in the elaboration of a 5-year management plan for the Grebo-Krahn National Park, following a participatory approach.
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giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

AMBERO
Consulting Gesellschaft mbH

1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The Tai-Grebo-Sapo forest complex (TGS) contains some of the last remains of Upper Guinean rainforest ecosystem in West Africa. It encompasses the Tai National Park (TNP), the surrounding classified forests (CF) Cavally, Goin-Débé and Haute-Dodo in Côte d'Ivoire; and the national parks of Grebo-Krahn (GKNP) and Sapo (SNP), and includes the forest concession FMC-F in Liberia.

These national parks, classified forests and forest concession form an ecosystem of high conservation value and are of particular important for the survival of rare, endemic or endangered vegetal and animal species.

However, the complex is under significant anthropogenic pressures caused by population growth, immigration and the resulting unsustainable exploitation of its natural resources and agricultural activities. Pressures contribute to the fragmentation of the landscape and the isolation of its forests, leading to the loss and impoverishment of genetic biodiversity and increased threat of local extinction of species. Apart from its biodiversity value, the conservation of this complex is also essential to ensure the sustainability of ecosystem services on which many rural livelihoods depend. Within this context, the Government of Liberia, through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has established the Grebo-Krahn National Park in August 2017 protecting 96.000 Ha of forests along the border between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

The establishment of the GKNP is in fulfilment of chapter 9, section 9.1, of the 2006 National Forestry Reform Law of Liberia which required the FDA to “establish Protected Forest Area Network, together with conservation corridors and incorporating existing National Forests to cover at least 30% of the existing forested area of Liberia”.

Furthermore, the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law mandates the FDA to prepare and publish, as soon as possible after the establishment of a Protected Area, a general management plan for such areas in accordance with internationally accepted standards. Section 5.9.1a of the law also made it mandatory for the FDA to develop management plans in collaboration with local communities. General requirements and content concerning national parks in Liberia are reviewed in Annex 1 of this document.

In order to support the FDA in the fulfilment of these legal requirements and to support communities adjacent the GKNP in their meaningful involvement in its sustainable management, the operational plan of the TGS Forest-Link (TGS-FL) project includes in its activity D.5 to “support the FDA in the development of a general management plan of the park as well as the development of preliminary studies”.

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To prepare a 5-year General Management Plan for the Grebo-Krahn National Park in accordance with internationally accepted standards and endorsement by relevant communities and stakeholders.

3. **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A general description of the GKNP and the existing framework for conservation is available;
- A clear vision for the conservation of biodiversity of the Park is agreed by concerned stakeholders, including conservation partners, and is included in the plan;
- Specific programmes detailing practical actions for the management of the protected area are developed and agreed between FDA, local communities, traditional leaders, local authorities, and conservation and development partners operating in the landscape;
- Meaningful and effective participation of communities and concerned stakeholders in the management plan preparations;
- A livelihood development programme supported by communities living on the periphery of the park and harmonized with district and county development plans (if available) is included in the document;
- A practical and implementation-friendly document, written with a simple style for easy reference, is available for day-to-day management and consultation;
- A detailed and realistic operational budget specifying the activities and their costs is prepared by the consultant and attached to the plan.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING APPROACH

The approach for the drafting and validation of the GMP will follow the IUCN guidelines for the development of protected area management plans in West and Central Africa (PACO)¹. The planning process will be led by the Forest Conservation Department of FDA (especially Chief Park Warden and support staff of GKNP) with the support of the TGS-FL Project and other technical and financial partners operating in the landscape (WCF & FFI/WA BiCC, AHT/KFW). Assistance of the Ivoirian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) will be sought to provide specific technical support to ensure synergies of operational management, law enforcement and trans-boundary collaboration, among others.

Drafting of the document shall reflect the existing expertise, capacities and funding available within the FDA and capitalize on in-country experiences and lessons-learned on the different aspects of protected areas management.

The step-by-step process for the drafting of the General management plan is described below and illustrated in Fig.1:

¹ IUCN/PACO (2012). *Elaboration et mise en œuvre des plans de gestion en Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre*. Ouagadougou, BF: IUCN/PACO. ISBN : 978-2-8317-1473-8.

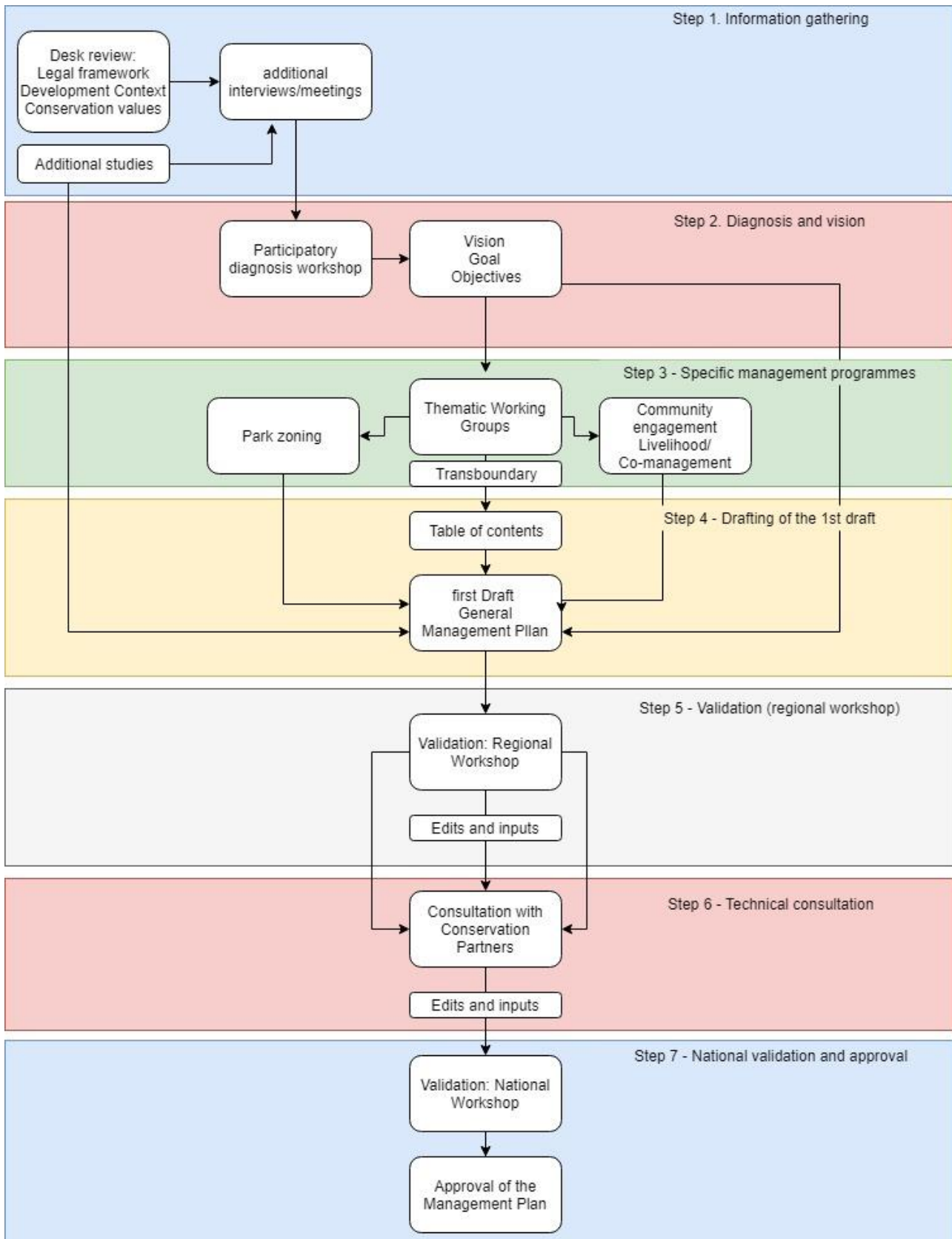


Fig. 1 – Proposed planning process for the Grebo-Krahn Management Plan

Step 1. Compiling available information and additional studies

A first step will be to gather all available information about the GKNP and identify significant gaps and barriers for the development of the management plan. The hired consultant will collect the information systematically from various sources including literature review and interviews when required.

The collection of the existing information should be organized as follows:

- a. Description of the park and its biodiversity, cultural/spiritual and economic values: biodiversity, land cover and land use change, socio-economic information, as well as any documentation on the current management of the park.
- b. Description of the development and legal context: legal framework, ongoing or planned development projects in the TGS region – such as mining, logging and artisanal timber, road infrastructure, electricity etc. – will be also be collected and its potential ecological impacts on the GKNP analyzed and accounted for.

In parallel to this phase, complementary studies already planned in the TGS-FL Project work plan (activity D.4) will be undertaken. In particular the studies will address land cover and land use change, economic context and value chains, and livelihoods and poverty levels in communities surrounding the GKNP.

Step 2. Analysis of data/information

This phase comprises a planning workshop where the FDA, relevant stakeholders and the recruited consultants will reflect on the information, challenges and gaps evidenced in the review. The workshop will be organized as follows:

- a. Participatory diagnosis: Following the presentation of the available report, critical gaps and management challenges will be identified through the development of a “problem tree” and other participatory analysis techniques, in order to build a common understanding on priority concerns for the management of the GKNP and the sustainable development in its surroundings.
- b. Setting of management goals and vision: During the second part of the workshop, participants will formulate a vision statement for the sustainable management of the park and contribution to the sustainable development of its adjacent areas. Based on it, participants will agree on an overarching goal for the plan and will determine key management objectives to address the problems identified (“tree of objectives”).

Step 3. Definition of management programmes

3.1. Thematic working groups:

Following the formulation of the vision, the management plan overarching goal and the key management objectives, the consultant will undertake a consultation process with concerned stakeholders through specific thematic working groups in order to define appropriate management actions.

This consultation process shall result in the elaboration of 5-year thematic management programmes, as well as a detailed action plan for the 1st year for each programme. The programmes must including a realistic budget taking account of FDA’s financial situation and available donor support. Among the key programmes that could be defined are: biomonitoring, law enforcement, collaborative management, livelihood development, communication and awareness, transboundary cooperation, infrastructure development and ecotourism, as well as capacity building, technical and financial management. The technical and financial management programme must be aimed at developing the Park’s capacity for fulfilling the requirements for decentralized budgeting, planning, operational management, accounting and reporting to prepare for sustainable funding through the Liberia Conservation Fund. The programmes shall also integrate the planned law enforcement strategy, standard operating procedures, as well as the planned infrastructure development and other activities included in the sister German cooperation project "Conservation of biodiversity in the Tai-Grebo-Sapo forest complex" implemented by KFW through the consultancy firm AHT.

3.2. Establishment of management units in the park and its periphery:

Once management priorities are clear, the consultants will support the Chief Park Warden, his assigned staff and relevant on-site partners to develop an operational zoning for the park and adjacent community areas, based on accessibility, geography, infrastructure, biodiversity values and existing pressures. A map of the park, describing the management units and their periphery as well as the criteria for their designation will be produced and agreed upon.

3.3. Community consultation (co-management and livelihoods programmes):

A preliminary study on the livelihoods and value chains around the park is to be developed in advance by the TGS-FL project. In order to inform the collaborative management framework, the selected consultant, Chief Park Warden and other conservation partners will hold (i) community, chieftom and district-level consultation and (ii) planning meetings with government representatives, traditional authorities, community associations and other development actors, in order to identify key challenges and clarify management approaches and mechanisms for the involvement of communities in park management.

Discussions shall address, among others, possible regulation, management and monitoring of access to certain forest resources and buffer areas by communities, opportunities for job creation, community organizations for decision making related to the park, sustainable management of value chains around the national park, etc.

Step 4. Production of a first draft of the management plan

Once agreed among concerned stakeholders, thematic proposals shall be submitted to FDA and concerned stakeholders for discussion, inputs and agreement. A table of contents for the plan, and structure of the document will be proposed by the consultants and agreed by FDA and GIZ.

The consultants will compile all information available and summarize it into a concise first draft of the management plan document. The document shall include the detailed specific programmes, action plans, associated budgets and performance indicators.

Step 5. Validation: presentation of the Management Plan to local stakeholders

An ad-hoc committee of relevant local stakeholders shall meet to deliberate on the draft management plan. The committee shall have the representation of the various stakeholders involved in the management of the park. It is expected that many of its prospective members will be relevant stakeholders that have participated in the previous stages of the drafting of the document. That committee could later be institutionalized and evolve into a Protected Area Management Advisory Committee (PAMAC) as provided for in law.

Beyond this, the consultants shall ensure that the plan has been discussed and agreed at the local level with communities, using communication approaches, languages and presentation formats that are locally appropriate in order to encourage their active participation.

Step 6. Review by technical partners

Further to the consultation described under Step 5, a revised General Management Plan document (Draft 1) will be circulated to conservation partners for inputs and comments. Relevant comments will be integrated in the final draft by the consultant.

Step 7. National validation

Once the document and comments from technical partners are integrated in it, a workshop shall be organized for final validation, before the plan is submitted to the FDA board of directors for endorsement and approval as foreseen by law.

5. TIMELINE

This process covers a period of 13 months.

6. FUNDING

The validation process, meetings, and development of additional studies as planned by the TGS operational plan is funded by GIZ through the TGS-FL Project.

The KFW-Funded Conservation of the Biodiversity in the Tai-Grebo-Sapo Complex project anticipates to conduct additional studies for the planned corridor between GKNP and SNP.

7. COORDINATION

The drafting of the management plan will be developed and coordinated by the TGS-FL Project in collaboration with the FDA and the technical assistance of national and international consultants as required.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES

Specific Terms of Reference for the recruitment of planning consultant or consultancy firm will be developed, validated, and send out by the TGS-FL project and FDA for the selection of selected consultants. Selection will be based on evaluation of expressions of interest (EoI) and technical proposals by FDA and GIZ.

ANNEX I. LEGAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS IN LIBERIA

General Requirements: Specific regulations for the preparation of Protected Area management plans in Liberia are not available. However, the The National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law (Section 5.9.2) lists the general requirements and contents of new management plans. Pertinent general requirements as listed in the law are:

- a) It is *mandatory* that management plans for each protected area are prepared by the Authority *in collaboration with affected communities* and approved by the Board of Directors;
- b) The Authority will manage the Protected Area *in collaboration with relevant stakeholders* in accordance with that management plan that may be revised as necessary or according to regulation. No activities may be undertaken, allowed, authorized or condoned in that Protected Area if they are not in compliance with that plan.
- c) The Act (in section 3.2) explicitly mentions that the Authority shall collaborate with county/local government authorities and establish an institutional framework for the Integration of conservation and management of protected areas into county development plans.
- d) FDA may establish a Protected Area Management Advisory Council (PAMAC) for a protected area.
- e) Section 5.4.4 makes stakeholder consultation mandatory, especially with communities adjacent to the protected area. The Act demands that consultations (including those for the management of protected areas):
 - Promote transparent decision making,
 - Take the interests of different groups into account,
 - Solicit affected community feedback,
 - Encourages the exercising of real decision making by providing means for incorporating the stakeholder feedback into the planning process.
- f) Section 5.13 states that FDA *shall* actively solicit the support of NGOs to undertake efforts to provide and/or build the capacity for alternative livelihoods for communities adversely affected by the establishment or maintenance of Protected Forest Areas and to integrate livelihood needs within the parameters of the purpose and objectives of the protected area.

Contents:

As per the 2016 Act, a management plan shall contain:

- 1 A description of the purpose and significant resources that warrant its inclusion in the protected area network of the country.
- 2 A description of the area's exceptional resources.
- 3 The development of economic opportunities within and adjacent to the protected area in terms of the integrated development plan framework.
- 4 The development of local management capacity and knowledge exchange.
- 5 Financial and other support to ensure effective administration and implementation of a co-management agreement.
- 6 Identification and designation of management zones describing activities permitted within each zone.

ANNEX II. SUMMARY OF DELIVERABLES IN EACH PHASE

STEP	Activities	Results
STEP 1 - Collection of background information about Grebo-Krahn National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate available information about the GKNP in the gazettelement package and other documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and description of the GKNP management plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and collect additional studies, development plans about the regional development context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional reference to poverty and livelihoods, value chains, land uses, regional plans, etc.
STEP 2 - Analysis of data/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory analysis of existing information and elaboration of a problem tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic analysis of the GKNP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of strategic objectives and identification of specific programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic objectives of the plan and specific areas programs identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of an overall objective and a vision statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision statement and overall objective for the Management Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of thematic management areas relevant for the park and mapping of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic management areas relevant for the management plan are defined Stakeholders relevant for each area are mapped
STEP 3 – Definition of specific management programs and discussion with communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical planning meetings for each thematic area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic programs developed and detailed 1-year action plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community planning meetings to define co-management programs and livelihood activities (links to Livelihood studies undertaken by the T-G-S project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-management framework clarified, co-management measures identified, livelihood diversification priorities established.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning of the park and its periphery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone map proposal of the park
STEP 4 - Production of a first draft of the management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree on a document structure and content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of contents for the management plan available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition and writing of specific programs, implementation guidelines, and budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management programs defined and included in the document
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of the first draft of the Grebo-Krahn management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft zero of the management plan available
STEP 5 – Regional workshop: Finalization of the first draft with local partners and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional stakeholder workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan validated by local actors and authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include editions and amendments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally validated plan available
STEP 6 - Consultation with technical partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate draft to technical partners from the FDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate comments of technical partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commented draft including comments by technical

		partners
STEP 7 - National validation workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation workshop with FDA and technical partners and stakeholders and submission to the Board of Director for official endorsement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan finalized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation by the FDA Board of Director for official endorsement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final plan endorsed.

ANNEX III. WORKPLAN OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

STEP	Activities	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	June 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19
STEP 1 - Compiling available information and development of additional studies.	• Collate available information about the GKNP in the gazette package and other documents														
	• Identify and collect additional studies, development plans about the regional development context														
STEP 2 - Participatory analysis of information, identification of problems and setting of management objectives.	• Participatory analysis of existing information and elaboration of a problem tree														
	• Formulation of strategic objectives and identification of specific programs														
	• Formulation of an overall objective and a vision statement														
	• Definition of thematic management areas relevant for the park and mapping of stakeholders														
STEP 3 - Define specific management programmes and discussion with communities	• Technical planning meetings for each thematic area														
	• Community planning meetings to define co-management programs and livelihood activities (links to Livelihood studies undertaken by the T-G-S project)														
	• Zoning of the park and its periphery														
STEP 4 - Production of a first draft of the management plan	• Agree on a document structure and content														
	• Definition and writing of specific programs, implementation guidelines, and budgets.														
	• Production of the first draft of the Grebo-Krahn management plan														

STEP	Activities	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	June 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19
STEP 5 - Finalization of the first draft with local partners and communities	• Regional stakeholder workshop														
	• Include editions and amendments • Circulate draft to technical partners from the FDA														
STEP 6 - Consultation with technical partners	• Incorporate comments of technical partners														
	• Validation workshop with FDA and technical partners and stakeholders and submission to the Board of Director for official endorsement														
STEP 7 - National validation	• Validation of the FDA Board of Director for official endorsement														
	• Submit the plan to the validation of the FDA Board of Director for official endorsement														

