

Presentation given at the Katoomba XV Meeting entitled

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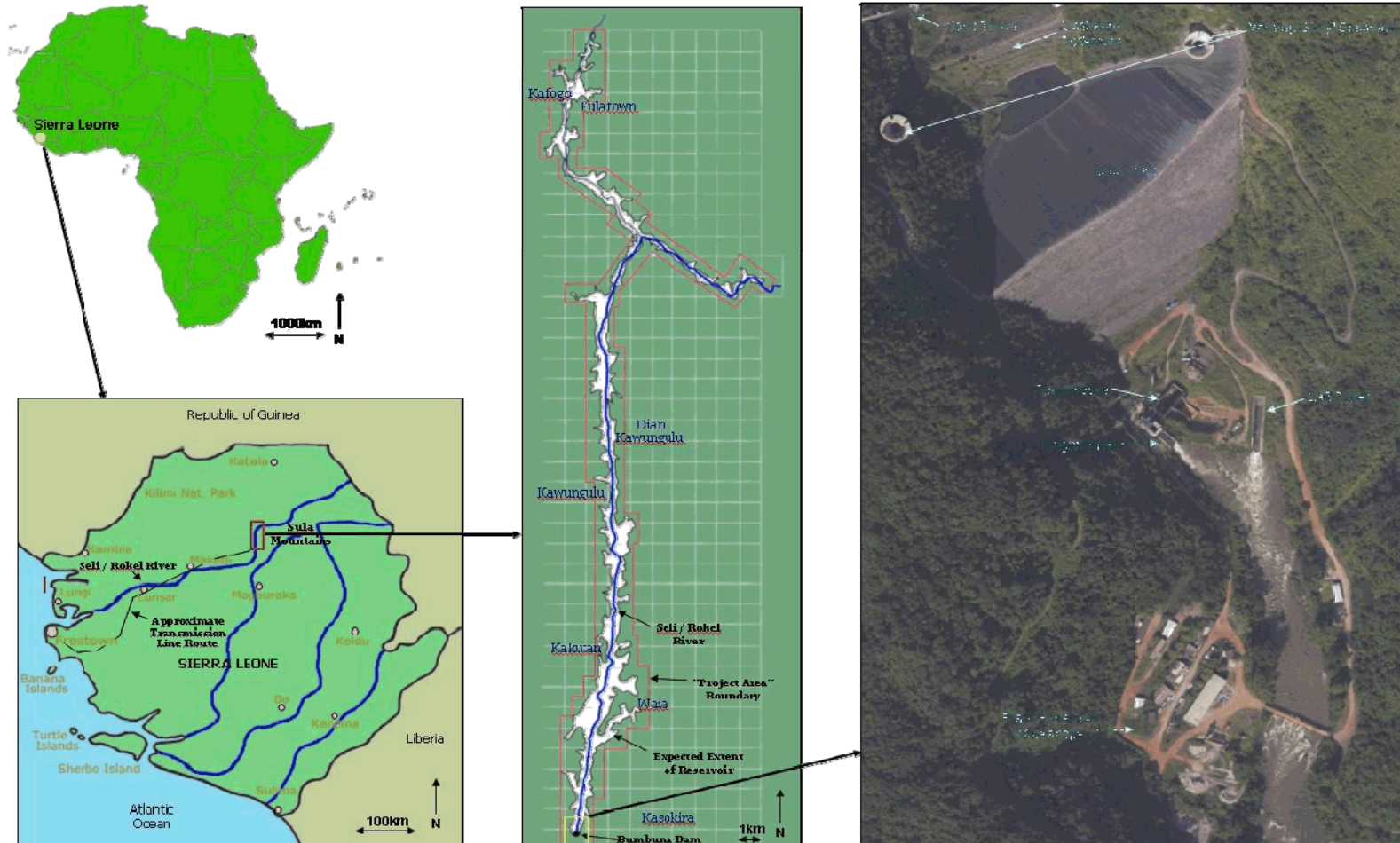
Hydroelectricity and Biodiversity Offsetting- Case Study from Sierra Leone

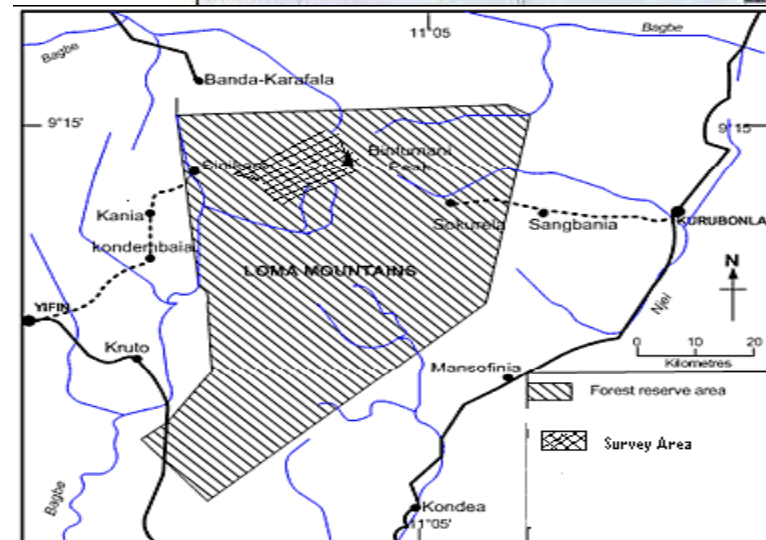
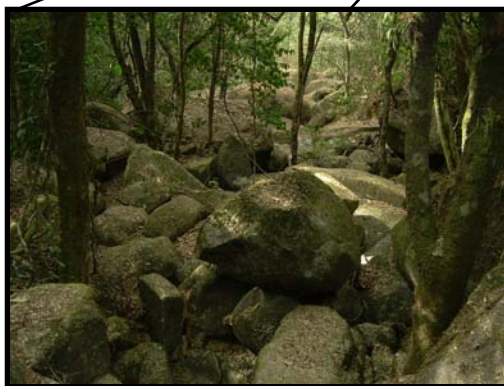
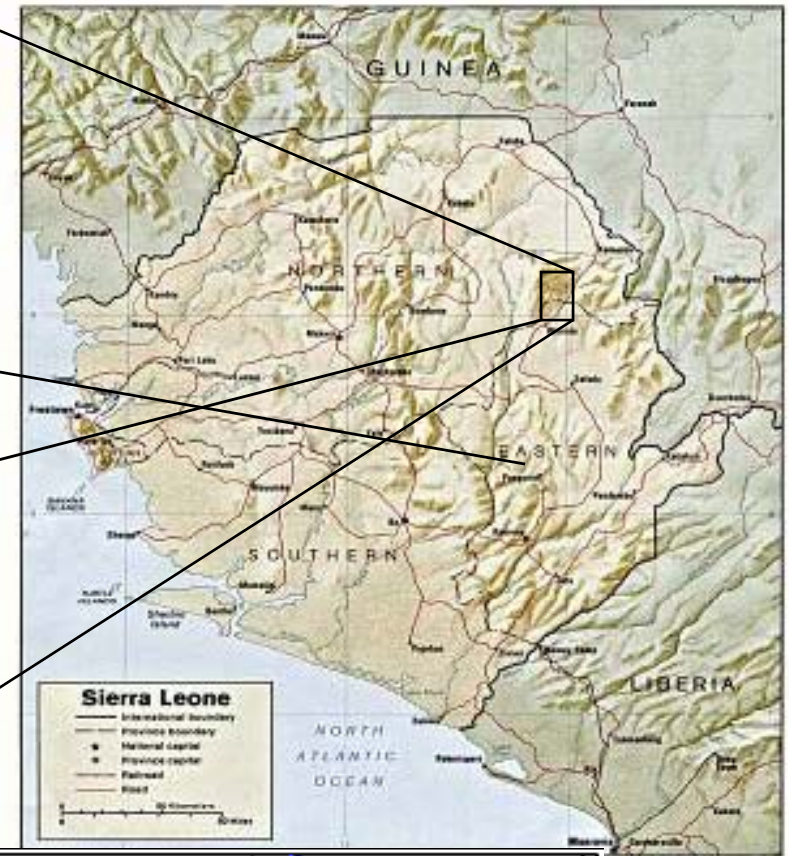
Abdulai Barrie

National Environmental Consultant

Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project

Introduction and Background to the Project





: Reserve

Introduction and Background



Introduction and Background contd.

- Following intensive field assessments (EIAs and Additional Biodiversity Studies) of the flora and fauna of the Bumbuna dam area,
- Concerns were expressed over the loss of certain key species in the BHP area.
- The BPIU was required by the ESAP team and WB to establish a protected area with comparable and preferably higher biodiversity than the Bumbuna area.
- Field assessment conducted to determine whether the Loma Mountains qualifies sufficiently to offset the loss to be experienced at Bumbuna
- The primary goal of the survey was to determine if Loma Mountain Non-Hunting Forest Reserve (LMNHFR) is an appropriate offset for losses at Bumbuna
- The survey assessed plant, bird, amphibian, small mammal and large mammal diversity

Conclusions of the Loma Biodiversity and Socioeconomic Studies

- The Loma ecosystem is sufficiently similar to that of Bumbuna to be a suitable offset.
- If anything, it is a “better” (i.e., more diverse) ecosystem because of its mosaic of habitats including savannas and forests, wet areas and dry ones, the altitudinal range, the manifold riparian (a.k.a. gallery) forests as well as large blocks of contiguous forest, and the abundant wildlife.
- Loma is Pristine, richer with higher density of endemic and endangered species
- The abundant wildlife has largely escaped extensive exploitation due to the remoteness of the region and the difficulty of access
- In similar fashion, the undisturbed nature of much of the forest – and the abundance of ancient mature trees - is itself is a product of relative inaccessibility with poor and only seasonably passable roads around portions of the perimeter.

Conclusions of the Loma Biodiversity and Socioeconomic Studies

- The unrivaled biodiversity of a unique form of West Guinea rainforest ecosystem and other habitats and their included flora and fauna is almost exclusively an accidental consequence of the difficulty of access.
- Timber exploitation, commercial bush meat hunting, and other significant threats have thereby been averted.
- Access must remain restricted by the difficulties presented by current road conditions
- If development of ANY road is undertaken prior to a clear enforcement strategy, LMNP will be severely compromised.

“Guilt Money” and Sustainable Financing Mechanism

- WB financing the set up of Loma National Park
- Activities will include Demarcation of Reserve, Consultations, Management Plan, Cabinet Paper and a management structure with Park infrastructure in place
- Bumbuna Trust Deed to also contribute to “financing the establishment and operation of the Loma Mountain National Park”
- The BTM will manage the funds earmarked for the Loma Offset, BWMA and community based development activities in the Bumbuna watershed
- The establishment and first years of the operation of the BWMA, BCA and BTM will be financed by the restructured project and will be co-financed by the AfDB.
- Funds for the establishment and first years of operation of the Loma Mountains National Park will be available for a period of 5 years
- Sustainable financing mechanism in place by committing government to pay back 3% of tariff money in to social (Community development projects) and environmental management

Institutional Arrangement

- Interagency technical steering committee and BWMA and BTD will provide guidance for the implementation of the ESMP
- BPIU to have overall oversight of the day to day implementation of the updated ESMP and responsible for the environmental and social monitoring activities
- The World Bank funded the EIA, Additional Baseline, Loma Biodiversity and Socioeconomic studies and is providing funds for the activities the ESMP including Loma
- Constituted the Environmental and Social Advisory Panel of Experts (ESAP)
- The BWMA will be responsible for the design and implementation of the environmental and social management activities to be financed under the BWMA and some through third parties **contract**
- The BWMA Board will take over from the BPIU and will have oversight over these activities

Institutional Arrangement contd.

- The BTD is a permanent organization and can receive funds from outside the organization for the BWMA and the Loma Mountains National Park
- The BTD will manage the funds earmarked for the BWMA and community based development activities in the Bumbuna watershed and it will manage the funds for the establishment and operation of the Loma Mountains National Park (LMNP)
- The BTD will release funds to the BWMA and for the community development activities
- Funds will be available for the establishment and first years of operation of the LMNP for a period of five years allowing time for the tariff money and Trust to kick in.





