Strengthening Capacity for Monitoring and Regulation of International Trade of African Grey Parrot

Title

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Funding: CITES Secretariat

Implemented by: Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS), Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Lukuru Foundation, Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) and SOS Forêts - Ivory Coast.

The African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus* and *P. timneh*) is one of the world's most heavily-traded birds, and is found throughout much of West and Central Africa. It is declining in a large portion of its range, with trapping for trade implicated as a major cause.

Poor information on the status of the species, coupled with low capacity in exporting countries has meant that the international trade has long been ill-informed and poorly-managed. This

project directly addresses these problems, by providing tools and support to foster a sustainable trade.

Working with partners in five countries where CITES considers the trade to be of particular concern - Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Liberia and Sierra Leone - BirdLife has designed and pilot-tested methods for rapidly estimating AGP population sizes; methods which will provide the foundation for surveying and monitoring to inform scientifically sound sustainable harvest quotas and management.

Working with national CITES Authorities, BirdLife is supporting the development of National AGP Management Plans, and initiating the process of drawing up a Regional Management Plan.

A workshop in Liberia will bring together Government, NGO and academic participants from the five focal countries and beyond, to share experiences and forge a way forward for the long-term conservation and management of the species.