



PROTECTED ANIMALS of Liberia

HUNTING OF PROTECTED ANIMALS IN LIBERIA, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF PROTECTED AREAS, IS PUNISHABLE BY LAW

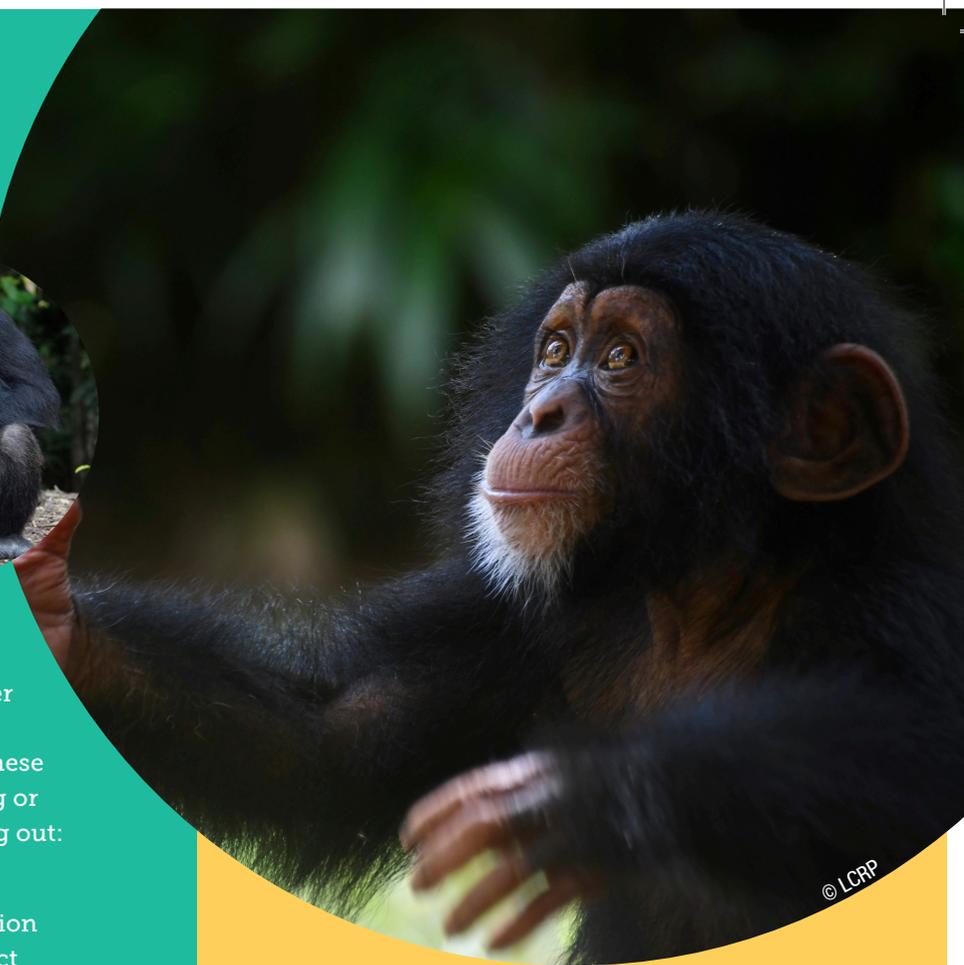
Anyone caught hunting, buying, selling, capturing, keeping as a pet or eating a protected animal will be prosecuted



Adequate legislation and policy are critical to the protection and conservation of chimpanzees and their habitat. While each country dictates its own laws and regulations, it is important to evaluate best practices and encourage consistency and coordination to ensure effective legal actions and reforms that truly safeguard chimpanzees.

Even with strong laws and policies, it is essential to have the capacity, expertise and resources in place to support their enforcement.

Local, regional and global communication and cooperation between joint security agencies, governments, policy makers and international organizations is key to ensuring effective and efficient law enforcement and essential legislation on behalf of chimpanzees.



Call to Action

We are seeking to engage with law enforcement officials, legislators and other stakeholder groups in the eight western chimpanzee range countries to achieve these goals. If you are interested in contributing or getting involved, please consider reaching out:

For details and support related to law enforcement and rescue center coordination and activities in West Africa, please contact WCAP Topical Lead for Law Enforcement and Rescue Center Coordination, Jenny Desmond (liberiachimpanzeerescue@gmail.com)

For details and support related to policies and laws impacting chimpanzees in West Africa, please contact WCAP Topical Lead for Legal Text Coordination, James Wingard (james.wingard@legal-atlas.net)

This pamphlet was created under the broader initiative of the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Western Chimpanzee (WCAP), which outlines a plan for improving their protection over the next 10 years. For more information on the western chimpanzee action plan visit westernchimp.org or write to westernchimp@gmail.com.

Strengthening legal frameworks in the protection & conservation of western chimpanzees



Illegal Wildlife Trade

A serious organized crime

Wildlife crime, including the trade in live chimpanzees and their body parts, comprises the fourth largest illegal trade worldwide after arms, drugs and human trafficking, and frequently links with other forms of serious crime such as fraud, money laundering, and corruption. – UNODC 2021

Tackling corruption

Corruption is one of the key variables facilitating wildlife and forest crime. It is critical that strategies to protect and conserve chimpanzees address corruption along with other key threats or populations will continue to rapidly diminish.

Political will & community engagement

Effective strategies to counter wildlife crime ultimately rely on the political will and community engagement in Western chimpanzee range states. Policies, legislation, and enforcement require a strong commitment from West African political leaders and communities including open communication platforms, collaborative planning and coordinated initiatives that prioritize and benefit both chimpanzee and human populations.



- 01** **Comprehensively review national and regional legislation and regulations** impacting chimpanzees across habitats, jurisdictions, and trade routes to identify gaps and areas needing revision.
- 02** **Develop and implement critical policies** such as environmental impact assessments, land use regulations, and strict endangered species protections to benefit chimpanzee conservation.
- 03** **Establish clear interagency mechanisms** to facilitate effective and coordinated actions between key government entities in the commitment to protect and conserve in-situ and ex-situ chimpanzee populations.
- 04** **Strengthen collaborative and coordinated law enforcement activities** including task forces, transboundary activities, networking, communication, strategic planning and awareness campaigns.
- 05** **Develop and implement strategies that strengthen and harmonize national and regional law enforcement, legislation, and policy development** in western chimpanzee range countries.
- 06** **Develop partnerships between chimpanzee rescue centers and government entities** to strengthen legislation, enhance capacity to combat wildlife crime, improve first responder care, and ensure laws are enforced through confiscation and legal action.

Actions to enhance legal frameworks

Legal frameworks regulating how countries protect chimpanzees encompass not only environmental and wildlife protection laws, but also those related to crimes, forestry, protected areas, mining, animal health, land use, transportation, international trade, finance, taxation, business, and more. Addressing all aspects of West African policies, legislation and enforcement is critical to ensuring chimpanzee conservation.

