Local awareness of and attitudes towards the pygmy hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis* in the Moa River Island Complex, Sierra Leone

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 1 Phase 1 semi-structured interview regarding local awareness of and attitudes towards conservation of the pygmy hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis*, administered in eight villages around Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone, during January–June 2009 (n = 33).

Gender:
Age:
Occupation:
Village:
Native/immigrant:

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1. Have you ever seen a pygmy hippopotamus?

2. When did you see the animal? How long ago did you see it?

3. Where did you see the hippo?

4. What time of day did you see it?

5. What was the hippo doing?

6. What do pygmy hippos eat?

7. Do pygmy hippos eat people's gardens or crops? Is there a way to prevent this?

8. Are there benefits from pygmy hippos?

9. How do people hunt pygmy hippos?

10. Have pygmy hippos been hunted recently? Have you ever eaten pygmy hippo meat?

11. Do you have any stories about pygmy hippos?

12. Are there any benefits from Tiwai?

We want to learn more about your life, the place where you live, and your opinions regarding the forests and wildlife around your village. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Thanks for your help!

Pygmy hippo encounters
Please answer the following questions about your experiences with pygmy hippos.

1. How many pygmy hippos have you seen since the last rainy season? _____

1a. If >1, have you seen the same pygmy hippo more than once? _____

2. Where did you see the pygmy hippos?

In River   Barri Mainland   Koya Mainland   Tiwai Island   Other island   On the farm

Other_____

3. What do pygmy hippos like to eat? _____

Conservation
Please answer the following questions about wildlife, people and conservation around your village.

4. Has wildlife ever caused damage to your crops?   YES   NO   UNSURE

4a. If yes, which crops?

Cassava Rice Groundnuts Beans Sweet potatoes Yams Okra Maize Millet Bananas

Plantains Coconuts Cacao Coffee Kola Coco yams Oil palm Krin krin Pumpkin Papaya

Pepper Cucumber Other ____

5. Which three animals cause the most damage to crops?

Red river hog Squirrels Porcupines Birds Pygmy hippo Cutting grass Monkeys Duikers

Chimpanzee Water chevrotain Rat Bushbuck Water buffalo

6. Do pygmy hippos cause damage to crops?   YES   NO   UNSURE

6a. If yes, which crops? _____

7. How do you protect crops?

Traps Spending the night   Noise making   Fencing Scarecrows Trenches Poisoning   Rituals

Other _____

8. Which type of wild meat do people catch most often?

Red river hog   Monkey   Cutting grass   Porcupine   Chimpanzee   Bat   Bird   Pygmy hippo
Water chevrotain   Bushbuck   Rat   Mongoose   Squirrel   Yellow-backed duiker
Maxwell's duiker   Other_____

9. Which type of wild meat is the sweetest to eat?

Red river hog   Monkey   Cutting grass   Porcupine   Chimpanzee   Bat   Bird   Pygmy hippo
Water chevrotain   Bushbuck   Rat   Mongoose   Squirrel   Yellow-backed duiker
Maxwell's duiker   Other_____

10. Are there any animals that you cannot eat?   YES   NO   UNSURE
10a. If yes, which ones? _____

11. Do pygmy hippos benefit the local villages?   YES   NO   UNSURE
11a. If yes, why?
Bring visitors Bring researchers Harmless Meat   Spiritual
11b. If no, why not?
Damage crops   Dangerous   No use   Unsure   Other_____

Personal information
Please provide the following information so we can learn more about you.
Gender: M   F
Marital status: Single   Married   Divorced   Widowed   In a relationship
Occupation: Hunter   Farmer Fisherman Merchant Teacher Student Carpenter Other _____
Age (estimate): _____
No. in household: ____
No. of livestock: Chickens___   Goats___   Sheep___
Education: None   Primary   Secondary   Senior secondary   University   Arabic
Resident status: Immigrant   Native
If immigrant, how many years have you lived in the village? 0–5 5–10 10–15 15–20 20+