

## Appendix 2

### Interview Topics

We here provide details on the questions or topics that guided each type of interview outlined in Table 1 of the main manuscript. Note that all but the hunter interviews were semi-structured, such that the order of questions was not fixed, and questions were adapted or omitted depending on the discussion that had already ensued. Overlap of questions or topics among interviews with different stakeholders allowed for cross-checking and clarification.

#### Eye-witness interviews

1. Could you describe what you remember happening at the time when you learned about the sitatunga?
2. Were people in the communities (hunters, chiefs, caretakers of shrines) open and willing to share when you visited and wanted to see the bones and skins?
3. What was your relationship with the community? Did you know anyone in the community? Did you know the chief?
4. Do you know if people were still actively hunting sitatunga at that time?
5. Did you know about the shrines at the time and the cultural significance of the sitatunga? And/or what do you know about that now?
6. Any further contributions to add.

#### Board member interviews

1. What did you hope for/what were your expectations when the CPA started? Have those expectations been met?
2. Who or what organizations have helped in the formation of the CPA and what kind of help have they brought?
3. The Management Board was launched only recently, who made decisions about the natural resources (the Lagoon) before that?
4. Were the traditions and culture considered when the CPA was started?
5. What role do traditional leaders play now?
6. What can your traditions and culture teach other people about the protection of the lagoon and wildlife?
7. What have you learned from the traditions and culture of others to help you protect your resources? (forest, fish, wildlife, rivers etc)
8. What are the benefits of the CPA for your community?
  - a. Economic
  - b. Social-cultural
  - c. Environmental (access to resources, protection of medicinal plants, food plants, increase wildlife etc)

9. What are the costs or the negative effects of the CPA for your community?
  - a. Economic
  - b. Social-cultural
  - c. Environmental (access to resources, protection of medicinal plants, food plants, loss of farm land, hunting, fishing etc)
10. What are the challenges being faced by the Avu Lagoon Management Board?
11. What do you think should be done to address these challenges?

### Elder focus groups

1. Impacts of Akosombo Dam: effects on the environment, flood regimes, sitatunga, access or use of resources, hunting, fishing
2. Sitatunga hunting: has it stopped, when and why?
3. The importance of sitatunga for appeasing the gods
4. Alternative animals for sacrifice: wild or domestic, formerly what happened when sitatunga were not available, predominant species used in sacrifice today, any change in what is commonly sacrificed over time, reasons for such change
5. Past change in the number of maintenance of hunting shrines (since the time of respondents' grandfathers)
6. Future outlook for hunting shrines (what will respondents' grandchildren encounter?)
7. Purpose and physical appearance of hunting shrines: formerly and current, changes over time, reasons for change

### Shrine caretaker interviews

Topics covered with the caretakers of shrines within communities

1. Ownership and history of the shrine: who established it, when (relative to family generations or marked events in recent and longer-term history), and who looks after it
2. Purpose of the shrine: the circumstances under which the deity at this shrine is consulted, who can consult it, how this is done, and whether this has changed over time
3. Animal remains in the shrine: species, origin and spiritual significance

Topics covered with caretakers of forest groves and associated shrines

1. Ownership and history of the grove and the associated shrine: who looks after it, on whose behalf, and how long has the grove been protected (relative to family generations or marked events in recent and longer-term history)
2. Purpose of the shrine: the circumstances under which the deity at this shrine is consulted, who can consult it, how this is done, and whether this has changed over time
3. Size of the grove
4. Location and accessibility of the grove

5. Restrictions regarding grove access and grove use: activities permitted, activities prohibited, who may enter, who should not, and under what circumstances, changes in any of the above
6. State of the grove: level of enforcement or adherence to restrictions
7. Ownership and state of other, nearby groves

#### Hunter interviews

1. Preliminary mammal species list for Avu Lagoon (in Ewe and English),
2. Hunting practices and frequencies, uses of meat, and taboos on hunting
3. Sitatunga behavioural ecology information including times most frequently seen and problems between sitatunga and humans
4. Documentation of first hand encounters with sitatunga including time of encounter (year/month/time of day), number and sex of animals sighted, location of sighting, method(s) employed to spot the animal, and activity of animal during observation