



Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary Reopens

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Lovers of Tiwai Island

Compliments of the Season!!!

We are very pleased to inform you all that the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary is once again opening its doors to visitors, effective from December 2020.

Tiwai Island, like many other ecotourism sites in Sierra Leone, was compelled to shut down in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. For more than 7 months, the Island remained closed to all visitors, meaning that, there were no local employment opportunities for the people of Tiwai, or cash revenue generated from visitor fees, during this period. Despite the economic hardship caused by the pandemic, EFA and partners Njala University worked closely with the leaders and community people of Barri and Koya Chiefdoms, to assure maximum security on the island.

Also, during the period of closure, EFA coordinated efforts to conclude the consultative processes, begun in July 2019. This involved hiring independent consultants to facilitate community-level, chiefdom-level and national-level consultations, leading to the development of a Co-Management Plan, for the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary (2020-2030). The Plan was validated at a public gathering of stakeholders from Barri and Koya Chiefdoms, held on the Island on 2nd March 2020. Development of the Co-Management Plan was enabled by a grant from the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Project, through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). EFA would like to extend sincere thanks to its partners and sponsors, especially the Environmental Resources Management Foundation (ERM-F), whose timely support with administrative costs, enabled EFASL to sustain its work on both Tiwai Island and EFA's Biodiversity and Renewable Energy Learning Centre, during these very challenging times.

We look forward to welcoming you on Tiwai Island over the holidays and assure you that all measures have been taken to guarantee your safety and comfort.

