**TOPIC GUIDE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Human Animal Interactions and risk perceptions**

*Remind that the answers are anonymous and mention the objectives of these questions.*

*Red: font: iterative questions.*

1. **Food security**

*Try and have respondent bring up bushmeat without you mentioning it.*

* What kinds of meat are available in this village? Which ones do you eat?
* Has is recently been more or less difficult to buy or find meat? Why?
* Can you rate the different kinds of meat you mentioned by price, availability, taste, importance or other?
* Discuss classification of meat (use local terminology) according to above criteria and health benefits.
* Which animals are healthier?
* Do you appreciate variation in your meat?
* Fish:
  + Is fish a “beef” (i.e. same category as other beef)?
  + Accessibility and price of fish in remote areas?
* Do animals destroy your corps? How much? How often? Which species in particular?

1. **General interactions with animals**

* What kinds of animals do you have in the villages and in the bush?
* How are they called in Mende? *(use photos)*
* Classify animals according to pets, domestics, pests, wildlife, unwanted animals, others (determine local terminology)
* What can you tell me about the types of contact people here have with animals? *Probe* *for* *accidental/unwanted and purposeful/wanted contact.*
* Do children play with them? Do you think they play with them when they are alone in the bush? How do they play with them? How did you play with them when you were young?
* Overall, what is the function/purpose of animals to you? *Differentiate pets, livestock and wild animals*. *Probes for taboo? Pests? Tales? Companionship? Etc.*
* Have these interactions changed since Ebola? How?
* Do you think animals bring advantages to you or you village? Which ones? *Probe for ecosystem services.* What would happen if they were to disappear?
* Explore interactions between domestic and wild animals.
* How do you choose an (animal) totem?

1. **Bushmeat consumers** *(probe for differences pre and post outbreak)*

* Do people here eat bushmeat?
* What are the reasons for eating bushmeat? *Probe for protein, taste, therapeutic etc.*
* How do you source/buy bushmeat?
* How you prepare the meat?
  + Meat cooked rare
  + Bone marrow cooking
  + Testicles
* Which animals do you eat and do not eat and why?
  + Challenge haram meat
* Do you use wild animals for anything else? Any particular species? *Probe for therapeutic use, totemic bans etc., fish bait.*
* What does bushmeat evoke to you before Ebola? After Ebola?
* Animals found dead:
  + Do you eat animals found dead? *Probe for if found fresh.*
  + Is there a difference in preparation, taste?
* If there was less bushmeat, with what would you replace it with? How will this affect you? *Probe for health, savings, status.*

1. **For people who hunt or trap** *(probe for differences pre and post outbreak)*

* Can you describe the process of hunting/trapping?
  + How do you hunt?
  + What kind of traps do you use? What is their name?
  + Do you sell or eat what you catch? With with whom, where do you prepare and eat them?
  + What species do you catch?
  + What is your income derived from selling bushmeat (also for trappers)?
* Determine frequency of hunting and consumption.
* Per month, how much time do you spend hunting?
* Is hunting seasonal?
* Organization of hunting: sex, age, number of people involved for all types of hunting techniques.
* Are the modes of hunting/consumption different for different categories (sex, age, etc.)?
* Is it acceptable to leave an animal found dead in the bush? *Probe for if found fresh.*
* Explore meat as patronage. Who is it shared with when caught? Do you need to ask for permission hen asking large game?
* Do Muslims have to catch animals live to deliver a prayer (i.e. use of traps)?
* Will you go out of your way to hunt a particular animal?
* Are you scared of any animals? Why?
* Which animals to do you take home or eat in the bush?
* Resume hunting now since end of EVD. Has anything changed?
  + Do you eat more rat (not always considered bushmeat)
* Women
* How do you hunt?
* Who taught you?
* If so, do you take the role of the man (*e.g. for brining in money, farming, house repair*)?
* Do you teach hunting to girls?
* Are you ashamed or mocked for hunting by other women and other men?
* Dogs

Who owns dogs, how they get them, from what age they raise them, what is the training process, where do they sleep, how they are treated?

* What are they used for?
* What are they fed? Do they hunt alone and scavenge?
* What is the importance of hunting for you?
* What makes a hunter (from their and his perspective)?
  + What is their status and standing in the community?
  + What is a hunter (?) What are the differences between gun and trap and dog hunters?
  + What makes a good hunter?
  + How do I become one? What does it take to become one?
  + What do you admire in them?
* Is hunting a responsibility in the household (household duty)? What happens if the person does not do it? Who gives the order for hunting? Who is responsible for providing ndahain?
* Repeat questions for fishing.
* How is fishing complimented with hunting?
* Magic hunting
* What makes a hunter a “magic” hunter?
* Use of traps, differences between non-magic hunting
* Taboos?
* Relationship with the blacksmith (debt?)
* Relationship with women?

1. **For retailers**

* What species do you sell?
* At what price?
* Who do you sell to? What species? What percentage? Can you make a diagram of the (value) chain?
* Have you noticed a recent change in demand and supply? Probe for ice fish, cow meat: increased sales?
* Do you transform your products? In what way? Do you handle it raw?
* What has changed for you since the outbreak?

1. **Knowledge on EVD**

* Do you know any diseases that can be transmited by animals?
* How do you understand the risk of Ebola from animals?
  + What species can transmit Ebola?
  + What type of contact is required between humans and animals for infection to happen?
  + Can dead animals give you disease? Ebola?
* What messages have you been told about Ebola and animals? Do you believe them? If not, why? *Probe for origin of rumours, including related to conservation and national parks.*
* Messaging
  + What was the sensitization message about Ebola and animals? *Probe for fruit and animals.*
  + How did the message affect your daily actions?
  + Did you notice a change in the messaging you describe?
  + How did that change affect you? What did you think of it?
  + Tell me about the origin of EVD in Sierra Leone.
* How do you determine whether an animal is edible?
  + Has your definition of an edible animal changed since Ebola?
* How do you tell which species are free from disease, i.e. which ones can you eat or not?
* Once Ebola is declared over by the government, will you return to bushmeat consumption?
* What precautions do you take when touching wildlife? Have you changed your habits since Ebola?
* What do you think of the ban on more animals forbidden to eat since Lassa fever and rats?
* Perception of eating animals during EVD:
* How do you view someone who eats bushmeat?
* How do you think I view these people?
* Who in this town do you think eats animals?
* Rule of law
* What was the ban exactly? *Probe for hunting, eating, selling*
* What were the consequences of being caught?
* Who enforced the ban? *Probe for army, chief, police, citizens.*
* Was it enforced? By whom? *Enquire about efficiency of roadblocks.*
* Was it respected? *Enquire for new opportunities for corruption.*
* Soldiers: do they respect the law? Do they hunt with guns? Are they stopped at police checks?

1. **Ecosystem services**

* Do you think animals bring advantages? Which ones? *Probe for ecosystem services. Start with domestic animals then wild animals.*
* Probe more for role of bats: do they have any value besides being a source of protein?
* Social importance of forest products. *Probe for reinforce personal relations, enjoyment, privacy for social activities e.g. during hunting.*
* Explore if nature is viewed as something to exploit: is it viewed solely as an economic resource? Challenge answer with medicine obtained from forest and use of ceremonial bush.
  + What would happen if wild animals or the forest would disappear?
* Explore if there is an arrangement for natural resource use (e.g. hunting on farmland)?
* Do you show remorse at killing certain animals?

1. **Feedback**

* What did you think of this interview?
* Do you have any questions for me?
* Do you know someone who would be interested to talk to me about these subjects?

1. **Research action**

* What would you see as the best strategies to reduce the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans?
* What is your opinion on raising awareness about this issue?

1. **Personnel data**

* Profession
* Age
* Sex
* Martial status, n° of children
* Ethnic group
* Religion