**CONSENT FORM**

**Human-Animal Interactions and Risk Perceptions**

**Project Summary**

The aim of this study is to understand a bit more about how and where you come into contact with animals.

In particular, we wish to investigate how the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak has changed the relationship between humans and the natural environment (the “bush”) and to what extent alternative interactions have emerged between people, animals, and the environment. The aim is to be able to develop recommendations to prevent future outbreaks arising from wild animals and how current containment messages can be transferred to a preparedness strategy against future epidemics.

There are no benefits in taking part of this study, but we hope that this information will help us to better understand possible diseases spread by animals.

**Contact Details**

For further information about the research or your interview data, please contact:

Dr. Ann H. KELLY; Department of Sociology, Philosophy, and Anthropology; University of Exeter; Exeter EX4 4RJ; UK Tel: +44 1392 263353; Email: [a.h.kelly@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.h.kelly@exeter.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about the project, you can contact Rashid Ansumana (+232 76 683 832) or Jesse Bonwitt (+232 76 991 024).

**Information and consent form:**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am doing research for Durham University in the United Kingdom. This project is publicly funded by the United Kingdom’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is conducted in collaboration with Mercy Hospital Research Laboratory.

**Participation**

If you agree to participate, we would like to invite you to participate in an interview/survey/group discussion. Your participation, and that of your child is entirely voluntary and you can choose to quit the study whenever you want without any consequences. If you do not like any question you do not have to answer them. There are no risks associated with participating or not participating. There are no correct or incorrect answers, we am just interested in knowing what you think and do, and please share anything that you might find interesting.

**Confidentiality**

Interview recordings and transcripts will be held in confidence. They will not be used for purposes other than for the objectives explained above. Everything you say will be kept absolutely private and we will not tell anyone that you participated in this study. We will not use your names or village names in the final report. Third parties will not be allowed access to them (except as may be required by the law), though they will be transcribed by professional transcriptions services. Your data will be held in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act and according to Sierra Leones Ethical Protocols. Recordings will be stored for a maximum of two years after the completion of the project, in order to ensure that that are used as much as possible but without unnecessarily storing information.

**Anonymity**

Interview data will be held and used in publications and presentation on a basis of your choosing. Please indicate if you would prefer:

[ ] *Open disclosure*: Name and organisation affiliation given

[ ] *Partial anonymity*: No mention of your name, but we will refer to the organisations of which you are a member.

[ ] *Full anonymity*: No name or organisation specified

[ ] *Other:* (please specify)

If you are still happy to participate in this study, can you please confirm that:

1. “My questions concerning this study have been answered by ...............................”
2. “I have understood the verbal explanation of this study and I understand what will be required of me/my child and what will happen to me if I/my child take part in it”
3. “I understand that at any time I/my child may withdraw from this study without giving a reason and without affecting my normal care and management”
4. “I agree to take part in this study or give consent for my child to take part in it”
5. “I agree for myself/my child to be photographed during manipulation of wild animals only in a way that cannot identify him or her” (cross out if you prefer not to).

Name (printed) Signature or thumbprint Date