

Appendix 2: Transect site descriptions

Location	Soil	Site Description and History	#Transects
Bacurtazi	AfDE	It is claimed that Bacurtazi was established when a woman from the Delema quarter married a man from Zolowo. Delema people had been farming in the Bacurtazi area before the town was established, and the man from Zolowo decided to found the village in this area. Bacurtazi was abandoned within living memory, and its inhabitants then moved to a new spot nearby which, after being a village for decades, is now reduced to four farm kitchens after being destroyed during the war.	5
Baema	Oxisols	This is an area of secondary forest 45-55 years in age. The reason for such a distance to Wenwuta is that this was identified by elders as the 'oldest' forest within a day's walk from Wenwuta. However, upon inspection Diabate concluded it was younger than the Wotizi forests close to Wenwuta. Even in this sparsely populated area we found mature Kola trees in the secondary forest.	3
Dadazu	AfDE	This the oldspot for the current village of Dadazu	2
Delema	AfDE	Delema is actually now under the authority of the chief of a nearby village, Karwalawuta. Delema had been haunted by an evil spirit and therefore Wenwuta people avoided the areas. The chief's father, who had been living in Monrovia, gained access to the old spot by marrying a woman from Wenwuta, and then sought permission to plant cacao, kola, coffee, banana and orange trees there	5
Doyahou	Oxisols	This is an area of secondary forest 50-60 years in age	5
Famene	AfDE	Famene belonging to a different ethno-linguistic group, the Barlain-Kpelle that inhabited the area prior to the arrival of the Loma and therefore so ancient as to have been long abandoned even in oral histories. Famene, meaning "hear-hear" in Kpelle (Memene in Loma) (Figure 3) was named as a place where people from around the region met and discussed issues.	5
Gbokolomie	AfDE	This is the oldspot for the current village of Gbokolomie	2
Kpazaquelle	AfDE	This is an oldspot belonging to the town of Tinsue. It has a single male owner resident in this town.	3
Wenwuta Old Spot	AfDE	This is the oldspot for Wenwuta. Wenwuta is dated to 1670-1682, implying this site is long abandoned. Oral histories also contradict. There was no consensus as to whether this was Wenwuta oldspot, or the oldspot of Duala, the founding quarter of Wenwuta. Also, it is not clear whether this site was abandoned and re-occupied or simply abandoned	1
Wotizi 1	Oxisols	Secondary forest, age 55-65 years	7
Wotizi 2	Oxisols	Secondary forest, age 55-65 years	6
Zaioba	AfDE	This is the oldspot for the village of Zaioba	3
Zelema	AfDE	This is the oldspot for Zelema quarter of Wenwuta	2