

**US Forest Service and
US Agency for International Development/Ghana**

Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan

Implementation Period:
October 2017 – September 2018



USFS Contacts:

Steve Dennison, Project Director
Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project, Takoradi
(+233) 26-398-2961; director@cslp-gh.org

Adam Welti, Africa Program Specialist
International Programs, US Forest Service, Washington, D.C.
(+1) 202-644-4568; adamjweli@fs.fed.us

Cover photo: Climate Change Club students from Akwidaa Junior High School (Ahanta West District) in a procession celebrating World Environment Day 2107. Photo: CSLP, R. Adupong

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	iv
Background and Introduction	1
Strategy for the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project	2
Planned Project Activities by Output.....	5
Livelihood Strengthening and Improved NRM through Small Grants.....	13
Cooperation and Coordination with Other Donor-Funded Programs.....	14
Other Activities	17
Institutionalizing CSLP Efforts for Sustainability	18
CSLP Project Targets	19
Program Management.....	21
Environmental Monitoring and Compliance	22
Estimated Budget by USAID PAPA Reporting Category, Year 5	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Annexes.....	23
Annex A. CSLP Revised Logical Framework.....	23
Annex B. CSLP Indicators.....	25
Annex C. CSLP Year Five Work Plan Summary Table.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agroforestry and Other Land Uses
BMP	Best Management Practice(s)
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAs	Community Assistants
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resources Management Association
CRMC	Community Resources Management Committee
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
DA	District Assembly/ies
DfID	Department for International Development
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FCMCBSP	Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project
FCMP	Fisheries and Coastal Management Program
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Services Division (of the Forestry Commission)
FTF/FtF	Feed the Future (a USAID global program)
FY	Fiscal (or Financial) Year
GAW	Greater Amanzule Wetland
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHG	Green House Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOG/GoG	Government of Ghana
GREL	Ghana Rubber Estates, Limited (private company)
GSCD	Ghana Supply Chain Development Project
ICFG	Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Management Project
IEC	Informational, Educational and Communication (materials)
IP	International Programs (of the USFS)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Result
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LoP	Life of Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METSS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NBSSI	National Board of Small Scale Industries
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PAPA	Participating Agency Program Agreement
PMP	Performance Management Plan

RMSC	Resources Management Service Center
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SL	Sustainable Landscapes
SLMP	Sustainable Landscapes Management Program
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
STCR	Shade Tree Cover Restoration
TPCD	Town and Country Planning Department
UCC	University of Cape Coast
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USG	United States Government
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WD	Wildlife Division (of the Forestry Commission)
WR	Western Region
WRCF	Western Region Coastal Foundation

Background and Introduction

Ghana's Western Region is one of the fastest growing areas of the country. Even though oil prices remain low and the growth rate of national economy is almost stagnant, the six coastal districts of the region continue to grow, especially spurred by private sector growth. This, coupled with a high population growth rate, makes competing pressures for land, particularly in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Area (STMA) and Shama and Ahanta West District extreme. Demand for conversion of forests to agriculture, cash crop development, harvesting of mangroves and other forest species for charcoal and timber production, artisanal mining and urban development all pose significant threats to forests in this region. High unemployment rates compound these pressures, exacerbating unsustainable natural resource management practices and reducing ecosystem services provided by the region's forests.

Most land in the Western Region, outside forest reserves and other protected areas, has been deforested and converted to agriculture. The current situation is one of urgency—to find ways of taking pressure off the remaining reserves and to improve livelihoods and land management outside the reserves. Coupled with the human pressures on the landscape, a warming climate caused by increased atmospheric carbon dioxide also poses significant risk to the landscape increasing shocks and stresses to already fragile systems and livelihoods. In addition to increased temperatures, climate change is associated with jet stream fluctuations causing irregular, more extreme, and unusual weather patterns and events. Changing rainfall patterns and amounts can mean droughts in some areas and floods in others. Changing phenology, distributions of plant species, and rising sea levels are some of the potential adverse impacts on the region from climate change.

The US Forest Service, under an inter-agency partnership agreement with USAID/Ghana, manages the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). Operating in the six coastal districts of Ghana's resource-rich Western Region, CSLP activities target landscape level engagement with communities, non-governmental organizations, Government of Ghana agencies, the private sector, and international partners. The project's geographic area includes districts from the Cote d'Ivoire border eastward through the Greater Amanzule wetlands complex, Cape Three Points, the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Area (STMA) and east to the Central Region border.

The CSLP responds to the USAID Sustainable Landscapes (SL) Results Framework by focusing on Strategic Objective 1: *Accelerate the transition to low emission development through investments in clean energy and sustainable landscapes*. The SL interventions will support the second development objective of ensuring sustainable and broadly shared economic growth in Ghana under the USAID/Ghana Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS). The overall objective of the strategy is to support the Government of Ghana in realizing its goal of becoming an established middle-income country by 2022.

Ghana has seen numerous interventions related to forest conservation in the past, many with only limited success. CSLP's primary activities are focused on community-level interactions that work to achieve low emissions development goals. One key component to the CSLP strategy is the application of a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model—a social entrepreneurial concept that has already enjoyed much success in Ghana. It is employed by the CSLP as a novel vehicle to help incentivize activities that maintain and increase forest cover with native and existing tree species. The project's activities have been

established within communities where there is an existing and functioning community governance body such as a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) or similar entity. This history of community collaboration provides an entry point to develop a community's capacity to launch their own VSLA and oversee loans to community members. The CSLP is applying the VSLA concept to provide incentives for farmers and landowners to incorporate more indigenous species of trees on their land while helping provide seed funding for a revolving funding mechanism to work towards improved livelihoods.

The CSLP is helping to demonstrate and transfer effective agroforestry and reforestation methods (technology and practices) to restore native ecosystems. Taken together within these farming communities, these efforts will diversify and improve livelihoods, promote better land management of existing resources, help to improve soil fertility, build resilience to shocks and stresses, and increase carbon stocks. Moreover, improved land management and livelihoods will reduce pressure on intact areas of forest reserve, protecting their biodiversity, allowing for ecotourism opportunities and enhancing the value of other ecosystem services within the value chains of the local communities.

The expected outcomes of the project include:

- Increased incomes from livelihood diversification; and,
- Improved environment and natural resource management.

Strategy for the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

Designed with inputs, expertise, guidance and consultation of USAID, US Forest Service, Government of Ghana counterparts, partner USAID-funded projects, communities and local and international NGOs, the CSLP drew heavily upon the successes of the Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Governance Project (ICFG) managed by the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center (CRC). USAID/Ghana has developed its current Fisheries and Coastal Management Program (FCMP) into three distinct components including a terrestrial and marine component as well as a research and policy arm. The CSLP project has leveraged the coastal work started by ICFG and expanded into wider coastal forest and wetland landscape areas of the six districts as part of the new FCMP.

To confront these growing threats mentioned above, the CSLP is working to improve carbon sequestration, forest management, and livelihoods in the six coastal districts. The overall goal of the project is to *promote low emissions development in Ghana's Western Region by strengthening community-based natural resource management and monitoring*. The project focuses on the coastal landscape, including mangroves, other wetlands, and forests and agricultural areas (within and outside protected areas), all of which are managed under a diversity of land tenure regimes.

In the project's first year, the CSLP team completed an initial analysis of potential partnership communities across the six coastal districts¹. That assessment provided a foundation for the activities started by June 2014 and solidified in years two (FY2015) and three (FY2016) of the project. In year four (FY2017), the funding source switched to the Feed the Future initiative. In turn, activities also began to emphasize food security issues and

¹ USFS-IP and USAID/Ghana. 2014. Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project Fiscal Year 2014 Work Plan. Takoradi, CSLP. 31p.

provided a lens for farmers to look at their activities as a small business. Overall, the CSLP’s technical strategy works to provide benefits quickly in the selected communities in order for them to serve as demonstration and experience bases for engaging additional members of the communities, reinforcing the practices and also as a basis for engagement with a limited number of new communities. *A primary focus of the project’s actions is that of changing behaviors linked to better natural resources management (NRM) in the communities where it operates.* The initial core group of 42 communities where the CSLP offers its support are shown in Figure 1, but project actions of one sort or another have reached more than 70 communities as of the end of FY2017.

Figure 1. The six coastal districts of the CSLP area and core intervention communities



Road infrastructure in the region is poor, and communication technology weak, and together present daily challenges for accomplishing project goals. The technical team has embraced the lessons learned from the initial years of the project and it will continue to learn and apply these in FY2018, the fifth year of the project.

FY2017 enjoyed continued success with a number of activities, notably with positive stakeholder engagement, and plans for FY2018 include reinforcing these and building on the lessons and progress that the project obtained. Examples of these focal activities include:

- Ensuring functionality of VSLAs in target communities and establishing critical links with natural resources management activities within communities;
- Promoting a wider adoption of diversified livelihood activities, especially with those seen as key growth opportunities in the six coastal districts: beekeeping, enhanced charcoal

production from planted species, and vegetable production from resilient agricultural practices for community and regional consumption;

- Continuing local and regional training tours with CSLP-registered farmers and district government extension agents to view and discuss successful agroforestry and livelihood actions in nearby districts and communities;
- Building a more thorough understanding of the existing carbon stocks that exist in wetland areas and their management options across the six districts based on experiences and lessons learned from similar ecosystems in other parts of the world;
- Facilitating establishment of recognized and functioning local governance units that can be responsible for managing the natural wetland resources of the Greater Amanzule Wetland Area according to internationally accepted standards and norms;
- Facilitating work with the GAW communities (and districts) to inventory and map their wetland resources providing them with better information and tools to enhance and manage their unique resources;
- Increasing the knowledge of youth via support to climate change clubs in the CSLP operational area about the importance of the conservation/management of natural resources and how they and their parents can become more climate resilient in the face of changes already becoming evident in their communities;
- Systematically monitoring and collecting data related to each of the CSLP activities into a database that can also serve as a resource for other regions in Ghana;
- Integrating and using CSLP generated data, information and knowledge in district assembly planning and hands-on services to local communities; and,
- Strategic cooperation and planning with other components of USAID/Ghana's Fisheries and Coastal Management Program (the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, SFMP, and the Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project at the University of Cape Coast, FCMCBSP).

To help ensure the sustainability of the activities being promoted, to help build the capacity of local authorities (both traditional and governmental) in supporting and planning actions in local communities, and to promote climate change adaptation, the CSLP spends considerable effort engaging traditional authorities and regional and local government services. Previous annual progress reports have cited that this strategy has been beneficial in bringing important benefits to both the project's outcomes and to the communities where it works. Successes and challenges for the CSLP are discussed in each of the project's annual reports filed at the end of each fiscal year. This strategy will continue as the project enters its fifth year. These can be accessed through USAID/Ghana and at the CSLP office in Takoradi.

The CSLP, Phase 2. It was noted above that FY2017 brought several notable changes that have impacted the scope and the emphasis of activities. Most significant among these is the funding source. For this current three-year phase, the project is receiving its funding from the US Government's Feed the Future Initiative through the PAPA mechanism between USAID/Ghana and USFS. There is now a broader focus on diversifying/reinforcing activities aimed at increasing food self-sufficiency, a definitive emphasis on farms as small businesses, and a continued effort to diversify local livelihoods to improve food security for households and communities. Even with these changes, the CSLP continues to work to improve the resilience of communities to the shocks and stresses of climate impacts and encourage the adoption of practices that enhance agricultural resilience and to strengthen community and government efforts for conservation and NRM, especially in the wetlands and forest reserve buffer areas of the Western Region.

Beginning in FY2017, the CSLP activities were consolidated under two main output areas: *Increased incomes from livelihood diversification* and *Improved environment and natural resources management*. These outputs still reside under USAID Ghana's Development Objective 2: Sustainable and Broadly Shared Economic Growth. Annex A provides a graphical look at how the CSLP fits under this revised logical framework.

To better monitor project impacts and to provide reporting to the Feed the Future, the CSLP also tracks five indicators linked to project outputs under that initiative in addition to the six monitored in the first phase of the project. Annex B provides a list of these indicators, plus four custom indicators that are monitored and reported annually.

Planned Project Activities by Output

The FY2018 Work Plan builds significantly on the experiences, results and lessons learned in the first phase of the project. It continues to integrate the participation of regional and district-level government stakeholders, traditional authorities, and the project's primary grantee, Hen Mpoano. In FY2017, more farmers were requesting participation in the CSLP activities, evidence that early adopter farmers are beginning to influence their peers in the communities where the project is engaged. Over the next two years of the project, emphasis will be placed on ensuring that the core group of engaged farmers continue to be mentored through hands on trainings. In addition, newer farmers will have opportunities to receive the basic best practice trainings so that the scaling up progresses within the communities and potentially in communities beyond which the project currently interacts.

Similarly, the project's traditional, regional and district stakeholders have taken note of the CSLP's impacts and at quarterly meetings and updates have looked for ways to sustain and scale up these impacts. The project recognizes that basic best practices still need to be reinforced across many district level institutions to support the behavior change and cultural practices that are taking root in the communities. In FY2017, CSLP staff are planning to devote more time with MoFA, NBSSI/BAC, GES, TCPD technical and extension staff in Training of Trainer sessions and hands-on field trainings in activities under both Output 1 and Output 2.

CSLP outputs and the associated activities planned for the fifth year of the project are presented here. The Work Plan Summary is presented at the back of this document as Annex C. It outlines sub-activities and tasks within each of the main activity areas, the related CSLP indicators, a general timeline for each task, the support staff responsible for the task, main partners in the activity and the main deliverables linked to the task. It is the details provided in this summary that guide the CSLP in their monthly and quarterly reviews and planning exercises.

Output 1: Increased Incomes from Livelihood Diversification

Activities linked to this output seek to improve food security at the community level, reduce farmer risk to economic hazards and natural shocks by diversifying livelihoods, and help farmers and communities to tap into existing and new economic opportunities. Much of this knowledge transfer is completed through hands-on demonstrations, study tours, and training activities for simple, relatively low-input (and low carbon emissions) technologies that farmers can employ and adapt to diversify their livelihoods.

The four main activity areas under Output 1 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Activity areas within CSLP Output 1

Activity	Description
1.1	Intensified and diversified environmentally resilient land use technologies adopted by beneficiaries
1.2	Natural resources value chains improved
1.3	Economic opportunities increased
1.4	Capacities enhanced for diversified livelihoods

Intensified and diversified environmentally resilient land use technologies adopted by beneficiaries. Two main sub-activities are planned for FY2018 under Activity 1.1. The first continues and reinforces work started in the previous year with charcoal producer associations in Shama District and the two pilot mobile kilns. It also includes marketing training alongside staff from the district assemblies to develop the association’s basic marketing skills for their product.

The second sub-activity will engage farmers who have formed the 18 enterprise groups last year and reinforce their skills through hands-on trainings and coaching in their use of resilient agricultural practices for vegetable production. The Ministry of Agriculture agents, grantee Hen Mpoano and collaborator, WRCF, will also participate in these trainings. Project staff will also continue to monitor demo farms established with project support and used as resource sites and for practical hands-on trainings with other farmers in the communities.

A guidelines handbook on best resilient agricultural practices is also being prepared and will be distributed to agriculture enterprise group members. The handbook relies significantly on pictures and graphics and is intended as a reference document for farmers producing organic vegetable crops.

Natural resources value chains improved. For the coming year the sub-activities under this activity category will consolidate and build on the beekeeping and apiary actions initiated in previous years. A training tour, a field-based training on best practices and apiary management, a hands-on honey harvest and processing training and a training covering basic marketing skills are all planned to improve beekeepers’ capacities in apiary management and marketing of honey. A separate apiary management Training of Trainers (ToT) for DoFA extension agents is also scheduled for mid-year.

Cocoa tree crop farmers in Jomoro and Ellembelle Districts are heavy users of pesticides and herbicides. Because many of these farmers are also engaged in CSLP activities, the project aims to promote the adoption of environmentally sound farming practices for these cocoa farmers. After developing and producing a simple environmental mitigation/management leaflet for cocoa farmers, MoFA extension agents, COCOBOD CHED staff, and up to 150 farmers will be trained in the use of basic environmentally sound farming practices. Monitoring of the trained farmers will also be done following the training.

Another sub-activity area for FY2018, is aimed at improving producer farmers’ knowledge about the area’s agriculture value chain and potential buyers of organic vegetables and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). CSLP staff will first establish a list of local buyers of organic produce and share these with farmer enterprise groups. A training tour for the enterprise group champions to visit these buyers is planned to help the farmers better

understand what products are being purchased, when they are buying and if there are any particular standards that they follow when purchasing local produce. Finally, two trainings are planned for the farmer enterprise groups to build their networking and market linkage capacities and skills for engagement. Local market queens, hoteliers and private sector buyers will also be invited to participate in these trainings.

Economic opportunities increased. There are two broad focal areas under this activity and each will encompass several sub-activities for FY2018. The first includes plans to facilitate the formation and training of up to 10 new VSLAs before the end of the year. Hen Mpoano, a CSLP grantee, is also planning on adding five additional VSLAs through its grant activities (see discussion below), making a total of 15 new savings groups planned for the year. Building on previous experience, these newly formed associations will also serve as platforms for other trainings, such basic record keeping, by the CSLP staff and as a means of increasing awareness about associated natural resource management related trainings and technologies available to the VSLA members.

A refresher training for 29 Village Agents supported by the project will also be conducted. Village agents help monitor and support existing VSLA activities and are viewed as an important mechanism that will help build the sustainability of the associations once project support comes to an end. As FY2017 closes, the CSLP is supporting 35 VSLAs—each having contributed to increased economic activity in their respective communities.

Working with district level Business Advisory Centers (under the regional National Board for Small Scale Industries, NBSSI) and the local NGO, Dassgift Foundation, pilot literacy and numeracy trainings are planned with two mature (in existence 1-2 years) VSLAs. If these prove successful, up to 10 additional VSLAs will receive similar trainings this year as means of increasing literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for increasing business and management skills for VSLA members.

The VSLAs will also serve as platforms for other trainings in FY2018. These include record keeping, experience and lessons learned exchange visits, and financial institution education training. The CSLP also expects other activities to be identified by the gender strategy that will be developed early in the year (see discussion below). A livelihoods baseline survey of 100 VSLA members supported by the CSLP was conducted last year through cooperation with the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. It is expected that the results from that survey will also indicate other gaps that CSLP staff can address through its support to these savings groups.

One other sub-activity training being planned for the year is closely aligned with the value chain awareness training mentioned above. In this instance, the enterprise groups will increase their understanding of the importance and value of producing vegetable crops to meet minimum criteria established by buyers of their products. When farmers work to produce to these standards, prices paid at the market are apt to be higher. The CSLP staff, in conjunction with NBSSI/BACs, will work with the enterprise groups to liaise with service providers, establish linkages across districts to improve production and adapt to more refined markets.

Capacities enhanced for diversified livelihoods. Following a rapid assessment on NRM-preferred livelihood options last year in 18 communities, mushroom culture and snail rearing were identified as activities that a number of community members wanted to explore with the

CSLP. Trainings that focused on basic technical premises and economics of mushroom production and snail rearing were conducted and about 20 farmers self-selected themselves as wanting to continue to develop their knowledge and skills with these livelihoods. In FY2018, this group will be linked with other service providers, taken on a field study tour to interact with others who are successfully engaged in these practices and provided with technical advice and coaching by the CSLP staff. Financial support options will also be explored through leveraging of loans for those participating in VSLAs.

The basic food security trainings offered by the CSLP last year were very much appreciated, especially by women who are the primary purveyors of food for the family table. A minimum of ten additional trainings are planned for this year. Half of these will be directly with community members, and the other half will be through CSLP-establish science and climate change clubs and aimed at the community's youth to increase knowledge amongst young people especially considering the increasing age of many of Ghana's farmers and the need for increasing awareness amongst young people as to agricultural opportunities.

One other sub-activity aimed at enhancing capacities in livelihoods, is one geared to empowering women as effective entrepreneurs and leaders for developing and managing apiary enterprises. Women already managing apiaries, as well as those desiring to get started with such an enterprise, will be brought together for a series of training activities. First, will be an exchange and field visit with women entrepreneur champions, primarily current beekeepers. A training module will then be designed using the information collected in the field visits that will specifically address what skills and knowledge women apiary entrepreneurs will need to acquire to be successful. Subsequently, a training workshop for up to 30 women will be implemented to increase interest and adoption of beekeeping enterprises amongst women farmers. Queen mothers in the communities will also be encouraged to be a part of this training exercise, as well other female mentors.

Output 2: Improved Environment and Natural Resource Management

Activities under Output 2 seek to develop best practices with farmers, community members and district-level partners for forestry and agroforestry as well as developing more sustainable options for co-management and monitoring of wetland and mangrove landscapes in the project area. The implementation of these practices and the experiences gained from doing so can help stakeholders be more aware of community and district issues that thwart their application. With this perspective and these experiences, the CSLP can also contribute to regional and national dialogues that will strengthen NRM in the country.

Closely linked to these environmental concerns are activities that contribute to, and detract from, carbon and other climate-altering greenhouse gases being sequestered in the project's geographical area. Throughout its implementation, the CSLP has helped to build more awareness of these issues and this will continue in the next two years of the project. All of the project's activities are designed with low greenhouse gas emissions strategies in mind. In FY2018, the project will also continue to focus on increased resiliency and adaptation to climatic events through community engagement and with the increased support of the district assemblies. In FY2017, a number of districts regularly approached the CSLP to enquire about activities that the project was undertaking linked to environmental resilience, conservation agriculture and community adaptation to changes in weather including flooding and the like.

The four main activity areas under Output 2 are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Activity areas within CSLP Output 2

Activity	Description
2.1	Forestry and agroforestry interventions developed and practiced
2.2	Carbon sequestration improved and effectively monitored
2.3	Stakeholder coordination strengthened
2.4	Capacities increased in environmental resilience and natural resources management

Forestry and agroforestry interventions developed and practiced. In FY2018, the CSLP plans to continue to build on its experiences and lessons learned with communities in the landscapes of the six coastal districts. During the previous two years, the project has collaborated and worked with Ghana’s COCOBOD. One sub-activity is aimed at increasing the number of cocoa farmers successfully planting and nurturing shade trees on their farms. The district COCOBOD offices have asked the CSLP to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will allow them to formally include the relationship and its results in their planning and reporting efforts to the national office. The CSLP will also use a training of trainers (ToT) approach with 15 of their field staff on the restoration of shade trees on cocoa farms. In a related training, the CSLP and the COCOBOD staff will conduct new and follow-on trainings with about 100 farmers. Other farmers will be selected to participate in a training visit to agroforestry sites similar to the very successful effort that the project led two years ago. This will allow farmers to see the results of well-established shade tree cover restoration (STCR) efforts and to discuss the impacts of implementing agroforestry best practices.

The highly urban Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) has expressed new interest in efforts to improve urban forestry. New leadership within the STMA including within critical departments such as Town and Country Planning and the Urban Roads Department in FY2017, has resulted in fresh requests for technical assistance from the CSLP. With definite champions in place for FY2018 the project will continue its advisory role to the STMA in quarterly meetings and site visits that previously proved unfruitful. This will include assisting with species selection, nursery establishment, and management strategies for urban tree plantings to increase tree cover throughout the urban area that will result in improved air quality, reduced urban water runoff and increased sequestration of carbon.

Monitoring of plantings established within the STMA will also become part of the periodic process that the CSLP follows for all tree planting efforts. Regular visits are made to communities where CSLP-supported plantings have occurred, both in communities on farms and in public areas such as schoolyards. Mentoring and coaching of those responsible for the trees is done at the time of these regular monitoring visits. The overall survival rate by site is noted in the project’s M&E database.

The last annual work plan reported on the CSLP’s advisory role in helping to provide on-the-ground perspectives for the joint effort of the Forestry Commission, the COCOBOD, the UN and others to bolster the idea of a secure tree tenure arrangement for Ghana. The project also committed itself to helping the Forest Services Division (FSD) in the Western Region roll out the registration of planted trees on farms. Unfortunately, this process has stalled and no on the ground progress has yet been seen. A formal tree registration document was prepared and generally agreed to, but it is yet to be field-tested. For FY2018, the CSLP remains ready to

assist the FSD and RMSC in furthering the effort to register trees and the project will continue to communicate with FSD and partners as to how the team can best support field testing of the process. Farmers assisted by the project in tree planting, farmer-managed natural regeneration and implementing agroforestry best practices all have a vital stake in this process. Being able to realize the benefits from trees that the farmers plant or nurture is the ultimate incentive for the success of community-level forestry.

Carbon sequestration improved and effectively monitored. In FY2016, the CSLP began using a standardized method for estimating sequestered carbon in the landscape cover types/land uses in order to provide accurate data as to how project efforts maintained or increased carbon sequestration. Based on a thorough methodology developed by Ghana's Agroforestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) team, the method uses multipliers developed from stratified destructive sampling across the country's major climatic zones. The project applies the multipliers to areas it measures and maps by land use/land cover type to determine the baseline estimate of sequestered CO₂ equivalent (CO_{2e}) in metric tons for the measured area. Each time a project activity is adopted by a CSLP-registered farmer, his/her farm area with that practice is measured for its area and the CO₂ sequestered is determined using the standard calculation. The farm continues to be monitored throughout the project to ensure that the conservation practice continues and the carbon remains effectively sequestered.

In FY2018, the carbon stocks of CSLP-enlisted farmers and farms will continue to be measured, reported by community and district, and monitored. District planners, as well as selected farmers, will continue to be trained in the methodology and monitoring.

Tree planting and conscious conservation of wetlands, fallow sites and secondary forests constitute some of the best practices for ensuring carbon emissions are avoided and ensuring that more is sequestered over time. The CSLP will continue to build its database of such areas through FY2018 (and beyond). These data, which can be used by district planners in delineating and describing important conservation areas and actions, will continue to be shared regularly with planners as they implement their medium term development plans (MTDPs). The CSLP staff will work to develop basic strategies in FY2018 to help district specialists incorporate land use and land cover (LULC) data in their MTDPs to both identify these areas spatially and also to assign environmental risk indices to assist with planning and development in the district.

Stakeholder coordination strengthened. The CSLP has been successful in its efforts to work and coordinate with partners and stakeholders through quarterly update meetings with traditional authorities and the district assemblies. The project recognizes that its regular encounters with traditional authorities, district assemblies and the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) is critical for the sustainability of the tasks being undertaken, and is also a major reason for the success of the project to date. Coordination and monitoring events with these partners will continue to figure prominently in FY2018.

These periodic meetings will also be used to check in with district and regional decision makers to ensure that CSLP activities are being captured in the Medium Term Development Plans and also reported on quarterly via the technical departments (MoFA, GES, TCPD, BAC) that the project is interacting with in the field. This information sharing is critical across departments and for ensuring that the successes, and challenges, of these behavior change actions are being noted and lessons learned as a result.

The CSLP Annual Media Day has proved very successful to communicate the objectives, activities and successes of the project for dissemination across the region. There were two instances in the past year when short features about the project were broadcast on national television. This day is dedicated to showcase one or two communities and also provide an in-the-field, interactive experience between the regional stakeholders, CSLP community beneficiaries and the media. Short documentaries have been produced with this event in the past and will also be prepared again this year for use and release by the local media.

Each of these activities helps to strengthen stakeholder awareness and participation with the CSLP and on the important concepts being promoted through the project. These events are further complemented with targeted invitations to specific stakeholders and partners that encourage them to participate in training events germane to their specific areas of interest. MoFA, the Ghana Education Service (GES) and Town and Country Planning Departments have been the most active in the CSLP trainings to date. These invitations are an integral part of each year's training and staff collectively review in monthly planning sessions which departments will receive an event invitation for each month's events. This strong collaboration will be integral to the project again in FY2018.

Capacities increased in environmental resilience and natural resources management.

Awareness about the importance of environmental resilience and mitigating impacts from extreme weather events remains as part of this year's Annual Work Plan. A number of the livelihood activities are specifically oriented around adaptation actions and enhancing resiliency (e.g., conservation agriculture, tree planting, mangrove restoration, and soil conservation).

In FY2018, the CSLP remains committed to the local governance and the on-going co-management planning process already well underway in the GAW through the CSLP's assistance to its grantee Hen Mpoano (additional details are summarized in the next section) and its work with the Wildlife Division.

The project will also continue its management plan development process started two years ago with the Yabiw community in Shama District. It will also continue to support the Wetland Monitoring Program there and also in Akwidaa in Ahanta West. This monitoring program is being led by another USAID-funded project at the UCC's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. More details on this collaboration are described in the section on coordination with other donor funded programs described later in this document.

At the district level, the CSLP will work to increase the spatial planning capacities of various departments. At its most basic level, this includes hands on training with GPS units so that the spatial information can be transferred to the district planners. Last year, the project undertook a district-by-district assessment to clarify specific spatial planning and GIS needs and challenges. A couple of sub-activities will be designed and implemented in response to the results obtained in that assessment exercise. One will include working with TCPDs to provide practical and tailored applications of GIS to technical departments within selected districts. Another will be to develop district level operational guidelines to help sustain basic spatial planning skills. The CSLP will also consult with the UCC's CCM on their lessons learned from providing spatial planning trainings to district personnel as well as other USAID funded initiatives (e.g., the performance audits in the Democracy and Governance Office) that are supporting district assembly capacity efforts in the Western Region (among others).

As the districts develop and refine their new Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs) for the next planning period (2018-2022) they are also acknowledging the CSLP's knowledge and experience on their landscapes. Project staff will work with interested TCPDs to include the CSLP's LULC spatial data in their plans. Where possible, they will also review mapped natural resource attributes and work to integrate environmental resilience and NRM into district spatial planning. This includes organizing and implementing at least two district-level training workshops for selected departments on environmental resiliency risks in their respective districts.

As noted elsewhere in this plan, the CSLP is continuing its support to improve the management, planning and conservation actions in the Greater Amanzule Wetland Area and other coastal wetlands within the six districts largely through its grantee, Hen Mpoano. To complement these activities the CSLP will host an USFS wetland and mangrove specialist with international experience beginning in the first quarter of FY2018. This will provide the project, its grantees, and others engaged in mangrove and coastal wetland activities to share knowledge, exchange lessons learned and perhaps even adapt to, or adopt new best practices in the management of these critical natural resources based on lessons learned globally and in other regions of Africa through other USG funded efforts.

Another sub-activity planned for FY2018, will work in wetland areas of at least two communities to provide increased resilience through replanting (of mangroves) and management of degraded sites. This will entail providing technical advice and logistics to help nurture mangrove seedlings for the community-led restoration activity.

The project will continue in FY2018 to play a catalytic role with the Ghana Education Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Wildlife Division to help build stronger environmental education in the area schools through a formal environmental awareness module on specific topics. Early in the first quarter, a training of trainers activity will be rolled out for at least 100 public school teachers, district by district, focusing on sanitation and environmental impacts.

In a related sub-activity, the CSLP has supported 12 climate change clubs across the six districts to date. Eight more schools will be added in FY2018, continuing the project's efforts to promote environmental education in schools and communities. These school clubs provide platforms to build teacher, student, and parent/community awareness on NRM and environmental resiliency, to promote gender roles in leadership issues and to conduct field trips to learn about environmental issues in their own back yards and across the coastal district landscapes. Three senior high schools will also participate, through their clubs, in establishing demonstration plots for their communities that will provide hands-on opportunities for producing organic vegetables through resilient agriculture practices.

On the district side, the CSLP is planning a sub-activity to help ensure that MoFA extension agent are successful in replicating and monitoring resilient agriculture best practices. Technical advice and logistics will be provided to the agents to monitor lead farmers who have received the CSLP's best practices agriculture resiliency training of trainers (ToT) in their respective areas.

For the past three years, the CSLP has supported the nursing of mangrove seedlings and outplanting them to help restore degraded mangrove areas as requested by local communities. This has been done either directly, or indirectly through its grantee, Hen Mpoano. This will

continue in FY2018, primarily through efforts with Hen Mpoano, where the seedlings are used to restore degraded mangrove areas in the Greater Amanzule Wetland landscape.

The project is planning to organize trainings on NRM for up to 12 CRMCs of the Cape Three Points CREMA in FY2018. The CSLP will also provide logistical support to the Wildlife Division to monitor the NRM practices adopted following the trainings.

To continue raising awareness on environmental issues across the six coastal districts of the Western Region in FY2018, the CSLP will continue its previous practices to capitalize on national and international events. The December Farmer's Day activities and a community-specific action on World Environment Day are also two events that both promote project activities and focus a public eye on the local adoption of key interventions. The CSLP will also support its grantee, Hen Mpoano, to lead an activity in the Greater Amanzule Wetland landscape to raise public and private awareness of that area's resources during World Wetland Day in February.

Livelihood Strengthening and Improved NRM through Small Grants

Since FY2015, the CSLP has been providing grant funding to the local NGO, Hen Mpoano ("Our Coast" in the local language). The initial grant resulted in the development of a community-based model for the conservation and co-management of coastal wetlands and mangroves for what is called the Great Amanzule Wetlands (GAW) area. Two subsequent grants have helped to secure the buy-in to the approach from local communities, traditional authorities, district and regional government decision-makers and the Forestry Commission's Wildlife Division, establish community and district management activities and develop a federated management plan for the area (roughly estimated at 2,000 hectares). This work plan builds on that experience and outlines activities for FY2018 that will continue to contribute to improved NRM and livelihood strengthening within the CSLP landscapes.

Hen Mpoano. The main focus of continued grant funding to the Takoradi-based NGO, Hen Mpoano, in FY2018 will be to strengthen and consolidate the community-driven implementation of management actions. Twenty-five GAW communities are now engaged in this activity (across two districts). These were initially detailed in the management plan framework developed with the second grant in FY2016 for 23 Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) communities within two districts. Specific areas of intervention under the grant for the coming year include:

- Strengthening the governance of communities engaged in wetland conservation actions;
- Completing an inventory of each of the 25 communities' wetland resources including maps detailing area, condition and general use;
- Assisting with the restoration of degraded mangrove areas as prioritized by community conservation committees using three nursery sites established under previous grants;
- Facilitating the addition of five more VSLAs within the GAW area, for a total of 10 established with grant funding following the model developed by the CSLP that includes particular emphasis on conservation issues;
- Striving for greater livelihood diversification and cooperation with government extension agents, the WRCF and private sector corporate social investment interests,

especially with improved varieties of cassava and organic vegetables adapted to GAW soils and growing conditions; and,

- Continuing the close collaboration with the Wildlife Division, traditional authorities and district planners to monitor, improve and adapt the wetland management actions of the communities within the GAW. The long-term goal is national recognition of the GAW as an area of high conservation value and listing it as an international Ramsar site.

Other grant options. The CSLP is also exploring options for additional small grants with other NGOs that operate in the Western Region.

As noted above, emphasis of the project's interactions with farmers will focus more toward helping them develop sound small business practices. The project has already provided some basic training around accounting and record keeping. FY2018 will see a continuation in trainings that focus on helping farmers and VSLAs acquire and improve their skills in these areas.

Early in the new fiscal year, the CSLP will work with another local NGO, Dassgift Foundation, to pilot numeracy and literacy trainings with two mature VSLAs. If successful, the project will work to provide a small grant to the NGO to conduct similar trainings with other project-supported VSLAs and vegetable farmer enterprise groups. The CSLP's experience has demonstrated that many of the community members engaged in these activities would benefit from training in basic numeracy and literacy skills both as vital for increasing literacy rates and for longer term sustainability of business enterprise activities that are heavily reliant upon such skills. The CSLP will draw on the experience and lessons learned from its sister project, the SFMP, which has also partnered with Dassgift Foundation.

MANGROVE, a third Ghana NGO, with experience in mushroom and snail production is one other institution that the CSLP is investigating to possibly assist with community member activities in those domains. A small grant is one possibility, but a short-term technical assistance contract with selected specialists from that organization is likely to be the most effective option and will be explored early in this coming year.

Cooperation and Coordination with Other Donor-Funded Programs

USAID/Ghana supports the CSLP, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) and the Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) under its Fisheries and Coastal Management Program (FCMP). These three sister projects complement one another in several ways and have the coastal zone of Ghana as the most significant geographic area in common. Over the course of the previous year, several collaborative actions and events have been successfully undertaken among the three projects (and with USAID/Ghana). This plan outlines areas where the CSLP will work with its two sister projects in FY2018.

Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project (FCMCBSP). This project, based at the University of Cape Coast's Center for Coastal Management, has developed a number of curricula over the past several years that have benefited practitioners coming from, and operating in, the six coastal districts of the Western Region where the CSLP is present. These include short courses aimed at district assembly technicians among

others that have covered topics on GIS, climate change awareness, adaptation and mitigation, coastal zone management, an aquaculture program for farmers, and a wetland monitoring program that can be applied at the community level. UCC students have also been engaged with carbon stock assessments in mangrove and wetland landscapes similar to where the CSLP works. The FCMCBSP is also working with UCC's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences faculty and students in activities that help improve and promote community livelihood diversification – an area where the CSLP has solid experience and may help to demonstrate lessons learned and provide counsel to that program in the future.

In FY2017, the CSLP collaborated with the CCM and the FCMCBSP to initiate the roll out of its Wetland Monitoring Program. The FCMCBSP also provided small grants to Hen Mpoano and Friends of the Nation (FoN) to engage two coastal communities each to field test the modules of the Wetland Monitoring Program. Under the guidance and instruction of their teachers, junior and senior high school clubs in these communities receive specific trainings through the seven modules from the CCM program. The CSLP already supports climate change and science clubs in two coastal communities (Yabiw in Shama District and Akwidaa in Ahanta West District) and complemented the CCM's roll out of the monitoring program in these communities. In FY2017, two National Service persons supported by the project led the facilitation of these efforts in each community. In FY2018, the CSLP will continue its support to the teachers in the ToT efforts and work with the two communities to help make the program a success. The project has arranged to contract the same individuals to continue the CCM's monitoring work in Yabiw and Akwidaa and also be engaged more broadly in CSLP activities in these and surrounding communities.

In addition to the Wetland Monitoring Program, the CSLP will host field visits for the CCM and FCMCBSP staff and students to observe and exchange information about its livelihood diversification activities such as climate smart agriculture, beekeeping, and agroforestry tree plantings. A specific program will be developed following an introductory field visit.

Basic information was exchanged between the two projects in FY2017 on GIS and climate change trainings and curricula. In FY2018, this will be honed further and with a greater focus on trainings aimed at district-level technicians. A district-by-district assessment completed last year revealed that the spatial planning and GIS use capacity varies considerably and that formal trainings for TCPDs are often voided by normal personnel transfers. The CSLP will consult the CCM's experience to provide more basic, hands-on and tailored trainings for district assembly staff.

Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). The SFMP, as the CSLP's other sister project under USAID/Ghana's FCMP, also has acute interest and overlapping geographic areas of activity in the mangrove and wetland areas of the coastal landscape of the Western Region. Both projects share activities and interests with local NGOs Hen Mpoano and Friends of the Nation. It was noted earlier that the CSLP is also working to develop a formal relationship with Dassgift Foundation, once a SFMP subcontractor. During the past year, several field exchanges have benefited the two projects and the CSLP also provided utilization strategy notes on the SFMP's plans to purchase an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, or drone).

The joint engagement of the UAV technology is the area envisaged for most of the collaboration planned for FY2018. Pre-work plan conversations between the two projects have noted the advantage of both projects supporting the NGO, Hen Mpoano and a mutual

geographic coverage area along the coast. The CSLP's work just mentioned above in Yabiw (the Pra River estuary in Shama District) and the Akwidaa estuary (in Ahanta West District) are both areas where the SFMP implementer, URI, has experience and historical data from a previously funded USAID project. The CSLP will have two staff resident in those communities in FY2018 and community interest in these wetlands is growing as a result of the CSLP's activities. Using the UAV to capture real time activities and to map and help interpret the LULC of these wetland areas can significantly contribute to conservation awareness and management.

In the next year, the CSLP will lend fiscal and logistical support for using the technology and help develop a sustainability plan for it. The CSLP's work in the restoration of degraded mangrove sites, in the management of coastal wetland areas of numerous communities in the six districts, and the support to the wetland monitoring program mentioned previously are areas where active cooperation with the drone technology will occur. The CSLP views this as an excellent opportunity for contributing to a periodic "state of the coast" reporting system.

Two additional donor-funded projects also present natural opportunities for cooperation and coordination and options for greater leveraging of resources and sharing knowledge and experiences in common. One of these is another USAID-funded project that is supported by the West Africa Mission with its operations based in Accra but with activities stretching across coastal countries between Sierra Leone and Nigeria. The second project operates in the same six coastal districts of the Western Region as the CSLP and with an emphasis on improving livelihoods at the community level. This is a UK Department for International Development (DfID)-funded program that works closely with the corporate social investment interests of the oil, gas and power industries working in the area.

West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (WA BiCC). This region-wide project shares objectives, interests and activities areas with the CSLP. WA BiCC's emphasis on increasing the resiliency of coastal communities to climate change, reducing deforestation and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and maintaining wildlife and floral diversity overlap well with what the CSLP has been undertaking. The conservation and management of mangroves provides the most obvious area of overlap. This past year the two projects coordinated a knowledge sharing and exchange field visit to areas where the CSLP is engaged. This experience has opened other avenues for knowledge and experience sharing and also provided opportunities for more technical dialog between the two projects. Early in the fiscal year, the CSLP has been invited to participate in WA BiCC's policy dialogue that is part of its National Adaptation Program. As of this writing, the workshops are still in the planning stages with WA BiCC identifying the CSLP experiences as one of a set that may be presented to the regional audience. Further areas for collaboration will continue to be explored but will also likely also include those gained through the support of the Forest Service mangrove expert support planned for the first quarter of FY2018, as earlier described.

Western Region Coastal Foundation (WRCF). The WRCF undertakes its activities in the same geographic area as the CSLP. Its focus is also the improvement and diversification of community livelihoods, and it also undertakes some of its actions in the same communities as the CSLP. For these reasons alone, it is important to have careful coordination between the two projects to help avoid participant fatigue and to ensure that actions of the two projects complement and leverage one another and not work at cross purposes.

The CSLP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the WRCF a little over a year ago specifically to address these concerns formally, to outline areas where the two projects work mutually on the landscape and to have a timetable for coordination and planning. Since then, the two projects have worked together in two specific activities, and these will extend and be reinforced in FY2018. The first is in the area of conservation agriculture. The CSLP is working with the WRCF's aquaculture associations in four communities in two districts. The catfish farmers are organized with the CSLP's assistance to practice conservation agriculture adjacent to the fish ponds. The water is rich in organic nutrients and helps the vegetables to grow.

In the second instance, the WRCF approached the CSLP to assist with its efforts to increase and improve awareness on the importance of community resilience in the face of climatic changes and extreme weather events. The CSLP has helped to carry out Training of Trainer events and provided the WRCF with the brochure it has distributed previously on community adaptation and resilience to climate changes. There are apt to be additional opportunities such as these and as per the MOU between the two projects coordination efforts will continue on a monthly, if not quarterly basis, in FY2018.

US Peace Corps. The CSLP worked informally in FY2017 with a US Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV). Working in the health sector, she was based in Shama District and identified closely with the women who formed the VSLAs with the CSLP's support. Her enthusiasm and encouragement also helped the savings initiatives there that have led to the formation of three (3) VSLAs in this small community. That Volunteer completed her service and departed prior to the last quarter of FY2017. There is now a new health Volunteer in the same community that the project hopes will follow in the shoes of the previous PCV and express interest in complementing the project's VSLA activities.

The CSLP is continuing to maintain discussions with the US Peace Corps and will use the USFS IP West Africa Representative (based in Accra) to be the liaison for this effort. Although there are only two years remaining in the CSLP's current LoP, the project will continue to explore the possibility of supporting a full time Volunteer in the coastal districts of the Western Region. The gender assessment report and strategy (see discussion below) due to be completed in October 2017, may provide some insights helpful to a Volunteer. This would complement and reinforce the efforts noted above for the project to be a stronger proponent for women and youth in the communities where the CSLP is engaged.

Other Activities

Other activities will also occupy staff time and resources in FY2018. While not necessarily technical interventions, each will have a bearing on monthly planning and priority setting.

Gender assessment and action plan. All of the CSLP activities involve women, and in awareness education activities, youth. Participation in project activities by members of these two groups varies. In general, in regards to community group activities, women's participation is usually much greater (upwards of 60-65% with VSLAs). Activities with government partners and traditional authorities usually reflect the lowest gender balance.

With the aim of increasing the participation and empowerment of women in its activities and greater understanding of gender issues that effect the success of project interventions more

generally, the CSLP is engaging an outside consultant to undertake a gender assessment late in FY2017 that also includes developing an action plan for the remainder of the project aimed specifically at this challenge. The assessment and action plan are scheduled for completion early in the first quarter of FY2018. The recommendations from this activity will inform the project and where appropriate will be integrated in this FY2018 Work Plan. A separate annex will be prepared and appended to the plan once the consultant's assignment is complete and the report accepted by the CSLP.

Beneficiary identification and monitoring. In FY2017 the CSLP initiated a new identification system for its beneficiaries. Unique identification numbers are assigned for each and every CSLP beneficiary. This allows the project to conform to the Feed the Future Initiative's reporting and monitoring standards that contributes to an improved overall M&E tracking system. The beneficiary identification numbering process will be maintained through the LoP. Other beneficiary attributes are also being added to allow the CSLP to report more comprehensively on its activities and better assess adoption rates and also to be able to more effectively identify weaknesses in activities.

USAID/Ghana Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS). USAID/Ghana's next five-year strategy, the CDCS, will be rolled out in FY2018. The CSLP's activities will continue into the beginning of the timeframe for that strategy. This means that it is likely that consultants and planners will work with the project to examine successes and challenges that need to be factored into the next five-year plan. The CSLP and USFS staff need to be ready to respond to this demand and adjust scheduling to assist, where reasonable, with requests from CDCS planning teams on the ground for field visits and consultation meetings.

Institutionalizing CSLP Efforts for Sustainability

Sustainability strategies with regional stakeholders for district-level action. During the previous two years of the CSLP, the project's regional stakeholders have noticed and been complimentary about the positive impacts of the project's interventions. They are keen to assist to ensure the sustainability of the practices being adopted in the communities and would like this to extend to the district assembly level as well. The project started this process last year with assessment visits to each district focusing on GIS and spatial planning needs. As a result, several activities are planned in FY2018 that will strive to address basic (spatial planning) operational information that the districts can adopt (and adapt) to help with knowledge carry over when staff transition in and out of district posts. The CSLP will also tap into the UCC's CCM experience with short-term training courses to identify gaps and areas for complementary hands on training at the district assemblies.

The project will work with the district staff to ensure that spatial data generated by the project is captured in the Medium Term Development Plans. The CSLP is also planning to explore the capacities of technical departments to recognize risk issues linked to environmental resilience of important biological attributes in a district and to help prioritize these within their planning efforts.

Strategies for maintaining connections with previous years' successes. Continuity and strengthening actions based on successes in prior years is important to ensuring future success and contributing to more sustainable actions. The activities and tasks laid out and summarized in the FY2018 Annual Work Plan seeks to take this into account. The project

now has a greater focus on farms and farmers as micro- and small-scale business enterprises. Part of that strategy is to place more emphasis on being more astute about market linkages and what buyers prefer, needs for record keeping and basic financial accounting with wider attention to literacy and numeracy training. With two years remaining in the current phase of the project, staff will expend more efforts with farmers and partners to increase rates of adoption by farmers and to ensure that other aspects of sustainability are in place and taking hold. FY2017 was the start of this process. Earlier adopting farmers have influenced other farmers who are now approaching the CSLP staff and asking to participate. The beehive construction artisans trained by the project two years ago are seeing an increase in orders for more beehives by community members. One woman has also assumed the initial risks to start her own commercial tree nursery and will sell her seedlings to farmers to plant on their farms for cocoa tree crop shade and eventual timber products. Ghana's COCOBOD is seeking more assistance from the CSLP to assist in trainings aimed at tree planting on farms and/or encouraging farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) to enhance cocoa production. These are all indicative developments that the project activities are taking hold and being adopted.

At this point staff will continue to reinforce the principles accompanying the technical practices promulgated, continuing to build the trust of farmers. Reinforcing activities with hands on training, coaching and mentoring will help them to adopt and adapt changes within the communities where the project is engaged. Building the core and using the experiences of their fellow farmers is an important aspect of helping to ensure that these behavior changes continue to expand and be solidified in FY2018 and beyond.

CSLP Project Targets

The six standard indicators tracked and measured in the project's first phase were joined by five additional Feed the Future Initiative indicators for years FY2017 through FY2019. Table 3 lists the 11 indicators plus four custom indicators currently being tracked by the CSLP. The table provides FY2017 targets and achievements (through Quarter 3, FY2017) and the estimated targets for all indicators for FY2018.

Table 3. CSLP indicators and targets for FY2017 and FY2018

Indicator	Baseline	FY2017		FY2018
		Target	Actual ¹	
E.G. 3.2-1 <u>Number of individuals</u> who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	861	831	980
E.G. 3.2-4 <u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations</u> (CBOs) receiving USG food security-related organizational development assistance	0	63	57	88
E.G. 3.2-17 <u>Number of farmers</u> and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	0	344	238	504
E.G. 3.2-18 <u>Number of hectares</u> under improved technologies or management practices with US assistance	0	80	46	100
E.G. 3.2-20 <u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations</u> (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	0	50	33	60
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric <u>tons of CO₂e</u> , reduced, sequestered and/or avoided as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance	0	7,000,000	4,131,070	6,400,000
4.8.1-6 Number of <u>people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resources management (NRM) and conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	1,200	1,113	1,800
4.8.1-26 Number of <u>hectares</u> of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	0	1,415	854	2,100
4.8.1-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training in NRM and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	0	8,500	8,365	8,500
4.8.2-14 Number of <u>institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	0	75	51	80
4.8.2-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance	0	5,000	3,832	5,000
Custom 1 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance	0	5,000	1,403	5,000
Custom 2 Number of <u>community sensitization sessions</u> on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	50	44	60
Custom 3 Number of <u>persons</u> receiving start-up items for improved NRM/ biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	600	273	100
Custom 4 Number of project-planted <u>seedlings surviving</u> in towns/communities as a result of USG assistance	0	65,000	TBD	57,600

¹Actual figures reported in this column are current through the end of Quarter 3 (30 June), FY2017

Program Management

The CSLP's financial and administrative systems continue to be strengthened and adapt based on experience and lessons learned from previous years. An independent compliance review in the fourth quarter of FY2017 (and the second since the project's inception) has strongly endorsed the CSLP's management systems and best practices that it follows. The US Forest Service will continue to support project efforts with administrative visits and fiscal oversight through the Life of Project date. A new lease for the office space was agreed with the landlord last year for a period that ends in September 2018.

In FY2017, the CSLP purchased a new, diesel-fueled pickup to help fill gaps caused by extensive maintenance of other aging vehicles. In FY2018, the project is planning to divest itself of one of its older vehicles. A disposition plan will also be drawn up for USAID/Ghana approval early in the new fiscal year for several other pieces of aging, damaged and defunct equipment.

A few changes within the project team have occurred during the year. A new position, Program Support Officer, was created and filled during the year to help address the growing demand for data management and in-the-field training administration needs. This Officer is helping to reduce some of the administrative planning, logistics and in-the-field administrative burden that was being carried by the technical staff. This staff person is also assisting in data entry quality control (working closely with the M&E Specialist) and in FY2018 will also be responsible for the oversight and planning of the 30-odd CSLP Community Assistants engaged by the project.

The project's Receptionist/Administrative Assistant departed during the year and the project's General Services Officer (who has been gaining extensive administrative experience since the start of the project), has been promoted into that position. The new General Services Officer is a National Service person filling that post as of 1 September 2017.

As of the drafting of this FY2018 Work Plan, three Communications Specialist candidates have been identified and the CSLP is confident that one of the three will be contracted before the end of the FY2017. The project's M&E Specialist who had been filling the Communications role will move officially into the M&E position once the new Communications person comes on board.

Finally, two coastal and wetland specialists will be added to the project in FY2018 and be resident in the communities of Yabiw (Shama District) and Akwidaa (Ahanta West District) where the project has been increasing its actions in wetland management and conservation. These two specialists gained extensive experience in these two communities over the current year as they were National Service persons assisting the CSLP last year in these same two communities. For next year, they will continue with their work in rolling out and improving upon the UCC's Wetland Monitoring Program and also working more broadly with other CSLP activities linked to wetland management and livelihood diversification in and around these two communities. They will also assist with the CSLP's plans to help initiate the use of the SFMP's use of the UAV in and around the wetland and mangrove areas of these two communities during FY2018.

Environmental Monitoring and Compliance

The CSLP has continued to gain valuable experience and lessons from the implementation of the activities that it promotes (e.g. forestry/agroforestry, tree nurseries, and environmental resilience with different agricultural practices). The project staff has been sensitive to the potential adverse impacts, implementing necessary mitigation measures where needed for each activity and monitoring the overall strategy. Last year (during the second quarter), two project technical staff participated in a USAID/West Africa-sponsored workshop that helped to provide a conceptual understanding of environmentally sound design and management (ESDM). It also helped to develop and hone skills through the practical use of tools to ensure that projects would have full compliance with USAID environmental regulations (22 CFR 216). The workshop also provided the CSLP staff the background guidance to develop and implement a project-based Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP).

The CSLP participants, in turn, disseminated this information to other CSLP staff and helped to revamp the project's Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan based on activities outlined in the FY2017 Work Plan. Additional actions were initiated with other partners, especially grantees, DoFA, and other district government technicians to increase their understanding of the requirements and rationale associated with such planning and monitoring. This awareness and guidance will be continued in FY2018. Only with these safeguards in place and well understood, will they be more apt to be continued when the project ends. When the FY2018 Work Plan is approved the project's EMMP will be revised again to capture and update any needed mitigation measures and monitoring indicators. The revised EMMP will then be attached, as an annex, to the FY2018 Work Plan.

Annexes

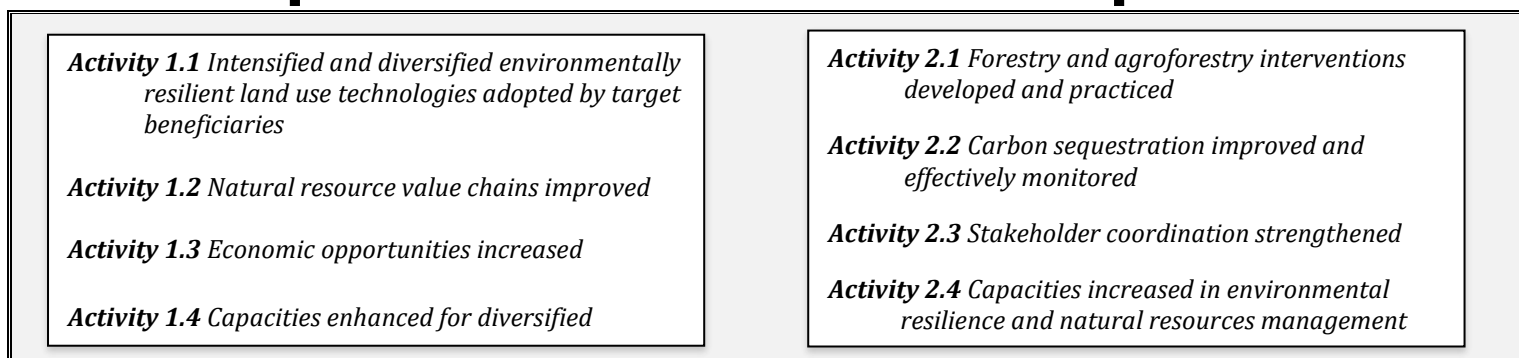
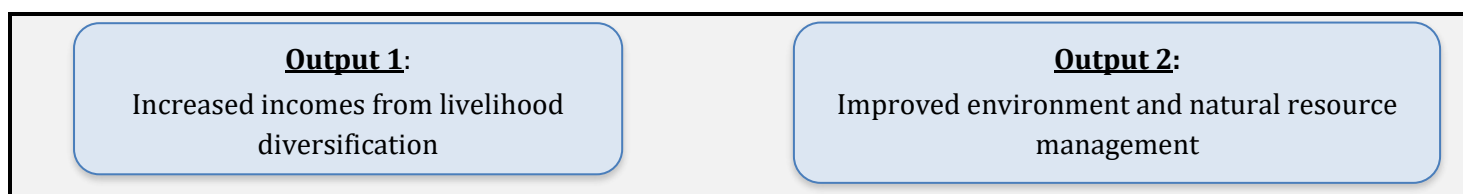
Annex A. CSLP Revised Logical Framework

USAID's DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE 2:
Sustainable and Broadly Shared Economic Growth



Project Goal: To promote low emissions development in Ghana's Western Region by strengthening community-based natural resource management and monitoring

Purpose: Poverty reduction and increased resiliency in communities in the six coastal districts in the Western Region through improved natural resource management, livelihood diversification, value chain development, and ecosystem restoration



Activities/Tasks	Inputs	Assumptions/Project Risks
	<p>Staff time and expertise</p> <p>Knowledge sharing from CSLP staff and partners</p> <p>Material inputs of beehives, trees, start up kits for village savings groups, CSA groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing national policy framework supports CSLP's climate change interventions in promoting sustainable NRM/biodiversity conservation • The prevailing property rights/land tenure system supports CSLP's climate change interventions in promoting sustainable NRM/biodiversity conservation • Government agencies and communities commit local resources into NRM/biodiversity conservation

Likely Activity, Tasks and Indicator Relationships

Output	Activities	Indicators
1	Activity 1.1 Intensified and diversified environmentally resilient land use technologies adopted	EG 3.2-17, EG 3.2-1, EG 3.2-18, EG 3.2-20, C-3, C-4
	Activity 1.2 Natural resource value chains developed	4.8.1-26, 4.8.1-29, 4.8.2-29, EG 3.2-1
	Activity 1.3 Economic opportunities increased	4.8.1-6, C-1
	Activity 1.4 Capacities enhanced for diversified livelihoods	4.8.1-29, 4.8.2-29, EG 3.2-1, EG 3.2-4
2	Activity 2.1 Forestry and agroforestry interventions developed and practiced	4.8.1-26, 4.8.1-29, 4.8.2-29, EG3.2-1, EG 3.2-18, C-3, C-4
	Activity 2.2 Carbon sequestration improved and effectively monitored	4.8-7, 4.8.1-26
	Activity 2.3 Stakeholder coordination strengthened	4.8.2-14, 4.8.1-29, 4.8.2-29, EG 3.2-4, C-2
	Activity 2.4 Capacities increased in environmental resilience and natural resources management (NRM)	4.8.1-29, 4.8.2-29, EG 3.2-1, EG 3.2-4

Annex B. CSLP Indicators

Key Standard Indicators

Indicator	Descriptor
4.8-7	Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric <u>tons of CO₂e</u> , reduced, sequestered and/or avoided as a result of United States Government (USG) assistance
4.8.1-6	Number of <u>people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resources management (NRM) and conservation as a result of USG assistance
4.8.1-26	Number of <u>hectares</u> of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance
4.8.1-29	Number of person <u>hours</u> of training in NRM and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance
4.8.2-14	Number of <u>institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance
4.8.2-29	Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance

Key Feed the Future Indicators

Indicator	Descriptor
EG. 3.2-1	<u>Number of individuals</u> who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training
EG. 3.2-4	<u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations</u> (CBOs) receiving USG food security-related organizational development assistance
EG. 3.2-17	<u>Number of farmers</u> and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance
EG. 3.2-18	<u>Number of hectares</u> under improved technologies or management practices with US assistance
EG. 3.2-20	<u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations</u> (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance

Custom Indicators

Indicator	Descriptor
C-1	Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance
C-2	Number of <u>community sensitization sessions</u> on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
C-3	Number of <u>persons</u> receiving start-up items for improved NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
C-4	Number of project-planted <u>tree seedlings surviving</u> in towns/communities as a result of USG assistance

