

Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

The journey so far
August 2015



About CSLP

The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) is a 3-year USAID funded and US Forest Service managed project aimed at contributing to moving Ghana into a low greenhouse gas emissions, high carbon sequestration development pathway in the land use sector. The project is embedded within broader and multi-partner food security, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and environmental governance efforts along the western coast of Ghana.

Its geographic focus encompasses the 6 coastal districts of the Western Region.

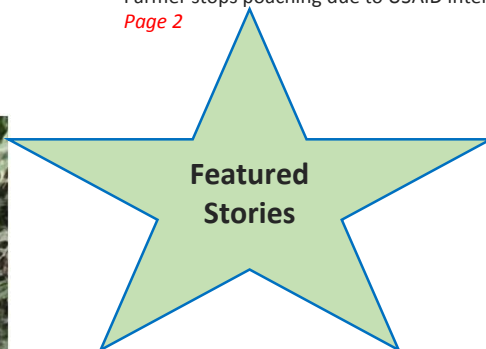


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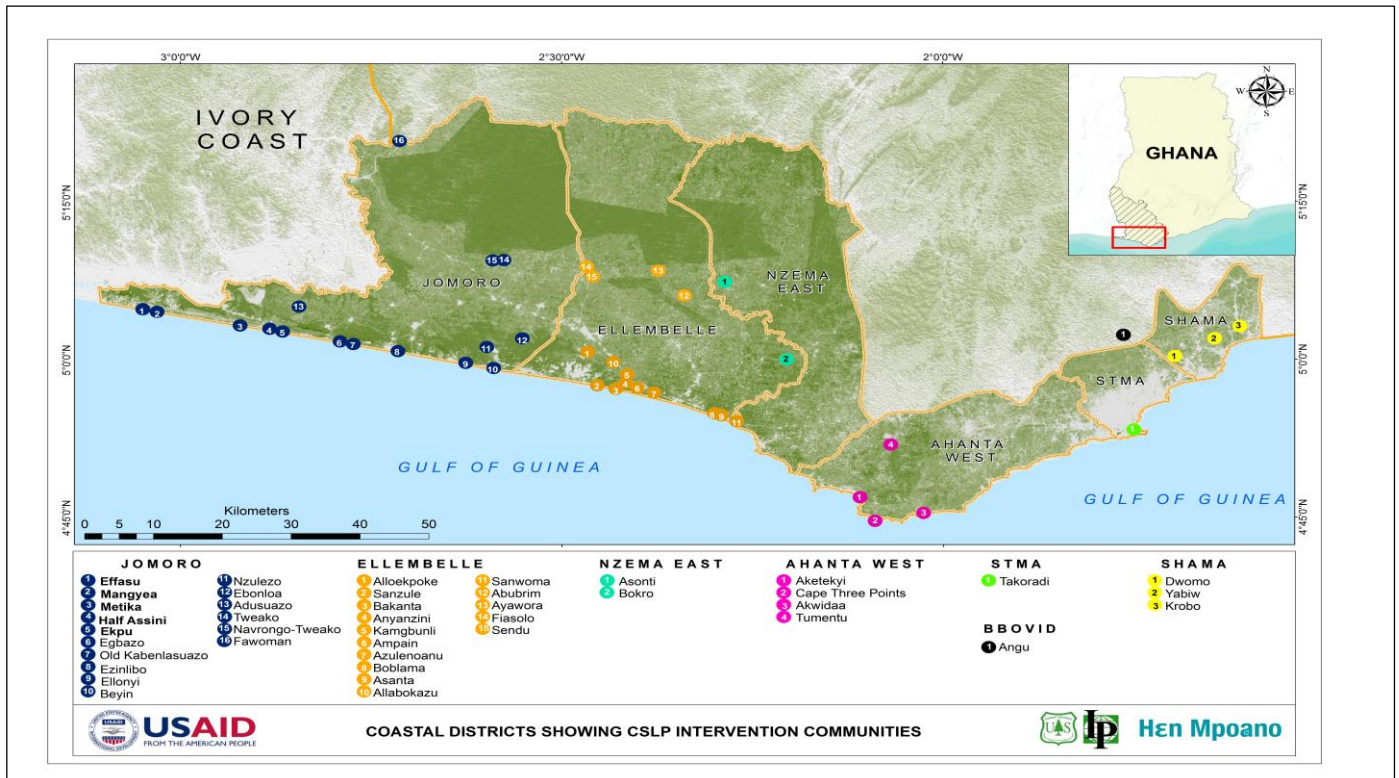
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Check the FAST FACTS ON CSLP

MAP OF CSLP CURRENT INTERVENTION COMMUNITIES



ENCOURAGING POSTIVE BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Farmer Stops Poaching due to USAID Intervention

Without the timely intervention by USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), a farmer at Tweakor No 1 in the Jomoro District of Ghana’s Western Region, would have continued his illegal hunting activity in the Ankasa rain forest, one of the last virgin forests in Ghana which borders his community. The farmer noted that the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), formed with the CSLP’s assistance, has allowed him to refrain from continuing the illegal act. He made the revelation when the CSLP’s Activity Manager at USAID, Justice Odoi and Isaiah Tuohieno of the US Embassy in Ghana, joined the CSLP team for a monitoring visit to Navrongo and Tweakor No 1. The farmer, responding to a question from Justice about their impressions of the project, noted that he has stopped that practice.

To be honest, I used to enter the forest to kill animals for a simple reason: to pay the school fees of my children. However, since joining the VSLA, I have stopped that act. Now I can easily get a loan from the group to pay the school fees. I knew that going to the forest was illegal and also felt sad and scared because I go there alone and at night; leaving my wife and children at home; it was risky, anything could have happened to me in the forest, or even on the way. Now, I don’t go there anymore, and won’t ever go there again because I can pay my children’s school fees from funds I obtain through my membership in the VSLA. ----farmer at Tweakor No 1

As part of the trip, the team visited a secondary forest of a farmer where the CSLP has provided a beehive that has now **(continue from page 5)**

SUPPORTING DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

CSLP Promotes Beekeeping in Secondary Forest Patches

The USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), in collaboration with some of the project's enlisted farmers, prioritized beekeeping management as a livelihood activity of interest compatible with existing practices. It is also one that will provide the added benefit of conserving forest patches and tree cover on farms. The use of these secondary forest patches for beekeeping is an important climate change mitigation activity as farmers see the need for conserving these patches to promote pollination and development of the apiary rather than clearing them and converting them to agricultural land. The apiaries will hopefully provide valuable honey and associated by-products that can be sold locally to meet high demand throughout the country. Thanks to project efforts with farmers, these areas are being conserved and will help maintain important stocks of sequestered carbon.

Through this intervention, 111 farmers (comprising 97 men and 14 women) in the Nzema East, Ellembelle, Jomoro, Shama and Ahanta West districts of Ghana's Western Region who are setting aside secondary forest lands for beekeeping, have gone through two trainings on beekeeping concepts. The first component focused on the basics of beekeeping while the second involved practical training on the establishment of apiaries and initial management practices. As part of the trainings, the farmers were taken through the uses of key beekeeping equipment and tools such as the smoker, protective clothing and the hive itself. Trainees learned how to site an apiary within secondary forests through a demonstration in a nearby site.

As part of the initial efforts, 31 beehives have been given to promising farmers in 14 communities across the five districts. The enthusiastic farmers have started practicing beekeeping at current swarming season.

Additionally, beehive construction training was conducted for six carpenters/artisans; three of whom were CSLP enlisted farmers. At the end of the training, the carpenters constructed six beehives to the very specific standards required for successful hive production. These carpenters have now gained a new skill and will hopefully be engaged by additional farmers to use their knowledge and skills to build additional hives and thereby gain additional income.

Initial reports are that farmers have already contacted one carpenter to engage his services on such construction. CSLP intends to engage these newly-trained carpenters on further beehive construction needs as well.



Beehive construction training



Farmer standing by his colonized beehive in a secondary forest

Key CSLP Partners / Collaborators

- Western Regional Coordinating Council
- Forest Services & Wildlife Divisions of Forestry Commission
- Town and Country Planning Department
- National Board for Small Scale Industries
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency
- District Assemblies
- Traditional Authorities
- Local NGOs (e.g. TRACTOR, Hen Mpoano, FoN)
- Private Sector operators (e.g. B-BOVID)
- Ghana Education Service

PROMOTING BEST FARMING PRACTICES



Hands on training session with farmers: Completed stock composting pile at Aduwazo in the Jomoro District.



MoFA staff demonstrating how composting materials are piled in the pit at Cape Three Point (Ahanta West District)

FARMERS ADOPT CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

Unsustainable farming methods are among some of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these unsustainable agriculture practices are widely practiced in farming communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The situation is not different from the intervention communities of the USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). Most of the farmers adopt slash and burn as a method of clearing and preparing the land for food production, a practice that greatly threatens remaining forest areas. In addition, the improper use of agrochemicals, indiscriminate cutting of valuable tree species and the removal of most vegetation cover both disrupt natural processes that can help maintain soil quality and also remove or damage potentially valuable sources of income to the farmer.

As a means to reversing some of these unsustainable practices and further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, CSLP is promoting the concepts of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). As part of this effort, from December 2014 to February 2015, the project trained 405 farmers (72% of which are men and 28% are women) across five coastal districts on the principles of CSA with an emphasis on vegetable production. The trainings, facilitated by the CSLP and officials from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), aim to equip farmers with new concepts for management for sustainable crop production (largely of vegetables), conserving the environment and improving food security. A significant number of the trained farmers are ready to adopt the new CSA best practices such as avoiding bush burning, reducing use of agrochemicals in vegetable production and creating buffer zones along river banks.

As farmers embrace these CSA practices, the CSLP is hopeful that they will contribute to improved natural resource management, further enhance farmer livelihoods and sequester carbon.

STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COORDINATION

CSLP MEDIA DAY

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Communities Visited: Ayawora and Adubrim (Ellembelle District)
Participants

- **Media Personnel:** Print, Online, TV and Radio
- **Government of Ghana Technical officials**
 - Regional: Economic Planning Unit, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI)
 - District stakeholders: Ellembelle District
- **CSLP Team**

Objective of the trip: Aimed at providing the media personnel and GoG officials the opportunity to experience CSLP activities in the communities, interact with the farmers and visit farms / project sites.



Media Day at Ayawora

A look at how some Print & Online media reported the trip



The Ghanaian Times, May 22 2015 pg10



The New Weekend Crusading Guide, May 26 2015 pg7

Online media (The Ghana News Agency)

US Forest Services Coastal Sustainable Landscapes project underway
<https://www.modernghana.com/news/619284/1/us-forest-services-coastal-sustainable-landscapes-.html>

Ellembelle District Cocoa Farmers embrace savings plan
<http://mobile.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=360692>

Farmer Stops Poaching due to USAID Intervention

(continued from page 2) been colonized. The farmer, with several others, has agreed not to deforest such places but use it for beekeeping and other forest products. Farmers applauded USAID for the project and lauded many of the CSLP's interventions. These included beekeeping as an alternative livelihood, several targeted trainings such as climate change awareness, climate smart agriculture, farmer managed natural regeneration, and the VSLA, which they emphasized, has helped them to build a better savings culture accompanied by its timely access to a means of credit which is desperately needed as the farmer's story demonstrates



Executives of Tweakor No 1 VSLA at a share purchase meeting of the group

BUILDING LOCAL CHAMPIONS

INTRODUCING STEPHEN SAKITEY, CSLP LOCAL CHAMPION IN FAWOMAN

Born on February 10, 1976 at Puada in the Volta Region of Ghana, Stephen Sakitey, is a CSLP Community Assistant based in Fawoman. Stephen is a carpenter by profession and an active farmer. In 2002, he relocated from Puada to Fawoman, one of CSLP's intervention communities in the Jomoro district. He is a Christian, married and blessed with two girls and two boys and has seven other dependents aged 12-24 years.

As Community Assistant, he mobilizes farmers for all project interventions in the community. Stephen has received training on the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) and assist in mapping of different land cover types of the project enlisted farmers. He was among the six carpenters trained on beehive construction. After the training, he voluntarily paid for the cost of producing the first model for his own use and is ready to pre-finance that of other farmers interested in beekeeping. He is the Record Keeper or Secretary of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) formed in Fawoman by CSLP. As a Record Keeper, he among others, ensures that all transactions take place according to procedure, and that all rules are followed and makes all passbook entries for shares and loans. Recently, Stephen was among 12 farmers trained as VSLA Village Agents by CSLP. He has also benefited from other trainings organized by the project. These includes training on Climate Smart Agriculture, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, Climate Change and beekeeping.

Stephen Sakitey is pleased with the project interventions and made the following remarks during an interaction with CSLP Staff.

I'm really grateful to CSLP. Now, I have an additional great source of income. I can produce beehives and sell to interested farmers. I appreciate the new knowledge gained on the values of trees and the new skill acquired: the use of GPS. In fact, I had not seen a GPS device before, but now, I have used it to map farms and can assist other projects that will require the use of GPS in their activities. I'm ready to plant more trees and encourage other farmers to do the same. The VSLA is also really helpful; though I am yet to take a loan from the group, I cherish the great savings attitude I have developed. I'm also hopeful of making money from the honey production/beekeeping and I'm ready to train other local carpenters on beehive construction.

USAID CREATES CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADORS

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its 3-year funded Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), managed by the US Forest Service International Programs, has formed Climate Change Clubs (CCC) in two public schools in Ghana's Western Region. Teachers and students of the club, numbering 80, serve as Climate Change (CC) Ambassadors, educating their parents, peers and community members on the causes and effects of climate change on their daily lives.

Amazingly, some of the students have supported CSLP to promote an important climate change mitigation activity by encouraging their parents and other relatives, mostly farmers, to avoid deforestation. In most of the project intervention communities, farmers have, on average, an acre of secondary forest at the borders of their farms. Prior to CSLP they were keen to extend their farming activities by removing the secondary forests. Now, with the intensive sensitization efforts of the CSLP team and Climate Change Club members, the farmers have decided against the removal and burning of these on-farm forest areas after understanding more about other values they hold. Most of these farmers have now decided to use their secondary forest patches for beekeeping, a source of medicinal plants, and other timber and non-timber forest products. **(Continue from page 7)**



Stephen (right) showing CSLP Manager, Adam (left) the beehive he has constructed.

ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS

USAID CREATES CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADORS

(continued from page 6) Previously, a significant number of farmers who planted trees initiated by past climate change projects that promised cash rewards, were at the verge of completely cutting down those trees as no such rewards were received. But now with the outreach interventions by the CSLP team, coupled with awareness being enhanced by CCC members, the remaining trees will continue to grow on their land as farmers are now willing to keep them without expecting any direct financial rewards.

Currently one of the clubs, Asonti Municipal Assembly Junior High School CCC, has an organic farm (located less than 5 meters from the school premises) and intends to use it to educate their parents and other adults on Climate Smart Agricultural practices. As observed by one of the teachers, Mr. Somiah,

The club members are currently waiting for their supply of some tree seedlings from CSLP to plant in their farm. They are promoting agroforestry in the communities as they recognize tree planting as one of the ways to address the impacts of climate change.

Similarly, club members at Adusuazo District Assembly Junior High School are using drama and artwork to enhance awareness on climate change. USAID, through CSLP, has simplified understanding of climate change through a brochure that includes artwork by the Climate Change Club. Both clubs have planned a series of events at the local level to help in their sensitization and behavioral change efforts. These include tree planting, clean up exercises, community gatherings/meetings, processions with placards, discussions on radio and peer education in other schools.

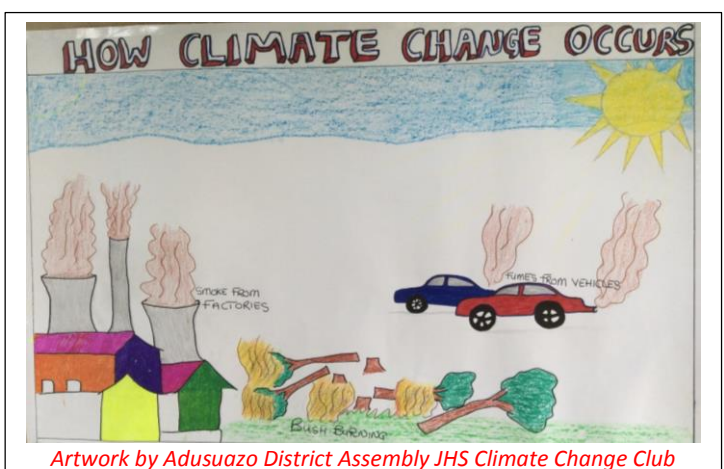
Over the past several months a number of media groups (print, online, TV and radio) have followed with keen interest the activities of the two clubs as is evidenced in their local, regional and national reporting. There is no doubt that these club members will continue to serve as Climate Change Ambassadors for years to come.

The District Director of Education for Jomoro District of Ghana has observed, “... the CSLP has caught these children at the right time, for as you catch them young, they will be yours forever”.



Club members marching through a community with messages on Climate Change to raise awareness

Most farmers in Ghana now use agrochemicals for almost every farming activity. They complain of not having money but buy lots of agrochemicals. However, they could have saved money by practicing organic ways of farming and that is what members of the CC Club have started through the support of CSLP. In few months, our farm will serve as a demonstration site for farmers outside the region.



Artwork by Adusuazo District Assembly JHS Climate Change Club

CSLP FAST FACTS

- Covers 40 communities
- Enlisted over 400 farmers in 17 communities
- Trained over 300 farmers on Climate Smart Agriculture practices
- Formed 15 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)
- Trained 12 farmers as VSLA Village Agents
- Avoided deforestation in most communities
- Formed Climate Change Clubs in Schools
- Supplied 50000 seedlings to farmers for planting (August 2015)
- Planted 1392 trees in 2014
- Trained local farmers to use GPS to map their own farms
- Trained 111 farmers on beekeeping and supplied 31 beehives (still counting)
- Supported private sector (e.g. B-BOVID) to enhance operations
- Supported local NGOs (e.g. Hen Mpoano and TRACTOR) to promote wetland conservation and agroforestry
- Trained over 90 CREMA Executives in 3 coastal districts
- Celebrated 2015 World Environment Day at the local level
- Organized a media field trip (with media personnel and Government of Ghana -GoG Officials)
- Hold quarterly dialogue meetings with Regional and district GoG Technical Officials and Traditional Authorities
- Hosted several Officials from USAID, Forestry Commission of Ghana and other donor groups



Encouraging local champions who support mangrove restoration



CSLP team repairing a bridge leading to one of the project intervention communities

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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