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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Lessons from Ghana:

Strategies for Community-based Natural Resources Conservation

November 1, 2018 US Forest Service International Programs Office
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington DC

Photo credit: Richard Adupong, CSLP

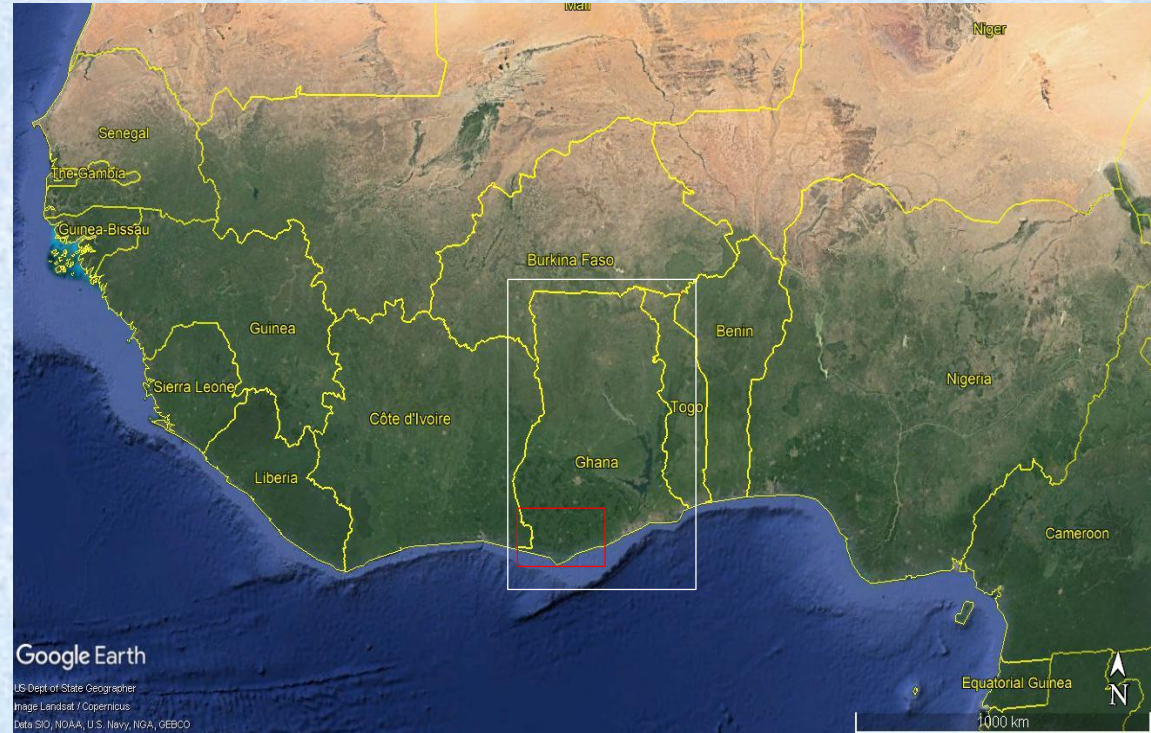


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Outline for Today's Discussion

- Background/Introduction
- Highlights of some results achieved
- Examine some of the CSLP's "successes"
- Key lessons/observations from the CSLP's implementation
- Important elements of sustainability



- Additional information

QUICK PROJECT STATS

€ 5-year project, implemented in 2 phases by the USFS-IP via a **PAPA**

1st Phase: FY2014-15-16

Total budget: **\$3.5 million**

Source: Climate change funds

2nd Phase: FY2017-18-~~19~~

Total budget: ~~\$4.5~~ **3.4 million**

Source: USAID/Ghana Feed the Future Initiative

CSLP staff: 17 full time (Technical, management/administrative, & logistical support)

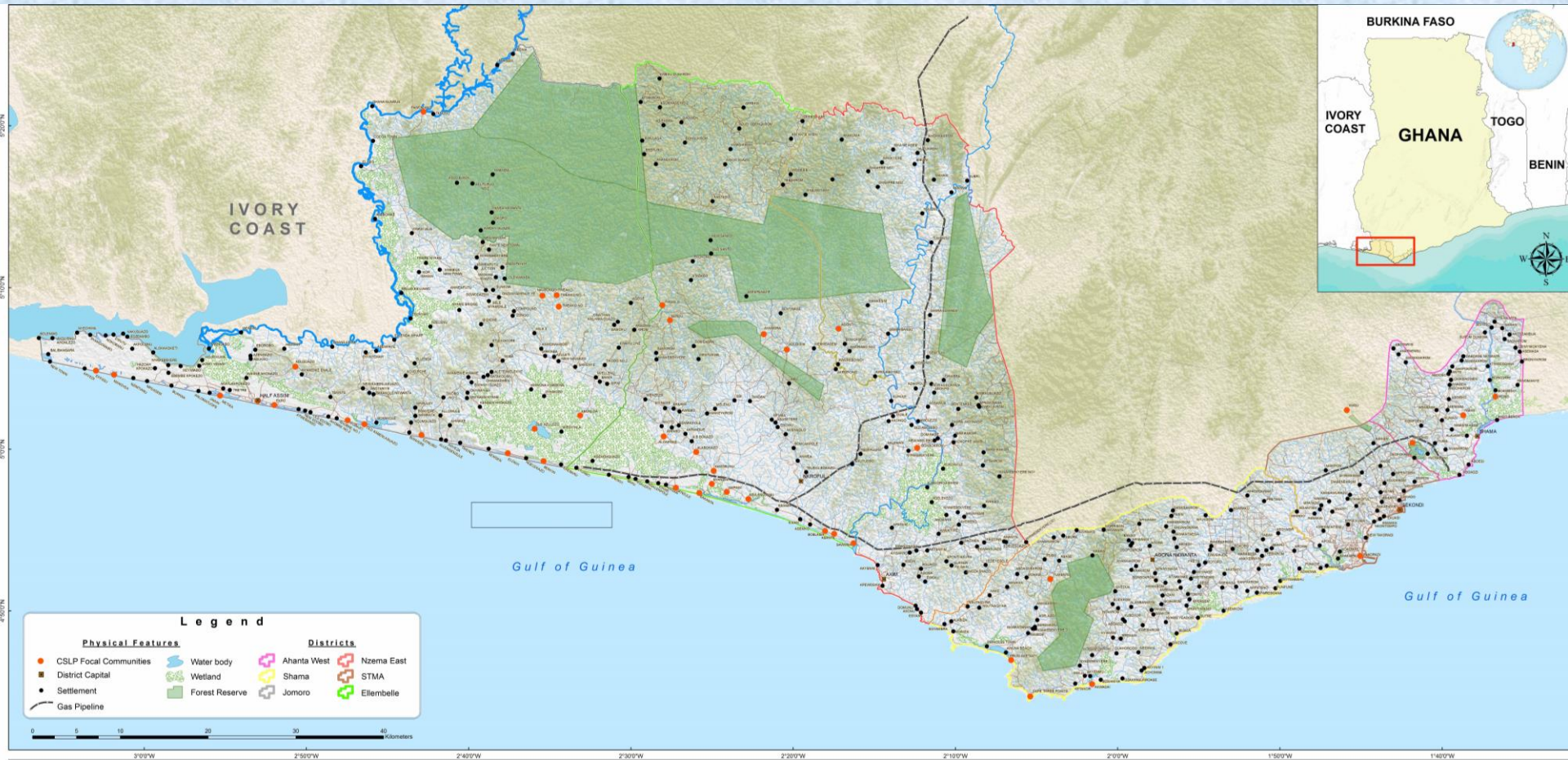
Operational area: Six coastal districts/municipal assemblies in the Ghana's Western Region



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GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS



72 communities in 6 coastal districts/municipal assemblies of Ghana's Western Region



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KEY PARTNERS

Government & Governance Institutions

- [Wildlife Division](#) of the Forestry Commission
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Ghana Education Service](#)
- National Board of Small Scale Industries
- [Department of Food & Agriculture](#)
- Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission
- [Land Use & Spatial Planning Authority](#)
- [Regional Coordinating Council](#)
- [Regional & Local Traditional Authorities](#)

Local NGOs & Donor Institutions, working in the Western Region

- [Hen Mpoano](#)
- Friends of the Nation
- Western Regional Coastal Foundation (UKAid)
- Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (USAID)
- Fisheries & Coastal Management & Capacity Building Support Project (USAID)
- Ghana Supply Chain Development Project (USAID)

Private sector: B-BOVID, Improved seed companies, Market queens, Local hotels, Ankobra Beach Enterprises, et.al.



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CSLP TEAM COMPOSITION – FY 2018

- Administrative and logistical support staff (including 3 drivers) – 7
- Management – 2
- Technical – 8

TOTAL = 17

NRM & Livelihoods Specialist (Tree planting, beekeeping, charcoal, **FMNR**)

NRM & Livelihoods Specialist (CSA, enterprise groups, mangrove restoration & monitoring)

Spatial Planning & Environmental Services Specialist

Communications Specialist

Village Savings & Loan Association Supervisory Specialist

Wetland Community Field Officers (2, in two separate communities)

Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist





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Working with rural communities, the emphasis/focus of the CSLP was on changing behaviors and adopting best practices related to conservation and natural (biological, soil, water) resources management

Main livelihoods of these rural communities: fishing, fish smoking, tree crop farming and subsistence agriculture (mainly cassava and corn)

A note on the immigrant population in these communities

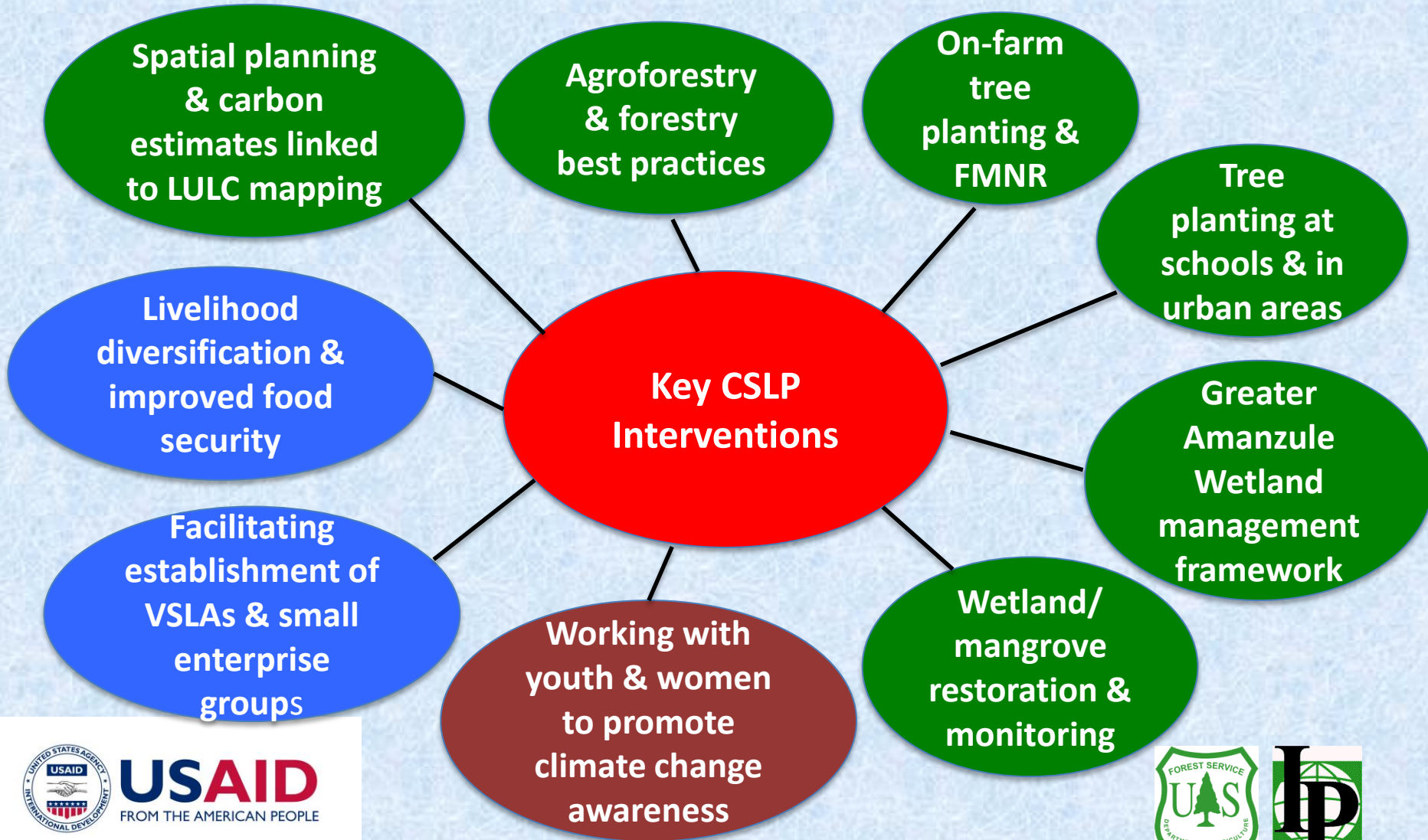


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TWO MAIN COMPONENTS: ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOODS





Some Results Linked to the CSLP's Beneficiaries - A

Livelihood
diversification &
improved food
security

Beekeeping & apiary management:

- 214 farmers trained & 184 apiaries established
- 80% of apiaries with bee colonies > 2 years
- 90% of beehives on the landscapes made & supplied by CSLP-trained artisans

Climate smart agriculture (CSA):

- 260 small holder farmers trained and have adopted CSA practices
- 12 demonstration sites established, including two at junior high schools
- Established 50 climate smart enterprise groups with Hen Mpoano and **WRFCF**
- Working with +150 actors in the food value chain to promote and market organic vegetables in the region



Some Results Linked to the CSLP's Beneficiaries - B

Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs)

- 51 established since Sept 2014 (incl. 11 by CSLP grantee Hen Mpoano)
- Total membership: 1,311 (\approx 70% are women)
- 31 thru 1 cycle, 18 thru 2 cycles, 10 thru 3 cycles
- Aggregated savings: \$160,000; Total loan value: \$394,000 in 4,419 loans
- Average return on savings: 27.5 %, twice the the prevailing gov't treasury bill rate
- VSLAs serve as the establishment platform for other activities: mangrove restoration, CSA initiatives, beehive construction and other **NRM** activities

Facilitating
establishment of
VSLAs



Some Results Linked to the CSLP's Beneficiaries - C

Tree planting & FMNR:

- More than 70,000 agro-forestry & commercial tree seedlings distributed with about 50% survival after 3 years
- More than 9,000 trees nurtured as FMNR
- Cocoa shade tree cover restoration training of trainers with **COCOBOD** popular & highly praised
- 6,000+ seedlings planted & nurtured at 22 schools with 75% survival rate

Tree planting & FMNR

Working with youth to promote environmental awareness

- Established 20 climate change clubs in area junior & senior high schools
- These serve as platforms for CSA activities, school gardens, tree planting, monitoring wetlands
- Club teachers received a **ToT** in waste management and sanitation reaching over 1,000 students
- A joint effort among the CSLP, **WD, EPA & GES** on a ToT for sanitation in 74 schools expected to reach 8,000 students





Has the CSLP been successful in influencing:

- Improved conservation practices, including reducing or avoiding **GHG** emissions?
- Changing behaviors/adopting “**best practices**”?
- Improving livelihoods in communities where it operated?



Mangrove restoration at Ayanzinli



Farmer with his organically grown eggplants





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CSA demo plot at Asonti JHS

The Answer:

A definite, but
qualified, YES!



VSLA "share out" in Asonti



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Some of the indicators that positive changes are happening



On the ground successes of the VSLAs and the ever-increasing demand for more to be formed. Other **NGOs** and **GoG** requesting training in the establishment of VSLAs



DoFA and **COCOBOD** urgently requesting additional training in FMNR, safe handling of pesticides



The independent construction of beehives and establishment of apiaries where none existed before; a beekeeping association being established independent of outside assistance





Some of the indicators that positive changes are happening



Growing interest in the establishment of CSA enterprises, the private sector's organic vegetables food chain becoming strategically engaged with producers and CSA groups



Climate change clubs in schools competing with one another in their CSA gardens via WhatsApp platforms, sharing ideas and increasing environmental awareness in their communities

Komfeku JHS maize harvest from their CSA demo plot



CSA enterprise marketing organic veggies





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Some of the indicators that positive changes are happening



Regional, district and traditional authorities actively participating in, and supporting CSLP interventions & trainings



DoFA, EPA, GES, NBSSI, COCOBOD requesting coordinates of community champions for apiaries, CSA, FMNR, VSLAs, climate change clubs



Community farmers increasingly making requests for how they can participate in numerous livelihood interventions



Honey harvest training



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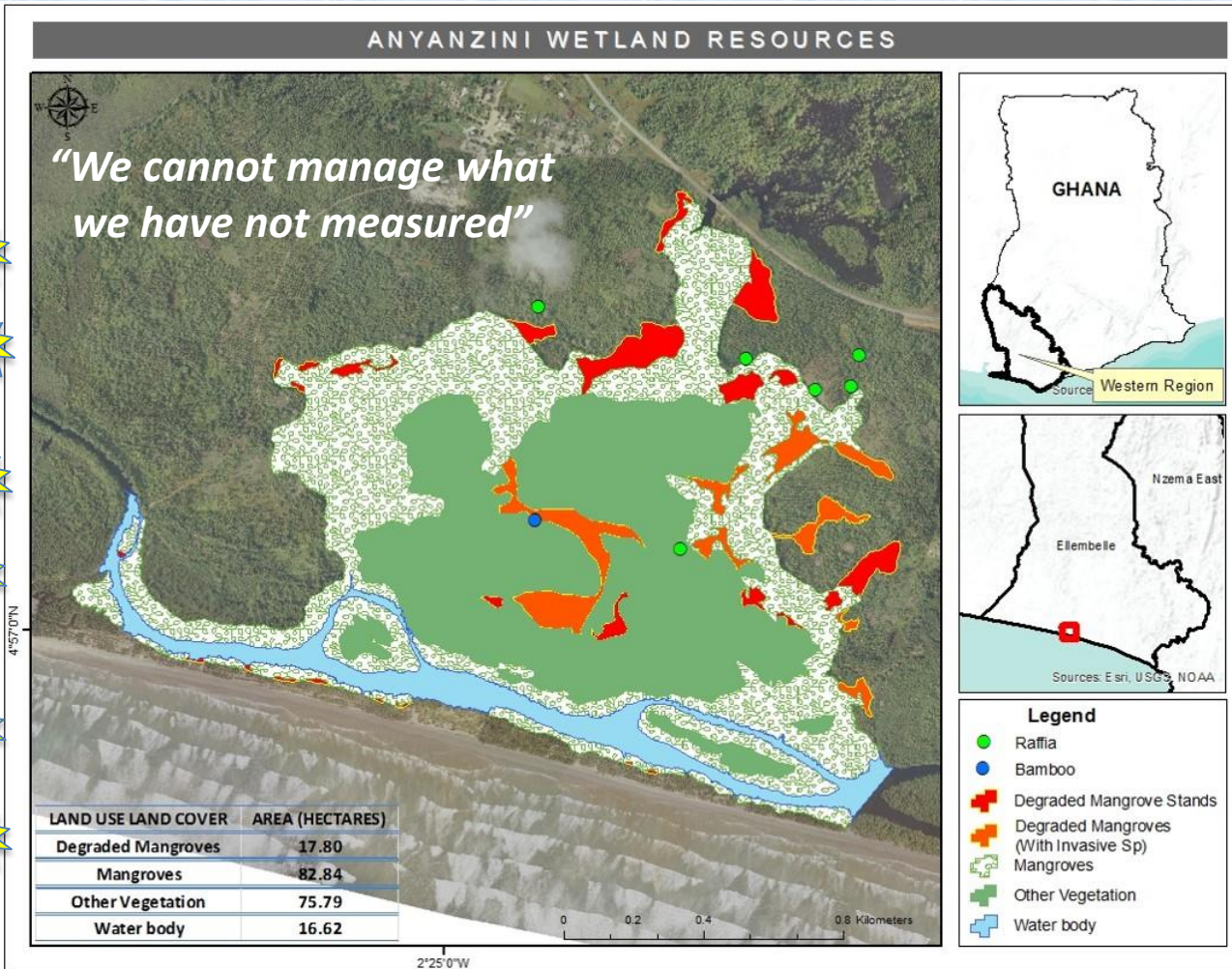
Wetland & Mangrove

Conservation & Governance with local NGO grantee, Hen Mpoano

Established 23 Community
Conservation Committees
& 2 District Conservation
Committees

Mapped/measured
mangroves & wetlands
with the CCCs in these
communities

With Wildlife Div. &
traditional authorities,
developed management
actions and plans for each



More than 20,000 mangrove seedlings
planted to date



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Building a “Success Momentum” -- A timeline for the CSLP

FY 2015 Mid-term assessment with a recommendation for 3 more years

FY 2016 USAID/Ghana PAD Amendment extending the CSLP through Sept 2019

FY 2017 Early “adopters” on an agroforestry training tour

FY 2017 Beekeeping & apiary consultant provides critical assessment

FY 2017 CSLP-supported VSLAs credited as a strong model supporting community livelihoods

FY 2018 CSLP Annual Planning Workshop identifies community member trust as the key factor for technology adoption

FY 2018 Gender assessment of CSLP activities applauds the high participation of women, gender neutral approaches and the engagement of youth



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Other Critical Building Blocks for Achieving Positive Outcomes



- Dedicated professional team
- Self-selection by beneficiaries
- A supportive & constructive USAID & USFS IP PAPA team

- Consistent attention & engagement with traditional and local stakeholders and GoG technical departments



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Key Lessons/Observations ... a Biased Perspective

TRUST

- Listening to beneficiaries
- Participants are decision makers
- Follow through, mentoring, coaching
- Regular appearances
- The team is a TEAM



VSLA graduation group photo



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Key Lessons/Observations ... a Biased Perspective

**Engagement of
Beneficiaries & Partners**

**Administrative & Technical
Reviews among those
Implementing the Activities**



Quarterly update for district officials



Community members & district officials interacting in the Greater Amanzule Wetlands



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Key Lessons/Observations ... a Biased Perspective

Managing Knowledge & Adaptive Approaches

- Especially as it pertains to sites
- Diversity between/among communities must be recognized and factored into the utilization strategy for the technology



Sharing observations during a recent mangrove assessment



Community mangrove & wetland management site



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Key Lessons/Observations ... a Biased Perspective

TIME ... Runs Through It All:

- Engendering trust with beneficiaries
- Learning about the needs of community members and the strengths of partners
- Planning activities and adjusting to challenges on the ground
- Understanding the biological and ecological complexities of sites

FY 2014

FY 2015

FY 2016

FY 2017

FY 2018

~~**FY 2019**~~





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Ensuring Sustainability

Partnerships with local NGOs Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, Goshen Global Vision, Ankobra Enterprises

Training Village Agents to support VSLAs

Engagement with DoFA, NBSSI, GES

CSA Workshops with organic vegetable market chain actors

Youth engagement

Data and knowledge sharing with district-level technical departments



An “undisturbed” mangrove site



Celebrating World Environment Day, June 2016



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More information ...

Log on to: www.ghanalinks.org

Search for the CSLP subdirectory for more details, including:

- CSLP Final Report (within 4-6 weeks)
- CSLP quarterly and annual reports to USAID
- 14 summary technical reports by CSLP staff
- Community awareness materials (including videos)
- Training aides
- Consultant reports



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THANK YOU !!



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Media Day June 27, 2018, Asonti Jr. High School (Photo credit: Samuel Aikins, CSLP)





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www.feedthefuture.gov



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Diversity in the Western Region of Ghana



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No. of Beekeepers: 140

No. of beehive artisans trained: 6

No. of training modules to date: 3

CSLP cost/hive: \$42.

No. of colonized hives to date \approx 75 %

Artisan selling price: \$55

Community selling price: \$8.50/liter

No. of "extra" hives produced to date: \approx 30-35

Takoradi retail price: \$20/liter

Bee-keeping numbers



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**The CSLP Team in Asonti on Media Day
June 27, 2018 (Photo credit: Steve Dennison,
CSLP)**



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**CSLP Transitions & Celebration Workshop,
August 2, 2018 (Photo credit: Richard
Adupong, CSLP)**



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Collaboration and coordination with other USAID/Ghana projects:

- Natural resources management;
- LULC mapping;
- Livelihood diversification;
- Wetland monitoring;
- Spatial planning



Unmanned aerial vehicle view of mangrove replanting in Ayanzinli, Ghana (Photo mosaic credit: Justice Mensah, Hen Mpoano)



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