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# Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

## Quarterly Report

First Quarter – October 1 to December 31, 2017

Submission Date: January 31, 2018

Agreement Number: AEG-T-00-07-00003

Agreement Period: October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2019

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This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development Mission for Ghana (USAID/Ghana). It was prepared by US Forest Service International Programs.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFOLU	Agroforestry and Other Land Uses
BAC	Business Activity Center
BMP	Best Management Practice(s)
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CCC	Climate Change Clubs OR Community Conservation Committees
CCM	Center for Coastal Management (at the University of Cape Coast)
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CHED	Cocoa Health and Extension Division
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resource Management Association
CRI	Crops Research Institute
CRMC	Community Resources Management Committee
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DA	District Assembly/ies
DCC	District Conservation Committees
DOFA	Departments of Food and Agriculture
EDIF	Export Development Investment Fund (of Ghana)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESP	Environmental Sustainability and Policy for Cocoa Production in Ghana Project
FC	Forestry Commission
FCMCBSP	Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building and Support Project
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
FON	Friends of the Nation (local NGO)
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Services Division (of the Forestry Commission)
FY	Fiscal (or Financial) Year
GAW	Greater Amanzule Wetland
GAWCCC	Greater Amanzule Wetland Community Conservation Committee
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHG	Green House Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOG/GoG	Government of Ghana
GSCDP	Ghana Supply Chain Development Project
ICFG	Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Management Project
IP	International Programs (of the USFS)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Result
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LULC	Land Use/Land Cover
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METSS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOP	Manual of Procedures
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan(s)
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
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMSC	Resources Management Service Center
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SL	Sustainable Landscapes
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STMA	Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly
TOT	Training of Trainers
TCPD	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

# I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

## I.1 Activity/Mechanism Overview

<b>Program Name:</b>	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date</b>	October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2019
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner:</b>	United States Forest Service International Programs
<b>Contract/Agreement Number:</b>	AEG-T-00-07-00003
<b>Name of Subcontractors / Sub-awardees:</b>	None
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations</b>	Ghana Forestry Commission (Forest Services Division, Wildlife Division), Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Town and Country Planning Departments
<b>Geographic Coverage (cities and/or countries)</b>	Six coastal districts of the Western Region of Ghana
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

## I.2 Program Description/Introduction

Ghana's Western Region faces multiple land use pressures in its six coastal districts. Inland and coastal forests are being cleared for commercial development, agriculture, cash crop development, charcoal, timber production, and artisanal mining. In all, these forces are posing significant threats to ecologically significant areas and biodiversity, including in-shore fisheries. High unemployment rates compound these pressures, exacerbating unsustainable natural resource management practices and reducing ecosystem services provided by the Western Region's natural areas. Off and in-shore fisheries are on the verge of collapsing due to extreme rates of illegal fishing and the lack of political will to enforce existing laws.

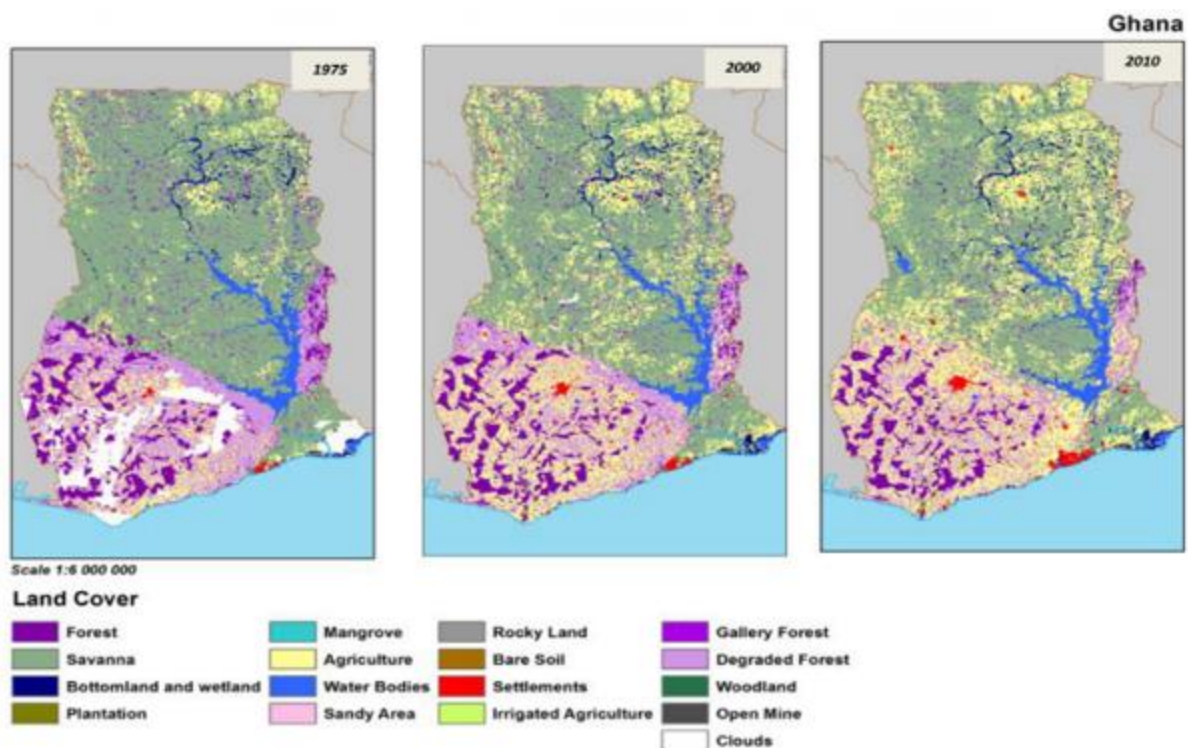
Most land in the Western Region outside forest reserves, other protected areas and sacred groves has already been deforested and converted to agriculture. The current challenge is to find ways of taking pressure off the remaining forests and other natural areas while improving livelihoods.

Other anthropogenic pressures on the landscape, especially land use changes linked to developing oil and gas infrastructure, and a warming climate caused by increased atmospheric carbon dioxide, pose significant risks to the region's coastal landscapes. Climate change is also linked to jet stream fluctuations that cause irregular, more extreme, and unusual weather patterns and events. Changing rainfall patterns and intensities can lead to droughts in some areas and floods in others. In addition to storm events, other adverse impacts to the region from climate change include rising sea levels, salt water intrusion producing higher salinity rates of coastal water sources, changes in marine and terrestrial biological life cycles, and the likely extirpation of species.

The land cover maps below in Figure 1, prepared by the United States Geological Survey (2014), clearly show the trend in agriculture expansion and the loss of forest cover throughout Ghana. The rapid expansion of farmland threatens the remaining forests and natural areas and segments of the population that rely on these resources for their livelihoods. Many poorer rural inhabitants depend on natural products to supplement their income; frequently, these products are their main source of revenue. This is the case especially for youth, women and the elderly, and the loss of this income source equals a dramatic loss as it relates to food security.

USAID/Ghana's Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment of 2011 identified the need for the Feed the Future (FTF) program to mitigate any possible negative effects on forests and other natural areas from

agriculture expansion. That threat, together with increased demand for fuel wood and charcoal production, are the dominant drivers of deforestation. Moreover, health risks increase as the quality and quantity of water resources for human and productive uses declines as a result of the hydrologic functions of watershed catchment areas being disrupted by agricultural expansion, deforestation and mining.



**Figure 1. Ghana Land Cover Trends 1975-2010**

To address these numerous threats to sustainability, USAID/Ghana’s Economic Growth office has developed natural resource interventions in Ghana’s Western Region. USAID’s main initiative, the Fisheries and Coastal Management Program (FCMP), has four components: (i) Strengthened enabling environment for decentralized fisheries and coastal governance, (ii) Increased use of applied science to inform decision-making, law enforcement and the implementation of management plans, (iii) Heightened public awareness of trends, challenges and successes in ecosystem management and stronger public demand for sustainable use and conservation, and (iv) Improved management of marine and coastal natural resources for multiple benefits.

The US Forest Service, under an inter-agency partnership agreement with USAID, manages one component of the FCMP, the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). The CSLP contributes in some form to all four components with special emphasis on component (iv). The CSLP activities target landscape level engagement with communities, non-governmental organizations, government of Ghana agencies, the private sector, and international partners, who live and work in the coastal area from the Cote d’Ivoire border east to Shama District.

The CSLP is responding 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 goal of the strategy is to support the Government of Ghana in realizing its goal of becoming an established middle-income country by 2022. In this regard, the CSLP works to support Ghana’s economic development agenda and strategies such as the Shared Growth and Development Agenda, Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS), and the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy

(FASDEP II). USAID/Ghana’s Development Objective 2 also supports two US Presidential Initiatives related to the CSLP, including Feed the Future and Global Climate Change.

If successfully implemented, these efforts will lead to increased employment, improved livelihoods, better land management, increased soil fertility, and increased carbon stocks. Moreover, improved land management will reduce pressure on intact areas of remaining natural forests and wetlands thereby protecting their biodiversity and allowing for the continued development of opportunities linked to ecotourism.

To confront these growing threats mentioned above, the CSLP is working to improve carbon sequestration, forest management, and livelihoods in the six coastal districts of the Western Region (see Figure 2). The overall long-term impact of the project will be 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.



**Figure 2. The six coastal districts in Ghana’s Western Region**

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. The project’s activities have been established within communities where there is an existing and functioning community governance body such as Community Resource Management Associations (CREMAs) or similar entities. This history of community collaboration provided an entry point for the project to work with community members on a variety of livelihood activities. One such activity leverages the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) concept, a significant aspect of the project. It is a social entrepreneurial concept that enjoys much success in other areas of Ghana. But it is a novel idea for communities of the Western Region’s coastal districts. With each passing year, enthusiasm and excitement builds with its implementation. The project uses it as a platform to help encourage and promote activities that maintain and increase forest cover with native and existing tree species while also serving as a means of reaching a large portion of female farmers and household representatives. 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 finance mechanism to work towards improved and diversified livelihoods.

CSLP’s interventions have brought awareness among farmers, community members and government officials and substantially increased the understanding of these impacts among stakeholders in the Western Region during and since the project’s first phase from 2013 to 2016. Climate smart agriculture activities and other resilient agricultural best practices are helping farmers adapt to this changing climate, reducing the need for high cost

inputs, while aiming to sustain or increase productivity despite less predictable weather. In addition, conservation of secondary forest through activities such as beekeeping and increasing tree cover on degraded agricultural lands through farmer managed natural regeneration and enrichment planting has been increasing over the life of the project. The CSLP is building on this work by further connecting farmer groups with markets to increase the value of their goods and thereby increase economic opportunity.

With successful implementation, these cumulative efforts will contribute to increased employment, diversified and improved livelihoods, better land management of existing natural resources, augmentation of soil fertility, increased carbon stocks, and avoided emissions of greenhouse gases. Moreover, improved land management and livelihoods will reduce pressure on intact areas of forest reserves and areas of high conservation value, protecting their biodiversity, allowing for ecotourism opportunities and enhancing the value of other ecosystem services within the value chains of the local communities.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS TO DATE

Indicator targets and achievements

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	FY18 Performance					Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target? Y/N
		Annual Target	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY18	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18		
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in <u>metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e</u> , reduced, sequestered or avoided as a result of USG assistance	0	6,400,000	--	--	--	--	N/A	Y
4.8.1-6 Number of <u>people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	1,800	--	--	--	--	N/A	Y
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	2,100	--	--	--	--	N/A	Y
4.8.1-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	0	8,500	1,798	--	--	--	21%	Y
4.8.2-14 Number of <u>institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	0	80	--	--	--	--	N/A	Y
4.8.2-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in climate change as	0	5,000	665	--	--	--	13%	Y



Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	FY18 Performance					Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target? Y/N
		Annual Target	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY18	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18		
a result of USG assistance								
EG. 3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	980	398	--	--	--	41%	Y
EG. 3.2-4 Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) receiving UGS food security-related organizational development assistance	0	88	65	--	--	--	74%	Y
E.G. 3.2-17 Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	504	183	--	--	--	36%	Y
E.G. 3.2-18 Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	0	100	20	--	--	--	20%	Y
E.G. 3.2-20 Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level	0	60	23	--	--	--	38%	Y

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	FY18 Performance					Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target? Y/N
		Annual Target	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY18	Q3 FY18	Q4 FY18		
technologies or management practices								
C-1 Number of person hours of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance	0	5,000	1,314	--	--	--	26%	Y
C-2 Number of community sensitization sessions on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	60	18	--	--	--	27%	Y
C-3 Number of persons receiving start-up items for improved NRM/ biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	100	77	--	--	--	77%	Y
C-4 Number of project-planted seedlings surviving in towns/communities as a result of USG assistance	0	57,600	--	--	--	--	--	Y
<b>Other VSLA custom indicators</b>								
Number of active informal savings and lending groups							40	
Cumulative Amount (in USD) saved by informal Savings and lending (VSLA) Group							\$61,981	
Number of members of active informal savings and lending groups							998	
Men							337	
Women							661	
Amount of funds loaned (in USD) annually by informal savings and lending groups							\$56,305	

## 3.0 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

### 3.1 Progress Narrative

As the CSLP begins its fifth year of implementation, the team realizes this is a critical year in ensuring the various behavior change activities can be sustained after the project comes to a completion. As a result, the CSLP staff and partners have taken a keen interest in reaching out to key stakeholders to ensure they are honing their skills and knowledge relative to roles they will play for beneficiaries for years to come. Additionally, CSLP staff are increasingly focusing their time with beneficiaries to monitor activities, provide hands-on coaching, and understand and address challenges as they arise with an aim to ensuring greater adoption rates.

Bearing this in mind, a highlight of some of the activities completed during the quarter is provided below.

- In Ghana, charcoal is believed to be the largest source of domestic fuel with 60 to 70% of all households using at least some charcoal. In the Western Region, its production provides an alternative income source for many people from traditional farming activities. **Charcoal production** is considered a major cause of deforestation both on and off forest reserves in the country and therefore threatens carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation efforts.

Given charcoal's prevalence, CSLP is focusing on working with producers in the Western Region to improve management of charcoal production wood lots and the efficiency of production of the charcoal to reduce overall environmental impacts. In addition to trainings on improved management practices provided to producers last year, this quarter, the CSLP successfully piloted mobile metal kilns to the charcoal producers in the Shama District. The introduction of the kiln is meant to promote a more environmentally friendly and higher yielding production method than the traditional system. Improved production efforts aim to lead to more sustainable management of charcoal production wood lots that will thereby reduce impacts on protected forest areas and provide greater economic returns to charcoal producing households.

- Given the low income and high poverty levels in many of the communities in which the CSLP works, combined with the limited access for many rural households to financial institutions, the CSLP has promoted the **Village Savings and Loan Association (VLSA)** concept to serve as a platform for beneficiaries to mobilize their own funds to support themselves. Through small group savings and loans, VLSA members are able to access funds to support basic household needs such as payment of school fees and petty trading needs. In addition, members are able to purchase inputs related to beekeeping and climate smart agriculture activities promoted by the CSLP. During the quarter, five new VSLAs were started bringing the total number of VSLAs supported by the project to 37. Total membership in these savings groups is just under 1,000 with 65 percent of the members being women. Ten VSLAs reached share-out during the quarter. Share-out is the end of every cycle, where the accumulated savings plus service charge earnings are shared amongst the membership according to the amount each member has saved. The groups' performance at share-out illustrates some significant financial benefits for the members of these groups especially when examining the return on savings. These groups averaged a 34.54% return on investment as compared to the Bank of Ghana interest rate of 19.07% as of January 29, 2018, for example. A table with full details is provided in this report.
- Vegetable production within the coastal districts is a common practice but one that is increasingly threatened by expansion of land for tree crop production such as cocoa, rubber and oil palm. Vegetable production provides an important nutritional source for households as well as potential modest income. Since the less suitable land is often allocated for their production, high volumes of chemicals are often applied to ensure production which further degrades the soil and impacts the health of those consuming such produce. The CSLP has been promoting **climate smart agriculture (CSA)** practices along with the local Department of Food and Agriculture extension agents as a means of supporting farmers to produce wholesome vegetables using environmentally friendly practices that will be better adapted to impacts from climate change—improving

water and soil quality while simultaneously improving the longevity of the produce developed with such principles.

More than 90 CSA sites in 12 communities were monitored during the quarter. The visits created opportunities for farmers to share and receive support in the management of their CSA plots. Farmers discussed challenges of crop diseases and pests, soil management and post-harvest handling.

In addition to helping establish these plots and demonstration sites, the CSLP has facilitated the establishment of two CSA enterprise groups to support efforts to share best practices and market produce more effectively as a group. In addition to business skills development trainings, the groups recently showcased their vegetable produce in Ayinase (Ellembelle District) and Agona Nkwanta (Ahanta West District) markets as a first step to gaining greater market access for their produce. This market entry activity raises awareness of the benefits of CSA vegetables and also points to the dangers that accompany production achieved with the use of agrochemicals. It is hoped that when demand for CSA vegetables increases, it will lead to the introduction of premium prices for produce grown with these more environmentally friendly practices. Initial sales suggest a great interest from consumers as produce was sold quickly and buyers noticed that the produce had a longer shelf life than traditionally produced vegetables.

- CSLP is adopting **urban tree planting** as a means of creating the opportunity for cities, towns and villages to share in the economic and ecological benefits of urban forestry while contributing to the effort to sequester carbon across the landscape. A collaboration between CSLP, the Nzema Manle Traditional Council and the Department of Agriculture (DoFA) in the Jomoro district resulted in the delivery of urban forestry tree seedlings from CSLP to the DoFA which were distributed to a number of schools and other government agencies for planting in the Jomoro district. This occurred after a training was facilitated for these collaborating institutions by CSLP. Planting of about 700 seedlings delivered by CSLP was completed over one year ago and so the CSLP conducted monitoring of the planted seedlings in the school compounds during the quarter.

Five schools were visited and the species that were found in three of the schools were mostly *Acacia mangium* and *Cassia siamea*. New Town schools reported that they lost nearly all of the seedlings delivered to them due to the sandy nature of the soils for which the trees could not survive the heat during the dry season. They therefore replaced them with a locally thriving fruit tree species known as Konkoma and this has proven successful. While many of the original planted seedlings were lost, the perseverance by the teachers and staff at the schools to find alternatives, indicates the high interest and value the schools are placing on tree planting activities and thus a good indication of continued management of the seedlings for hopeful long term growth.

- Previous Medium Term Development Planning guidelines, which were issued from the National Development Planning Commission, did not require spatial plans. Most of the Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) staff, therefore, did not develop skills in **spatial planning** to aid in their efforts at developing these multi-year plans. In order to make spatial planning data that will be transferred from the CSLP to the district assemblies useful, CSLP, in collaboration with the staff of the Western Region hub of the TCPD decided to train the TCPD staff in the districts to be able to gather GIS data and utilize and store this data for future use. The initial training, which was done in the FY 2016, did not yield the desired results for a number of reasons. A meeting was organized which brought all district management staff together with the CSLP and regional staff of the Western Region TCPD and Development Planning.

One major outcome of that dialogue was for the CSLP and the Regional Hub staff of the TCPD to assess the individual needs of the district assemblies and tailor the training needs accordingly. During the quarter, the CSLP engaged the District Coordinating Director of the Nzema East District and his staff for this assessment. The Nzema East district does not have the requisite number of staff for the planning department. The district requested support to train more staff to be able to use the Quantum GIS software and thus, the CSLP is preparing district specific training manuals to support district staff to become conversant in the use of GIS. The

CSLP will also develop management guidelines for the districts which will help to train new staff given the frequency of staff being transferred between districts.

- Thirty teachers from 10 schools in Shama District's Ghana Education Service (GES) received training in **Leadership and the Environment** to learn skills and acquire knowledge that they will be able to teach to students in their respective schools. The objectives of the training were to establish the linkage between livelihoods and the environment as well as to encourage and build capacity of female students to have the confidence to undertake leadership positions. Participants gained an understanding of their capacity to influence development to equally benefit women. The trained teachers are expected to follow on the training in their respective schools with much of the emphasis on girls as a target audience while also encouraging boys to create opportunities for girls.
- The coastal **Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW)** is located between the Ankobra estuary in the Ellembelle district and the Tano basin which borders Cote d'Ivoire. The wetland is about 50,000 hectares and its land cover comprises peat swamp forests, mangroves, coastal lagoons and estuaries. The GAW is important for the vitality of inshore fisheries as it serves as nursery and breeding grounds for juvenile fish. Additionally, it is one of the few remaining habitats in Ghana for endangered primates, amphibians and reptiles, making it an area of global conservation significance. As a result, the area is a source of livelihood for thousands of people within the three districts of Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East and therefore necessitates sustainable management so that it can provide the livelihood and environmental services necessary for these communities.

In collaboration with Hen Mpoano and the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, a nested management structure has been facilitated to ensure the sustainable management of the GAW resources. In line with that, 24 community level structures and 2 district level structures which oversee the 24 communities, have been established and are now accountable to the traditional councils. These structures are interacting, functioning and improving their skills regularly. In order to streamline the wetland utilization and management for the benefit of the people, community agreed norms are being drafted with particular reference to state laws, district assembly by-laws and historical traditional norms.

During the quarter, the process for facilitating the evolution of community norms was tested in three communities. The initial draft community level regulations from the three communities were synchronized into one document and taken to the Traditional Authority update meeting for their review. The chiefs made critical suggestions particularly relating to traditional norms as well as their role in the enforcement of sanctions for offenders. They also recommended that for the outstanding 21 communities, the process should make room for extensive community level consultations with all stakeholders so that a comprehensive set of rules will be developed that can be enforced and supported so as to protect this vital resource area for the environmental, social and economic benefits it provides.

## Output I: Increased Incomes from Livelihood Diversification

Planned and implemented activities for Output 1 in FY 2018

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
<b>1.1 Intensified and diversified environmentally resilient land use technologies adopted by beneficiaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charcoal producers have improved skill and operate on sustainable basis</li> <li>Farmer groups adopt environmentally smart practices and produce wholesome vegetables for consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-designed mobile metal charcoal kiln was successful in the carbonation of cassia wood</li> <li>92 farmers including 55 women who are members of enterprise groups received technical support to produce wholesome vegetables for sale</li> <li>4 new demonstration plots established by 4 CCCs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More training will be facilitated for the charcoal producers in the operation of the kiln</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 Natural resource value chains improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beekeepers have improved apiary management and honey marketing skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>87 people including 26 girls of Shama Senior High School received training in beekeeping</li> <li>18 apiaries in two communities in the Jomoro District were monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up to monitor the siting of apiary</li> </ul>
<b>1.3 Economic opportunities increased</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New VSLAs formed and functional</li> <li>VSLA operations are assessed and compared to other VSLAs</li> <li>Village Agents (VAs) are skilled and support VSLA training and monitoring</li> <li>VSLAs are graduated and recognized</li> <li>Enterprise groups have improved skills in market entry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 new VSLAs were formed during the quarter</li> <li>The SAVIX MIS was used to assess the performance of CSLP's 37 VSLAs</li> <li>The CSLP assisted 41 VAs to improve their capabilities to support the VSLAs</li> <li>Processes to graduate some of the VSLAs into financial independence were initiated.</li> <li>7 VSLAs reached share-out during the quarter</li> <li>4 enterprise groups introduced climate smart vegetable produce to the markets in Ayinase and Agona</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSLA module trainings continue</li> <li>Mentoring of VAs continues to ensure perfection</li> <li>Mature VSLAs will undergo financial education</li> </ul>
<b>1.4 Capacities enhanced for diversified livelihoods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of farmers interested in mushroom and snail farming have improved capacity and make informed decision</li> <li>Community members are abreast with relevance of food security and how to achieve it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSLP trained woman has kick started snail rearing in Tweakor 1</li> <li>Training was conducted for 30 Climate Change Club Patron teachers from Shama District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She will be monitored to ensure that she is successful</li> </ul>

## Activity 1.1 Intensified and diversified environmentally resilient land use technologies adopted by beneficiaries

### *Mobile Metal Charcoal Kiln*

Charcoal, the major source of domestic energy in Ghana, is used by over 70% of households especially among the poor and middle class. Charcoal is generally made out of the indiscriminate harvesting of suitable wood from the forest and even in some cases from forest reserves, which is against the law. Charcoal production has been considered as one of the major driving forces of forest degradation. Charcoal production may therefore be considered as a “necessary evil”. A practice established about a decade ago in the Shama District is community member established cassia (*Senna siamea*) woodlots that are harvested in 2 to 4 year cycles. Cassia, which re-coppices after harvest, is used extensively in the district for the production of charcoal using a traditional carbonization process where the cut wood is packed and covered with leaf biomass and soil. Following requests for assistance, the CSLP has worked to support and improve this system of charcoal production by lessening aspects of the practice that impact negatively on the environment in order to attain a more environmentally friendly charcoal product.

The CSLP trained the identified practitioners in improved woodlot management. This practice involved:

- Avoidance of burning during land preparation;
- Allowing of natural regeneration of indigenous species in the farm to avoid biodiversity loss;
- Avoid clear cutting of large areas during harvesting; and,
- Cutting at the appropriate height to induce a more rapid re-coppice.

The next stage of collaboration involved the introduction of an improved carbonation method. The traditional system of carbonization requires laborious activities such as digging soil for covering the wood (a difficult activity especially during the dry season), organizing huge volumes of plant biomass to be able to cover a whole heap of wood pile. Charcoal producers are also exposed to high heat during the process as they have to get close to the fire for long periods. The process also limits their sleep as they need to monitor constantly to avoid openings that will lead to burning all the charcoal into ash. These practices have also limited the involvement of women in the charcoal production venture. As an alternative, the CSLP has introduced metal kilns in a pilot activity. The model selected is a two-piece design that will also facilitate mobility from one production site to another. These were fabricated locally and delivered to two charcoal producers associations for testing.

The testing faced challenges due in part to the design of the kiln that was facilitated by one who is experienced in the production of bamboo charcoal. Since cassia wood is much denser than bamboo, the kilns had to be re-designed to improve the inlet and outlet vents. During the quarter, the kiln was successfully used for the first time and this was as a result of re-organization of the vents system and changing the packing of the wood from vertical position to horizontal position. The charcoal practitioners are now convinced that the mobile metal kiln is an improvement for production as the time for carbonization is reduced by about 50% and the charcoal yield is higher with better appearance. The producer groups are considering another design of metal kiln that will be increased in size so as to take more wood.

### *CSA Vegetable Production*

The coastal districts of the Western Region have long been regarded for the vegetable production that takes place throughout the area. However, the traditional slash and burn practices used to prepare fields for production have resulted in the degradation of the land since there is little or no input made to sustain soil quality after the forest cover is removed. Thus, the degraded soils are left highly susceptible to pests and diseases and result in low yields. In recent years, in order to be successful, farmers have learned to apply insecticides, fungicides and chemical fertilizers. These farmers, many of whom have limited educational backgrounds, are often managing their farms with little or no support from agriculture extension officers. The farmers, therefore, traditionally apply large doses of chemicals in contravention of the recommendations of the manufacturers. This has become so widely practiced that European Union banned the entry of some vegetables from Ghana into Europe for the foreseeable future due to the high chemical content of the produce.

CSLP is promoting climate smart vegetable production within the six coastal districts of the Western Region with the objective to totally avoid the use of harmful chemicals that in the end impact negatively on the environment as well as the health of consumers. The characteristics of climate smart vegetable production include the use of organic fertilizers such as manure (animal wastes, compost), incorporating nitrogen fixing trees, mulching, adoption of integrated pest management, use of environmentally friendly pests and disease control recipes such as neem extracts (obtained from *Azadiracta indica* trees, growing locally) and a bamboo vinegar (a by-product of making charcoal from bamboo, also produced by a local entrepreneur).

During the quarter, 92 demonstration sites of 12 communities were monitored. As part of the monitoring, farmers received skills training in climate smart practices as listed below. Fifty-five of these sites are women-owned. The trainings and regular monitoring visits support farmers to experience and identify challenges of crop diseases and pests, address soil management challenges, and post-harvest handling challenges and through hands-on training, provide skills to enable farmers to deal with such challenges.

Five Climate Change Clubs from Asonti and Bokro (both from the Nzema East Municipal Assembly), Adubrim (from Ellebelle District) and Akwidaa (from Ahanta West Municipality) and Komfoeku (in Shama District) were supported to establish climate smart vegetable school farms. The objective is to increase students' awareness of environmentally friendly practices while also building their capacity to practice such skills. Additionally, students are likely to share this new knowledge with their parents which helps to ensure scaling up of these CSLP promoted best practices. With a total membership in the five clubs of 158 boys and 125 girls, students are learning environmentally sound practices in the cycle of vegetable production including:

- Manual weeding without burning or controlled burning during land preparation;
- Importance of using improved and certified seeds;
- Soil management practices such as mulching to reduce erosion and weed growth;
- Use of organic fertilizer including the steps for the production of compost;
- Integrated pest management practices such as the use of neem extracts, pepper and soap mixes; and,
- Post-harvest handling practices.

## Activity 1.2 Natural resources value chains improved

### *Students and Teachers of Shama Senior High School Trained in Beekeeping*

The Shama Senior High School in the Shama District has agriculture as a focal subject option for students. They have pursued beekeeping in the past as a non-traditional agriculture venture but were not successful. The school asked the CSLP to provide its basic beekeeping training to help rekindle its beekeeping activities. During the quarter, 56 boys, 26 girls and 5 male teachers participated in the training in beekeeping. The topics covered included the value of beekeeping, honey bee biology, care for bees and the hive as well as honey harvesting and management. The training used videos to help underscore the topics being discussed and made it easier for the trainees to visualize many of the theoretical ideas. The school was provided with four sets of Kenyan top bar beehives, bee suits and detachable veils, beehive stands, gloves and some bees wax to help them set up their apiary. Their apiary set up will be monitored and supported, where necessary, by the CSLP staff.

### *Apiary Monitoring*

A total of 18 beehives in two communities (both Jomoro District) were monitored during the quarter. The monitoring was done in collaboration with the Community Assistants (CAs) and the hive owners. This activity impresses upon the hive owners the importance of good hive sanitation and a clean environment. Both are issues that often result in bee colonies absconding from the hive if the conditions are not well managed. Through a hands-on training, beekeepers are taught beehive hygiene, beehive pest management, as well as how to examine and detect honey maturity in a hive, open a hive with or without a smoker, harvest mature comb honey and the steps necessary for the post-harvest management of the hive. In addition, the beekeepers are taught how to gain familiarity with opening the hives in order to get the bees to become used to them and reduce the bees' aggressiveness during harvest or inspection monitoring.



## Activity 1.3 Economic opportunities increased

### *Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)*

The CSLP has adopted the VSLA practice as a means to enable community members to mobilize their own funds to procure some inputs that CSLP is not able to provide. While many of the loan funds and savings are used to cover household costs including school fees and petty trading expenses, there is also a significant amount used to fund livelihood expenses related to beekeeping and climate smart agriculture production inputs. In addition to providing an important financial support mechanism for members and their households, the savings groups are also a convenient platform for increasing interest in other CSLP activities amongst the group members.

Five new VSLAs were started during the quarter (including three by the CSLP's grantee Hen Mpoano) bringing the total number of VSLAs supported by the project to 37. Total membership in these savings groups is just under 1,000 with 65 percent of the members being women.

The CSLP tracks its VSLA groups' performance against global performance through the SAVIX MIS database. This database provides data analysis capability for savings groups' projects as well a Group Evaluation Tool (inspired by the Management Information System) to assess individual group quality and to rate performance of field officers and village agents. During the quarter, CSLP data indicated that its groups are performing higher than the global average in relation to savings and loan performance. In particular, the average annualized savings per member for CSLP supported VSLAs is \$162 versus the global average of \$71. Average loan sizes are also higher for the CSLP groups at \$81 versus a global average of \$43.



**Figure 3. Yesu Mo VSLA members conduct their share out process during the quarter**

Ten VSLAs reached share-out during the quarter. Share-out is the end of every cycle, where the accumulated savings plus service charge earnings are shared out amongst the membership according to the amount each member has saved. The groups' performance at share-out (below) illustrates some significant financial benefits for the members of these groups especially when examining the return on savings. These groups averaged 34.54% return on investment as compared to the Bank of Ghana interest rate of 19.07% as of January 29, 2018, for example. These ten groups have all began their next cycles and continue to receive support from the CSLP Supervisory Specialist as well as the Village Agents via weekly training, monitoring and conflict resolution in order to ensure another successful end of cycle.

VSLA	Community	Membership		Total Savings GHC	Total Interest GHC	Return on Savings, %
		M	F			
Nyame Mmer	Adubrim	9	15	23,516	7,792	33.13
Biakoye	Adubrim	9	16	28,865	8,273	28.66
Odo	Adubrim	10	15	19,292	7,384	38.27
Nyansa Mfitiase	Ayawora	7	18	13,250	4,810	36.30
Nyame Na Aye	Ayawora	12	13	12,250	4,878	36.82
Dzigbodi	Navrongo	14	15	14,098	4,755	33.70
Yesu Mo	Tweakor 1	15	15	12,884	4,465	34.90
Mawu Shinu	Anlo Beach	2	18	10,062	2,545	25.29
Nusen	Anlo Beach	2	23	11,138	3,064	27.51
Adom Wo Wiem	Cape Three Points	5	25	14,930	7,396	49.53
<b>10 VSLAs</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>160,285</b>	<b>55,362</b>	<b>34.54</b>
		<b>258</b>		<b>≈ US\$ 35,620*</b>	<b>≈ US\$ 12,300*</b>	

\*Exchange rate: 4.4 GHC/US \$

Village Agents (VAs) are members of VSLAs who are selected, trained and supported to develop the skills necessary to train others to start VSLA groups. CSLP has trained 41 VAs (25 men and 16 women) who are community members and 5 who are local government staff from district assemblies. During the quarter, the VAs complemented the efforts of the CSLP's Supervisory Village Savings and Loan Specialist in the mentoring, training and monitoring of the VSLAs within the CSLP landscape. The importance of their role was highlighted when the CSLP Supervisory VSLA Specialist was away on a training program for nearly a month between October and November 2017. During the period, the VAs facilitated VSLA modular trainings, monitored the social fund and share purchase meetings, supervised share-out meetings and resolved conflicts. Training and mentoring with the VAs will continue through the life of the project to ensure their capacities are as high as possible to sustain such groups after the end of the CSLP.

Fifteen of the CSLP-supported 37 VSLAs have completed multiple cycles successfully: 10 have completed their cycle twice, and five have been through three cycles of savings. To their credit, all these groups have remained together with very minimal changes to membership—a great asset to the groups. This was also reflected in the SAVIX MIS analysis when it showed that the dropout rate of the groups is very low at 2.8%. As more VSLAs pass through multiple cycles, they aspire for larger benefits than they have currently. While some VSLA members begin to grapple with the increased risk of keeping huge sums of money in their boxes, others want bigger loans than the savings group can give them. One way to alleviate this dilemma is to be linked to the formal banking institutions. Such a relationship can be risky to the VSLA members and must be done cautiously given sometimes limited literacy rates of VSLA members, limited understanding of the banking system and what may well be a much lower interest rate available through a more formal lending institution.

To achieve a fruitful linkage with the banks, the savings groups need basic skills development before they can be considered as a graduated or mature group. The financial skills education helps the groups make informed decisions and to avoid wasting funds in case they need to obtain loans from the banks. To ensure that they are known and recognized so that they will receive support from the local government system in case of any issues or conflicts that may arise, the groups also need to be registered with the Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assembly local government system in advance of taking out any loans. This registration also creates the opportunity for the groups to benefit from other opportunities, e.g., the government's "Planting for Food and Jobs Program" where district Business Advisory Centers (BAC) will train farmer-based organizations and provide start-up kits for respective ventures.

Two district BACs were contacted to help savings group members understand the processes of registration and the financial commitments expected of the groups. This information will be shared with the mature VSLAs in the respective districts during the next quarter and will be supported by linking the groups to the BAC so that the processes can continue.

## Enterprise Groups Showcase CSA Vegetables in Two Markets



**Figure 4. Members of the vegetable enterprise groups prepare their produce for sale at the Anyinasie market**

Four vegetable enterprise groups, namely Nyame Beye, Dzigbodi, Tweakor 2 Vegetable Farmers, and Mmoa Kuo visited two markets to sell their produce in a slightly different approach. Generally, market women who deal in vegetables within the landscape know little about organic products. They will therefore buy and sell any vegetable without consideration of how it was produced. In the past two years, this is how they have been buying vegetables from CSA vegetable producers. In an effort to introduce some premium value on CSA vegetables, the CSLP staff joined the CSA farmers and erected a stand with banners. Various quantities of produce were

displayed including tomatoes, garden eggs, pepper, cucumber and carrots. The market queens were invited and briefed on what makes the CSA vegetables different from the vegetables they may be used to. Also explained, was how heavy chemical use without adopting prescribed methods can affect the quality and value of the product and its subsequent effect on the health of the consumer.

In Ayinase market in the Ellembele District, a vegetable seller was available and told her story of how the produce she bought a fortnight earlier from a CSA farmer stored longer than she expected.

A similar market entry strategy was carried out at Agona in the Ahanta West District. In both markets, the demand for CSA vegetables was higher than could be supplied. These results have boosted CSA farmers' confidence and also encouraged them to produce great quantities for sale. As consumer demand for the CSA vegetables increases, a premium price for this produce may also follow.

### **Ayinase Vegetable Seller**

*"When I was buying the garden eggs two weeks ago, I was told it was organic but I did not know what it meant, nor the importance of that. However, when I took it home, I saw that it **had a longer shelf life** than the garden eggs that I know".*

## Activity 1.4 Capacities enhanced for diversified livelihoods

### ***Snail Rearing***

The Western Region environment was originally very suitable for snails to thrive given the high rainfall patterns, high canopy cover and presence of evergreen trees. Today, snail populations have diminished due to changing weather patterns, the high use of chemicals on agricultural lands and burning practices used in traditional agricultural land preparation. As part of the CSLP's strategy to help farmers diversify their livelihood ventures, snail farming was one area where farmers said they would like assistance.

During the third quarter of FY 2017, an introductory training was provided to 66 farmers, including 23 women, who had indicated an interest in snail rearing. Juliana Boahema, who was one of the trainees, partnered with her

husband to establish snail rearing on their farm estate. Having started with 15 pieces of snails, the gastropods have laid dozens of eggs and are awaiting the hatching of the eggs. Juliana has been advised to prepare and expand the housing as the eggs begin to hatch into juveniles to avoid overcrowding in the pen. Continued monitoring by the CSLP staff will take place over the coming months for farmers undertaking such ventures.

#### *ToT in Food Security for Teachers*

Food production within the six coastal districts of the Western Region is mainly done on a subsistence level. For the most part, food crops are grown to nurture plantation crops such as cocoa and oil palm for the first two years of establishment. The food crops grow until the canopy closes up and the farmers look for new sites for food crops. Food production is therefore for household consumption and the surpluses are sold. Simultaneously, there has been little or no regulations at all which has led to the application of all kinds of chemicals in doses which affect the quality of the produce and consumers' health.

CSLP has planned a number of actions to encourage farmers to avoid use of chemicals for production and instead, grow wholesome food in good quantities. One of these strategies, is awareness creation around the concept of food security. The training covers the importance of food security as a move towards the elimination of global hunger as well as explanation of the pillars of food security—namely availability, access, utilization and stability. Farmers learned that while it is important to make food available, it is equally important to consider the utilization of food which covers improving nutrition and food safety, increasing diversity in diets, reducing post-harvest loss and adding value to food. In order to ensure food security, therefore, farmers play critical roles which depend on the farming inputs, practices and handling of the produce before reaching the consumer. It was explained that Ghana will be food insecure if food produced is full of chemicals that make people fall sick in the end.

During the quarter, 30 teacher patrons of Climate Change Clubs (out of which 9 were women) from 10 basic schools in the Shama District were taken through the course in a Training of Trainers (ToT) fashion. They are required to train the students in their respective schools. By this means, the students are likely influenced during their young age and will likely also share the message with their parents. The teachers also plan to seek times during the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings of the schools to create awareness for the parents as well. The training was coordinated by the Science and Mathematics Coordinator and the welcome address was given by the Deputy Director of Education for the District.

#### *ToT in Environmental Education*

CSLP, in collaboration with some of its key regional stakeholders, have leveraged resources, experiences and skills to help manage one of the major environmental issues within the country, which is sanitation. The stakeholders involved are the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission (WD) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ghana Education service (GES). In the past, WD and EPA have facilitated the establishment of school clubs in the junior and senior high schools, as has CSLP, with the objective of capturing the young minds of students and influencing them to be more environmentally responsible in their formative years such that when they grow, they will carry forward a more responsible approach. A cursory look at the objectives and motives of the individual efforts showed that they were very similar, if not the same. The foci however were skewed to different ecosystems and ecosystem functions depending on the interest of the institution. Some of the slight differences may be:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Interest</b>
WD	Mangrove	Habitat for wildlife including migratory birds, welfare of wildlife
EPA	Mangrove	Water reservoir, storm surge protector and cleaning the environment
CSLP	Mangrove	Livelihood around the estuaries and nesting area for marine fishes

Therefore, it was decided for a comprehensive training module to be developed which encompasses the interests of all the institutions to be administered to students for them to improve their knowledge of the concerns faced in relation to the environment and sanitation. The module covered topics including definition of sanitation, types of waste and common sanitation issues including impacts on wetlands and wildlife.

During the quarter, two trainings occurred in Half Assini in the Jomoro District and Esiana in the Ellebelle District. A total of 53 teachers (16 women and 37 men) gathered from 15 schools each in Jomoro and Ellebelle were trained. In a ToT fashion, teachers were taught so as to facilitate the module for their junior high school students. The ToT will be extended to the remaining four coastal districts while there will be follow-up monitoring of how they are rolled out within the schools.

## Output 2: Improved Environment and Natural Resources Management

Planned and implemented activities for Output 2 in FY 2018

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
<b>2.1 Forestry and agroforestry interventions developed and practiced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees are planted and nurtured into maturity for economic and environmental benefits</li> <li>Local assemblies are supported to plan and implement urban forestry activities in their areas</li> <li>All planted trees are officially registered in the names of the planters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees planted in 5 schools in the Jomoro district were monitored</li> <li>Seedlings target set for urban forestry planting within the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Area</li> <li>CSLP engaged relevant institutions for the registration of planted trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected schools will begin raising seedlings for planting in the next rainy season</li> </ul>
<b>2.2 Carbon sequestration improved and effectively monitored</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon stock of CSLP intervention sites are measured and monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 Community Assistants from 8 communities received refresher training in GPS use to enable them to map intervention sites</li> <li>CSLP has started with composite maps development for the intervention communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding intervention sites are going to be mapped</li> <li>Inputting of meta data to complete community composite maps</li> </ul>
<b>2.4 Capacities increased in environmental resilience and natural resources management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local assemblies' technical staff have improved skills to collect and utilize spatial data</li> <li>Some GES teachers create awareness in students through a ToT in environmental education</li> <li>More Climate Change Clubs are formed and functional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSLP engaged the DCD and his planning staff to assess the spatial planning needs of the Nzema East Municipal Assembly in order to design support for the staff</li> <li>53 teachers including 16 women received training in environment and sanitation to enable them to facilitate attitudinal change in the students</li> <li>8 new CCC were formed and inaugurated during the quarter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materials are being gathered to prepare district specific training for all six coastal districts of the Western Region</li> <li>Monitoring visits will be conducted in the follow up training of the students in the 30 schools. The ToT will be extended to the remaining coastal districts.</li> <li>New CCCs will be supported to become functional</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland health is monitored in Yabiw and Akwidaa</li> <li>• CBOs are supported to promote environmental/biodiversity conservation in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission</li> <li>• CSLP participates in the National Farmers' Day 2017</li> <li>• Information, education and communication materials are produced and distributed in FY 2018</li> <li>• Wetland/mangrove management improved in the coastal districts of the Western Region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC members in Akwidaa and Yabiw completed Module 3 of the Wetland Monitoring Module</li> <li>• 70 CRMC members, out of which 29 are women, received training in CREMAs: the Environment and Livelihoods</li> <li>• CSLP participated in the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Farmers' Day celebration in two districts presenting awards to two groups</li> <li>• Printing of 1,000 CSLP branded calendars and 358 polo shirts were initiated during the quarter</li> <li>• Processes for the development of community agreed rules were initiated in the quarter</li> <li>• 6,800 polypots have been prepared to receive mangrove propagules in Anyanzinli and Metika</li> <li>• The Ezinlibo portion of the GAW wetland in the Jomoro District was mapped during the quarter</li> <li>• 74 farmers including 38 women received improved cassava planting material of two varieties for planting in their farms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 4 of the wetland curriculum will be taught <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 more CRMCs will be taken through the training module</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 21 more communities will go through the process to agree on rules which will be harmonized into one set of rules for the GAW area</li> </ul>
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## Activity 2.1 Forestry and agroforestry interventions developed and practiced

### *Tree planting in schools*

CSLP planned and adopted urban forestry planting as a means of creating the opportunity for cities, towns and villages to share in the economic and ecological benefits of tree planting and also contribute to sequestration of carbon. A collaboration between CSLP, the Nzema Manle Traditional Council and the Department of Agriculture (DoFA) in the Jomoro district resulted in the delivery of urban forestry tree seedlings from the CSLP to DoFA which were distributed to a number of schools and other government agencies for planting in the Jomoro district. This occurred after a training was facilitated for these collaborating institutions by the CSLP. Planting of about 700 seedlings delivered by CSLP was done more than one year ago and was facilitated by the DoFA staff and so CSLP requested to monitor the plantings that occurred in the basic schools' compounds.

Five schools were visited and the species that were found in three of the schools were mostly *Acacia mangium* and *Cassia siamea*. New Town schools reported that they lost nearly all of the seedlings delivered to them due to the sandy nature of the soils for which the trees could not survive the heat during the dry season. They therefore replaced them with a locally thriving fruit tree species known as Konkoma and this proven successful. The CSLP was excited about the introduction of Konkoma which gives indication that the urban forestry training was successful in that it kindled a huge motivation for the teachers and students to have trees in the school yards. Despite the challenge of losing some of the CSLP provided species, the motivation to seek out other indigenous species to plant to increase tree cover demonstrates the interest and commitment to urban greening.

### *Greening the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis*

CSLP has been trying to collaborate with the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) to undertake urban tree planting within the twin city metropolis. For nearly three years, there has been discussions and planning relative to where to plant, who to consult and agreement on roles and responsibilities. Late last year, some concrete ideas finally started to form, partially thanks to a change in leadership within the STMA. However, the ideal window for tree planting had already passed and therefore efforts for tree planting were postponed to this fiscal year.

During the quarter, there were two meetings between the CSLP and members of the standing committee appointed by the Metropolitan Chief Executive. Members include the Director of Department of Food and Agriculture, National Disaster Management Organization, Metropolitan Planning Officer, Urban Roads Department and The Parks and Gardens of the STMA. The group met and agreed upon the areas to be planted, species and numbers of seedlings required, responsibility for management, locations for raising the seedlings and the source of wood for construction of protective materials for the seedlings. Schools which are to serve as the nursery sites were visited and the administrators of those schools confirmed their readiness to accept the challenge to produce seedlings. The nurseries will be established during the ensuing quarter and it is expected that seedlings will be ready for transplanting during the next rainy season.

### *Registration of Planted Trees*

The constitution of Ghana vests the ownership of any growing tree to the state and allows the state to exploit them for general development. Following the promulgation of the Timber Resources Management Act 547, which gave the right for individuals to own planted trees, there have been discussions for planters to have trees registered in order to distinguish them from naturally occurring trees to assure ownership. Therefore, the government, through the Forestry Commission, has collaborated with civil society organizations to agree on the process for the registration of planted trees. The CSLP has been a partner within the civil society group contributing to the registration reform process and started testing it during the quarter.

Using the newly designed and government approved form, data was gathered from 51 farmers in Adubrim and 25 farmers in Ayawora. The data comprised of bio-data of the planters, taking of passport size photographs of the planters, recordings of the numbers of trees and species planted and location of the farms. The CSLP, in trying to find out the next step of the registration process, engaged the Forestry Commission staff including the Western Region office, the Resource Management Support Center (RMSC), and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in order to share the lessons and experiences gained so far. It turned out that the RMSC, which happens to be the lead institution responsible for the tree registration exercise, had realized some more bottlenecks and therefore scheduled national stakeholders' meeting in the ensuing quarter to streamline these for a smooth take-off of the registration process. CSLP has therefore suspended data gathering for this process since the indication is that the registration forms will be further re-designed.

## **Activity 2.2 Carbon sequestration improved and effectively monitored**

### *GPS Training*

In order to ensure effective monitoring of areas of intervention within the CSLP engaged communities to capture accurate carbon sequestration calculations, GPS coordinates of farm areas that have undergone management

improvements must be taken. Farm areas mapped include those that have implemented cocoa agroforestry, climate smart agriculture vegetable production, establishment of apiaries, and enrichment tree planting.

In view of the widespread location of these sites within the six coastal districts of the Western Region and the sheer numbers of these sites, the Community Assistants (CAs) initiative was hatched to support GPS data gathering. CAs are men and women who, based on their interest, educational level and availability are selected from the CSLP intervention communities and trained in the use of the GPS. There is always the need for refresher trainings to ensure that the CAs maintain their skills. This ensures that CAs who have not used the GPS for some time are refreshed and also enable them to use new brands of GPS equipment effectively. For a number reasons, some trained CAs withdraw from service from time to time and they need to be replaced. It becomes necessary for newly selected CAs to be trained as well.

During the quarter, 14 men from 8 communities received training in the use of the GPS. Four of the CAs were new members and therefore the training was designed such that the experienced CAs were given the opportunity to share their experiences with their new colleagues. The CSLP staff shadowed this training to ensure a quality transfer of knowledge. The (re)trained CAs are going to be assigned to assist with unmapped intervention sites within their respective communities.

### *Composite Community Maps*

The CSLP has been collecting polygon information from more than 1,000 sites across the landscape over the course of a few years. The CSLP has begun to combine this mapping data which are polygon sizes and GPS locations with other attributes such as name of the farmer, land cover types such as types of crops, intervention type implemented, and secondary forest or fallow patches coverage into Arch Info. The outcome of this process will be composite maps of each community showing all the CSLP intervention sites' locations and their attributes including the names of farmers. These maps are going to be shared with the respective district assemblies for utilization in their development planning and reporting.

To illustrate what the analysis of some of this data will provide, an illustrative example from Adubrim in the Ellembelle district is shown below.

<u>Land cover type</u>	<u>Size (Ha)</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Cocoa Agroforest	430.49	82.3
Food crop	40.39	7.7
Fallow	18.06	3.46
Forest patch	33.78	6.45
Total Area of Sites	522.72	
Total number of farmers	250	
<i>Total Men</i>	203	
<i>Total Women</i>	47	

## **Activity 2.4 Capacities increased in environmental resilience and natural resources management**

### *Spatial Planning Needs Assessment*

Previous Medium Term Development Planning guidelines, which were issued from the National Development Planning Commission, did not require spatial plans. Most of the Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) staff, therefore, did not develop skills in spatial planning. In order to ensure that data that will be transferred from CSLP to the assemblies is useful, CSLP, in collaboration with the staff of the Western Region hub of the TCPD decided to train the TCPD staff in the districts to be able to gather this GIS data and utilize and store it for future use. The initial training, which was done in FY 2016, did not yield the desired results for a number of reasons. A meeting was organized which brought all district management staff together with CSLP and the regional staff of the Western Region TCPD and Development Planning.



One major outcome of that dialogue was for CSLP and the Regional Hub staff of the TCPD to assess the individual needs of the district assemblies and tailor the training needs accordingly. During the quarter, CSLP engaged the District Coordinating Director of the Nzema East District and his staff for this assessment. The Nzema East district does not have the requisite number of staff for the planning department. The district uses the Quantum GIS software, which only the department head is trained to use. The district requested for the support to train more staff to be able to use the Quantum GIS software. The CSLP is preparing district specific training manuals to support district staff to become conversant in the use of GIS. The CSLP will also develop management guidelines for the districts which will help to train new staff given the frequency of staff being transferred between districts.

#### *ToT for Shama District Teachers*

A Training of Training (ToT) was organized for 30 teachers (19 of them being women) from 15 schools in the Shama District Education Directorate. This one day training program in Leadership and Environment was facilitated by the District Science, Mathematics, Agriculture and Environment Coordinator. Topics covered included:

- Definitions (Leadership & Environment)
- Common Environmental Issues (open defecation and refuse dumping)
- Linkage: Environment & Livelihoods
- Leadership behavior/qualities
  - CCC members & Leadership roles
  - Ghana's Population (Gender Dimension)
  - Women & leadership roles (ways to empower women)



**Figure 5. Shama district teachers engage in an icebreaker to start the training exercise with CSLP staff**

The objectives of the training were to establish the linkage between livelihoods and the environment as well as for teachers to be able to encourage and build capacity of female students to have the confidence to undertake leadership positions. The trained teachers are expected to follow on the training in their respective schools with much of the emphasis on girls as the target audience while also encouraging boys to create opportunities for girls.

#### *New Climate Change Clubs (CCCs) Formed*

The CSLP has adopted the Climate Change Clubs intervention as a means to influence and reform the mindset of the students at the junior high school level on the importance of environmental and food security issues. Given the likelihood of students sharing this knowledge with their parents, it is also seen as an important opportunity to scale up the impact from the CSLP. Activities for exposing the club members to environmental awareness include trainings, educational tours to best management practice areas, clean-up activities and quiz competitions.

During the quarter, 8 new climate clubs were formed within three districts as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Name of Club</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
			<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
1	Assorko Essaman JHS	Shama District	9	26
2	Inchaban Methodist JHS	Shama District	40	50
3	Anto-Abosso JHS	Shama District	9	16
4	Obinim Kyena Asem JHS	Shama District	29	39
5	Agyeza JHS	Jomoro District	8	7
6	New Town JHS	Jomoro District		102
7	New Kabenlasuazo JHS	Jomoro District		160
8	Cape Three Points JHS	Ahanta West	20	28

The clubs in New Town and New Kabenlasuazo are run as environmental clubs for the whole and therefore recognized as a major extra-curricular activity for the whole school. The clubs will be electing executives and following up with the development of actions plans.

### *Student Wetland Monitoring*

CSLP is collaborating with the University of Cape Coast's Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Project (UCC-FCMCBP) to build capacity of students at the junior high school level to monitor the health of wetlands and help to sustain the resources. The UCC-FCMCBP has developed a seven module curriculum on wetland monitoring. The modules are:

- ◎ **MODULE 1:** Nature, types and importance of wetlands
- ◎ **MODULE 2:** Ecology of coastal wetlands
- ◎ **MODULE 3:** Biodiversity of wetland ecosystems
- ◎ **MODULE 4:** Threats to wetlands
- ◎ **MODULE 5:** Water quality and invertebrate monitoring
- ◎ **MODULE 6:** Fisheries monitoring
- ◎ **MODULE 7:** Wildlife monitoring

With an agreement between the Ghana education Service and the heads of the schools, there are allotted times within the schools' timetable when the students who are Climate Change Club (CCC) members are taken through the curricula. Associated with the curriculum are monitoring field data sheets and monitoring score cards.

The two schools that are connected with this curriculum are Yabiw Methodist (in Shama District) and Akwidaa Seventh Day Adventist (in Ahanta West District) Junior High Schools. During the quarter, CCC members of the two schools (Yabiw: 41 boys 29 girls and Akwidaa: 34 boys and 36 girls) were taken through module three, after having completed modules one and two. They followed up with field trips where the students were supported to make the differentiation between the red and white mangrove and some other flora as they were familiar with some of the fauna such as periwinkles and crabs. During the quarter, the club members in Akwidaa started the establishment of a CSA vegetable garden so that they will learn skills in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and sustainable soil management practices for the production of crops. They prepared 25 vegetable beds, prepared compost and nursed seeds of tomato, pepper, carrots and cabbage.

### *Environmental Training for CRMC Members*

The Cape Three Points CREMA, which covers the total land area of 20 communities, has been in existence for over ten years. The aims and objectives of the CREMA include conserving wildlife and wetlands for future use, protecting natural resources in general and providing livelihoods for community members. Although the CREMA has developed these laudable objectives, there have been significant challenges in meeting these goals.

In past years, the CSLP has led trainings to help improve the CREMA members' capacity in order to help them better achieve their objectives. Some of these trainings have included 'Wildlife and their Importance' and 'The Spirit and the Letter of the CREMA Constitution'. During the past quarter, another training was provided to three of the community level management structures called the Community Resources Management Committees (CRMC). The training titled "The Environment and Livelihoods" was provided for the CRMCs of Adalazo (13 men and 8 women), Animakrom (14 men and 9 women) and Abase (14 men and 12 women), all in the Ahanta West District. The objective of the training was to establish the link between the environment and human impacts including uncontrolled elimination of forest, trees, wildlife, bush burning, and the excessive dumping of chemicals and the livelihood activities such as farming and fishing which are the major livelihood ventures within the area. The participants were able to analyze and compare farm yields and fish catch from the past to present and conclude on the differences that may be attributed to the status of the present environment. Given the positive outcomes of this training, it will be replicated to cover all the remaining CRMCs.

### *33<sup>RD</sup> National Farmers' Day Celebration*

CSLP participated in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ghana National Farmers' Day celebration in December 2017. Two groups of CSLP staff participated in Antseambua in the Shama District and Ajumako-Mpatase in the Ahanta West District. In both district venues, CSLP exhibited photos of CSA vegetable production practices and recommended integrated pest management inputs. In addition, CSLP took the opportunity to present awards to two groups—namely the vegetable enterprise group of Cape Three Points and the Komfoeku Climate Change Club for their impressive performance in learning and adopting climate smart practices.



**Figure 6. CSLP Director Steve Dennison presents the National Farmers' Day award to the Komfoeku Junior High School Climate Change Club**

## **Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) Management**

The coastal Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) is located between the Ankobra estuary in the Ellembelle district and the Tano basin which borders Cote d'Ivoire. The GAW is about 50,000 hectares and its land cover comprises peat swamp forests, mangroves, coastal lagoons and estuaries. The GAW is important for a vibrant inshore fishery as it serves as nursery and breeding grounds for juvenile fish. It is one of the few remaining habitats in Ghana for endangered primates, amphibians and reptiles, making it an area of global conservation significance. The GAW, therefore, is a source of livelihood for thousands of people within the three districts namely Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East and therefore necessitates sustainable management so that it can provide the livelihood and environmental services necessary for these communities.

### *Community Agreed Rules for GAW*

In collaboration with Hen Mpoano and the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, a nested management structure has been facilitated to ensure the sustainable management of the resources. In line with that, 24 community level structures and 2 district level structures which oversee the 24 communities, have been established and are now accountable to the traditional councils. These structures are interacting, functioning and improving their skills regularly. The management structures have realized the need to move away from the management strategy where mangroves, for example, are considered as communal resources and left to individual discretion to harvest as people wish. Instead, and in order to streamline the wetland utilization and management for the benefit of the people, community agreed norms are being drafted with particular reference to state laws, district assembly by-laws and historical traditional norms.

During the quarter, the process for facilitating the evolution of community norms was tested in three communities, namely, Sanwoma, Adelekazo and Apataim. The initial draft community level regulations from the three communities were synchronized into one document and taken to the Traditional Authority update meeting for their review. The chiefs made critical suggestions particularly relating to traditional norms as well as their role in the enforcement of sanctions for offenders. They also recommended that for the outstanding 21 communities, the process should make room for extensive community level consultations with all stakeholders so that a comprehensive set of rules will be developed.

### *Mangrove Nursery Activities in the GAW Area*

Three Community Conservation Committees (CCCs) of the GAW have, in the past year, focused heavily on the re-planting of degraded mangroves. These are Sanwoma, Metika and Anyanzinli. These communities became motivated following the completion of the participatory mapping of their wetland areas which enabled them to have a visual idea of the extent of degradation of the mangroves. While the Sanwoma nursery is receiving support from the SFMP, CSLP is supporting the nurseries in Metika and Anyanzinli. Metika and Anyanzinli are motivated by the following details:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Total Mangrove Area (Ha)</u>	<u>Total Degraded Mangrove (Ha)</u>	<u>Re-planted Mangrove in FY 2017 (Ha)</u>	<u>Outstanding Degraded Mangrove (Ha)</u>
1	Anyanzinli	82.84	17.80	2.50	15.30
2	Metika	8.60	3.77	2.70	1.07

The two communities have targeted raising a total of 12,000 mangrove seedlings (7,000 seedlings for Anyanzinli and 5,000 for Metika). During the quarter, 6,800 poly pots were filled with soil in readiness to receive mangrove propagules. In the ensuing quarter, more poly pots will be filled with soil, while mature mangrove propagules will be introduced into the filled bags to be nurtured into seedlings for re-planting.

### Mapping of GAW Wetland

Until now, the GAW resource has not benefited from ground truthing to show the extent of the wetland and indicate the land cover types as well as their status. The lack of such a spatial resource gives erroneous impressions about the resources and limits community members' interest to work together to ensure sustainability. It also limits the ability to make informed decisions for the management of the resource. The strategy that has been adopted is to map out the total GAW through a participatory process with the community members. The involvement of community members takes advantage of local knowledge in the exercise and also enables community members to appraise the resources first hand and utilize the information in the management of the resource. During the quarter, participatory mapping was conducted in Ezinlibo in the Jomoro District as shown in the figure below.

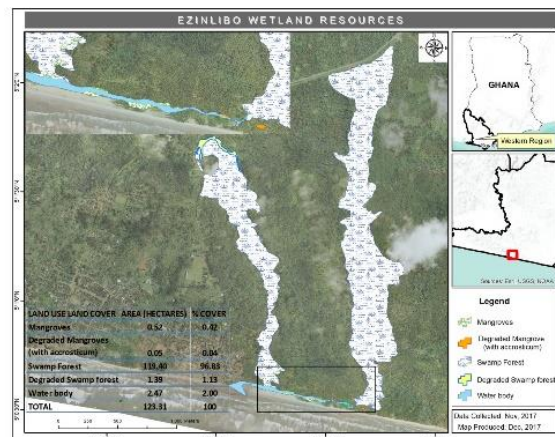


Figure 7. Map of Ezinlibo Wetland Resources

The Ezinlibo wetland section of the GAW covers an area of 123.31 hectares. Out of this, 119.40 hectares is made up of fresh water swamp forest and 0.52 hectares is mangrove. The map indicates that 1.39 hectares of the fresh water swamp forest is degraded while 0.04 hectares of the mangrove is also degraded. Management actions are being put in place to ensure sustainable management of these resources.

### Livelihood Enhancement in the GAW Area

As part of the capacity building for community members in the management of mangrove wetlands within the GAW area, some livelihood ventures are being promoted. The livelihood activities are introduced to help diversify the income of the people particularly from solely relying on mangrove wetland resources. In this vein, planting material of two improved varieties of cassava were introduced and distributed to 74 new farmers out of which 38 were females. The two improved varieties are *bankyehemaa* and *essam* which are disease resistant, high yielding and early maturing. Cassava is major staple crop for these districts and is used to prepare more than five staple foods. The farmers received training on the propagation of the two varieties in order to ensure optimum productivity of the plants. In addition, during the quarter, 122 improved cassava farms were mapped totaling 19.62 hectares to enable an estimation of the yield of cassava expected.

## 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

### *Tree Registration*

Timber ownership is a grey area in Ghana and is a major reason for the lack of motivation by many farmers to plant trees on their farms. It is entrenched in the 1992 Constitution and vests ownership of timber in the state. Some later legislative acts indicate that if a tree is planted, the planter maintains ownership. The only assured way to prove ownership is to register all planted trees. The process for such registration is not yet clear despite several engagements that have occurred with government and non-governmental partners including the CSLP. The CSLP, with the Forestry Commission's blessing, began gathering data for the registration based on conclusions and agreements made on the registration process last year. Unfortunately, in the latter part of the year, the CSLP had to stop the process following advice from the Resource Management Support Center in Kumasi. This is a worrying development as the inability for CSLP to register all planted trees in the farmers' names could jeopardize the farmers' tree ownership or trees that they have planted and nurtured. At present, the CSLP is awaiting updates from the Forestry Commission on next steps and a revised registration template and process.

### *Crop Diseases*

The CSA vegetable production is gradually gaining traction with the farmers across the coastal landscape in the Western Region. An evolving challenge is the prevalence of crop diseases that threaten some of the vegetable production. MoFA counterparts are aware and concerned about the disease and have referred it to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Until such time as further information is available on causes and treatments, the CSLP will work with farmers to identify means of mitigating its impact while ensuring healthy, nutritious foods can still be produced.

## 5.0 INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

### 5.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

#### *Gender Point Of Contact/Monitoring and Evaluation Training*

CSLP participated in the USAID/METSS facilitated back to back trainings in M&E and Gender in Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region. The meeting prepared the CSLP M&E Specialist in full readiness to upload CSLP data into the FTFMS.

The gender meeting also gave more insight into the USAID Gender Integration Framework (GIF). CSLP has nominated a Gender Point of Contact (POC) and shared contacts.

#### *CSLP Gender Assessment*

CSLP engaged a consultant to conduct an assessment within the CSLP operational area, including the Greater Amanzule Wetland area with the objectives of:

- Conducting an assessment of gender integration in CSLP's activities;
- Providing a strategy/action plan to improve the integration of women and youth to and enhance their empowerment on the CSLP landscapes through the life of project date; and,
- Making recommendations on strategies that can ensure the sustainability of project interventions so that they can lead to a greater likelihood of longer term adoption and benefits to project beneficiaries.

The Consultant submitted her report near the end of the quarter. The CSLP is concluding its final review and the report will become an annex to the FY 2018 Annual Work Plan. Project staff will meet early in the next quarter to plan how to best integrate it into the CSLP Gender Integration Framework and associated project activities.

## 5.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

Two stakeholders are very critical in ensuring that there is regular support to farmers when they need it particularly in the CSA vegetable production practices. The two groups of people are the DoFA Extension Agents and the Community Assistants. During FY 2017, a selection of DoFA extension staff received training by the CSLP in the facilitation of CSA practices in conjunction with some lead farmers. The strategy for FY 2018 is to follow up with these DoFA trainees to ensure they are able to lead similar trainings and support farmers to be able to practice CSA farming activities.

Another important sustainability mechanism in relation to the various behavior change activities promoted by the CSLP is the presence of trained champions within each community. The Community Assistant model has been a pillar of the CSLP that allows farmers to receive more direct, regular guidance from a trained neighbor when the CSLP staff are not present in the community. The trained CAs are gaining valuable skills themselves that they are able to transfer and reinforce with their community members. While some of the motivation for this work will end as the project ends, given the motivation held by many of the CAs, it is hoped that this aim of building capacity with targeted champions will help ensure greater sustainability.

## 5.3 Global Climate Change

Although the funding source for the project is now the Feed the Future initiative, the initial climate change indicators used under the first phase of the project (funded with USAID sustainable landscapes monies) are still tracked. They continue to be an integral part of the CSLP's approaches in its work with area farmers, district and regional government institutions and traditional authorities, NGOs and private sector entities. Additional evidence can be found throughout this report in instances where the CSLP works with these groups on climate smart agriculture, estimating GHG emissions avoided on a variety of land cover types, monitoring wetlands and mangroves that sequester carbon in substantial quantities, and on broad climate change awareness issues in school clubs, with recognized conservation committees and with other community-based organizations.

As noted elsewhere, the project hosted a mangrove specialist during the quarter to assess approaches and strategies being used by the project and its partners linked to the management of these landscapes as well as to examine the project's methods and assumptions for collecting data associated with GHGs on various coastal landscapes in Ghana's Western Region. Although the report is expected during the next quarter the preliminary indications are that the project has been overestimating GHG emissions avoided in spite of its using multipliers obtained from allometric equations developed from local destructive sampling.

## 5.4 Policy and Governance Support

Previously, environmental protection and conservation relied heavily on punitive actions or the threat thereof to discourage people from exploiting natural resources. In more recent years, this has been seen to be largely ineffective especially as human populations have increased and some natural resources have dwindled. Therefore, new strategies are required that convince people of the need for managing the resources more sustainably. In Ankobra in the GAW area, individual mangrove harvesters focused and harvested from specific sites and never knew what other individuals did in neighboring sites. As a result of the participatory mapping process undertaken by the CSLP, and when the total degraded site in relation to the total mangrove site was now more easily observable, community members became alarmed at the extent of the degradation. This has thus motivated them to vigorously pursue re-planting.

In order to avoid such recurrences, the participatory development of community rules and regulations for the management of the resources will be vital. The draft rules have earmarked areas as buffer zones where no mangrove harvesting should be done and these include the edges of the estuary such as river banks. Per the recommendation of the Traditional Councils, which is the council of all stool chiefs from the highest hierarchy to the lowest, the facilitation of this process aims to ensure everyone's involvement. When completed, the by-laws will be submitted to the district assemblies for endorsement before implementation begins.

## 5.5 Local Capacity Development

The CSLP met all the Community Assistants (CAs) in two separate meetings during the quarter to discuss issues of technical skills required of them including effectiveness and efficiency. While they took the opportunity to put forward their concerns such as the need for replacement of worn out protective equipment such as wellington boots, CSLP also discussed sustainability issues with the CAs.

They were asked to comment on whether they will continue to provide the services they are rendering now in which they are providing technical assistance to farmers both on-farm and off-farm. This is because, for now, irrespective of how small it is, they receive allowances as compensation for what they do. This allowance will not be available when CSLP ends. The general response is that many of the CAs will continue to support fellow farmers with technical skills but not on the same scale as they do now. According to the CAs, what is requested is that the CSLP continues to facilitate the enhancement of their technical knowledge on the various CSLP interventions. CSLP will, therefore, continue to involve them in all the monitoring by all the Specialists and in so doing, provide hands-on training for all the CAs in the field.

## 5.6 Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Global Development Alliance (GDA) Impacts

CSLP's participation in the Ghana National Farmers' Day celebration in the last few years has created awareness in the growing of wholesome vegetables by way of the CSA practices. While many more farmers from within CSLP communities are registering to participate, there remains the need to scale up the ideas to interested farmers from outside the CSLP communities. To achieve this, CSLP has initiated discussions with the MoFA/DoFA staff with the objective to enter into a partnership with a select number of extension agents in a Training of Trainers (ToT) fashion. CSLP has generated forms which will enable tracking of agreed monthly activities and the activities accomplished to help capture some of this scaling up impact.

# 6.0 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

### *Collaborative Environmental Education Training*

The quarterly engagements with some key district and regional stakeholders which have become very important sharing platforms continue to yield impressive gains. Through the sharing information at the stakeholder meetings, for example, it was realized that the Wildlife Division (WD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CSLP, all are facilitating the establishment of school clubs to increase environmental awareness. The decision to harmonize efforts has led to the development of the Training of Trainers module for teachers. Although the three institutions mentioned contributed the content of the module, the Ghana Education Service (GES) played an invaluable role in the organization of the two ToT that have taken place in Jomoro and Ellembelle Districts. Such continued stakeholder engagement and collaboration will continue through the quarterly meetings and as appropriate as potential for synergies are identified.

### *Technical Assistance on Community Wetland Management*

US Forest Service Mangrove Specialist, Nicole Cormier visited the CSLP and its partners' mangrove management sites to interact with communities engaged in mangrove related activities. The objectives of her visit were to review wetland activities at the community level, review management plans and implementation, review the carbon calculations and procedures used by the CSLP, and interact with and review challenges and successes of mangrove management with partners and implementing agencies. Apart from the CSLP, Ms. Cormier also interacted with other partner institutions such as Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, the University of Cape Coast Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Project and the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. Ms. Cormier's report will contain recommendations for improving implementation of community wetland management within the landscape and will likely lead to a subsequent visit to build upon her initial assessment. This activity was funded through the US Government inter-agency Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP) through the US Forest Service in order to help connect lessons learned and best practices from SWAMP activities elsewhere on the continent and world, with the community level management work with which the CSLP and partners are engaged.

## 7.0 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### *Program Support Officer*

The CSLP's Program Support Officer resigned during the quarter. Head hunting for a replacement was initiated and applications were received and interviews with candidates is on-going as of this writing. A candidate will be selected and hired early in the next quarter.

### *Staff Training*

The CSLP Supervisory Village Savings and Loans Specialist attended an international livelihoods and markets training by the Coady International Institute of Canada and hosted by the Women In Self Employment (WISE) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training, which took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, exposed the Specialist to different approaches for livelihoods promotion including value chain development, making markets work for the poor, and social enterprises. Skills developed include a greater understanding of the approaches in livelihoods development and market engagement, an enhanced capacity in conducting value chain analyses and developing pro-poor, inclusive, and equitable value chain interventions, and a greater understanding of innovations in the area of community-level micro- and small enterprise development, both on- and off-farm. Such valuable lessons will contribute to his work with the VSLA activities in the CSLP.

### *Communication Specialists Training*

CSLP's Communication Specialist attended a two day communication training which was facilitated by USAID/METSS at the Royal Senchi Hotel in Akosombo in the Eastern Region. The training enlightened participants in the USAID Branding Rules and how critical and mandatory it is to ensure compliance. The meeting was graced by the USAID Mission Director who also in her opening remarks entreated projects to equip their communities with the necessary skills and capabilities to fight for their own development.

## 8.0 LESSONS LEARNED

Stakeholder engagement can be laborious and expensive in this CSLP operational landscape. It is even more so when there are multiple stakeholders with varied interest and concerns. However, an effective stakeholder engagement by the CSLP has yielded fruitful and invaluable gains. The engagement of the Traditional Councils within the GAW area, from the highest authority of the Paramount Chiefs to the lowest, initially sparked many resentments and registered diverse concerns. Once these concerns were addressed, the participation of a diverse group of stakeholders has grown along with a strong commitment to supporting the project. The traditional authorities, for example, are ready to attend meetings and provide very useful guidance and recommendations for successful implementation.

## 9.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

The majority of the activities of the project will be business as usual for the technical team in this next quarter. Many of the trainings noted in this report will continue across communities and with the majority of the same stakeholders and partners. As was noted in the CSLP FY 2018 Annual Work Plan, this year is one of consolidation and reinforcement of ideas, principles and approaches to ensure that understanding is widespread and that adoption of best practices is solidified with farmers, community members, district assembly technical staff and other practitioners. Work with the CSLP grantee, Hen Mpoano continues with 25 wetland and mangrove communities to ensure that co-management of these important resources becomes part of the daily operating governance framework in the communities and the districts that they are located in.

Other activities that are a bit outside the norm, and need to be mentioned here include:



- Review and finalize the CSLP Gender Integration Framework using the feedback from the Gender Assessment that was commissioned and completed during the first quarter;
- Provision of extra support to Hen Mpoano for raising the awareness of the critical importance (locally, nationally, regionally, globally) of the Greater Amanzule Wetland during World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2018;
- And in a similar vein, the CSLP's experiences (again with Hen Mpoano) will be one of a handful of case studies on the social aspects of mangrove landscape management presented during a global USAID webinar on 15 February 2018;
- An invited response to the conceptual note developed by the Forestry Commission's Climate Change Unit that outlines a proposal for funding improved wetland and mangrove management in Ghana;
- Developing a pilot literacy and numeracy training with at least two communities capitalizing on the expertise of another local NGO, DaasGift Foundation;
- Continuing to be a key player in the Ghana working group that captures and promotes VSLAs, or at least savings groups writ large, across the country; and
- An update and oversight review visit by the USFS IP Program Manager early in the quarter.

## 10.0 HOW IMPLEMENTING PARTNER HAS ADDRESSED A/COR COMMENTS FROM THE LAST QUARTERLY OR ANNUAL REPORT

No significant comments were received from the CSLP's FY 2017 annual report.

# ANNEXES

## Annex I. Summary Results to Date

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO2e, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Mt CO2e	6,400,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid-year update will be provided
4.8-7a Clean Energy											
4.8-7b Sustainable Landscapes											
4.8.1-26 Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Hectares	2,100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid-year update will be provided
Biologically significant areas											
All other areas											

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
4.8.1-29 Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	2014	0	Number (of person hours)	8,500	1,798	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,798	21%	Indicator on target and will be fully achieved.
4.8.1-29a Number of men hours					971						
4.8.1-29b Number of women hours					827						
4.8.1-6 Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Number of people	1,800	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid-year update will be provided
4.8.1-6a men											
4.8.1-6b women											

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18						Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cumulative Actual (to date)		
4.8.2-14 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Number of institutions	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid-year update will be provided	
Sustainable Landscapes, e.g., REDD+ capabilities												
4.8.2-29 Number of person hours of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Person-hours	5,000	665	N/A	N/A	N/A	665	13%	On target and will be fully achieved at the end of the FY	
4.8.2-29a Sustainable landscapes men					355							
4.8.2-29b Sustainable landscapes women					310							
EG.3.2-1: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	2016	0	Number of people	980	398	N/A	N/A	N/A	398	41%	On target	

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Type of Individual											
Producers					243						
Male					127						
Female					116						
People in government					112						
Male					67						
Female					45						
People in civil society					43						
Male					22						
Female					21						
EG.3.2-4: Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG food security-related organization development assistance	2016	0	Number of groups	88	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	74%	New: 23 Continuing: 42
Type of organization											
Community-based organizations (CBOs)					65				65		

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Measure	Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3		
EG.3.2-17: Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance	2016	0	Number of farmers	504	183	N/A	N/A	N/A	183	36%	On target
Producers											
Sex											
Male					84						
Female					99						
Technology type											
crop genetics					183						
cultural practices											
pest management											
soil-related fertility and conservation											
climate adaptation											
Commodity				Vegetables-eggplant, okra, pepper, cassava	cassava						
EG.3.2-18: Number of hectares of land under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance	2016	0	Number of hectares	100	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	20%	Farm mapping with GPS units underway

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value		Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cumulative Actual (to date)		
Technology type											
crop genetics					20						
cultural practices											
pest management											
soil-related fertility and conservation											
irrigation											
climate mitigation											
climate adaptation											
Sex											
Male					84						
Female					99						
Joint											
Commodity (Vegetables-eggplant, okra, pepper, cassava)					Cassava						

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
EG.3.2-20: Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance	2016	0	Number of groups	60	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	38%	On target
Type of organization											
Community-based organizations (CBOs)					23						
C-1: Number of person hours of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance	2016	0	Person-hours	5,000	1,314	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,314	26%	On target
C-1aNumber of men hours					441				441		



Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Measure	Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3		
C-1b Number of women hours					873				873		
C-2: Number of community sensitization sessions on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	2016	0	Number of sessions	60	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	27%	On target
C-3: Number of persons/institutions receiving start-up items for improved NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	2016	0	Number of persons	100	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	77	77%	On target
C-2a men					37				37		
C-2b women					39				39		
Institutions					1				1		
C-4: Number of project-planted seedlings surviving as a result of as a result of USG assistance	2016	0	Number of seedlings	57,600	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid –year update will be provided

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY18	Quarterly Status – FY 18					Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comments
	Year	Value			Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>Other VSLA Indicators</b>											
Number of active informal savings and lending groups	2014	0	Number of groups							40	
Cumulative Amount (in USD) Saved by informal Savings and lending (VSLA) Group	2014	0	Amount (in US \$)							\$61,981	
Number of members of active informal savings and lending groups	2014	0	Number of people							998	
Men										337	
women										661	
Amount of funds loaned (in USD) annually by informal savings and lending groups	2014	0	Amount (in US \$)							\$56,305	

## VSLA: Empowering women, securing homes

Experiences have shown the CSLP that when you empower a woman and give her a chance to start a business she can create ripples of change that secures her home and lifts up entire communities. Since 2015, the CSLP



**Mariam Karbah Musah outside her home in Kamgbunli**

has helped empower women in the six coastal districts of the Western Region of Ghana through Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). One such woman is Mariam Karbah Musah, a 32 year old mother of 4 who lives in Kamgbunli.

“I have money now, my children are well fed, I have started a retail business and I can help my husband take care of our home, thanks to the VSLA,” said entrepreneur Mariam Karbah Musah. “I was a stay-at-home mom with no money, no skills and had to watch my husband struggle to take care of me and the children. This made me feel inadequate,” said Mariam Karbah Musah.

In 2015, the CSLP started mobilizing people in the Western Region to form groups and start a savings and loans association as a means to provide financial inclusion services and also help diversify livelihoods. The initiative, funded by USAID and implemented by the US Forest Service managed CSLP, promotes livelihood diversification in the Western Region. The establishment of VSLAs has been monumental in achieving this.

“When CSLP came and started mobilizing people, I was very hesitant to join because two years before they came, I had saved with a microfinance company who absconded with all my money. I was very devastated, I wasn’t working then, this was money I had saved from housekeeping money my husband gave me. But education is good, I attended their gatherings where we were taught that the group will keep the money and set rules to manage it,” she continued.

The VSLA in Kambgunli was formed in early 2017 and this brought the much needed sunshine to the life of Mariam Karbah Musah.

According to Mariam, her fortunes changed when she borrowed her first loan of GH¢ 300 (or about \$68). With this money, she bought aluminum cooking utensils and started selling to boost her family’s income. Since then, her business has grown.



**Mariam Karbah Musah at the Kamgbunli VSLA meeting**

“Now I am able to take care of my children and help my husband to cater for their educational needs. I also provide money for housekeeping in the morning. This has enabled my husband to save money to buy building materials for the house we intend to build and he will start soon. I am now the woman I have always dreamed of becoming, a good mother and a supportive wife,” says Mariam Karbah Musah.

Recognizing the potential of the VSLA, Mariam took another loan of GH¢ 150 (or about \$34) to support the purchase of farm inputs. Mariam is looking forward to a good cocoa yield and has high hopes of bringing prosperity and greater opportunities to her family thanks in part to the CSLP supported VSLA intervention.

## Climate Smart Agriculture: building food secure communities

In Ghana, more than 60% of rural livelihoods are heavily dependent on agriculture with more than half of this figure being that of rural women. To build food secure communities and a strong nation, farmers are adopting innovations that improve their lives and reduce environmental degradation.



Grace Ansah showcasing cucumbers grown on her CSA plot

The USAID funded and US Forest Service managed CSLP is working with farmers, NGOs, government and private institutions to implement climate smart agriculture in the six coastal districts in the Western Region of Ghana to build resilience to climate change. Grace Ansah, a 49 year old mother of five from Cape Three Points is a beneficiary to the project. She joined the “Mmoa Kuo” Enterprise Group when it first began in 2016.

“Now I get very good prices for my vegetables because they don’t contain chemicals. My customers say that they taste better and do not easily go bad. Initially when I take my vegetables to the market, people will quote the price at which they want to buy them because it was just like the ones

on the market already. Now I get about one and a half times the money I used to get,” says Grace Ansah. “I am also glad that we don’t need chemical fertilizers, they cost us money and they are not good for our health. My family’s nutritional levels have improved and we are stronger because our food is healthy,” she continued.

“The interventions have brought us a lot of joy and hope. There was a lot of poverty here because we were not getting good money from our work but now we know things will get better. We see the changes already,” said Stephen Quaicoe, a 50 year old father of four.

The Cape Three Points “Mmoa Kuo” Enterprise Group had their first CSA organic vegetables market entry at one of the local markets in the latter part 2017, where demand for their organic produce was more than they could meet. The leader of the group, Paul Ansah, who is also a secretary to the “Yesu Mo” VSLA group could not hide his surprise at this development.



Members of Mmoa Kuo selling their produce at the local market



Members of Mmoa Kuo working to establish the CSA demonstration plot

Since 2016, the CSLP have mobilised 400 farmers in the Western Region who are learning sustainable agricultural practices and are applying their new knowledge in their group demonstration farms and on their individual farms. In addition, the CSLP is establishing market linkages for the farmers to create lasting markets for their produce.

The Cape Three Points “Mmoa Kuo” Enterprise Group was full of praise for the CSLP implementation team, who have been working tirelessly to train them and help them understand the benefits of adopting sustainable agriculture practices and planting improved seeds. Grace Ansah and many farmers like her have already cleared additional land to practice what they have learned at the demonstration plots on their own.



Grace Ansah, a proud adopter of climate smart agriculture principles

### Annex 3. Events Log

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Oct 3		✓			CSA training for WRCF farmers	Agona Nkwanta
Oct 4	✓				Meeting on business training modules	By CSLP team; to review and consolidate trainings modules
Oct 4				✓	Preparatory work on Akwidaa school farm	Akwidaa CCC members; with support from CSLP's Community Wetland Officer
Oct 4				✓	Mangrove nursery monitoring	Anlo Beach
Oct 5-6		✓			VSLA monitoring	VSLAs in Adubrim & Ayawora
Oct 5-6				✓	Review of M&E plan	CSLP's M&E plan with focus on FY18
Oct 5-6				✓	Registration of planted trees	Adubrim
Oct 6		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Yabiu & Akwidaa Junior High Schools
Oct 9				✓	Gender assessment	Field work begins; by Consultant
Oct 10-11		✓			VSLA monitoring	VSLAs in GAW communities
Oct 11		✓			VSLA monitoring	1 VSLA in Navrongo
Oct 11	✓				Initiate discussions on formation of CCC in Cape Three Points	Cape Three Points Junior High School
Oct 11		✓			CSA Business skills training	1 community (Kamgbunli)
Oct 11				✓	Mangrove nursery monitoring	Krobo
Oct 11	✓				UAV discussion with URI's C. Damon	Update on UAV action in Ghana & plans for UAV flights/training in Dec17
Oct 12	✓				Participation in WRCF advisory meeting	Takoradi (CSLP shared a presentation on reducing poverty in communities)
Oct 12-13		✓			VSLA monitoring	VSLAs in Anlo Beach and Bokoro
Oct 12		✓			CSA demonstration farm	Asonti
Oct 12				✓	Mangrove nursery site preparations	Akwidaa
Oct 13		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Yabiu & Akwidaa Junior High Schools
Oct 13		✓			VSLA monitoring	VSLA in GAW communities
Oct 17-19				✓	Profiling of VSLAs	8 VSLAs

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Oct 18		✓			CSA training	For farmers in Akwidaa
Oct 18				✓	Gender assessment field work ends; staff provided a debrief by consultant	Draft report expected by month's end
Oct 18		✓			Meeting with Shama SHS	Shama
Oct 18	✓				VSLA introductory meeting	2 communities
Oct 18-19				✓	Procurement of mangrove nursery materials	E.g. Polypots, hand trowel, gloves
Oct 19		✓			CSA Business skills training	1 community (Egbazoo)
Oct 19				✓	Registration of planted trees	Ayawora
Oct 19	✓				Meeting with Cirilo Enterprise Consult	Collaboration with GSCDP on regional & topical radio spot topics from CSLP
Oct 20	✓				Meeting with charcoal producers	Krobo
Oct 20		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Akwidaa Junior High Schools
Oct 20				✓	Quiz competition on wetlands	Yabiw Junior High School
Oct 20			✓		Monitoring of conservation committees	1 community
Oct 21-Nov4		✓			International livelihoods and markets training course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.	Attended by the CSLP's Supervisory VSL Specialist.
Oct 23	✓				Staff discussions on FY18 work plan	By CSLP team
Oct 23	✓				CSA enterprise group meeting	Cape Three Points
Oct 23	✓				Mangrove monitoring	Ketakor mangrove site
Oct 24-26	✓				Meeting with Community Assistants	Set for 3 centers (Elubo, Esiana & Agona Nkwanta)
Oct 24-26				✓	Registration of planted trees	Ayawora
Oct 24-27				✓	Farm mapping	5 communities (where farmers received improved cassava sticks)
Oct 25	✓				Formation of CCC in Cape Three Points Junior High School	CCC formed / launched. 48 students (20boys and 28 girls) and 2 focal teachers
Oct 25				✓	Profiling of VSLAs	3 VSLAs in Cape Three Points

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Oct 26	✓				Yabiw wetland Volunteer Group meeting	Focus on wetland management plan
Oct 27	✓				Meeting with charcoal producers	Yabiw
Oct 27		✓			VSLA share out	Anlo Beach
Oct 27		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Akwidaa Junior High School
Oct 27			✓		Monitoring of conservation committees	1 community
Oct 30	✓				October activity review & November planning session	With CSLP-grantee Hen Mpoano
Oct 31	✓				Team discussion of farmers day	Planning meeting
Nov 1				✓	EMMP revision	To capture FY18 activities
Nov 1-2	✓				Initiate discussions on formation of new CCCs in Jomoro District	With Jomoro GES; visit to schools
Nov 1-2				✓	Farm mapping in 8 communities	Hen Mpoano-led activity
Nov 1-3		✓			CSA monitoring	4 communities
Nov 1-3		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities in GAW
Nov 2				✓	Registration of planted trees	Ayawora
Nov 3	✓				Meeting with charcoal producers	Krobo
Nov 3		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Akwidaa Junior High School CCC
Nov 4		✓			Quiz on wetlands	Yabiw Junior High School CCC
Nov 6	✓				Environmental education meeting	With EPA, WD & GES. ToT for teachers in Jomoro district set for Nov 21
Nov 7				✓	Spatial planning needs assessment	Nzema East
Nov 7		✓			Mangrove and CSA monitoring	2 communities in Shama district
Nov 7				✓	Jomoro monitoring of planted trees in schools	Selected schools in Jomoro district
Nov 7-8		✓			USAID/Ghana Communications Workshop	Held in Akosombo; attended by CSLP's Communications Specialist
Nov 7-9		✓			USAID/Ghana M&E Workshop	Held in Bolgatanga; attended by CSLP's M&E Specialist

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Nov 7-9		✓			CSA monitoring	4 communities
Nov 7-9				✓	Wetland mapping in Ezinlibo	Hen Mpoano-led activity
Nov 8-9		✓			Training on mobile charcoal kiln	Planned for Yabiw charcoal producers
Nov 8-9		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities in GAW
Nov 9-10				✓	Scaling up tree nursery	Site preparation and filling of polypots
Nov 10				✓	Reconnaissance survey	Akwidaa mangroves
Nov 10		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Akwidaa Junior High School CCC
Nov 11		✓			Training tour to wetlands site	Yabiw Junior High School CCC
Nov 14-15	✓				New CCC formation	4 new CCCs formed. Collaboration with Shama GES.
Nov 14-16		✓			CSA monitoring	3 communities
Nov 13	✓				Meeting with Regional FSD	Takoradi
Nov 14		✓			Mangrove nursery establishment	By Akwidaa Junior High School CCC
Nov 16	✓				Meeting with RMSCs plantation manager	Focus on registration of planted trees
Nov 16				✓	Farmers Day preparations	2017 Farmers Day
Nov 16-17		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities in GAW
Nov 16-17				✓	Scaling up tree nursery	Site preparation and filling of polypots
Nov 17	✓				Meeting with FORIG ITTO tree registration team/Planning training tour – beekeepers	In Kumasi
Nov 17-18		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Yabiw & Akwidaa Junior High Schools
Nov 21-22		✓			Monitoring of apiaries	Jomoro district; focus on GAW areas
Nov 22		✓			Mangrove monitoring	Krobo (Shama district)
Nov 21-23		✓			CSA monitoring	3 communities
Nov 21		✓			Environmental Education ToT for teachers in Jomoro district	Collaboration by CSLP, GES, EPA & WD. Topic selected: sanitation. 24 teachers trained.



Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Nov 21-24		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities
Nov 22-23		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities in GAW
Nov 23-24				✓	Scaling up tree nursery	Site preparation and filling of polypots
Nov 24-25		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Yabiw & Akwidaa Junior High Schools
Nov 24-26	✓				Meeting to draft community rules for wetland management	3 communities
Nov 27				✓	Review of Communications Strategy	
Nov 27	✓				Monthly review (Nov) and December plan of CSLP activities	With Hen Mpoano
Nov 28		✓			Workshop on leadership & environment for teachers	For 30 teachers from 10 CCCs in Shama district. Other topic considered was food security and CC.
Nov 28-30		✓			VSLA monitoring/Visit to assemblies	3 communities & 2 assemblies
Nov 28				✓	Final review of EMMP	In line with FY18 activities
Nov 29		✓			Training on use of GPS units for selected Community Assistants (CAs)	Refresher training
Nov 29	✓				UAV logistics and strategy discussion for Yabiw & Akwidaa (and GAW)	With C. Damon of SFMP/URI
Nov 29-30		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	4 communities in GAW
Nov 30				✓	Scaling up tree nursery	Site preparation and filling of polypots
Dec 1				✓	Farmers Day	To participate in selected district(s)
Dec 4		✓			NRM training for CREMA members	3 CREMA communities in Ahanta West (collaboration with WD of FC)
Dec 4-16				✓	Mangrove activities assessment by USFS-IP consultant – multiple sites	Nicole Cornier of USFS-IP. Meetings with USAID, WD, FC, SFMP, UCC, FoN, Hen Mpoano. Field visits to Shama, Ahanta West, Ellembelle & Jomoro districts. Itinerary available.
Dec 5		✓			Environmental Education ToT for teachers in Ellembelle district	Collaboration by CSLP, GES, EPA & WD. Topic selected: sanitation.
Dec 5-8		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	6 communities

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Dec5-7				✓	Scaling up tree nursery	Site preparation and filling of polypots (2 communities; by Hen Mpoano)
Dec 5-7		✓			VSLA formation & trainings	5 new groups in 5 communities
Dec 6				✓	Market entry with CSA vegetables	Agona Nkwanta market (Ahanta West)
Dec 6		✓			Beekeeping introductory training	Shama Senior High School
Dec 8		✓			Training on wetlands for students	Akwidaa Junior High School
Dec 12				✓	Development of curriculum of best use of pesticide	As requirement for training
Dec 12		✓			Examination on mangroves	Yabiw Junior High School CCC
Dec 12	✓				Meeting with CSA farmers	Akwidaa CSA group
Dec 12-14		✓			VSLA formation & trainings	5 new groups in 5 communities
Dec 12-14		✓			CSA training for farmers	3 communities; for cassava farmers
Dec 12-15		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	7 communities
Dec 13				✓	Market entry with CSA vegetables	Agona Nkwanta market (Ahanta West)
Dec 13				✓	Field work on CSA demonstration site	Akwidaa Junior High School CCC
Dec 14	✓				Inauguration of 3 new CCCs in Jomoro District	With Jomoro GES
Dec 15	✓				Debrief of mangrove assessment consultancy	M. Cormier with S Dennison and USAID EG Office
Dec 18	✓				Monthly review (Dec) and January plan of CSLP activities	With Hen Mpoano
Dec19	✓				Bi-annual meeting with traditional leaders (Chiefs and queen mothers)	Hen Mpoano-led activity
<i>Dec 20</i>		✓			<i>Food security training</i>	<i>For farmers in 1 community</i>
<i>Dec 21</i>		✓			<i>VSLA trainings</i>	<i>4 groups in 2 communities</i>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>		

NOTE: Events in *italics* are planned (or on-going) and subject to change.

**Last update: December 21, 2017**