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Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

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

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

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agroforestry and Other Land Uses
B-BOVID	Building Business on Values Integrity and Dignity
BMP	Best Management Practice(s)
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CHED	Cocoa Health and Extension Division
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resources 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
DOFA	Departments of Food and Agriculture
EDIF	Export Development Investment Fund (of Ghana)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FCM/FCMP	Fisheries and Coastal Management Program
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Services Division (of the Forestry Commission)
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
GSCD	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
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
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
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STMA	Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly
TCPD	Town and Country Planning Department
TRACTOR	Transforming Rural Agricultural Communities Through Organic Re-engineering
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.0 ACTIVITY/MECHANISM OVERVIEW

Activity/Mechanism Name:	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
Activity/Mechanism Start Date and End Date:	October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2019
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	United States Forest Service International Programs
Agreement Number:	AEG-T-00-07-00003
Name of Subcontractors/Sub-awardees:	None
Major Counterpart Organizations:	Ghana Forestry Commission (Forest Services Division, Wildlife Division), Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Town and Country Planning Departments
Geographic Coverage (States/Provinces and Countries):	Six coastal districts of the Western Region of Ghana
Reporting Period:	October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

Ghana's Western Region is one of the fastest growing areas of the country and in all of West Africa. Land use pressures are enormous, especially in the high population centers of the region's six coastal districts. Demand for conversion of forests to agriculture, cash crop development, harvesting of mangroves and other forest species for charcoal and timber production, artisanal mining, and urban development all pose significant threats to forests in this region. High unemployment rates compound these pressures, exacerbating unsustainable natural resource management practices and reducing ecosystem services provided by the region's forests.

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

To address these growing threats, 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 (FCM) Program, 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 a participating agency partnership agreement (PAPA) with USAID, manages one component of the FCM program, the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). It contributes in some form to all four components but most of its emphasis is on the fourth component. Operating in the six coastal districts of Ghana's resource-rich Western Region (see Figure 1), the CSLP activities target landscape-level engagement with communities, non-governmental organizations, Government of Ghana agencies, the private sector, and international

partners. The project’s geographic area stretches from the Cote d’Ivoire border eastward through the Greater Amanzule wetlands complex, Cape Three Points, the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Area (STMA) and east to the Central Region border.

Figure 1. The six coastal districts in Ghana’s Western Region



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

To confront these growing threats mentioned above, the CSLP intends to improve carbon sequestration, forest management, and livelihoods in the six coastal districts of the Western Region. 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.

Ghana has seen numerous interventions related to forest conservation in the past, many with only limited success. CSLP’s primary activities are focused on community-level interactions that work to achieve low emissions development goals. One key component of the CSLP strategy is the application of a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model—a social entrepreneurial concept that has already enjoyed much success in Ghana. It is employed by the CSLP as a novel vehicle to help encourage and promote activities that maintain and increase forest cover with native and existing tree species. The project’s activities are being established within communities where there is an existing and functioning community governance body such as Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) or similar entities. This history of community collaboration provides an entry point to develop a community’s capacity to launch their own VSLA and oversee loans to community members. The CSLP is applying the VSLA concept to provide incentives for farmers and landowners to incorporate more indigenous species of trees on

their land while helping provide seed funding for a revolving funding mechanism to work towards improved and diversified livelihoods.

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

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Progress Narrative & Implementation Status

While the FY 2015 work plan was focused on how to build upon the solid groundwork and relationships established in year one, the FY 2016 plan sought to engage the Government of Ghana, community institutions, traditional leaders, private sector actors, NGOs, and research community groups for the sustainable management of coastal forest and wetland resources in priority areas. CSLP worked through these collaborations to demonstrate and scale up proven agroforestry and reforestation techniques and to ensure access of indigenous tree species of value to the farmer and the site for expanded plantings of these species on-farm and on degraded landscapes.

As a result of the activities conducted during the year, the following results were achieved:

- Following the establishment of 140 beehives in FY 2015 an additional 58 more beekeepers (including 5 women) were trained and are awaiting apiary start-up materials.
- 127 people, including 92 women, in the Greater Amanzule Wetland landscape in Ellembelle District, were trained in climate smart vegetable production.
- 120 people, including 81 women, were trained in integrated pest management.
- Over 200 climate smart vegetable farmers were organized into enterprise groups to enhance their farming production efforts.
- 89 cocoa farmers were trained in cocoa shade tree restoration and management techniques.
- 7 trainings were organized for 135 men and 23 women in urban forestry from the six coastal districts.
- Over 9,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in the Yabiw coastal wetland and the community has established rules and regulations for the restored area's management.
- Over 27,000 tree seedlings were planted within the landscape of the six coastal districts of the Western Region.
- 10 new VSLAs formed during the year, and both old and new associations continue to function for members' benefits to achieve greater economic growth.
- 12 VSLAs have undergone training in principles of record keeping for use within the VSLA and for small enterprise management.
- Stakeholder briefings were organized for traditional authorities, district assembly staff, and CREMAs throughout the year.
- 6 new Climate Change Clubs were formed and received training in topics such as "Importance of Wildlife and the Need to Protect Them".
- 20 CRMCs of the Cape Three Points CREMA received training on the importance of wildlife and the need for their protection.

- The World Environment Day celebration 2016 took place in Komfoeku in the Shama District under the auspices of the local high school climate change club.
- Stakeholder meetings for the Western Region government officials, district officials and traditional authorities to update them on CSLP activities and receive their input on strategy for the project's key interventions, were held during each quarter of the year.
- In collaboration with CRMC and FORIG, standards have been agreed to for the estimation of carbon stocks in the six coastal districts of the Western Region.
- 22 community conservation committees and 2 district conservation committees have been organized through the CSLP's grantee, Hen Mpoano; together with the Wildlife Division these groups have crafted a management framework to help conserve wetlands, protect biodiversity and ensure local livelihoods at the grassroots level for the GAW in Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts.

Intermediate Result I: Improved Livelihoods through Enhanced Natural Resources Management Practices

Table 1. Planned Activities for IR 1

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
<p>Sub IR 1.1: Provide capacity building for targeted community groups to effectively manage and conserve priority areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beekeepers have improved skill in harvesting and processing of honey and other products • Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) vegetable demonstration farms established • Climate smart vegetable producers are conversant and adopt integrated pest management (IPM) practices • CSA farmers are organized into groups and working together for individual or household benefits • Improved capacity of climate smart vegetable producer groups in group dynamics, entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 participants, comprised of 53 men and 5 women, received training in beekeeping basics • 14 men and 10 women from 7 communities have established 12.6 hectares of on-farm climate smart vegetable demonstration areas • 127 farmers, including 92 women were trained in the production of climate smart vegetables from Kamgbunli and Tweakor II • 120 people (including 81 women) were trained in IPM • 10 new vegetable groups were formed which comprised of 75 men and 132 women • 207 group members (including 132 women) were trained in group formation techniques 	
<p>Sub IR 1.2: Identify, develop and demonstrate appropriate agroforestry and forest landscape restoration methods (technology and practices) for native ecosystems and improved livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocoa farmers are aware of the advantages and management of cocoa agroforestry • Key Ghana government institutions conversant in establishing urban forestry in the six coastal districts • Cassia woodlot practitioners are implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) from training • Degraded mangrove sites are re-planted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89 cocoa farmers (including 9 women) from 10 communities were trained in cocoa shade tree restoration • 7 trainings were organized for 135 men and 23 women in urban forestry practices • Some <i>Cassia spp.</i> woodlot sites were monitored and are implementing best management practices • Over 9,000 mangrove seedlings were planted at a degraded site in Yabiw 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yabiw coastal mangrove is managed sustainably in collaboration with surrounding communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yabiw has initiated the development of mangrove wetland management plan 	
<p>Sub IR 1.3: Promote incentives to implement improved NRM for improving livelihoods, biodiversity and carbon sequestration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' choices of tree species seedling available for transplanting • CSLP intervention 'champions' share lessons with peers through educational tour • Improved charcoal kiln piloted in the Shama district • Robust tree tenure arrangement piloted • More VSLAs formed to support NRM and improve livelihoods • VSLA members are more skilled in record keeping • VSLAs are linked to financial institutions and interact based on informed decisions • Trained Village Agents support VSLA activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 27,000 seedlings were mobilized from one CSLP facilitated community nursery and two private seedling producers for planting • 52 CSLP champion farmers participated in a training tour to cocoa agroforestry farmers in the Wassa Amenfi West and Tarkwa-Nsuem districts to share experiences • A number of consultations have led to the identification of charcoal producers' choice of improved charcoal kiln for adoption • CSLP participated in the development of a national robust tree registration process with other relevant stakeholders • 10 new VSLAs formed during the year and equipment procured for them to start their associations • 12 VSLA have undergone training in record keeping • Series of visits were made to a number of financial institutions to understand their activities and how useful it would be to the VSLAs • The CSLP trained Village Agents continue to support VSLAs 	

Beekeeping Training

The CSLP, during the fiscal year under review, trained 53 men and 5 women in two beekeeping modules.

Module 101: Basics of Beekeeping

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Background to beekeeping | 2. Basic bee biology – life cycle & social divisions |
| a. Beekeeping products and services | 3. Products harvested from apiaries |
| b. Approaches to beekeeping | |
| c. Values of beekeeping | |

Module 102: Setting Up an Apiary and Early Management

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|--|--|
| 1. Choosing and making a beehive | 6. Maintenance of the hives and the apiary |
| 2. Where to keep bees – siting an apiary | 7. Seasonal management |
| 3. Bee forage – preferred species | 8. Pests, diseases and their management |
| 4. Obtaining colonies | 9. Handling bees, including safety issues |
| 5. Beekeeping equipment/tools and their uses | 10. How to determine when to harvest honey |

The trainees came from 17 CSLP communities, including some Greater Amanzule Wetland communities. There were two participants from Azuleti and Samenye who got to know about beekeeping from the CSLP exhibition stand in Azuleti at the Farmers' Day celebration in 2015 in Jomoro District. The trained farmers will each be supported with a hive as a start-up material as well as instruction on installation of the hive and management advice through to the time that the beekeepers begin to harvest honey from the hive. The main requirement for the CSLP's start-up assistance is that participants set aside or conserve a patch of forest (not less than a half acre) as avoided degradation and deforestation where the beehive will be established. This forest patch is also measured, mapped and tallied by the project as an area of avoided deforestation and degradation (ADD).

Two trainers from a private sector (Samartex Timber and Plywood) firm's beekeeping and honey processing section and one from the Atebubu Beekeepers Association in the Brong Ahafo Region facilitated training in apiary management for the novice CSLP beekeepers. A significant component of this training was the participation of five women who completed the training in a livelihood activity where normally few women participate.

The trainers helped the trainees to inspect the hives to assess:

- Whether the beehive has been colonized or not
- Whether the environment is congenial for honey production
- If the honey is mature/ready for harvesting
- If the hive is in good condition for housing the bees

The consultants also trained the participants in techniques of brood transfer, harvesting of honey, extraction of wax, and cleaning of hives. The honey yield was low for the few hives that were inspected during this training. This was attributed to one or more of the following factors:

- The season of the harvest does not correspond to the best timing for the bee cycle;
- The bees had consumed most of the honey themselves (the harvesting was done too late); and/or,
- The hives had not been colonized long enough.

The trainers recommended that the hives be monitored more closely during the next season in order to ensure that there is a more optimal yield.

Conservation Agriculture and Vegetable Production

During the 2016 major farming season, 24 farmers set up vegetable climate smart demonstration sites with support from CSLP. Out of this number, 10 are women and the total land area covered is 12.6 ha with eggplant, pepper, okra and cabbage being cultivated. There are a few farmers who grow more than one vegetable such as pepper and cabbage but most of them are focused on single vegetables. The support provided to the farmers, apart from the capacity building and training, also includes accessibility to improved seed varieties of tomato, pepper, cabbage and

okra; as well as supplying organic manure, chili pepper powder (as a natural pesticide component), and *Gliricidia sepium* (a nitrogen fixing tree) for planting on the farms.

A total of 127 farmers, including 92 women, were trained in climate smart vegetable production from two communities, one each from Jomoro and Ellembelle Districts. Trainees are from Kamgbunli in Ellembelle district and Tweakor II in Jomoro District. The training module covered topics including the following:

- Site selection
- Land preparation
- Farm hygiene
- Selection of quality seeds & certified seeds
- Improving soil fertility
- Pests and disease control
- Harvesting
- Post-harvest management

Also during the year, 120 farmers out of the 127 trained in climate smart agriculture, were trained in integrated pest management (IPM). Eighty-one of these trainees were women. Most land available for vegetable growing on the landscape can best be described as degraded due to overuse and the employment of destructive practices such as intensive burning and the extensive use of chemicals. Generally nutrient quality in the soil is low with poor plant growth, both factors that lead to a higher susceptibility to pests and disease. IPM is an environmentally friendly means of pest and disease control that aims to abate these problems. The fundamental principles of IPM introduced by the CSLP include:

- Taking preventive steps to preclude a pest problem is preferable to waiting for pests to arrive and then having to eradicate them;
- Determining ahead of time how much of an infestation you can tolerate before eradication measures must be taken, known as an "action threshold";
- Being vigilant and timely, because it is easier to control some pests if you take action at a particular time in the pest's life cycle;
- Knowing the insect you want to prevent or control.
- Realizing that the control measures used in IPM are cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical.

Most of the trainees for the climate smart vegetable producers engaged until now are from one community—Kamgbungli, and the majority are women. The majority also use portions of the community's wetland for their production and therefore cannot start production until the rainy season stops. The CSLP continues to keep them engaged by way of information sharing in preparation until the dry season when the water on their land recedes enough for them to begin farming. The project is also engaged with another donor project, The Coastal Foundation, in this community that is piloting an aquaculture (catfish) activity. The CSLP will work with the dry season farmers to use the organic-rich water from the fish ponds to help with the vegetable production.

Eleven new vegetable producers' groups were organized with project assistance during the year. The essence of the group formation is to support them in working together for the benefit of group members. The group membership consists of 95 men and 128 women. Ten of the groups have undergone enough training to enable them to function cohesively. They were taken through the two modules of group formation training listed below.

Module 1: Advantages and Ethics of Group Formation

- The advantages of being in groups
- Qualities to look for in selecting group leaders
- How to select such leaders for a group

Module 2: Group Constitution Development

- The importance of developing a group constitution
- The constitution drafting template

In order for the group members to have a new attitude from the subsistence towards a more business-oriented model for vegetable growing ventures, they were taken through the entrepreneurship development module. It is focused on looking at the farm and associated activities as a business. The lessons presented helped to clarify what constitutes a business, how to define entrepreneurial goals, how vegetable production can be considered as a business, and some of the positive attributes and characteristics of a farm business.

Cocoa Tree Cover Restoration

Eighty-nine cocoa farmers, of which 9 were women, were trained in cocoa shade restoration. The Ghana COCOBOD, as a partner in the implementation of Forest Implementation Program (FIP), is currently pursuing a strategy for cocoa farmers to plant a certain minimum number of timber trees in new cocoa farms and qualify to receive free cocoa seedlings. The COCOBOD is not providing any training for the farmers on how to manage the agroforestry systems being established with the implementation of this strategy. The CSLP has therefore designed a training module aimed at building the capacity of the farmers to be better able to manage the cocoa agroforestry system they initiate so as to optimize the benefit from the cocoa and timber trees. The specific objectives of this first training were to:

- Identify and select appropriate shade tree cover restoration technology;
- Know and be able to identify appropriate trees planting/nurturing on cocoa farms; and,
- Know and understand the appropriate practices associated with managing shade trees in cocoa farms.

The module covered these specific topics during the one-day training:

- General importance of trees
- The role of trees in mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Benefits that shade trees provide to cocoa plantations
- Technologies for restoring cocoa shade trees
- Types of trees appropriate as shade trees
- Field planting of shade trees under various cocoa life stage scenarios
- Managing trees for optimum shade in cocoa plantations

The training was conducted in collaboration with the Cocoa Health and Extension Division of the COCOBOD of Ghana and the Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA) of the Ellembelle and Nzema East Districts. The 89 participants included seven COCOBOD staff and one DoFA agent; all COCOBOD and DoFA participants were men.

Capacity Building in Urban Forestry

Following CSLP's awareness creation in urban forestry, many other communities within the six districts have become interested. For instance, the Nzema Manle Traditional Council requested CSLP to support some interested communities to introduce trees within the towns. Due to the lesson learned from some Nzema Manle communities where the few trees that existed in the towns were felled due to some religious or superstitious beliefs, CSLP decided to provide training for the respective institutions before the seedlings are provided for planting.

The objective of the trainings included the need to share requisite knowledge and skills in urban forestry with institutional stakeholder representatives and individuals to trigger adoption of urban forestry practices in cities and towns of the six coastal districts of Western region. The two modules listed below were designed for the training.

Urban Forestry Module 101: Introduction to Urban Forestry Introduction

- What is urban forestry?
- Ecosystem services of urban trees and forest – importance of urban forestry
- Choosing urban trees – objective based approach
- Common challenges of urban trees/forests
- Practical session – identification of urban trees, niches for trees in different urban environments

Urban Forestry Module 102: Establishing and Caring for Urban Trees/Forest

- Urban tree planting techniques
- Choice of species, environmental impacts considerations and site selection

- Type of planting materials and their handling
- Site preparation and field planting of trees/shrubs
- Caring for planted trees/shrubs in the urban environment
- Caring for existing urban trees/forest

These two modules were covered in seven separate training sessions in which 135 men and 23 women participated. The following institutions were represented in the course of these trainings:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Ghana Education Service | • Environmental Health Office |
| • Town & Country Planning Department | • Information Services Department |
| • Forest Services Division | • Non-Formal Education Department |
| • Ministry of Food & Agriculture | • Department of Social Work |
| • Business Advisory Center | • Ghana National Fire Service |
| • National Disaster Management Organization | • District Coordinating Council (including Presiding Members) |
| • Department of Parks & Gardens | |

The training participants came from all the six coastal districts. In an exception, the Shama Senior High School authority requested, and the CSLP provided, for a one hour training for the whole school both staff and students. Following these trainings, planting has already taken place in three districts, primarily in school compounds. A total of 5,365 seedlings have been planted, with the Shama Senior High School campus alone taking 1,300 seedlings for planting.

Charcoal Woodlot Best Management Practices

A number of charcoal woodlot practitioners in the Shama District were trained during the 2015 fiscal year in best management practices of woodlots. As a follow-up during FY2016, a sample of them were monitored in order to evaluate how they have used the training. The results have been encouraging.

- Two farmers have started adopting zero burning in the land preparation
- Some have started nurturing naturally re-generated timber seedlings within the woodlots illustrating that they are mindful of biodiversity conservation.
- Some have also requested seedlings from CSLP and planted these among their cassia woodlots. This will also encourage zero burning in the future.
- One farmer has started to selectively harvest only mature trees for charcoal production instead of block harvesting all the trees at one time.

Mangrove Restoration and Wetland Management

The CSLP has supported Yabiw and Anto-Tre communities (Shama District) to re-plant two sites of degraded mangroves at the rate of 3m x 3m. A total of 9,120 seedlings of mangrove produced by the Yabiw community, led by the Community Assistants, were shared among the two communities. The Yabiw site received 4,505 while the Anto-Tre site received 4,615 seedlings.

Following the re-planting of the 21 hectares of the degraded area, Yabiw asked for support to be able to better manage the wetland. Thus, the community was engaged to discuss what potential actions they can take to realize their dream. In order to deepen their commitment to their decisions, CSLP began the decision-making meeting with a 30 minute video showing the importance of wetlands with the examples from India. At the end of the meeting, the community agreed to:

- Form a volunteer group to oversee the management of the mangroves;
- Provide community sensitization and education on the ecological importance of mangroves to other communities bordering the wetland;
- Invite and engage two other communities that border the wetlands to join in the management process; and,
- Conduct radio education and other announcements to stop encroachment, especially from Shama District.

The 11-member committee (which has 2 women) has been formed in Yabiw and they have the mandate to spearhead and mobilize the community to manage the mangrove resources sustainably. CSLP's grantee, Hen Mpoano supported the committee training to help them understand the essence and responsibilities of their role as well as how to communicate the values of the wetland to the community at large.

In a separate event, and as part of a collaborative effort with the USAID-funded Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), the CSLP moderated a training of trainers (ToT) activity implemented by SNV focused on mangrove plantation establishment and management. This training took advantage of Shama District's experience in mangrove restoration and the CSLP's presence in these activities. There were participants from Yabiw, Akwidaa and also some Greater Amanzule communities supported by CSLP to learn as community trainers who can share the lessons learned within their respective communities.



Photo 1. Members of the Akwidaa junior high school climate change club after a training

During FY2016, the CSLP began collaborating with the USAID-funded University of Cape Coast's Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project (FCMCBP) to pilot wetland monitoring modules designed for secondary level schools in Yabiw and Akwidaa. The wetland monitoring modules were drafted by the University with support from the erstwhile ICFG project. CSLP supported two teachers of the climate change clubs already being supported in Yabiw and Akwidaa to participate in the initial ToT of the first two modules. Training and monitoring activities will start with the re-opening of schools for the first trimester in October 2016. It is hoped that these youth will develop the commitment and the attachment to spearhead sustainable management of the wetland in their communities.

In another wetland activity, 6,000 mangrove seedlings were raised in Yabiw this year to facilitate re-planting of degraded sites. Of this number, 2,487 were transferred to a nursery in Sanwoma to support re-planting in Greater Amanzule Wetland landscape since their seedlings were not yet ready for transplanting.

Tree Seedlings Supplied to Farmers

In the first quarter of the year, CSLP conducted an assessment with farmers to have an idea of what species and number of trees farmers want to plant. The farmers requested for 35,000 seedlings across a stock of 17 different species of timber and non-timber forest trees. Of the 17 species, four species were most in demand: 8,280 Mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*), 8,111 Ofram (*Terminalis superba*), 8,004 Emire (*Terminalia ivorensis*) and 6,486 Nsokor chew stick (*Garcinia afzelii*).

CSLP was able to supply more than 27,600 seedlings which fell short of the requested number. The challenges that limited CSLP's capacity to produce the requested amount included:

- Limited access to seeds due to what has been described as a cyclic phenomenon where timber trees had low to nil seed production;
- A long dry season followed by a very intense rainy season that caused flooding and led to the loss of many very young seedlings in the one community nursery (in Adubrim, Ellembelle District) supported by the project; and,
- Poly bags were in short supply in the country at the start of the nursery management activities.

Agroforestry Training Tour for CSLP Champion Farmers

Fifty-two farmers (including 12 women) participated in a CSLP-sponsored experiential training tour for three days to sites in the Wassa Amenfi-West District and Tarkwa in the Tarkwa Nsuaem District. The champion farmers interacted with members of the Sureso-Pebeaseman CREMA where they have practiced cocoa agroforestry for nearly two decades. In Tarkwa, they interacted with Mr. Nsiah who has a cocoa agroforestry operation and has made about GH¢10,000.00 from the sale of harvested mature chew stick (nsokor) and nsokor seedlings. Mr. Nsiah is also the CSLP source for nsokor seedlings. The farmers, upon learning that growing trees assured Mr. Nsiah access to the land and saved him from losing access to the land, got more excited and motivated to continue with their own tree planting objectives. In fact, upon feedback to their colleague farmers, the seedling demand has increased.

Pilot Improved Charcoal Kiln

Charcoal usage in Ghana is widespread and is believed to be the major energy source used by about 85% of urban dwellers. It is also blamed as a major contributor to forest degradation in Ghana. Given the presence of charcoal producers who produce from woodlots in the Shama district, CSLP engaged them and sought to identify all possibilities to improve yield and reduce environmental impacts. The project's efforts sought to introduce best management practices (BMP) in the woodlot ventures (this was noted earlier) and it has been found through follow up visits that some practitioners are adopting these practices.

The carbonization process also needs to be improved. Current methods emit substantial volumes of carbon and result in low charcoal yield in addition to posing health hazards to the practitioners. The CSLP has identified two options for charcoal kilns that have potential for the woodlot practitioners in Shama District. These include mobile metal kilns and concrete/brick kilns. The woodlot farmers have a preference for the mobile/portable metal kiln which can be used by a number of producers lessening the cost burden (for any one individual) and it can be transported to a number of locations on the landscape.

The CSLP has been slow to act on introducing this technology to charcoal producers. This is for a number of reasons. The USAID-funded SFMP is also trying to introduce a similar technology for improved fish smokers, and although laudable, it has not been fully adopted. The CSLP wants to learn from this activity and apply lessons to the charcoal kiln technology. Secondly, metal fabricators in the Western Region are not used to making metal mobile kilns. Consultation with the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Kumasi helped to identify two consultants, one in Daboase District and another in Nzema East Municipal Area who have been introduced to and trained in the use of the metal kiln. These individuals may be able to train Shama charcoal producers. Two metal fabricators have been identified and shown drawings of a good size metal kiln for them to provide cost estimates. The CSLP is awaiting the outcome of this to enable it to make a decision on piloting the technology in the Western Region.

Tree Tenure Reform

The lack of clearly established evidence of ownership of planted or nurtured trees is one of the reasons why farmers are not interested in cultivating or planting trees in their farms. Tree tenure has remained a hurdle for the CSLP to overcome since its inception. Although it was generally accepted that once someone plants a tree, the tree is to be registered in the name of the planter and the ownership issues are then settled. As simple as this may sound, the modalities for the registration have not been universally established in Ghana.

The CSLP participated in a workshop organized in Peduase in the Eastern Region that involved several stakeholders linked to tree planting efforts and whose jobs depend on a settled and clear tree registration process. The objective of the workshop was for participants to streamline the tree registration process and establish a universal system that is backed by Ghanaian law. The collaborative workshop included government, donor and private sector interests such as Solidaridad West Africa, Ghana COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission; it was supported by the United Nations Development Program. Other key participants included NGOs such as Tropenbos International, IUCN and CARE International who each promote tree planting, especially in cocoa landscapes.

The CSLP had earlier drafted a position paper to initiate discussions for a solution that had suggested proposals. The project made contributions to the process in line with the drafted position paper. The Forestry Commission considered the event as an opportunity to seek key stakeholders' inputs to develop a Manual of Procedures (MoP) to bridge the current gap between policy and reality on the ground. A MoP, once approved, becomes a legal document that is grounded in current forestry laws in Ghana. The CSLP is in touch and waiting finalization of the manual and will be part of the testing and training team for the new tree registration procedure.

Village Savings and Loan Associations

Ten new VSLAs were formed during the year resulting in a total of 27 VSLAs that have been formed as a result of CSLP's support. Three of these are from Greater Amanzule Wetland communities (Kamgbunli, Mangyea and Old Kabenlasuazo). The VSLA's modular trainings continued during the year for all categories. Thirteen of the VSLAs reached share-out (and completed all seven training modules – an 8 to 12 month process) during the year.

To help VSLA members analyze their operations and enable them to determine whether they are improving or not, the VSLAs were taken through record keeping training. Three hundred fifty-five VSLA members (236 women, 119 men) received training in record keeping in 14 training events. There were also an additional 39 non-VSLA member participants who opted to participate in the training. The record keeping training focused on teaching participants the importance of keeping records, helping them to understand basic terminology associated with keeping records and knowing when, how to keep and how to make a basic analysis from records. They learned that a good analysis of well-kept records enables an assessment of farming activities and creates the opportunity to review strategies in order to enhance profits.

The low literacy and numeracy skills of many farmers have been identified as major challenges associated with the keeping of records. In discussing this issue, they agreed that in the interim, they would utilize the services of their children who are in both first and second cycle schools while others will use symbols in their estimations. The CSLP is exploring options for integrating at least basic literacy and numeracy skills trainings within project activities in the coming year.

On another front, five of the most reliable and widespread financial institutions within the Ellembelle and the Jomoro Districts were visited by the CSLP to investigate the possibility of having the project-supported VSLAs interact with them to enhance their benefits. The lending rates of these institutions range between 30% and 36% per annum while the earnings on savings per annum ranges between 2.5% to 19.5%. These rates, compared to the average performance of the VSLAs, do not make using the financial institutions attractive. The CSLP is cautious in promoting such a link. However, for the sake of the security of their funds in situations where there are excess funds (not taken out by way of loans to members), it could be risky to continue to keep them in the cash box in those low security areas.

In another series of visits to financial institutions in Jomoro and Ellembelle districts the project examined the possibility of having these institutions send "mobilizers" to the VSLA communities to collect their cash periodically. If this were possible, the CSLP also asked whether the VSLAs could negotiate a rate that they receive or pay to them when they conduct business with the group. While the institutions are interested in doing business with the groups, they are less willing to negotiate varying rates. Currently, most institutions do not send mobilizers to communities outside of their physical banking locations due to security concerns and the resulting increased cost of doing such business. Given these facts, the CSLP is designing a training module tailored to the information received from the financial institutions and these implications. All VSLAs will be trained to help them make informed decisions about whether or not to deposit funds in a financial institution, to determine what facilities exist in which institutions, and to identify their own association's unique criteria to help them select the most appropriate institution for their needs, should they choose to pursue such a partnership.

Village Agents' (VAs) Activities

CSLP adopted the idea of Village Agents (VAs) to support the CSLP's VSLA Specialist since the landscape is vast in the face of limited logistics. Twelve people (including 2 women) were trained from 6 communities; one has since moved

out of the region. Not only have they been very supportive to their own VSLAs where they are members, they have also supported all the other VSLAs that exist in the communities where they live. Their advice and direction are frequently sought when any group has problems and help to ensure greater sustainability when a local resource person is available to troubleshoot since the CSLP VSLA specialist cannot be omnipresent.

The VAs support has been most helpful in communities where new VSLAs have been started such as Adubrim (1 VSLA), Asonti (5 VSLAs) and Ayawora (1 VSLA). The CSLP estimates that about 60% of the guidance that the new VSLAs have received has been through the Village Agents. Some have also been very useful in promoting the VSLA to new communities by telling their stories to the new audiences. It is believed that peer awareness creation triggers more interest than any other activity. A refresher training for the VAs is being planned to hone their skill set and also to help smooth out a few mistakes that have been revealed during monitoring and observation missions by the CSLP's Supervisory VSLA Specialist.

Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened Stakeholder Engagements and Coordination on Sustainable Landscape Management

Table 2. Planned activities for IR 2

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Sub IR 2.1: Improve public awareness on the relationship between ecosystem services and livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More climate change clubs formed • Awareness created for members of school environmental clubs on natural resources management and climate change • VSLAs and CREMA Executives members are conversant with the importance of wildlife and the need to conserve biodiversity • More awareness created within CSLP communities on the need for sustainable Natural resources management through global day celebration • Relevant regional stakeholders of the CSLP interact with CSLP farmers and clients to know more about CSLP successes • Awareness on the importance of wetland created in 12 GAW communities through video film. • CSLP activities and successes documented for sharing in both video documentary and on the website. • IEC materials (calendars, newsletter, factsheet, T-shirts, brochure and posters) produced and distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 new Climate Change clubs were formed and received training in the importance of wildlife and the role of climate change club members in their protection • Climate change clubs trained in sanitation and waste management, climate change and also undertook clean-up exercises • 20 Community Resources Management Committees (CRMCs) of the Cape Three Points CREMA and 3 VSLAs trained in the importance of wildlife and the role of community members in their protection • World Environment Day 2016 celebrated at Komfoeku in the Shama District of the Western Region • Media Day celebration organized in Navrongo and Tweakor I in the Jomoro District • Video shows were organized in 12 GAW communities to prepare them to embrace and support the processes for the sustainable management of the Greater Amanzule wetland. • A consultant was hired to produce video documentary of the activities, achievements and challenges of the first phase of CSLP • A host of items were produced to create awareness on climate change, NRM, CSLP, USFS-IP and the USAID 	
Sub IR 2.2 Promote stakeholder engagement and coordination at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Region Stakeholders updated on CSLP activities periodically and they offer recommendations and pieces of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Western Regional stakeholder meetings were organized during the period to update the relevant stakeholder 	

	<p>advice to improve implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District/Local Government Stakeholders updated on CSLP activities in the respective districts and promote sharing • CSLP experiences and challenges are shared with Traditional Authorities 	<p>institutions of CSLP and receive their input on key activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 meetings were held during the year to update District/Municipal/Metropolitan Assemblies' staff of the activities of CSLP that complement the districts' activities and reporting • The chiefs and some of their elders from all the CSLP communities in four district assemblies were engaged in 3 different meetings during the year and briefed on CSLP activities in their respective communities 	
Sub IR 2.3: Promote platforms that will support sustainable landscapes management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSLA members are aware of causes, impacts and mitigation measures of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 VSLAs comprising of 204 members (132 are women) were trained in the causes and impacts as well as measures to ameliorate climate change • 10 GAW communities' members were trained in the causes, impacts and measures to ameliorate climate change 	

Climate Change Clubs

In order to reach the numerous young people in the region, CSLP is working with a number of boys and girls in the junior and senior high school level within the six coastal district of the Western Region. The objective is to increase their awareness of climate change and the need for sustainable management of natural resources. The CSLP staff, along with others such as the Wildlife Division, work to engage them in intelligent discussions and conversations about facts and strategies that they will share with their peers and parents to help change practices and behaviors that can help communities adapt to the changes that are already being noticed. During this year, six new climate change clubs were formed, leading to a total of eight clubs now supported by the CSLP.

The climate change clubs were engaged in various activities during the year that helped to create awareness, build their capacity to enhance their own lives and make useful contributions to their communities. A number of the events and achievements shown in Tables 3 and 4 are quite noteworthy.

Table 3. Climate change club activities and training topics

Club Activity	Collaborating Institution	Remarks/Content
Community/school clean-up	---	To instill volunteerism and spirit of cleanliness
Quiz	Ghana Education Service	NRM and conservation
Lessons in climate change	Ghana Education Service Teachers	Concept of climate change, signs of climate change, how climate change occurs, and what climate change can do to our ecosystems
Training tour to B-BOVID/TRACTOR	TRACTOR, Ghana Education Service	Expose the school children to agroforestry, biodiversity and farm livelihoods concepts

Training in the “Importance of Wildlife”	Wildlife Division	Role of wildlife in seed dispersal, cleaning the environment through scavenging, and reducing the incidence of pests
Exposure to wildlife laws of Ghana	Wildlife Division	Protected animals, the closed and open seasons and requirement of a license to hunt
Effective ways of communicating on environmental issues	Ghana Education Service, Wildlife Division	Help students to better understand the importance of communication, its different forms, and especially its use as an advocacy tool.

Table 4. Some achievements of CSLP-supported climate change clubs

District	Location	Club	Membership		Achievement
			Males	Females	
Nzema East	Asonti	Municipal Assembly JHS Climate Change Club	11	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established organic plantain farm New cassava variety farm as demonstration with DOFA support District “best school in agriculture” award on Farmers’ Day 2015
Nzema East	Bokro	Municipal Assembly JHS Climate Change Club	36	37	Mixed food crop farm
Jomoro	Adusuazo	District Assembly JHS Club	16	14	Hosted 2015 World Environment Day in collaboration with GES and District Assembly
Ahanta West	Akwidaa	SDA JHS	21	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized house to house awareness creation on illegal fishing Ready to begin wetland monitoring in collaboration with UCC
Shama	Komfoeku	District Assembly JHS	27	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established mixed food crop farm Ready to set up climate smart vegetable demonstration plot Hosted 2016 World Environment Day celebration in collaboration with GES and Wildlife Division
Shama	Yabiw	Methodist JHS	12	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready to begin wetland monitoring in collaboration with the UCC
6 clubs (of 8 total)			123	133	

Another school activity with junior high school students focused on community cleanliness and citizen responsibility in this activity. The CSLP, in collaboration with the Shama District Environmental Health Officer and the Operations Director of Zoomlion Ghana Limited, organized a training of trainers event for 113 (78 men and 35 women) Ghana Education Service teachers. There were two presentations by the Shama District Environmental Health Officer and the Shama District Operations Director for Zoomlion, a private waste management organization. The teachers will follow-up with training of the students in their respective schools. Some of the topics covered during the training are listed below.

- What is waste management?
- Types of waste
- Natural resources and conservation
- Waste management in Shama District
- Natural resources in Shama District
- The role of Zoomlion in Shama’s waste management system

CREMA Training with the Wildlife Division

The Community Resources Management Areas (CREMAs) and the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) are two very important community level institutions that the CSLP engages regularly. CREMAs are organized under the auspices of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and have the role of organizing communities to support

natural resources management, particularly wildlife. The VSLAs are groups of carefully self-selected members that can mobilize funds for supporting members' livelihood opportunities.

It is believed that, the community members who have caused environmental problems are the same people who can restore the environment and biodiversity if they are sensitized. Based on this assumption, CSLP in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, conducted trainings separately on the importance of wildlife and the role of community members in their protection for 20 Community Resources Management Committees (CRMCs) of the Cape Three Points CREMA and 3 VSLAs during the year. The training covered topics such as what are wild animals, importance of wild animals, should wild animals be protected, basic laws protecting wild animals and the role of CRMCs in the protection of wildlife. The CRMC members who are executive members at the respective communities are expected to share the knowledge with other community members. CSLP plans to help facilitate this information sharing within the communities in the next year.

World Environment Day Celebration for 2016

The World Environment Day 2016 was held on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at Komfoeku, a farming community in Shama District of Ghana's Western Region under the joint auspices of the Shama District Assembly, the Shama Education Directorate (GES), Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission (WD) and traditional authorities. While the global theme was "Go Wild for Life", the CSLP carved a local theme as "More Trees and More Wildlife". The event was effective in enhancing public awareness on the importance of wild animals and the need for their protection. The event evolved around Komfoeku D/A JHS Climate Change Club (CCC) which was the attraction leading to the selection of the venue.

Media Day Celebration for 2016

The media day celebration for 2016 was held in the Jomoro district in Tweakor I and Navrongo. The highlight was the official announcement of the three-year \$4.5 million CSLP extension by Brian Conklin of the USAID Ghana Economic Growth Office. The media representatives present were from Ghana News Agency (online media), the Ghanaian Times, the Statesman (print media), TV Africa and TV3. Apart from media personalities, there were also Western Regional administration representatives who took advantage to visit CSLP communities to witness implementation on the ground. These stakeholders included the Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, a Deputy Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Regional Director of the Town and Country Planning Department, Regional Director of the National Board for Small Scale Industries and the Regional Manager of the Wildlife Division. Apart from observing VSLA meeting procedures, there was also farm visits to see some planted trees and interviews of some farmers for their comments on CSLP impact on their lives.



Photo 2. Champion farmer Gladys Atsu speaks with the media during Media Day 2016

Awareness Creation through Video Shows

CSLP created awareness in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation through video shows in over 40 communities during the year. These included two videos, one on climate change and the other on the values of wetland/mangrove resources and livelihoods. The climate change video was shown to the 18 dry upland forest communities of CSLP while the wetland/mangrove values video was shown in the 23 GAW communities. The objectives of the videos were to spur community members on what has been introduced to them by sharing lessons learned from other places. The videos were shown in the night with fun fare so that people who would otherwise often be unavailable for a daytime event could attend.

It is estimated that over 2,000 people participated in the video shows from the 18 dry upland forest areas while over 3,500 participants are estimated from the 23 GAW communities. The videos were paused from time to time to allow

for discussions as well as questions and answers from the audience. At the tail end of the events, community members were given the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and what they will do differently as a result of having participated in the event.

Video Documentary of CSLP Activities

A consultant was engaged to produce a video documentary of all CSLP activities for its phase one. The 25 minutes documentary, when completed will cover interventions such as:

- Beekeeping
- Wetland conservation activities
- Collaboration/coordination with Government of Ghana agencies and traditional authorities
- Climate smart/conservation agriculture
- Village savings & loan associations
- School climate change clubs
- Support to private sector (B-BOVID) and local NGOs (TRACTOR & Hen Mpoano)

The video consultant crew also covered sections of the Media Day and the regional stakeholders' meeting that took place mid- September 2016. The draft is expected before the end of October 2016 for final review.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials Produced

A number of communication and awareness-raising items were produced during the year, often in consort with various events. These items include:

- 2016 calendars
- Newsletters
- Climate change brochures
- Fact sheets for Media Day
- World Environment Day Celebration T-shirts
- Posters
- Polo Shirts with climate change education information

Calendars, t-shirts, and polo shirts were distributed to relevant CSLP stakeholders including community members and chiefs. The facts sheets and climate change brochure were distributed at events such as community meetings, workshops, and global day celebrations in order to provide an overview of the CSLP, USFS-IP and the support of USAID.

Stakeholders Update Meetings

Four regional stakeholders meetings were organized during the year. All four quarterly meetings were well patronized by the stakeholders except for the lack of participation of the Forest Services Division. This is an issue that project administrators have attempted to address with personal invitations and visits to the regional director without much success. The last stakeholders' meeting in September 2016, was scheduled to coincide with the CSLP's Annual Media Day event giving stakeholders an opportunity participate with the media's visits to communities, and then to follow up the next day with an in-the-field stakeholder meeting.

The meetings created the opportunity for the regional officers to receive updates of CSLP implementation while they also provided useful advice and suggestions to support CSLP implementation. It also created the opportunity for the identification of areas of collaboration and support for CSLP such as trainings for community members. The cordial relationship that existed between CSLP and these government institutions led to the regional bosses encouraging their staff in the districts to provide all the needed support to CSLP. On a number of occasions, the regional officers participated in some district CSLP facilitated meetings such as the district stakeholders' updates and some community level trainings such as GPS training for Community Assistants and the GIS training for the districts.

Similar to the regional stakeholders' meeting, there were 8 district stakeholders meetings to update the local government staff who are co-implementers in some instances. These were also held quarterly and the officials involved included the economic planners, development planners, Department of Food and Agriculture, Community Development, National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), Ghana Education Service, and Department of Social Welfare. The meeting allowed for discussion on activities and achievements per district/community for the staff to provide input on. In addition to updates, there is also a training led by district technical staff on how the CSLP activities are being used and integrated into their development planning efforts.

Initially, the CSLP's quarterly update meetings were broken into two sections such that 3 districts met on one day and the remaining 3 met on another. The project has learned that districts officials are keen to learn from one another and also become motivated to do the same, or "one-up" themselves in comparison to a neighboring district. Going forward, all 6 districts will meet at one venue allowing broad sharing to take place. The last two quarterly district stakeholder meetings were planned to involve all 6 districts at the same venue and at the same time.

The chiefs and elders of 15 CSLP communities from four districts have actively participated in three quarterly meetings designed to update them on CSLP implementation in their communities and to receive their comments and advice regarding these and planned activities. The chiefs made useful recommendations as well as providing critical comments that will help the project be more effective in the communities going forward.

Climate Change Awareness for Community Members

Members from nine VSLAs across five districts participated in basic climate change awareness trainings. The 204 members, including 132 women, were briefed on the causes of climate change, climate change impacts and also the measures that the VSLA members could adopt to help mitigate climate change and their own adaptation to it. Ten Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) communities also received the awareness training along with discussions about its creation causes, impacts and measures to help ameliorate climate change. In these ten communities, 700 people, including 372 women participated. The major resource that was used was the CSLP's simplified Climate Change brochure. Copies of this document (which has about 80% of its content in photos) were given to all participants after each training.

Intermediate Result 3: Enhanced Capacity for Ecosystem Services Monitoring

Table 5. Planned Activities for IR 3

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Sub IR 3.1 Provide capacity building on forest and wetland carbon and other ecosystems services measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSLP contributes to spatial planning activities of the six coastal districts of the Western Region • Protocol for carbon measurement developed and carbon measured for the CSLP intervention communities • Carbon stock measured for various land cover types in CSLP intervention sites in collaboration with AFOLU Ghana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried out a review of the six coastal districts' landscape to identify institutions involved in spatial planning activities for collaboration • Carbon measurement protocol has been drafted and completed • In collaboration with RMSC and FORIG, standards have been agreed for the estimation of carbon stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building in Quantum GIS for relevant DA staff of the Ahanta West District
Sub IR 3.2: Collect and utilize biophysical and socio economic data to inform land-use planning and decision-making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CSLP intervention sites are mapped • All stakeholders work together to manage identified green open areas for the benefit of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 1,508 hectares of land area was mapped • Some open areas identified for greening and conservation 	
Sub IR 3.3: Integrate lessons learned on national level with jurisdictional monitoring, reporting and verification systems to integrate into a regional REDD+ system framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSLP lessons shared with international community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSLP participated in the Alexander von Humboldt Seminar held at the University of Ghana in January 2016 	

Capacity Building in Spatial Planning

In an attempt to identify similar institutions involved in spatial planning activities within the six coastal districts of the Western Region for collaboration, CSLP undertook a simple survey. There has been, or are currently, few dedicated spatial planning activities in the area. These have involved:

- Hen Mpoano (an NGO)
- Local Governance Decentralization Program, LOGODEP (a USAID project)
- Spatial Dimensions (a private firm)
- Town and Country Planning Department, TCPD (a government institution)

Out of these listed institutions, LOGODEP, a USAID-funded project, has ended. Staff specialists from Spatial Dimensions were engaged as consultants to develop district spatial plans for the Western Region's six coastal districts. This effort has also ended and Spatial Dimensions has reverted to their office in Accra. This therefore leaves the six district planning offices (supervised by the Western Region TCPD) and Hen Mpoano as the leading institutions involved in spatial planning activities in the landscape. The CSLP supports Hen Mpoano in a targeted spatial planning activity in two districts (described in a separate section below).

Other objectives of the CSLP survey were to:

- Examine perceived capacity needs of the district institutions and identify what support might be provided to help address these needs, support in bridging them where possible; and,
- Identify open green areas within the towns and communities and examine support strategies with all relevant stakeholders to preserve such spaces.

The investigation led to the development of a training manual on Quantum GIS (Q-GIS) for the staff of five coastal districts in the Western Region, namely Jomoro, Ellembelle, Nzema East, Ahanta West and Shama. The objectives of the GIS training were to:

- Introduce (and in some cases refresh) district planning and supporting staff to GIS and remote sensing;
- Train participants in the use of Quantum GIS software; and,
- Improve each participant's ability in the use and interpretation of CSLP-generated spatial data within their districts.

The GIS training has enhanced the GIS skills of the staff of four of the five districts. The one remaining district will receive the training early in the next fiscal year. District staff involved in the training represented a cross section of the technical departments as noted in the list below.

- Town & Country Planning Officers
- Development Planning Officers
- Business Advisory Centre Staff
- Urban Road Engineers MoFA/DoFA Staff
- Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit
- Works Department Engineers
- National Disaster Management Organization
- Ghana Education Service Staff

The participants were not only introduced to the Quantum GIS but were also supported to install an open-source software, the Quantum GIS on their official computers. The training that was done in collaboration with Hen Mpoano and the staff of the Western Region Administration GIS hub in Sekondi has now prepared district staff to accept data from the CSLP's spatial planning activities and also process them in any form of their choosing for reporting purposes. The training also discussed the opportunities for using Quantum GIS by all the professions that participated in the training. With the excitement among the district staff, they have expressed the usefulness of the training in their day-to-day functions and have also requested for regular support to enable them to continue bettering themselves in the use of the software.

The identification of green areas has faced a number of challenges. There has been very little attention paid to such areas by the district assemblies and other stakeholders, mainly because undeveloped, natural areas are seen as more valuable under a different land use. Green areas that existed within developed areas have all been utilized for other uses. There are still green areas but often in non-developed areas outside of the towns. Recognizing these within a district development plan is a very low priority. The CSLP has shifted its focus of green areas to specifically identify sacred grove patches within its geographic zone of influence. This will be pursued more vigorously with traditional authorities and district officers in FY2017.

Estimating GHG Emissions Avoided with CSLP Activities

Part of the CSLP's development objective involves monitoring the standard USAID indicator "Quantity of Greenhouse Gas emissions measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent reduced, sequestered and/or avoided as a result of United States Government assistance". This called for the estimation of carbon at each CSLP intervention site. The challenge that the CSLP faced had been the lack of data about carbon on the CSLP landscape and data that could be scientifically estimated. Most carbon data for the project region has been estimated from Landsat imagery on broad cover types and using national and region (West Africa)-wide Greenhouse gas (GHG) estimators. For a project the scale of the CSLP, more site-specific, or at least climatic zone-specific, GHG multipliers for each land use/land cover (LULC) type were needed to begin capturing any differences.

To make sure that CSLP was on the right path, there were series of consultations with the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG). This led to the adoption of data from the Ghana Forest Preservation Program's effort¹ to provide estimates of CO₂e for carbon stocks estimated from destructive sampling techniques across various land cover classes in Ghana's nine climatic zones. This protocol is now being applied on the CSLP landscape for carbon estimation from all land cover types except mangrove forests. Mangrove and wetland carbon stocks are estimated, utilizing data from Adotey² that formed the basis of a graduate student's PhD dissertation at the University of Cape Coast.

The CSLP protocol now uses a look-up table (see the moist evergreen climatic zone that covers the CSLP landscapes extracted as Table 6) that has the estimated carbon per hectare per land cover type. Now, at each community where the project has an intervention activity that entails LULC (conserving secondary forest as an apiary, conservation agriculture, tree planting, farmer-managed natural regeneration-FMNR, community management of wetlands, etc.) the specific area is measured using a GPS unit. These data provide both the land area under improved NRM and the value to be applied to the CO₂e for estimating the tons of GHG being sequestered at the site.

Table 6. Mean values in metric tons/hectare of CO₂e sequestered in Ghana's Moist Evergreen climatic zone within carbon pool sources*.

Land Use	Carbon pool source						Total
	AG	BG	Deadwood	Litter	Non-tree	Soil	
Closed forest	511	89	297	10	2	324	1,233
Open forest	146	11	65	4	6	172	404
Cropland	124	9	16	13	1	219	382
Grassland	0	0	11	0	7	NA	18
Mangrove*	13,828	4,376	NA	NA	NA	1,291	19,495

*Source: PASCO 2013. [For closed forest, open forest, cropland and grassland land use classes]

*Source: Adotey 2015. [For mangrove and wetlands land use class]

A continuing challenge is the lack of carbon estimates by tree species for the tree seedlings and farmer-managed natural regeneration being promoted by the project. Research on individual species, as well as forest cover types, is severely lacking in Ghana, and across West Africa. Until growth equations are developed on a species-by-species basis, farm-scale estimates of GHG being sequestered will continue to rely on broad, regional estimates.

LULC Mapping

A total of 1,508 hectares of land of various vegetation types and land uses were mapped as intervention sites of the CSLP. Of this amount, 209 hectares is covered by mangrove wetland; the rest is made up of cropland (including cocoa and coconut plantations) and forest patches.

National Level Interactions

The CSLP participated in the Alexander von Humboldt Seminar held at the University of Ghana in January 2016. The seminar, which was held under the auspices of the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Fellowship in Germany, was coordinated by Professor Samuel Adiku, the AvH Ambassador in Ghana with the theme "Reducing Ghana's Carbon Footprint: Your Role in Your Sphere of Influence". The seminar focused on how each person is responsible for global climate change and how to mitigate these impacts. Participants were primarily scientists from academic and research institutions in Ghana. The CSLP Ecosystems Services Specialist gave a presentation on the drivers of deforestation in the west coast areas of Ghana and discussed what the CSLP is doing to help reduce emissions within the area.

¹ PASCO. 2013. Mapping of forest cover and carbon stock in Ghana. FC-RMSC, CSIR-FORIG and CSIR-SRI, Ghana. 218p.

² Adotey, J. 2015. Carbon stock assessment in the Kakum and Amanzuke estuary mangrove forests, Ghana. PhD dissertation submitted to Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Coast. 123p.

Building Capacity for Ecosystems Management in the Greater Amanzule Wetlands

Table 7. Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) Conservation Activities Achieved

Activities to be implemented	Expected output	Achievements	Outstanding activity
Identify 2 broad groups of communities and/or community clusters	12 communities selected for Phase I; 11 communities for Phase II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total of 23 communities were divided into 2 groups 12 for the first batch and 11 for the second batch 	One community remains to have a CCC due to a chieftaincy issue
Formation of community conservation committees (GAWCCCs)	23 community level structures in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 Community Wetland Conservation Committees have been formed Training has been carried out to enhance the activities of the committees Wetland mapping has been completed in 5 communities 	
Identification of livelihood options	Livelihood options identified and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihood assessment conducted 4 livelihood options being piloted 100 prekese seedlings distributed to 25 people for planting Study tour organized for Sanwoma community members Nursery establishment at Sanwoma Re-planting of degraded mangrove sites started 	
Formation of district wetlands conservation committees	District Wetland Conservation Committees operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 District Conservation Committees formed 2 District conservation committees completed orientation and signing of ToR 2 District conservation committees inaugurated 	
Management plan development	Nested community led management plan developed for the GAW area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with the Wildlife Division to support the facilitation of the nested community centered management plan Preparatory meeting for the facilitation of management plan conducted Reconnaissance visits conducted in all communities Rapid biodiversity assessment conducted by Wildlife Division ecologists Data gaps identified and filled 	

GAW Communities Divided into 2 Clusters

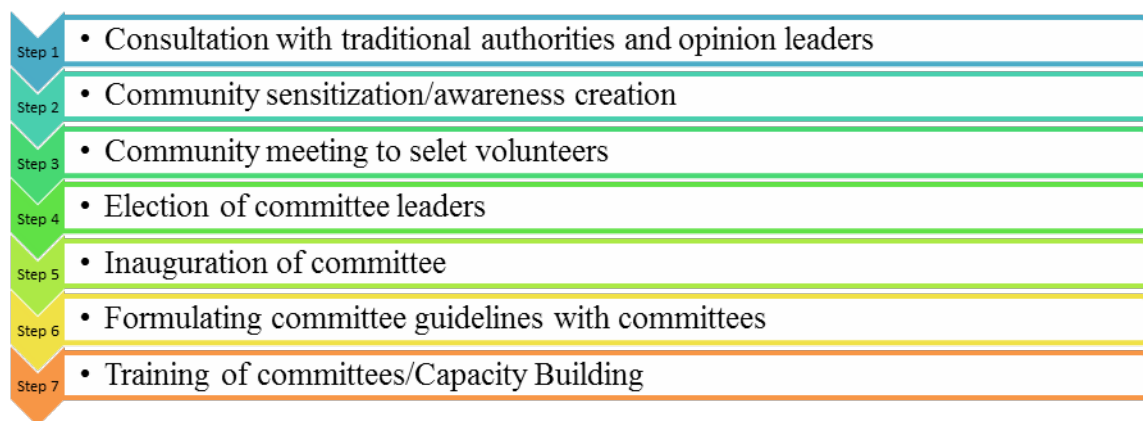
The GAW is widespread and cuts across two districts. To make the work more manageable, it was decided to work in two phases with a smaller number of communities in each phase. This also created an opportunity to learn lessons from the first phase that could be applied to the second. It also allowed for challenges to be met, dealt with and learned from, at a simpler scale. Community-level meetings were organized to create awareness on the roll out

activities and to refresh community members' memories on the results and conclusions of the previous grant that ended in January 2015. Orientation trainings were done at night through video presentation facilitated jointly by CSLP and Hen Mpoano. The trainings, organized in each of the communities, sought each community's overall perceptions on the management of its wetland/mangrove areas. The video described the importance of wetlands as a provider of ecosystem services and as the basis for community livelihoods. It also illustrated what other wetland communities are doing to conserve their wetlands and to use them sustainably. After the video, discussions were facilitated to help participants understand what the community can do, or wants to do, about the specific wetlands in their respective communities.

Community Wetland Conservation Committees

Twenty-two Community Wetland Conservation Committees have been formed in the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts. The committees are now beginning the process of jointly managing the wetlands with the traditional authorities, district conservation committees and the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to ensure the conservation of the GAW.

The 7-step process used to establish the conservation committees is illustrated below:



All the 22 committees have elected executives and have drafted terms of reference for guiding their activities. They have also undergone training to enable them to function effectively. Some of the training topics include:

- Mobilizing for community action
- Working in teams
- GPS unit training
- Mangrove planting & management
- Values & importance of wetlands
- Committee formation & management
- Mangrove monitoring
- GPS-unit training

The communities carried out a preparatory activity leading to the development of their management plan through community participatory wetland resource mapping. This involved demarcating the extent of the various wetland vegetation resources on hard copies of aerial photos. These will be verified on the ground with GPS units and allow for collection of spatial data in mapped form. This ground truthing was done for five communities and their wetlands have been mapped. As part of a grant for FY2017 to Hen Mpoano, each of the 22 communities wetland resources will be mapped by the conclusion of the next fiscal year.

Livelihood Options Identified

A livelihood assessment was conducted in the GAW communities that led to the identification of four livelihood options: cassava production and processing, beekeeping, climate smart vegetable production, and village savings and loan associations.

In a collaborative effort between the CSLP, SFMP and Hen Mpoano, 8,215 mangrove seedlings were planted in the Sanwoma area; 2,487 of the seedlings were from the CSLP facilitated Yabiw nursery in Shama District. The balance came from a SFMP-supported Hen Mpoano initiative. The Sanwoma Community Conservation Committee spearheaded the planting involving community members and chiefs. Through the CSLP collaboration with Hen

Mpoano, the Conservation Committee is raising an additional 10,000 mangrove seedlings to continue with the restoration of degraded mangrove areas in Sanwoma.

Under the SFMP initiative, community representatives were taken on a study visit to Anyanui area in the Volta Region where it is their business to plant and harvest in 2 to 4 years for sale. This has enhanced their interest in spending time to re-plant mangrove in their area which in the past was not considered at all.

District Wetland Conservation Committees

Two District Conservation Committees have been formed for the Jomoro and Ellebelle Districts. The District Committee members are to work and coordinate the community committee members while also advocating the communities' interests at the district offices. These are comprised of the economic and development planning officers, assembly members of some of the GAW communities, the chairman of the sub-committee responsible for the management of wetlands and forests, and Ghana Forestry Commission/Wildlife Division staff.

Following their inauguration, they were introduced to the district chief executives, the executives at the community level and the traditional authorities. They also drafted terms of reference which members are required to follow in the performance of their duties. Just like the community committees, the district committee members also underwent training in the same topics to enhance their performance.

Nested Community Led Management Plan Development

The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission was engaged through a series of meetings with the objective to review and adopt a different process from their classic approach for the development of the GAW management plan. The objective for the GAW management framework was for it to be more of a community-led, bottom-up approach understood by the local people so that its implementation will hopefully be completed with less difficulty. The terms "Management Plan Framework" and "Management Actions" were used interchangeably to differentiate it from a classic one.

The process started with a review of documentation within the Forestry Commission and Hen Mpoano to assess what information is available and what gaps would be require to be filled. Some of the information gaps included current flora and fauna data for the area. The Wildlife Division helped to assemble a team of ecologists (flora, bird, amphibian and mammal specialists) who surveyed the GAW landscape for this information. The graphic below outlines the steps used to craft the GAW plan.



Following the synthesis of the information, management actions and interests crafted by the individual communities were outlined. These were consolidated and nested in the management framework for the Greater Amanzule Wetland area. The management framework has been taken through the last stage of validation by stakeholders and is being finalized. In the next fiscal year, the CSLP grant to Hen Mpoano will help to reinforce the GAW management framework, make adaptations and help to resolve conflicts and issues as they arise as management activities are implemented.

Video Documentary

A video documentary was produced as part of the grant to Hen Mpoano. The documentary provides details on the current efforts including interviews with key stakeholders. The documentary will be used to educate the communities within and outside the Amanzule Wetlands.

M&E Plan & Implementation Update

M&E Plan

A short term M&E consultant was engaged by CSLP and the purpose was to support the CSLP in its review of its Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), the project's indicator tracking tools and data collection sheets so as to streamline the M&E processes, and ensure a more robust overall system. Recommendations given to CSLP, which have been addressed included:

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN
Full-time M&E staff needed	The Job Description of the Communication Specialist was revised to take on fully the role as M&E Specialist
Capacity building training in M&E required for key staff	Key staff have participated in four M&E learning and sharing workshops under the auspices of METSS and ready to attend others as appropriate
SOPs must be institutionalized	Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted for all indicator related activities
A comprehensive data quality assessment needed	METSS has conducted two data verifications with CSLP and there is a plan for a Data Quality Assessment
Adopt or modify the relevant custom indicators (as proposed) for integration	4 Custom indicators have been adopted for CSLP

The second phase of CSLP which begins on the 1 October 2016 for another three years, until 30 September 2019, is USAID Feed the Future (FtF) Funded. Another set of four standard Feed the Future indicators have been adopted in addition to the phase one indicators.

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

With these four additional indicators and its own four custom indicators, the CSLP will have a total of 14 indicators to track beginning in the new fiscal year. The project has drafted a Performance Management Plan for the second phase and set targets for all these indicators.

Upon careful review of the CSLP Logical Framework for phase two, CSLP has recommended the revision of the number of outputs from 3 to 2. The project is waiting for the final confirmation of this adjustment from USAID/Ghana.

Implementation Challenges

The weather has been unusual this year and has affected tree seeds for starting the nursery and also affected out planting in the field. This is attributed, to some extent, to linkages with the El Nino cycle, drought conditions and a below normal year for tree seed production. Seed quantities were limited this year and many of the species requested by farmers were simply not available. This also affected the project's original decision to raise seedlings at only one community nursery such that CSLP had to acquire some quantity of seedlings from the two private vendors who were used last year to help fill the demand gap.

CSLP's geographic area of operation is wide and this continues to pose logistical challenges in terms of vehicle allocation for the various activities being supported and in moving people around the landscape. This challenge is even bigger with the frequent requests by Hen Mpoano for vehicle support to enable them to carry out implementation relative to the Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) area. In order to be able to satisfy every staff for their official errands, drivers sometimes have to do long treks across the landscape which of course also goes with higher fuel and maintenance costs.

Partners in the local government offices lack the resources needed for them to attain effective collaboration. In some cases, they are limited in number of staff, and in other cases, they are not mobile and therefore can only move when CSLP is available to provide such assistance. This also limits their ability to be actively engaged in communities.

Cooperation and participation with some key stakeholder is proving challenging. Demands are being made for exorbitant per diem (far above the USAID-established rates used by the CSLP for government partners) that according to them is their institution's approved rate. This is especially problematic where the stakeholders' ownership in management processes, and for the sustainability of the activity, is very much desired. The project has always had to look for creative ways to negotiate around these demands, including a request for evidence that these high per diem payments are actually being paid by donors to government employees.

INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

The CSLP technical team, including its partner Hen Mpoano, had the opportunity to undergo training in gender integration as per the USAID perspective as part of the FY 2017 annual work plan development. The presentation was delivered by the Economic Growth Office Gender Point of Contact. The presentation touched on issues such as the reason why gender integration is necessary, USAID requirements and also introduced the gender integration framework. CSLP will foster empowerment of under-represented genders within project activities within the landscape.

It is believed that a well-planned and implemented action will enhance women's participation and empowerment. During the year, the CSLP Administrative and Finance Specialist took time to participate in some of the trainings for the VSLAs in record keeping. The women who, on average, form 70% or more of the VSLA membership, were excited to see a fellow woman as part of the facilitation team and encouraging them in their efforts.

The VSLA has been the CSLP's conduit for supporting the course of women during the year. Out of the 27 VSLA groups, 402 were women who are benefiting through the availability of funds for their livelihood activities. For instance, during the year, out of the 14 VSLAs that reached share out who had a total membership 324, 208 were women who shared a total amount of GHC 112, 936.

CSLP has in the course of the year pursued some actions that are hoped to encourage the few bold women who participated in the normally male dominated activities such as the beekeeping and timber trees growing. For instance, during the Farmers' Day celebration, a champion female farmer was selected as well as a male, and this will be continued in the coming Farmers' Day celebration.

Sustainability Mechanisms (including local solutions and partnerships)

CSLP spent considerable effort to clean and manage all spatial plan data that was gathered since the start of the project. This was in order to have a conclusive close out of phase one but also to make the information available to its partners, major among them being the local government. In order for this data to be useful, CSLP engaged the

staff of the assemblies to improve their skills in GIS with the support of the staff of the Western Region GIS Hub and Hen Mpoano. The capacity building provided makes it possible that they can use the data, not only in their report writing, but also tailoring data it to suit proposals including resource utilization.

CSLP organized a training tour for a group of farmer champions to fellow agroforestry farmers in Tarkwa and Amenfi-West districts. This exposure and the lesson sharing enabled the farmers to clear some of the uncertainties and fear about tree planting. Farmers have allayed some of their fears—an example being the fear that they will be evicted from their lands one day after their trees mature. During the evaluation, these farmers expressed the increased understanding of the CSLP initiatives and the conviction that agroforestry is a profitable venture.

The memberships of the climate change clubs provide a rare opportunity for helping to ensure sustainability. These young minds and their enthusiasm are excellent local ambassadors for behavior changes and activities on the landscape that impact long term sustainable use and management of the region's natural biological heritage.

Environmental Compliance

One key CSLP intervention that has the potential for environmental challenges is the use of chemicals in relation to climate smart agriculture practices. These improved agricultural practices are normally undertaken on sites which have been extensively used and have suffered nutrient loss and soil erosion. The training module has therefore built in lessons on organic means of nutrient recovery such as composting and the use of Integrated Pest Management systems instead of the use of chemical fertilizers on these sites. These strategies are being promoted and are being adopted gradually. Nonetheless, chemical usage is on the increase in the CSLP operational area, whether for pest and disease control or nutrient restoration. The usage however, in most situations, does not appear to be in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and therefore poses health and environmental hazards. CSLP is aiming to increase awareness of the risks of using such chemicals and build awareness of safeguards that should be put into place should farmers choose to use such chemicals on their land. CSLP demonstration sites will remain free of such chemical use and CSLP will continue to raise awareness about the long-term benefits of reducing such chemical usage.

The one CSLP-supported community nursery was also attentive to environmental concerns. It was located on a level site and no fertilizers or chemicals were used during the nursery process so as to reduce any negative environmental impacts.

Current plans are also in place for at least one CSLP technical staff person to participate in a USAID West Africa sponsored Environmental Compliance and Management training in FY 2017. This will also help the CSLP to confirm that it meets USG standard and regulations going forward.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

In the FY 2016, the CSLP witnessed a very cordial relationship and involvement by most of the stakeholders, especially the Western Region level stakeholders. The district stakeholder meetings were all well patronized and created huge motivation among the officials present. When officials of one assembly learn of how the other assembly is benefiting from CSLP, they get motivated and make new requests for CSLP support. There is now some amount of improvement in the degree to which CSLP activities feature in the assemblies quarterly reports to the regional administration.

There has been lots of collaboration especially with the some institutions such as the regional office of the TCPD as well as Hen Mpoano. TCPD both the regional office and the Shama district office have played significant roles in the GIS and spatial planning skills that have been provided to the district office staff of the six coastal districts.

There is however, a challenge with our Western Region Forestry Commission. They seem so busy with their day to day activities and therefore are not able to participate in most of CSLP events as would have been desired.

Two CSLP grantees, Hen Mpoano and TRACTOR, completed their work plans as planned. Hen Mpoano successfully completed the two phases that resulted in the facilitation of awareness on the Greater Amanzule Wetland with all stakeholders (the two district assemblies, traditional authorities and also the establishment of community and district levels management structures). The structures are being supported to function effectively while also some livelihood activities are being piloted. TRACTOR also facilitated a number of learning events, not only for their field staff, but also among a host of stakeholder groups such as the climate change clubs, district assembly officials (DoFA and GES) as well as the vegetable farmers at the Angu site. TRACTOR also had an engagement with four successive radio station programs in Takoradi examining the relationship between agroforestry, food security, and climate change adaptation.

The CSLP and Hen Mpoano have agreed on a third small grant that will cover FY 2017 and allow the local NGO to continue to support and grow its activities with the GAW communities. It will focus on strengthening the management framework and its planned actions and also implement identified livelihood ventures for the benefit of the people of the GAW area.

The CSLP and its other grantee from FY 2016, TRACTOR, are still in discussions as of the drafting of this report, but without clear goals and objectives set for specific engagement.

LESSONS LEARNED

The lack of technical know-how and alternative options available to many farmers was found to be a driver in the many things that farmers do that cause harm to their local environment. Many farmers express their concerns about inappropriate use of chemicals and the associated health hazards but seem not to have any other alternative to apply. The responses received by farmers at the National Farmer's Day celebration in Jomoro District in connection with organic production of vegetables, points to a larger interest amongst farmers beyond the current reach of CSLP. Information sharing also proved to be a very useful tool this quarter, especially in terms of helping carry the CSLP's messages and behavior change efforts to community members. Activities that provided the farmers the opportunity to learn, peer-to-peer, provided substantial assurance and led to positive results in areas just adjacent to their own and with similar conditions. The linkage of improved natural resources restoration and/or management with livelihood opportunities seems to be working.

UPDATES ON ISSUES/COMMENTS RAISED BY AOR FROM THE LAST PROGRESS REPORT

There were no comments raised by the AOR on the last quarterly report.

PLANNED TASKS/INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The CSLP has submitted an annual work plan for FY2016 that has been approved by the project's AOR. Readers are kindly referred to this document to preview the details for planned tasks and interventions. In brief, the previous behavior change strategies, activities with farmers, communities, and GoG stakeholders will be continued in the next reporting period. The emphasis will also change slightly to reflect the Feed the Future Initiative as the funding source. New indicators will be tracked and there will be more engagement of farmers and farmer groups as small businesses and greater attention on food security issues.

To better track the indicators a beneficiary database is being established and unique identification numbers assigned to all the CSLP beneficiaries, from GoG personnel to individual farmers and group members in communities. The goal

is to have this system in place and being implemented successfully early in the second quarter. Hen Mpoano, as a grantee will also be part of this activity's implementation.

Plans have also been initiated to have information exchange visits with other USAID-funded projects that have VSLA activities. The CSLP can learn from these experiences, the same as they can also learn from the CSLP. Similarly, other efforts with the two sister projects, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project and the UCC-based Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Project, have defined specific activities for collaboration and coordination that will benefit the stakeholders of all three projects. Both of these activity areas are outlined in the FY 2017 Annual Work Plan.

Annex I. Summary Results to Date

Indicator	Baseline		Unit of Measure	FY 14		FY 15		FY 16							% Actual to date
	Year	Value		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Original Target	Revised Annual Target	Q1 Actuals	Q2 Actuals	Q3 Actuals	Q4 Actuals	Actual to date	
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO ₂ e, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance	2014	0	Metric tons CO ₂ equivalent (annual)			20,496	8,565	43,188	5,000,000	0	4,250,000	63,412	260,754	4,574,166	91%
4.8-7a Clean Energy															
4.8-7b Sustainable Landscapes							8,565				4,250,000	63,412	260,754		
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	300	78	1200	526.69	1,800	1,300	483.24	178.34	166.24	679.85	1508	116%
Biologically significant areas										209					
All other areas					78		526.69			274.24	178.34	166.24	679.85		
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)	3000	435	9600	5711	14,400	8,000	154	2938.92	3339.88	2445.75	8,879	111%
4.8.1-29a Number of men hours							3712.15			114	1972.73	2591.41	1727.55		
4.8.1-29b Number of women hours							1998.85			40	966.19	748.47	718.2		
4.8.1-29d Number of men										52	606	721	704		
4.8.1-29e Number of women										20	302	265	518		
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	300	0	600	574	900	900	429	312	120	105	966	107%
4.8.1-6a men											123	30	60		
4.8.1-6b women											189	90	45		
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	20	6	50	66	70	70	9	25	23	14	71	101%
Clean energy capabilities															
Adaptation capabilities															
Sustainable Landscapes, e.g., REDD+ capabilities				20	6	50	66	70		9	25	23	14	71	
General climate change 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	1000	165	4800	3197	7,200	4,500	228	1580.07	3709.27	628.71	6,146	137%
4.8.2-29a Clean Energy men															
4.8.2-29b Clean Energy women															
4.8.2-29c Adaptation men															
4.8.2-29d Adaptation women															
4.8.2-29e Sustainable landscapes men							2078.5			93	542.6	1788.01	430.21		
4.8.2-29f Sustainable landscapes women							1118.95			135	1037.47	1921.26	252.5		
4.8.2-29g General climate change men															
4.8.2-29h General climate change women															
4.8.2-29a Clean Energy men															

Notes on deviations from the indicator targets

Three indicators have targets within the acceptable range (+/- 10%). Three lie outside the ten percent range. The three outliers all exceeded the estimated target.

The largest outlier is with the number of hours of training completed in climate change. This all happened in the third quarter and was a result of an unanticipated demand for the training by communities, mostly in the Greater Amanzule Wetland area. These were communities being engaged through the CSLP grantee, Hen Mpoano. Original targets for these communities were based on the project's experience in other communities. But almost without exception the numbers attending these basic awareness trainings greatly exceeded estimates. (It was not unusual to

have 120-130+ participants at these events for which half that number was expected.) As a result, many community members have been exposed to climate change basics and introduced to the need for adapting and also what some of the basic strategies might be going forward.

The second largest outlier (16 percent over target) was the number of hectares coming under improved NRM. In this instance, most of the overage is due to missed data from the previous year. Erroneous data calculation from that period and a more thorough cleaning by a CSLP-hired STTA data management specialist has resulted in a more accurate reporting of areas being calculated. It should be noted that the 16 percent difference is only a matter of 208 hectares.

The last indicator target that exceeded the 10 percent cushion was in the number of training hours involved with biodiversity conservation and NRM. In this case the overage was 11 percent, or 879 more hours than the 8,000 originally estimated. It is likely that this overage also came from the GAW communities. Going into the year, the CSLP had no solid basis for what livelihood activities would be embraced by those communities. VSLAs, beekeeping and CSAs came to the forefront and each has modules that were provided to registered community members during the year. An exchange study tour, not originally planned with fixed numbers in mind, also provided additional training hours that were not in the original estimates when the targets were established at the beginning of the year.

Annex 2. TraiNet Report

Not Applicable

Annex 3. Stories From The Field

FARMER EMBARKS ON BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo is a 38-year-old farmer in Adusuazo in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region and actively engaged in the cultivation of vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, and garden eggs. Prior to the start of the USAID-funded, and US Forest Service managed, Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), Listowell was farming using large quantities of agrochemicals. He was using herbicides to clear weeds, burning the landscape to clear undergrowth, applying inorganic fertilizers to improve soil fertility and applying pesticides to control pests/disease. After participating in CSLP trainings on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, Mr. Adus now manually clears weeds from his farm and has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices across his fields. He now uses organic pesticides (e.g. chili pepper and garlic) to control pests and diseases and applies organic manure (e.g. cow dung) as fertilizer. Compared to his previous use of agrochemicals, he has observed that it is less expensive to employ the CSA practices. He has integrated over 200 trees in his cash crop farms. Currently, he encourages other vegetable farmers to go the CSA way rather than the input intensive methods he previously used. According to Listowell, if vegetable farmers move toward using CSA practices, they will greatly benefit in the long run. Mr. Adus now actively shares the lessons he is learning with other farmers and is very optimistic more farmers will join him to practice the improved farming practices being promoted by CSLP. In addition, Adus has a secondary forest on his farm that he is reserving for an apiary. He is waiting for the next cycle of beekeeping training and the supply of start-up kits from CSLP to establish his apiary which will have the added benefit of conserving his patch of secondary forest thereby continuing to sequester carbon and reduce rates of deforestation in the Western Region.



Adus at his CSA vegetable farm

Born at Adusuazo, Adus dropped out of senior high school after his father's passing in 1998. He had a car accident in 1998 that made him physically challenged from which he miraculously recovered in 2002. In 2004, he started farming, with a focus on vegetables and has since remained a farmer. Adus has not only inspired the CSLP team with his resilience and commitment to change, he continues to inspire his community members as well. In early December 2015, the CSLP used the occasion of the 31st Farmers' Day celebration in Jomoro District to honor Mr. Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo as a best organic vegetable farmer under climate smart vegetable production.

Gladys Atsu

Facts about Gladys

- A farmer and petty trader who didn't receive formal education as a child
- Mother of 6 females aged 9-31 years and 3 other dependants
- Comes from Ghana's Volta Region
- Moved from the Volta Region to Navrongo in Jomoro District 28 years ago
- CSLP enlisted farmer
- Chairperson of *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association (formed by CSLP)
- Trained by CSLP as a beekeeper and has reserved secondary forest for her apiary
- Integrated over 180 trees on her farm in 2015
- Practicing farmer managed natural regeneration of valuable tree species.
- Promoting climate smart agricultural practices



Pictured is Gladys Atsu (left) and CSLP's Director, Dr. Steve Dennison. Gladys is an active farmer at Navrongo in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region, who has excelled in sustainable landscape management practices. Having participated fully in CSLPs' trainings in agroforestry, enrichment planting, farmer managed natural regeneration, beekeeping, and ecosystem services and livelihoods, among others, she has not relented in her efforts to put lessons learned into practice. Thus far, Mrs. Atsu has integrated more than 180 trees on her farm which includes both cash and food crops. Based on her understanding of climate change and the need for diversified livelihood, she has reserved a secondary forest patch for beekeeping. In addition, she is the Chairperson of the CSLP facilitated *Dzibodi* Village Savings and Loan Association in her community. Mrs. Atsu believes that everyone must help to address the impact of climate change. As she put it,

"... things are changing and most of them are due to human activities. When I moved from my hometown to Navrongo, farming was good but now the weather pattern has changed and it is affecting us. We must all come together and reverse the situation. We have to plant more trees, avoid indiscriminate cutting of trees, fish without chemicals, use/apply organic pesticides and organic manure; these will help us not to die young."

Asked what she feels about CSLP, she said,

"In fact, you (CSLP) have really helped me; you have empowered me, now, I am a beekeeper, adopted best farming practices and developed greater leadership qualities as a VSLA chairperson. Through the VSLA, I now comfortably pay the school fees of my children and other dependents, have expanded my petty trading and can hire more labour for my farm work."

As a beekeeper, Gladys wants her VSLA, which recently had a share out, to start beekeeping. CSLP is proud of Mrs. Gladys Atsu and recently awarded her the best female farmer engaged in improved natural resources management/sustainable landscapes management at the 2015 National Farmers' Day Celebration in Jomoro District.

USAID INTERVENTIONS APPLAUDED AT 31ST FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION

The USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed CSLP, through its enlisted farmers and groups, was party to three awards in the 31st edition of Ghana's Farmers' Day celebration held on December 4, 2015. Coincidentally, CSLP also sponsored three awards to outstanding farmers engaged with the project. These further enhanced USAID's presence and impact in the coastal districts of Ghana's Western Region. In the Nzema East Municipal Assembly, the Asonti Municipal Assembly Junior High School, through the CSLP facilitated Climate Change Club (CCC), was deemed the "Best First Cycle School". The CCC has developed an organic food crop farm, planted trees around the school and embarked on several climate change awareness raising campaigns. Likewise, a teacher at the school, who is also a CSLP enlisted farmer and doubles as one of CSLP's liaison officers in the community, was deemed "Best Contact Farmer". In the Ellembelle District, the "Nyame Ne Aye" Village Savings and Loan Association, formed by CSLP, was awarded as the "Best Performing Group". In addition to agricultural inputs received, all three awardees were presented with certificates signed by Ghana's Minister of Food and Agriculture.

While CSLP groups received government-sponsored awards in two districts, the project was also presented awards to deserving farmers in the Jomoro District. Three farmers were recognized in two categories: best farmer engaged in improved natural resources management/sustainable landscapes management and best organic vegetable farmer under climate smart vegetable production. In addition to recognizing these outstanding farmers, CSLP was also present as part of the Farmers' Day exhibition in Jomoro District and received a high amount of visibility as a result of involvement in the day's activities. The Director of CSLP, Dr. Steve Dennison, used the platform to congratulate farmers and fishers in the country and reiterated the USG support to farmers in the region. The District Coordinating Director, Mr. Abudu Amadu applauded USAID and CSLP for the remarkable project interventions and for "being the first development organization to collaborate effectively with the district to organize the event". The remarks were repeated in several forms by other dignitaries including the Director of Food and Agriculture and the Traditional Ruler of the District Capital.

The National Farmers' Day Celebration is commemorated annually on the first Friday of each December to recognize gallant Farmers and Fishers throughout the country. This year's celebration was the 31st edition and the national event took place at Bolgatanga in the Upper East region. As usual, there were celebrations in each of the districts and at the regional levels. The theme for the celebration was "Transform Ghana: Invest in Agriculture".



CSLP Director (left) presenting award to CSLP Best Female Farmer, Ms. Gladys Atsu, engaged in improved natural resources management/sustainable landscapes management.

FROM MISPERCEPTION TO PERFECTION: THE CASE OF THE FAWOMAN VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

FACTS ABOUT VSLAs ESTABLISHED BY CSLP:

- 19 VSLAs formed in 5 coastal districts
- 427 total members
- 67% of members are women; several groups are chaired by women
- The average household size of members is 4 people
- Share-out completed by 6 VSLAs to date
- 12 community members and District Assembly Officials trained as VSLA Village Agents
- One VSLA won Government of Ghana award at the 31st Farmers Day Celebration

Some left the group but the majority stayed. There was confusion all over. “I am leaving the group.” “I am withdrawing all my savings, take your group”. These were some of the reactions of members of the ‘Nyame Nhyira’ Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) at Fawoman in the Jomoro District of Ghana’s Western Region during the early weeks of their group’s establishment. At one point, it took a visit by the entire CSLP team, led by its Washington DC-based Program Manager and an official of the District Assembly to help provide ideas to resolve differences in the group and encourage the group to not give up. Fast forward 9 months later, and it was all smiles and moments of extreme excitement when the group successfully ended their 7-module training cycle and had a share out. As noted by one group member, **“We saved, got loans to improve our farming activities, engaged in petty trading, paid our children’s school fees and still made a huge profit from the group. We thank you (USAID/CSLP). We have not seen this before; we didn’t believe it. God bless you”**. No member of the group left after their share out, though by their constitution members are free to leave and new members welcomed. In fact, some members called for an increase in their share value for the next cycle. All this, despite the turmoil and challenges the group faced at the outset.

The ‘Nyame Nhyira’ group is among 19 VSLAs formed by the USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). So far, six VSLAs have successfully completed their mandatory training cycle and shared out on the savings



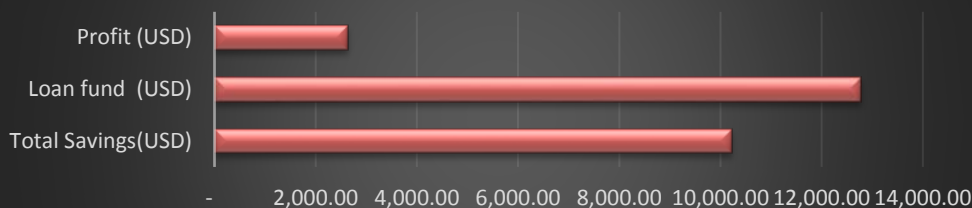
Excited VSLA members displaying their Profit after a share out

and profits made from loans given to group members. The cumulative amount saved by the six groups is USD 10, 215, with the lowest return on savings of 16.35% and the highest with 43.35%. In addition to their cumulative loan fund of USD 12, 778, the groups also had a social fund that they used to help members in emergency situations such as deaths, sickness and accidents.

While some farmers and fisher folks within the project’s zone of influence elected not to join the savings and loan groups saying, “They (USAID/CSLP) will abscond with our money; they are not different from the other groups”. This was despite several community sensitizations on the VSLA concept and its linkage to enhancing economic benefits through improved natural resource management practices. Now, many of these formerly reluctant residents are more than eager to join the associations; some having pleaded to join VSLAs that had not yet reached the maximum allowable membership. As a sustainability mechanism, the CSLP has trained 12 community members and District Assembly officials as Village Agents. These agents now facilitate the formation of, and provide mentorship to, VSLAs.

The VSLA model supported by the CSLP is stemming the tide of mistrust and providing immediate economic benefits for its members and their households — all done with the members’ own seed funding and management with the CSLP facilitating the module trainings and providing the start-up kits (mainly; cash box, pass books, a calculator and cash sacks).

Performance of Six VSLAs



	Total Savings(USD)	Loan fund (USD)	Profit (USD)
Six VSLAs	10,214.74	12,777.71	2,621.39

DCE APPLAUDS USAID INTERVENTIONS

The District Chief Executive (DCE) of Jomoro District, Hon. George William Somiah, has commended USAID/Ghana and the US Forest Service for collaborating to impact the lives of a significant number of farmers in the district through the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP). Mr. Somiah, who recently assumed the highest central government position in the district, made his remarks during a field monitoring visit to two of the five CSLP intervention communities in the district under his jurisdiction; namely Navrongo and Tweakor No1. He was accompanied by the District's Community Development Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Armoo and the CSLP team led by the Director, Dr. Steve Dennison and the Washington, DC based Program Manager, Mr. Adam Welti.

As part of the trip, the DCE interacted with many CSLP enlisted farmers in both communities, visited several farms and witnessed a share purchase meeting of a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). Impressed with the success of the CSLP, the DCE applauded the donor, USAID and the implementing agency, US Forest Service for the efforts. He was particularly excited about apiary sites managed by women farmers, integration of trees on cocoa farms as shared by enlisted farmers, and the immense financial benefits provided to members of the VSLAs from their accumulated savings and loan activities over the past year. At the farm of Mrs. Gladys Atsu of Navrongo, the DCE noted, ***"...you have been well trained by the CSLP in best farming practices and I will call on you to train other farmers"***.



Mrs. Atsu (left) standing by a tree planted through CSLP support and interacting with the DCE Hon. Somiah (middle) at her cocoa farm. Looking on is CSLP Director, Dr. Dennison.

In both communities, the DCE urged the farmers to keep up the great work being done with the CSLP and promised his support to them, where possible. He called on USAID and US Forest Service to increase the number of its intervention communities within the district to help enhance the living standard of other farmers; noting the farmers in other communities would equally benefit from the project interventions.

THE POWER OF CLIMATE CHANGE CLUBS

Hear the voice of some Ghanaian youth:

“Fishing with dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is not good, it is bad for the fisheries sector, it is not suitable for human consumption but most fishermen still fish with DDT.”

“The fishermen are destroying the future of our fisheries; using chemicals to fish means poisoning the fish we eat and destroying the sea.”

“...the DDT kills even the juvenile fish, like killing young children in a town.”

“...But we are always consuming fish, what happens to our health and future?”

“...my Father is a fisherman; I know they use such substances but did not know it was that harmful. Now I know so I will advise him not to use DDT for fishing again.”

These were some of the comments made by members of Akwidaa Seventh-Day Adventist & Yabiw Methodist Junior High Schools' Climate Change Clubs (CCC) at a Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)-facilitated training in June 2016. Akwidaa is a major fishing community adjacent to significant wetland areas. Illegal fishing methods are among the key problems in the Ghanaian fisheries sector and a major contributor to the decline in fish stock. The situation is widespread particularly among the artisanal fisheries sector. The CSLP believes raising awareness among its Climate Change Club Ambassadors (members of the climate change clubs) is one important means of addressing the problem.

The students, now more aware of critical environmental issues and the implications for the future, are poised to contribute towards addressing such preventable problems. Informal discussions by the CSLP staff with a parent and fisherman in the community revealed that he is, “...touched and appreciates the concerns of our children and will urge my colleagues to stop such bad practices as the future generation equally needs the resource in a better state.”

The CSLP is engaged in this area partially because these wetlands are degraded but have potential to be restored. In addition to working to raise awareness amongst the community through the climate change clubs, the project is also working to replant over 12,000 mangrove seedlings and to help develop a management plan for 208 hectares of these precious mangroves.

The USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed CSLP has helped to form eight clubs to date, with membership of over 600 students. The clubs have been formed in the coastal districts of Ghana's Western Region and are engaged in several behavior change activities with one of the clubs having won a National Award in December 2015 for its work related to agriculture and the environment.



CCC members on an educational tour to agroforestry site



Drama by CCC members

Annex 4. CSLP Events, July-September 2016

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
4-6, 8 Jul		✓			Training for schools	12 public schools in Shama District. Follow up on ToT on waste management and NRM organized for 74 Teachers in April 2016
4-8 Jul		✓			Constitution review and Training for newly formed committees	Hen Mpoano-led activity
5-6 Jul		✓			Ellembelle cocoa restoration training	Collaboration with COCOBOD
5-6 Jul		✓			Training on Agroforestry (Introduction)	TRACTOR-led activity
5-26 Jul				✓	Establishment of community nursery (at Sawoma)	Hen Mpoano-led activity
6-7 Jul		✓			CSA hands-on training and demos	2 communities: Kamgbunli & Asonti
12&14 Jul		✓			CSA hands-on training and demos	2 communities: Fawoman & Adubrim
12-15 Jul		✓			GIS training for GoG Officials	Ellembelle District
13-15 Jul		✓			Urban tree planting	TRACTOR-led activity for Mpohor District Health Center and 4 schools.
12-15 Jul		✓			VSLA Modular (1 of 7) training	4 communities (incl. 2 GAW communities)
13-15 Jul				✓	Mangrove mapping at Ampain	Hen Mpoano-led activity
18-22 Jul	✓				Climate Change & Population Conference	Held in Accra
19 Jul		✓			CSA Group Formation Training II	1 community (Tweakor 2)
19 Jul	✓				Follow-up on new on-farm tree registration and application process	TRACTOR-led activity
19 Jul		✓			VSLA Modular (1 of 7) training	1 communities
20-21 Jul	✓				VSLA Monitoring/MIS data collection	2 communities
20-21 Jul		✓			NRM training for CRMCs (CREMAs)	4 communities. Collaboration with WD
22 Jul		✓			Urban Forestry Introductory training	For Teachers in Shama District
22 Jul		✓			Yabiw Wetland Management Training	Training on Committee Management for Volunteer Groups. CSLP & Hen Mpoano collaboration
22 Jul		✓			VSLA Modular (1 of 7) training	1 communities
25 Jul	✓				July activity review, August plan	Whole CSLP team with Hen Mpoano and TRACTOR
26 Jul		✓			CSA Group Dynamics and Entrepreneurship Training	1 community -Tweakor 2
28 Jul		✓			VSLA Modular (1 of 7) training	1 GAW community
28 Jul		✓			CSA training for farmers in non-CSLP communities in Jomoro District	Training at Half Assini of Jomoro DoFA agents and 30 farmer champions from 10 communities
5,12,19,26				✓	Establishment of community nursery (at Sanwoma)	Hen Mpoano-led activity
6,7,13,14, 20,21	✓				Consultations on conservation management actions	Consultations with districts and Traditional Authorities. HM, CSLP & WD collaboration
1-5 Aug	✓				Annual Work Planning Workshop, FY2017	CSLP team, USFS-IP, USAID, partners Facilitator: Steve Joyce

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
2 Aug		✓			CSLP staff awareness on USAID's Gender Integration Tool	Facilitated by USAID/Ghana Gender PoC, Susan Bonney
2, 9, 30 Aug		✓			Sawoma nursery management hands-on training	New nursery raising white & red mangrove seedlings for restoration work; Hen Mpoano-led activity
3-4 Aug	✓				Consultation with Traditional Authorities (Nzema Manle)	Hen Mpoano-led activity
8-9 Aug		✓			CSA ToT training on improved seeds	At Elubo/Fawoman with private partner and MoFA agents
9-12 Aug				✓	Beehive/apiary monitoring	2 communities: Fawoman & Asonti
11 Aug				✓	Tree seedling check	At Adubrim & with Tarkwa private operators
11 Aug			✓		Farm mapping & monitoring	Akatakya
11 Aug	✓				WR Implementing Partners Meeting	Monthly discussion among implementing projects; CSLP presented on climate change awareness activities
11-12 Aug		✓			VSLA monitoring and share out	Asonti (incl. share out)
15 Aug			✓		USAID/Ghana Mission Director review visit of GAW activities and farmer activities in Jomoro District	Visit will be mainly with the Navrongo community
16-31 Aug				✓	Seedling distribution	Various CSLP Communities
17 Aug			✓		US Ambassador to Ghana visit on CSLP and TRACTOR public-private-partnership activities	Site visit to B-BOVID/TRACTOR
17 Aug		✓			CSA Hands-on training with demos	Bokro
17-18 Aug		✓			NRM Awareness Training with WD	3 VSLAs: Navrongo, Tweakor No1 and Krobo; 67 participants (33 women)
18 Aug	✓				GAW management framework planning retreat with Wildlife Division	Hen Mpoano-led activity for developing the GAW management framework
19 Aug		✓			VSLA Modular training	Anlo Beach, 2 new VSLAs being formed
19 Aug	✓				Areas of collaboration with WRCF	MoU signing and activity collaboration
23 Aug	✓				Collaboration strategy/plan for action, FY2017 with UCC project	Discussion on concrete areas of interaction and collaboration between the two USAID-funded sister projects
23-26 Aug		✓			GIS Training for GoG Officials	Shama DA officials, TCPD, Hen Mpoano
24 Aug		✓			CSA Hands-on training with demos	Bokro
25 Aug	✓				Registration of CSA Groups with District Assemblies	District capitals: Nkroful, Axim, Agona Nkwanta
25-26 Aug		✓			Community conservation committee capacity building training	In 4 GAW communities led by Hen Mpoano; 54 members (19 women)
26 Aug		✓			Training for Yabiw Wetland Committee	Collaboration with Hen Mpoano
29 Aug	✓				CSLP August activity review, September plan	CSLP team with Hen Mpoano
29-30 Aug		✓			Training for newly formed Community Conservation Committees	Hen Mpoano-led activity; 4 committees

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
30 Aug		✓			CSA hands-on training with demos	Adusuazo
30 Aug				✓	Measuring & monitoring carbon in wetland and mangrove areas	Skype conference call with USFS wetland and carbon specialists
31 Aug	✓				VSLA Monitoring	Fiasolo
31 Aug	✓				Update Meeting with Traditional Authorities (TA)	TAs in 3 districts: Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East.
1 Sep		✓			VSLA Modular (1 of 7) trainings	For 2 VSLAs at Anlo Beach
1 Sep				✓	Seedling lifting & distribution from Tarkwa & Bokoso	Three communities: Adumbrim, Tweakor No.1 and Navrongo
1 Sep		✓			CSA hands-on training	In two communities: Adusuazo & Fawoman with selected farmers
1 Sep	✓				Discussion with USFS-IP WA representative	Coordination discussions and admin assistance (in Accra)
2 Sep	✓				Knowledge review and exchange with the WABiCC Project	Discussions between the WABiCC team and the CSLP Director on future collaboration efforts (in Accra)
2 Sep				✓	Yabiw mangroves seedling lifting to Sawoma nursery site (Ankobra)	For distribution in GAW communities with Hen Mpoano
5-11 Sep				✓	GAW flora and fauna rapid assessment by the WD	Part of the GAW management plan framework being led by Hen Mpoano
6,13,20,27 Sep		✓			Sawoma mangrove nursery management hands-on training	GAW community mangrove restoration led by Hen Mpoano
7 Sep	✓				Informational meeting at the Crops Research Center	At Aiyanase with the WRCF on horticultural stock for livelihood diversification
7 Sep			✓		Aquaculture demonstration sites and opportunities for horticultural plantings	With the WRCF at pilot demo sites in Jomoro & Ellembelle Districts
7-9 Sep				✓	Mangrove/wetland mapping	Hen Mpoano in 1 GAW community
8 Sep	✓				Urban forestry plantings planning	Planning for distribution of seedlings in the STMA
8 Sep		✓			CSA hands-on training	In Ayawora with selected farmers with DoFA
11 Sep				✓	Update of the plans, protocol and use of the SFMP fixed-wing drone & software	Informal discussions and planning with SFMP consultant
13 Sep				✓	Seedling distribution monitoring	At Adubrim
13 Sep				✓	Media Day final preps	
14-16 Sep				✓	CSLP documentary –Phase 1	Videography with events and staff
14 Sep			✓		Annual Media Day with media and WR stakeholders & documentary	At Navrongo and Tweakor No. 1; CSLP Phase 2 officially announced
15 Sep	✓				Regional Stakeholder Meeting and documentary	The 9 th meeting held in Esiam
15 Sep			✓		Informational visit from UCC FCMCB Project	Livelihood diversification activities in Adubrim
16 Sep	✓				Wetland Monitoring and ToT discussion	With UCC, Hen Mpoano, and FoN
16 Sep		✓			Visitation & training tour to school sites for urban forestry plantings	In Shama District with NADMO & GES
17 Sep				✓	CSLP video documentary wrap up	
19-20 Sep				✓	Seedling distribution of urban forestry tree seedlings	In Shama District

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
20 Sep	✓				Review of gender assessment/gender action plan options for the CSLP	Discussions with gender specialist consultant (in Accra)
20 Sep		✓			Climate Change Club Trainings	In 2 schools: Asonti and Adusuazo
20 Sep		✓			CSA hands on training	In Tweakor No. 2 with DoFA & selected farmers
21 Sep				✓	Seedling distribution monitoring	In Adubrim
22 Sep		✓			VSLA Modular Trainings (1 of 7)	In Anlo Beach (2) and Krobo
22 Sep				✓	Seedling distribution of urban forestry seedlings	In the STMA
22-30 Sep				✓	Cassava stem distribution	In 3 GAW communities led by Hen Mpoano
22-30 Sep		✓			Baseline assessment for cassava program	Hen Mpoano in 2 GAW communities
23 Sep		✓			VSLA Modular Training (1 of 7)	At Kambungli
23 Sep		✓			Mangrove seedling distribution	Moving seedlings from Antro-tre to Sawoma nursery in the GAW
27 Sep				✓	Seedling distribution of urban forestry seedlings	In Ahanta West District
27 Sep	✓				CSLP quarterly update to district assemblies	Representatives from DAs together
27-28 Sep		✓			GAW management plan validation workshop-Jomoro District communities	Hen Mpoano and WD-led activity
28 Sep		✓			VSLA Modular Training (1 of 7)	In Fiasolo
28 Sep		✓			Climate Change Club Into Training	At New Nzulezu; new club formation
29 Sep				✓	Urban forestry seedling distribution	Shama District
29 Sep		✓			CSA hands-on training module	At Fawoman with DoFA & selected farmers
29 Sep				✓	VSLA monitoring	Cape 3 Points communities
30 Sep				✓	VSLA monitoring	At Bokro
30 Sep	✓				Coordination & collaboration meeting	With USAID, SFMP and FCMCBP in Accra
TOTALS	24	46	6	24		

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

Last update: 5 October 2016