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# Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project Quarterly Report

First Quarter – October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project</b>
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date:</b>	<b>October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2016</b>
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner:</b>	<b>United States Forest Service International Programs</b>
<b>[Contract/Agreement] Number:</b>	<b>AEG-T-00-07-00003</b>
<b>Name of Subcontractors/Subawardees:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations</b>	<b>Ghana Forestry Commission (Forest Services Division, Wildlife Division), Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Town and Country Planning Departments</b>
<b>Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)</b>	<b>Six coastal districts of the Western Region of Ghana</b>
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	<b>October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014</b>

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## Program Description/Introduction

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 will contribute 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 of 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 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 will focus 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 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.

## Summary of Results to Date

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	FY 2015					Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target? Y/N
		Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in <u>metric tons of CO2e</u>, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	20,496 CO2e	6,480				32.0	Y
<b>4.8.1-26 <u>Number of hectares</u> of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance</b>	0 <sup>1</sup>	1,200 ha	316				26.4	Y
<b>4.8.1-29 <u>Number of person hours</u> of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance</b>	0	9,600 hours	829				8.64	Y
<b>4.8.1-6 <u>Number of people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	600 People	107				17.8	-- <sup>2</sup>
<b>4.8.2-14 <u>Number of institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	50 <sup>3</sup>	7				14.0	Y
<b>4.8.2-29 <u>Number of person hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	4,800 hours	148				3.1	Y

<sup>1</sup>Annual report included the number of hectares of protected areas within the six coastal districts as reported by the Government of Ghana. We have revised this to 0 to reflect the starting point for USG interventions in order to more accurately track our achievements toward this target.

<sup>2</sup>Determination of increased economic benefits resulting from many of the project related activities are often time lagged.

<sup>3</sup>Population of institutions in the six coastal districts:

District Assemblies 6  
CREMAs 9

Traditional Councils 6  
Farmer-based Org 9

Traditional/Town Palaces 15  
Gov't. tech. serv. (EPA, FSD, MoFA, WD) 4

# ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

## Progress Narrative

The Intermediate Result 1 (IR 1) for the CSLP, to *'Improve Livelihoods Through Enhanced Natural Resources Management Practices'*, is designed to promote livelihood options that are climate change conscious within the six coastal districts. Key achievements during this quarter included:

- 12 farmers trained on beekeeping basics;
- 5 village savings and loan associations formed and functioning with 21 loans having been financed totaling nearly 6,000 Ghana cedis in community savings and loans;
- 143 farmers trained on concepts of climate smart agriculture aimed at reducing slash and burn agriculture practices and chemical use, and employing agroforestry principles to enrich vegetable production;
- Private-public partnership with B-BOVID and TRACTOR established and initial agroforestry design and tree plantings at demonstration farm completed; and,
- 3 tree nursery sites identified and approved with traditional authorities, seeds procured and additional seedling sources identified to prepare for upcoming planting season.

During the quarter, efforts were directed at providing further background information to community beneficiaries and stakeholders on a variety of subjects prior to the beginning of the next rainy season. The following modules for training were planned and drafted:

- Climate smart agriculture (agroforestry-vegetable production);
- Integrated pest management;
- Beekeeping;
- Remnant forest management (enrichment planting and/or nurturing naturally-generated timber species); and,
- Nursery establishment skills.

Most of the trainings associated with these modules and planned for this quarter were completed while several others were not initiated due to a variety of factors noted below.

Some of the planned activities, such as procuring equipment for nursery establishment and beekeeping, were delayed in order to ensure that proper due diligence was carried out in procurement of the equipment. Due to the long Christmas holiday and slow down in work, this time-consuming process ran afoul of the Christmas holiday period resulting in additional delays. In another instance, the initial plan was to maintain a strict focus on the five initial VSLAs, nurture them to maturity, and conduct the important follow-on with monitoring and evaluation activities of each of the VSLAs. However, many groups within several other communities expressed a strong demand for the assistance to form and train additional groups in the communities. This required additional attention and time from the VSLA Specialist.

IR 2 is *'Strengthened Engagement and Coordination on Sustainable Landscape Management'*. About 80 percent of planned activities were implemented during the quarter, focusing on engaging stakeholders within the districts and enhancing their knowledge on matters of climate change and landscape

management. Activities focused on engagements with chiefs and elders, community based organizations such as VSLAs as well as government institutions such as the district assembly and the respective technical offices. The engagements were intended to introduce the CSLP, establish linkages needed for future activities and to provide information on the need for sustainable landscape management and climate change mitigation. Key achievements in this quarter included:

- 2 additional durbars held to welcome two additional communities within the CSLP framework, bringing the total to the full 17 planned communities;
- Basics of climate change trainings held with 64 community, government and traditional leader participants;
- 2 schools identified for partnership in order to conduct climate change awareness raising and tree planting activities to reach youth populations in key communities;
- Engagement with 6 district assemblies and 6 planning units to ensure CSLP activities are integrated and align with district medium-term development plans—a key governance platform for Ghana’s development;
- 500 calendars produced to provide photos of CSLP and key achievements with community members, government counterparts and non-governmental partners; and,
- Regional stakeholders’ workshop held with key governmental counterparts from the Western Region to continue dialogue related to CSLP achievements, challenges and lessons learned and as a means of continuing collaboration and capacity building.

Under IR 3, *‘Enhanced Capacity for Ecosystem Services Monitoring’*, the CSLP facilitated capacity for community members to support mapping of their own farmlands and collect meta data to be fed into a baseline GIS. The data is being verified and will be transferred to Hen Mpoano to feed into GIS baseline data sets. Seventy percent of planned activities were implemented. The critical outstanding activity under IR 3 is the estimation of carbon stocks for the various land cover types in the six coastal districts of the Western Region. This activity will be effective after sizeable land cover forms have been mapped, tallied and analyzed. Key achievements for the quarter included:

- 15 community assistants trained in using GPS technology and engaged to map farm land areas within communities;
- 363 hectares of farmland, comprising 202 farmers, have been recorded and are being analyzed to provide better information for farmers and community organizations for managing land;
- Capacity for climate change response and spatial data collection within local government institutions and community organizations has been assessed and trainings identified to meet needs of partners; and,
- Re-engagement with the Greater Amanzule Wetlands management committee process has begun through partnership with Hen Mpoano and a new timeline for activities developed in consultation with the management committee.

## Implementation Status

The following section provides a narrative update of implementation during the reporting period. Tables from the work plan for each intermediate result demonstrate the planned activities for the quarter and are followed by an update as to the progress achieved.

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

#### Sub IR 1.1: Provide capacity building for targeted community groups to effectively manage and conserve natural resources in priority areas

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
1.1.1 Implement prioritized NRM conservation related livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop training modules for climate smart vegetable production</li> <li>• Develop training module on beekeeping - Part 2</li> <li>• Develop training modules on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> <li>• Build capacity of farmers in beekeeping - Part 1</li> <li>• Hire beekeeping practitioner as demonstrator for beekeeping trainings</li> <li>• Train vegetable farmers on climate smart vegetable production</li> <li>• Procure relevant livelihood support equipment/tools – beekeeping</li> <li>• Procure equipment for establishment of community nurseries</li> <li>• Distribute relevant livelihood support equipment/tools</li> <li>• Facilitate setting up of beehives/practical applications</li> <li>• Recruit Community Assistants (CA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three training modules namely: Climate smart vegetable production, Beekeeping and IPM</li> <li>• Farmers are Conversant in Beekeeping skills and bee hives are set out in the field</li> <li>• Beekeeping equipment available</li> <li>• Interested farmers are conversant in climate smart vegetable production.</li> <li>• Equipment for community nurseries available</li> <li>• Signed contracts for Community Assistants</li> <li>• Field data from CAs and community nurseries in place</li> </ul>	December 2014
1.1.2 Support implementation of the Greater Amanzule Management Scenario with Hen Mpoano	Undertake quarterly working visit with Implementing Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding of the implementation status of the Greater Amanzule activities</li> <li>• Joint implementation of field activities</li> </ul>	January 2015

The following training modules have been drafted:

- Climate smart vegetable production;
- Integrated pest management in vegetable production; and,
- Beekeeping.

These modules are designed with the intention of enabling selected farmers who have expressed interest in these livelihood options to understand the basis for the suggested management protocols and aid in implementing suggested actions accordingly. A selection of interested farmers will be taken through each of the modules to enhance their adoption and management of their chosen livelihood activities.

Beekeeping was selected as one of the livelihood options for farmers based upon expressed interest and prioritization amongst communities for those farmers willing to set aside parcels of land with secondary forest cover as a means of avoiding further forest degradation and deforestation (ADD). In this, apart from the benefits from enrichment planting with timber and non-timber forest trees that can provide medium to long-term benefits, beekeeping activities will hopefully provide more tangible short term benefits and help offset potential income losses from clearing forest patches for other agricultural uses. If successful, farmers will be much more likely to conserve these secondary forests sites in order to maintain beehives for honey production. These parcels, as farmers are learning from the CSLP's technical staff, also provide benefits such as commercially valuable tree species, medicinal herbs and other flora and fauna of value to the local community – all attributes being stressed in trainings with engaged farmers.

Following the development of the beekeeping training module, it was decided to separate it into two parts due to its extent. This will allow farmers to better comprehend some of the details necessary to ensure a successful start with a minimum of disruptive issues. The first part of the module, facilitated by CSLP staff, is comprised of insights into beekeeping basics. The headings include:

1. Background of beekeeping
  - a. Reasons for beekeeping:  
Products and Services
  - b. Approaches to beekeeping
  - c. Value and life of the honey bee
2. Basic honey bee biology: Life cycle and social divisions
3. Beekeeping equipment/tools and their uses
4. Bee forage: Preferred plant species

The second component of training deals with the practical handling and management of the apiary and will be facilitated by a consultant. It will cover topics such as:

1. Choosing and making beehives
2. Where to keep bees/siting an apiary
3. Maintenance of hives and apiary
4. Feeding
5. Obtaining colonies
6. Seasonal management
7. Dividing colonies
8. Pests and diseases and their management
9. Handling bees

Twelve farmers in two communities were taken through the first part of the module during the quarter. They are comprised of four men from Fawoman, one man from Adusuazo both in the Jomoro District and seven men from Asonti in the Nzema East District. Training for the remaining farmers interested in this activity will continue in the early part of the next quarter.

During the quarter, formal processes were initiated to identify and select consultants to:

- Facilitate and guide the 70 farmers through part two of the beekeeping curriculum;
- Train a selection of six carpenters/artisans from the project's geographic region in the construction of beehives (to date there are no artisans with these skills); and
- Supply beekeeping equipment such as suits, smokers, gloves, hive tools, etc.

Consultants have been selected for the first two and arrangements are in place to conduct the trainings in January 2015. The selection of a supplier of the beekeeping equipment will also be made in early in the next quarter.

Climate smart vegetable production, or climate smart agriculture (CSA), has been adopted as one of the livelihoods to be supported by CSLP because vegetable production is one of the activities that have been responsible for forest cutting and land clearing in the Western Region. Traditionally, farmers have used a shifting cultivation system, moving to new (often newly cleared of forest cover) sites when they realize that the soil conditions of the one in current use have been severely degraded. Some farmers use chemicals to mitigate impacts of soil nutrient depletion and often these are improperly applied leading to further soil degradation. CSLP is focused on helping farmers to adopt agroforestry practices such as the improved fallow, using indigenous species of nitrogen-fixing trees and following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

One hundred eleven farmers expressed interest in the climate smart vegetable production practices from the six coastal districts; 45 of which are women. Climate smart vegetable production training has taken place in four communities in Ahanta West District and three communities in Shama District. These include Tumentu, Akwidaa, Cape Three Points and Aketekyi in Ahanta West and Yabiw, Krobo and Dwomo in Shama District. Prior to the training, more people expressed the desire to be part of the training. The current total for the CSA trainings in the two districts is 153 participants, of which 37 were women. After the training, 70 participants have committed to set up demonstrations during this coming season. Trainings in the four other districts will occur in the next quarter beginning January 2015.

The CSLP has engaged Community Assistants (CAs) to support the implementation of activities in the communities. The CAs have assisted in the implementation of CSLP activities through community mobilization efforts with community farmers for activities such as nursery management and mapping of farms using GPS units. With the assistance of the CAs, the CSLP field staff do not need to always be present before activities can take place at the community level. It also creates the opportunity for community members to participate in field activities that will lead to collective stakeholder monitoring of activities. In addition, the CAs provide a sustainable presence for the CSLP to alert the team of any unforeseen challenges or constraints and provide for troubleshooting until such time as CSLP staff are able to return to the community.

During the quarter, 29 CAs were engaged; three are assigned to the coordination of farmers in their respective communities to facilitate forest tree nursery establishment and management. The remaining CAs have been engaged in the mapping of farms and land use cover types.

A micro-grant, covering a period of three months, was initiated with the local non-governmental organization, Hen Mpoano. This organization was established following the closure of the USAID-funded Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Project early in 2014. The staff of Hen Mpoano was instrumental under the ICFG Project in developing a co-management scenario for the Greater Amanzule Wetland area in the districts of Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East. This is an area of swamps, wetlands

and significant biodiversity, a fragile ecosystem greatly threatened by the economic development in the Western Region, particularly the oil, gas and mining sectors. The ICFG support culminated in a very important Conservation Scenario, or blueprint for co-management of the GAW by local communities, traditional authorities and the three district assemblies. Unfortunately, following the agreement of the scenario by the traditional authorities, the ICFG Project came to a close and the process has languished in the ensuing 18 months.

The micro-grant from the CSLP to Hen Mpoano was initiated to re-ignite the process. This means awareness raising of the ideas behind the management scenario, its importance and engaging local communities to begin the next steps in completing the process. The grant provides funding for this awareness building activity. Hen Mpoano and the CSLP are engaging 23 communities in Jomoro and Ellembelle Districts to provide the basis for forming wetland management committees, developing a formal co-management structure, and establishing the basis for crafting management plans. The grant funding will re-engage the traditional authorities, the district assembly decision makers and planning staff, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission (the government's overseer for protected areas), local NGOs, and community chiefs. At the end of the 3-month awareness building process, a retreat will be held to capture the important observations from the stakeholders and determine next steps to ensure that the process is carried forward and the desired outcomes achieved.

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

### Sub IR 1.2: Identify, Develop and Demonstrate appropriate and forest landscape restoration methods (Technology and Practices) for native Ecosystems and Improved Livelihoods

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
1.2.1 Develop and help implement agroforestry and forestry interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Training Modules on conservation of remnant forest patches/enrichment planting.</li> <li>• Pilot Agroforestry/Forestry Interventions with TRACTOR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Training Modules</li> <li>• Agroforestry Demonstration site in Angu initiated</li> </ul>	December 2014
1.2.2 Establish and manage forest trees nurseries in four communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and select seed sources for collection and/or purchasing.</li> <li>• Hire seed experts (Botanists) to train selected CAs and farmers in identification</li> <li>• Train Community Assistants/farmers in identification of tree seed and natural regeneration (wild seedlings)</li> <li>• Procure nursery equipment/tools for four sites</li> <li>• Prepare nursery site for germination and transplanting/potting</li> <li>• Identify and select specialized external partners/individuals to raise seedlings of specific species.</li> <li>• Train CSLP farmers in four communities and 4 Community Assistants in establishment and management of forest tree nurseries</li> <li>• Initiate nursery operations with Community Assistants and farmers</li> <li>• Develop nursery establishment and management training module</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery establishment and management training module drafted</li> <li>• Selected seed sources identified and contacted.</li> <li>• Farmers are skilled in tree/seedling identification</li> <li>• Farmers and Community Assistants are equipped to manage seedling nurseries.</li> <li>• Seedling stock in nurseries ready for transplanting.</li> <li>• Farmers acquire nursery management skills</li> </ul>	December 2014

The agroforestry training module was drafted to build the capacity of farmers to be able to nurture and/or introduce trees into their agriculture ventures. Its implementation was started in the quarter and will continue into the second quarter.

Planting began in Angu in collaboration with our private-public partnership partners B-BOVID and TRACTOR, on the 10-acre site that is being transitioned to a climate smart vegetable farm. The design for interventions was completed with the objective of regulating soil erosion, creating the appropriate microclimate for vegetable growth, and diversifying the productivity of the land to include non-timber forest products as well as other products on the demonstration site in collaboration with B-BOVID and TRACTOR staff.

The design comprises of three-meter stretches of land to be planted with fruit trees, timber trees and non-timber forest products alternating with vegetable beds. The CSLP is responsible for the planting of the strips earmarked for forest tree species. The initial planting of the forest strips took place during the quarter and included two species: *Garcinia afzeli* ('Nsokor' or chew stick) and *Tetrapleura tetraptera* ('Prekese' which is a spice with medicinal attributes and is also a nitrogen-fixer). In total, 300 seedlings were planted. This initial planting is estimated to provide about 15% of the coverage needed for the area. Additional planting had to be postponed when the rainy season ended and the weather became hotter and drier. The plantings will resume during the next rainy season.

CSLP has estimated a total of 70,000 seedlings of various species including species that produce valuable non-timber forest products for planting will be needed during this impending planting season. The plan is to produce about 30,000 of these from community nurseries with the facilitation of CSLP staff. This is to offer the opportunity to be able to add to the nursery establishment and management skills in the communities. The remaining 40,000 will be procured from recognized and identified seedling producers in the Western Region. Three nursery sites have been identified for the community tree nurseries and in collaboration with the chiefs of the respective communities. These sites are in Adubrim and Tweakor No 1 in Jomoro District and Tumentu in the Ahanta West District. The sites have been cleared and assessed for any necessary environmental mitigation measures. In the meantime, processes are on going to procure nursery equipment such as polythene bags, wheelbarrows, watering cans, and pick axes for distribution to the sites. This equipment will be delivered early in the next quarter to ensure that the tree seedlings will be ready for outplanting in May and June to coincide with the next rainy season to ensure higher rates of success.

CSLP has also initiated interaction with institutions such as Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in Kumasi and Samartex Timber and Plywood Company Limited in Samreboi to procure seeds mainly of the *Terminalia* species (Ofram and Emile) for nurturing in the three community nurseries.

A nursery Establishment and Management Training Module was drafted during the quarter. The five CAs assigned to the three nurseries were taken through the nursery module along with other farmers who expressed interest during the quarter. A total of 65 farmers were taken through the module out of which three are women. The table below provides a summary of the nursery establishment activities.

## Supported Community Nursery Establishment and Management Sites and Participants

Community	Date of Training	Males		Females		Total
		CA	Non CA	CA	Non CA	
Tweakor 1	11/11/2014	2	19	-	-	21
Tumentu	12/11/2014	2	9	-	-	11
Adubrim	13/11/2014	1	29	-	3	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>65</b>

There are potentially several more community nurseries to be sited during the next quarter. These may be located at the Angu demonstration site, Anlo Beach and Yabiw. The latter two will be in collaboration with Friends of the Nation (FoN) for the restoration of degraded mangrove sites and community woodlot establishment (*Cassia spp.*).

In order to enhance farmers' skills for the management of remnant forest patches, two facilitators were engaged through interaction with staff of the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission in Kumasi to train a group of farmers in the identification of forest tree species. The knowledge will be useful in two ways:

- They will be able to identify naturally re-generated species of interest in their farms and Avoided Degradation and Deforestation (ADD) patches of secondary forest and to nurture their growth
- When seedlings are needed, they can search for them in the forest and transplant them

Fourteen men from three communities were taken through the identification training. They included: Asonti (Nzema east District, 3 participants), Ayawora (Ellembelle District, 5 participants) and Adubrim (Ellembelle District, 6 participants). For each community a whole day was spent with the two consultants and two Range Supervisors of the Forestry Commission who are responsible for the area. This activity provided a key avenue for building capacity of government of Ghana counterparts that can lead to longer-term sustainability of key project interventions by engaging and training range supervisors to learn more regarding tree identification.

Based on the general species needs of the farmers, 27 species were of interest to them though only 24 species were sited during the exercise. There were many more species that farmers had not considered but were introduced to them. The 14 farmers will serve as trainer of trainers to facilitate the skills transfer with other interested farmers.



**Figure 2. Ayawora farmers interact with the botanist in Draw River Forest Reserve**

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

### Sub IR 1.3: Promote incentives to implement improved natural resources management for improving livelihoods, biodiversity and carbon sequestration

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
1.3.2 Training of VSLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct modular trainings from Module 1 - 7</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafted Group Constitution</li><li>• Group Implement their Constitution</li></ul>	December 2014
1.3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation of VSLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capacity building on MIS software</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitoring of VSLAs is in place</li></ul>	December 2014

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

### Sub IR 1.4: Increase capacity on interagency coordination and extension services (related to ecosystem services and landscape restoration) for GOG partners

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
1.4.1 Support NRM-related workshops/forums/trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participate in relevant NRM-related policy roundtables and workshops</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep project staff abreast with national policy issues and contribute suggestions</li></ul>	December 2014

Training for the five VSLAs established during the last quarter continued. The first five training modules cover the following:

- Module One: Groups, leadership and elections
- Module Two: Establishment of policies and rules for a Social Fund, Share-purchase, and Credit
- Module Three: Development of Group constitution
- Module Four: First savings meeting
- Module Five: First loan meeting

Once a module is completed with a VSLA, the agreed product takes immediate effect. All five VSLAs established their leadership, policies, by-laws and a constitution and began loan disbursement, in line with their constitution, during this quarter.

All the groups were provided with the equipment listed below:

1 Cash Box	1 Stamp Pad
2 Money Bags	1 Rubber Stamp
1 Calculator	3 Padlocks
2 Money Bowls	2 Pens
1 ruler	1 Note Book

#### VSLA community locations and membership in the six coastal districts

Item	VSLA Name	Community	District	Membership		Remarks
				Male	Female	
1	Dzidodi	Tweakor Navrongo	Jomoro	7	12	All groups have started loan disbursements
2	Nyame Nhyira	Fawoman	Jomoro	3	11	
3	Nyame Na Aye	Ayawora	Ellebele	13	12	
4	Biako Ye	Adubrim	Nzema East	11	13	
5	Odo	Adubrim	Nzema East	11	14	
Total				45	62	

The first batch of loan disbursements were made mainly for supporting cocoa farm management activities, paying school fees and purchase of miscellaneous small items. The purpose for many of these initial loans may well relate to the time of year. It is hoped that by the beginning of the next major planting season, loans will be used for natural resource management related activities in line with and complementing CSLP interventions.

#### VSLAs Financial Status at the end of FY 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Exchange Rate: \$1 = GH¢3.2)

Start of Share Purchase	VSLA Name	Funds in Cash Box as at December 2014		Total Funds given out as Loans	Total Amount Mobilized as Loans	Number of loans
		Social Fund	Loan Fund			
11/11/2014	Nyame Nhyira	¢96.00	¢650.00	¢200.00	¢850.00	1
24/10/2014	Nyame Na Aye	¢156	¢1129.1	¢540.00	¢1,669.10	4
22/10/2014	Dzibodi	¢212.00	¢411.00	¢800.00	¢1211	7
20/11/2014	Biakoye	¢90.00	¢548.00	¢600.00	¢1,148.00	3
20/11/2014	Odo	¢99.50	¢361.00	¢620.00	¢981.00	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>¢653.50</b>	<b>¢3099.10</b>	<b>¢2,760.00</b>	<b>¢5850.10</b>	<b>21</b>

Understanding farmer's skepticism of the VSLA concept due to past experiences with micro-finance institutions, the CSLP's plan was to nurture the five VSLAs to maturity (i.e. for members to complete all

seven modules and share their experience amongst their respective community members so as to help allay fears and hesitations gained from previous bad experiences with other schemes). Two other communities, Tweakor Number One and Asonti, have also shown keen interest during the quarter and submitted lists of interested farmers who wish to be taken through the establishment process for VSLAs. The potential members are numerous enough to warrant two VSLAs in each community. This is a good indicator that the CSLP team is becoming trusted in the communities of intervention and that communities realize that the VSLA model is safer relative to previous savings schemes promoted by other organizations.

A facilitator has been identified in Kumasi who will build the capacity of the Village Savings and Loans Association Specialist in the use of a management information systems software capable of analyzing statistical data for the monitoring and assessment of the VSLAs. This engagement, which will further facilitate our monitoring of VSLA impacts on livelihoods, has been rescheduled until the next quarter to allow the full roll out of all seven modules for the initial five VSLAs.

CSLP staff participated in the one-day Natural Resources, Environment and Governance (NREG) workshop in Takoradi organized by the national offices of the Forestry Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Minerals Commission. This was one of a series of regional vetting workshops hosted by this triumvirate for the World Bank-funded project. The CSLP's presence provided some perspective on the civil society point of view and the groups that it works with. The project is also somewhat unique in that it interacts with NGOs, government stakeholders, private sector interests and individual farmers mainly within a spatial planning context. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share challenges and achievements of NREG;
- Collate views of the Civil Society Organizations on a framework for engagement with them; and,
- Strengthen capacity of Civil Society Organizations on policy reviews.

CSLP staff also attended another consultative workshop, organized under the auspices of the Forestry Commission and the IUCN. The objectives of the meeting were to

- Review the Draft Ghana REDD+ Strategy, and,
- Review the Draft Benefit Sharing Mechanisms that are operating in Ghana.

Participants proposed a number of suggestions on the two documents. One noted that the benefit sharing arrangements did not consider indigenous benefit sharing arrangements that are supervised by the traditional authorities in Ghana: the *Abunu* (i.e. 50% share basis) and the *Abusa* (i.e. one third to two third share basis). These sharing systems are commonly implemented in Ghana relative to land benefit sharing, agriculture produce, and even illegal activities such as the chainsaw business.

In a third workshop, also organized by the Forestry Commission, CSLP participated in a confirmation process linked to tracking the actual use of climate change funding (tied to REDD+) in Ghana. The CSLP is one of only a handful of projects in the country that are actually expending monies from climate-related funding sources.

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

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
<b>Sub IR 2.1:</b> Improve public awareness on the relationship between ecosystem services and livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize durbar in 2 new communities</li> <li>• Organize 10 Climate Change trainings/ fora across all districts</li> <li>• Form Climate Change Clubs / support existing Environmental Clubs in basic schools &amp; offer series of basic trainings on Natural Resources Management/Climate Change</li> <li>• Produce &amp; distribute 2015 CSLP Calendars--500 copies</li> <li>• Produce 1 newsletter--500 copies in July/Aug &amp; brochure on Climate Change in Nov (1000 copies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members are aware of CSLP goals and objectives.</li> <li>• Community members are aware of climate change impact on their livelihoods</li> <li>• 2015 calendars disseminate information on CSLP and climate change through pictures</li> </ul>	December 2014
<b>Sub IR 2.2.</b> Promote stakeholder engagement and coordination at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement /meetings with Traditional authorities</li> <li>• Organize quarterly Regional Stakeholders meetings (4 in total)</li> <li>• Organize 2 District level Stakeholders meetings in each of the 6 districts (12 meetings in all) &amp; hold regular discussions to ensure CSLP activities are captured in their MTDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Traditional Authority who are custodians of land are conversant with CSLP goals and objectives</li> <li>• CSLP activities are captured in the District Assemblies Medium Term Development Plans (MTDP)</li> </ul>	December 2014
<b>Sub IR 2.3.</b> Promote platforms that will support sustainable landscapes management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize 12 training programs for different local institutions e.g. CREMA, Faith based, AWG, PCC</li> <li>• Participate in National/ Regional and District level dialogue platforms</li> </ul>		

Two community durbars were held in Sendu and Fiasolo, both in the Ellembelle District of the Western Region. These two communities help to make up the full 17 communities initially selected for interventions. These two were initially postponed from interventions due to next-to-impossible access for most of the previous year.

The objectives of the durbars were to:

1. Notify community members about the 3-year Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project;
2. Assess gaps in knowledge of the people related to natural resource management issues;
3. Discuss with community members, livelihood options that lead to restoration of natural resources in the landscape; and,
4. Enlist individuals interested in landscape restoration activities on their land.

Forty-eight farmers were enlisted as participants in agroforestry and climate change-focused livelihood options. Out of the 48, 25 are from Sendu and 23 from Fiasolo.

The plan to organize ten climate change trainings across the six coastal districts was initiated during the quarter via the VSLAs in Fawoman and Tweakor-Navrongo. The two meetings were held back-to-back beginning in Fawoman. This was successful, but, the Tweakor-Navrongo training had to be postponed due to the death of a community member the day before the planned training.

Fourteen community members participated in the Fawoman training. Although it was meant for the VSLA members, additional community members participated bringing the total number of trained individuals to 14 (including 9 women and 5 men). The training, which included photos and illustrations, covered topics such as:

- What is Climate Change?
- What are the signs of Climate Change?
- The carbon cycle
- How Climate Change happens
- Evidence that shows that climate change is happening?
- What does climate change do to our ecosystem?
- What human activities are causing climate change?
- How trees clean the air

At the end of the training, there was a discussion on what can be done, especially as farmers, to reduce climate change's impact on society. The climate change training will continue with various stakeholders including the VSLAs.

Two schools were visited to begin discussions for the formation of clubs that will provide the opportunity for the students to be oriented towards climate change consciousness. The schools visited are Asonti M/A Junior High School in the Nzema East District and Adusuazo D/A Junior High School in the Jomoro District. CSLP visited the Adusuazo School with the assemblyman of the community and the Headmaster was excited for partnering with CSLP in that it creates the opportunity for the revival of the defunct school science club. The assemblyman expressed the need to look for a site for the school to set up a demonstration site for the school and community at large. The Asonti School, which has no experience of clubs of this nature, is equally excited. The schools are seeking permission from the respective District Education Directorates to partner on such activities. Due to the teachers' strike that

occurred during the term that eventually continued through the Christmas holidays, this approval is still forthcoming.

Five hundred copies of the CSLP-branded calendar have been produced and are being distributed. The distribution list includes farmers, chiefs and elders, District Assembly staff, the Western Region Minister and other RCC staff, Ministry of Food and Agriculture staff, Forestry Commission staff, Environmental Protection staff and other non-governmental organization staff, such as Hen Mpano.

The procurement process was initiated for a brochure on climate change. However, upon interaction with some vendors, the cost was found to range in the sealed bid category necessary for procurement. This will therefore be pursued in the next quarter. The content of the brochure is finalized and was used in the climate change training with the VSLA members in Fawoman.

Chiefs and elders of the 17 CSLP communities were engaged at the community-level to discuss and inform them about the CSLP and its activities aside from the community meetings that involve them. This was meant to give the chiefs the special attention needed as leaders of their respective communities and to establish relationships on a one-on-one basis. During these interactions, more awareness was created on CSLP goals and objectives and also the reasons for the interventions selected. The chiefs and elders were also given an idea for what the project hopes to work on with each community and the contact persons in each area of intervention.

In all cases, the chiefs were excited about the selection of their communities and they pledged their support for CSLP. They also urged the CSLP team to keep them regularly informed and updated on all activities and challenges, if any, as they will be willing to help with the resolution of such challenges.

The second meeting of the regional level stakeholders was organized in the CSLP office in early October. The meeting, normally chaired by the Regional Coordinating Director on behalf of the Regional Minister, was delegated to the Regional Economic Planning Officer due to last minute engagement of the director.

The stakeholders present included the government of Ghana institutions who have jurisdiction over the sectors relevant to CSLP. In addition to being briefed on the project's activities for the past quarter, the participants discussed implementation challenges and examined areas for collaboration and communication with the planned activities in the coming quarter. The attendees for this quarterly meeting were the Western Region Coordinating Council, the Regional Economic Planning Unit, Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD), Wildlife Division (WD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Forest Services Division (FSD) and Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA). The stakeholder's advice at the meeting included:

- Expanding discussion of economic benefits to farmers to also encompass the impacts of trees on their farms/ lands;
- Rolling out village savings and loans activities gradually and cautiously;



**Figure 3. Regional stakeholders' meeting in Anaji**

- Making certain that tree nurseries are community owned and managed;
- Actively including FSD and WD district officers in field activities;
- Making certain that district level trainings organized by CSLP continue to involve regional officials; and,
- Ensuring that CSLP's activities are well integrated in the Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs) of the districts as soon as possible as the NDPC (National Development Planning Commission) has established deadlines for submission of the plans.

A series of meetings also took place with staff of planning sections of the district assemblies and the Western Region Coordinating Council to ensure that the CSLP activities are captured in the respective Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs) of the six coastal districts. The meetings were initiated with the first one in Sekondi involving the Regional Officers of the Town and Country Planning Unit and the Development Planning Unit. The CSLP sought official permission to interact with the TCP district staff. The district staff, having been encouraged by the support of their regional superiors, opened up and allowed fruitful interactions with the CSLP. After sharing the CSLP's objectives, sections of the MTDP were identified where the project could play catalytic roles with the specific district plans. Four of the districts invited the CSLP to participate in their public presentations of the draft MTDP for their input during the quarter.

In an effort to get more people exposed to the underlying causes of the environmental problems humanity is facing and the resulting impact on livelihoods, CSLP has included 12 trainings for local institutions in the work plan entitled: Environment, Ecosystems and Livelihoods in the Coastal Districts of the Western Region. During the quarter, two trainings were organized for three VSLAs in Adubrim and Tweakor-Navrongo. In Adubrim, two VSLAs were involved namely Biakoye and Odo while in Tweakor-Navrongo it is Dzibodi. A total of 32 women and 32 men were trained.



**Figure 4. Participants in the Adubrim training**

The training covered topics such as:

- Environment and Ecosystems
- Types of Ecosystems within the Coastal Districts of Western Region
- Ecosystem Services (ES)
- Four Categories of ES
- ES and Livelihoods within the Coastal Districts of Western Region, Ghana
- Environmental (Ecosystem Services) Problems Within the Coastal Districts (Discussions)
- Proposed Solutions and Actions – What VSLA members do? – Discussions
- Some Low-Emission Livelihood Options for Consideration by VSLA members

The trainings will continue with other local institutions during the year.

### Intermediate Result 3: Enhanced Capacity for Ecosystem Services Monitoring

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
<p><b>Sub IR 3.1:</b> Provide capacity building on forest and wetland carbon and other ecosystem services measurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify partner/collaborator institutions in the six coastal districts</li> <li>• Identify training needs of partners/ collaborating institutions in relation to climate change and spatial data collection</li> <li>• Conduct climate change awareness training for CREMA executives</li> <li>• Provide practical training for community assistance and stakeholders on carbon measurement in the field</li> <li>• Train community assistance and stakeholders to map boundaries of farms/forest patches in CSLP intervention sites</li> <li>• Collect baseline C-stocks data in all land-cover types for all CSLP intervention sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant collaborators identified</li> <li>• List of training needs</li> <li>• Stakeholder groups are conversant with climate change issues and data collection skills on ecosystem</li> </ul>	<p>November 2014</p> <p>February 2015</p> <p>February 2015</p>
<p><b>Sub IR 3.2.</b> Collect and utilize biophysical and socioeconomic data to inform land-use planning and decision-making process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory mapping of areas of intervention within CSLP target communities</li> <li>• Work with TCP in six districts to identify open areas for restoration, enrichment and securing the sites from encroachment</li> <li>• Work with Hen Mpoano to produce base maps for GAW and other CSLP intervention districts/areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on land cover for CSLP implementation areas</li> <li>• Sensitive green areas identified in the six coastal districts for enrichment.</li> </ul>	<p>January 2015</p>
<p><b>Sub IR 3.3.</b> Integrating lessons learned on national level jurisdictional monitoring, reporting and verification systems to integrate into a regional REDD+ system framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop contacts and linkages with national institutions and other stakeholders/partners leading the climate change related issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP is abreast with Climate Change standards in Ghana.</li> </ul>	<p>October 2014</p>

The CSLP has also scouted the six coastal districts to determine if there are any relevant partners who have not been considered for engagement relative to spatial planning and ecosystem measurements. While there were no surprises, a few traditional authority-related institutions such as the Nzema Manle, Western Nzema, Eastern Nzema, Gwira and Ahanta West Traditional Councils were identified as potential partners to engage. Related to these, the Platform for Coastal Communities (PCC), the NGO wing for fostering development across the six coastal districts under the auspices of all the Traditional Councils, has also been identified as a potential partner.

A meeting was held with the Zonal Coordinator of the PCC to discuss potential collaboration. One area identified during this meeting that may be furthered during the next quarter is the identification of all existing community sacred groves in the six districts to facilitate their improvement, conservation and management in line with community interests and objectives.

Local institutions within the CSLP operational area were also screened for their know-how relative to climate change and spatial data collection. Institutions included the planning units of the district assemblies, the traditional councils, the CREMAs, VSLAs and the PCC. With the exception of the district assembly staff, all the institutions were found to lack information and skills concerning climate change and spatial data collection. In some district offices, only two officials (i.e. the director and the deputy) are conversant, but most often have limited knowledge of the topics. The CSLP plans to help build capacities in these areas through trainings and the distribution of relevant promotional materials. The PCC operatives will also be taken through the climate change curriculum.

Fifteen out of the 29 Community Assistants (CAs) were trained in the use of GPS during the quarter and started mapping farmlands earmarked for CSLP interventions. The CAs were selected from three districts: Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East Districts. There are 14 additional CAs from the three communities in Shama and four communities in Ahanta West District Assemblies who will be trained in the next quarter and also begin the mapping of farms, land use cover types and other geographic attributes.

Within the eight communities where the 15 CAs have been trained, 363 hectares of farmland have been mapped with their corresponding meta data. These farmlands belong to a total of 202 farmers. In Bokro community, where two persons have been trained, no plotting has been done due to illness, funerals and travels by the CAs. The GPS data and the meta data will be verified and forwarded to Hen Mpoano for uploading into a GIS database for the coastal districts as part of the CSLP and Hen Mpoano collaboration.

The training planned for CAs and stakeholders on carbon measurement has been postponed to the next quarter to allow for a sizeable amount of mapping to be completed to provide the basis for the training. Similarly, collection of baseline carbon stocks data has been postponed until more mapping has been done across the six districts to give a more accurate description of land cover types and their sizes.

CSLP has, in collaboration with the Town and Country Planning of the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA), identified some sensitive ecological sites such as mangrove forests and other sites such as roundabouts in the twin city metropolitan area for beautification and tree planting. In the other five districts, although discussions have been initiated, tree planting (for in town and public school) sites are yet to be identified as the district staff was occupied with street naming exercises.

The CSLP is also contributing to the annual report of the Ghana National Agriculture, Forests, Other Land Uses (AFOLU) Working Group to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The AFOLU team has requested CSLP inputs for reporting at the national level.

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

Activities got started with the facilitation processes to put in place the agreed management scenario for the Greater Amanzule Wetland that spans three districts in the Western Region: Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East Districts. This collaboration is through a micro-grant from the USFS to Hen Mpoano. The advantage of the collaboration is based on the fact that Hen Mpoano, as part of the previous Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Governance Project financed by USAID, facilitated the initial processes leading to the delineation of the wetland, an agreement on the management scenario and some major rules for managing the wetland. The initial collaboration between the CSLP and Hen Mpoano focuses on re-opening discussions among the stakeholders: chiefs and elders, community members, NGOs and district assemblies.



**Figure 5. Chiefs from the 23 GAW communities**

Activities undertaken during the quarter by Hen Mpoano include:

1. Awareness creation on the Greater Amanzule Wetlands Conservation Area
  - a. Socialization, validation and buy-in with the Greater Amanzule Wetland Communities sub-chiefs
  - b. Consultation with Community-Based Organizations, NGOs and District Assembly technical services
  - c. Production and dissemination of Information, education and communication materials
2. Generation of base maps and thematic maps.

Additional activities planned for more follow up include:

1. Meetings with the Paramount Chiefs
2. Greater Amanzule Retreat of traditional authorities, Wildlife Division to define the next steps for co-management
3. Amanzule Working Group meetings

## Implementation Challenges

This first quarter has not been without challenges. One critical challenge has been with mobility of the field staff. Logistics are challenging and time consuming when there are a variety of activities in 17 communities spread across the breadth of the six coastal districts. Five field staff using only two vehicles, both of which are more than five years old, support these activities. Outside of the need for a vehicle for administrative functions, careful planning is required to satisfy the field staff's vehicle needs. This puts a lot of pressure on the two project vehicles and leads to high vehicle maintenance costs. In some situations, CSLP resorts to hiring vehicles to support the two; in other cases, some activities are postponed. It is hoped that this will be alleviated by the end of the next quarter. A new vehicle was ordered in October and is scheduled to arrive in March. USAID/Ghana is also facilitating the transfer of a used vehicle from another project to the CSLP; it is hoped that this used vehicle will be in Takoradi early in the next quarter.

Due to a history of unsustainable interventions by previous projects and organizations in the region, many communities assume development projects to be a source of free goods and services. CSLP has faced challenges in breaking this stereotype that can often lead community members to be apathetic and non-cooperative when not followed. The CSLP team has adopted creative strategies in order to win the interest of community members for participating in the project while investing their own time (and sometimes financial) resources so as to ensure a greater buy-in and hopefully, longer-term success in the process.

Involvement of local institutions in project implementation is one sure way of ensuring sustainability. Such institutions include the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) and even the Traditional Authority and district assemblies. Most local institutions, however, have been found to have low capacity in a myriad of ways. These include low capacity for internal governance as well as weak linkages with relevant external institutions, low technical know-how and a lack of technical skills to further their own objectives. Wherever practical and possible, CSLP is working alongside these partners so as to build capacity while attempting to avoid significantly altering target objectives.

The national challenge of electricity load shedding also affects CSLP significantly. This applies especially to administrative activities. This has affected some office equipment such as the two photocopiers and some laptops. CSLP's 5KVA generator is only able to power lights and the Internet when there is power cut. CSLP is looking to receive a bigger generator to be transferred from another project that should alleviate some of these complications.

## PMP Update

The CSLP participated in the AIDTracker Plus training that was conducted by METSS and the USAID in November 2014. The half-day meeting that brought a number of implementers in Ghana together gave insight into how to use the software as well as plans to operationalize the software.

Farmland mapping data has been received as products of the first batch of CAs who were trained during the quarter. This data is being verified and when cleared will be the first batch of data through the collaboration of community members to be incorporated into the CSLP PMP.

# INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

## Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

The traditional gender roles seem to be adhered to in the communities in which CSLP is engaged. For instance, the VSLAs, which focus on making funds available for households for small income generation activities such as vegetable production and petty trading, attracts more women (about 50%). On the other hand, beekeeping, which is perceived to require some extensive physical activity, has a smaller percentage of women. Knowing this, CSLP commits itself to identify any opportunity that encourages the participation of women in all activities, especially community meetings. For instance, there is the discussion that, the few women who are participating in beekeeping, must be supported and encouraged to continue so as to help break the gender stereotype.

## Sustainability Mechanisms

The CSLP's sustainability strategy includes the involvement of local institutions in project implementation. The philosophy is that when local institutions buy into or support related project activities or concepts, they will keep and manage the system, so long as it provides benefits. The challenge with this in the six coastal districts of the Western Region, as stated earlier, is the fact that, most local institutions have low capacity for internal governance and management as well as lacking the capacity to link appropriately with other relevant institutions either to seek support or negotiate for their interest. CSLP is engaging and initiating discussions with the chiefs and elders and, in some cases, encouraging them to participate in trainings and workshops. Institutions that have huge potential to contribute to success are the CREMAs. The CSLP is collaborating with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to improve their capacity while also using the individual benefits component to encourage and motivate members.

CSLP is also involving local NGOs who have operated in the six coastal districts for years in the implementation. These are mainly Friends of the Nation and Hen Mpoano who have implemented several development activities in the six coastal districts and are well known by the constituencies. As they implement components of CSLP, they are readily received based on long standing acquaintances. It is expected that both Friends of the Nation and Hen Mpoano will continue to provide support desired by the communities even after the completion of CSLP.

## Environmental Compliance

All the three community nursery sites have been assessed for any environmental concerns. Two of the nurseries are sited on fairly level ground and therefore do not require any mitigation action concerning erosion. One of them, however, is sited in a location that is adjacent to a flood plain. This site is a very gentle, low gradient slope. The decision is to ensure that all the beds are aligned across the slope to minimize any chances of erosion.

The ten acre-plot of TRACTOR/B-BOVID at Angu is designed for producing vegetables in agroforestry systems and has been designed to limit erosion, create a microclimate to enhance the growth of vegetables and diversify the productivity of the land. The design consists of three meter-wide green strips of forestry, non-timber forest species and fruit trees. The green strips are alternating with three stretches of vegetable beds that are aligned across the slopes. The green strips are created to slow

erosion along slopes. The design will be monitored frequently to ensure that it is effective and necessary alterations made where any weaknesses identified. These measures have been determined to improve the environment and ensure a greater likelihood of success for agroforestry activities.

## Global Climate Change

*Address only if your program does not receive GCC funding but can speak to impact in either adaptation and/or mitigation).*

## Policy and Governance Support

Arguably, tree planting is a function of favorable land and tree tenure arrangements especially with migrant farmers. CSLP recognizes that trying to fix a favorable tenure in Ghana is a huge task. However, it is poised to collaborate with the Civil Society groups in Ghana, supported by *ClientEarth* to engage the Forestry Commission to review benefits laws as requested by the Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

CSLP's participation in the benefit sharing arrangements review workshop in Accra revealed that the sharing systems being considered seem 'artificial' and do not recognize the traditional *abusa* and *abuna* systems that have existed successfully for years. The CSLP, working closely with the traditional authorities within the six coastal districts that are the stool landowners, is in discussions with farmers to see how a blend of *Abunu/Abusa* with the other systems facilitated by the Forestry Commission could work to ensure equitable benefit sharing. The ultimate arrangement may indeed be a hybrid of several systems, but it is fairly evident at this stage that emphasis needs to be placed on the more familiar and the more culturally ingrained traditional land ownership arrangements. Lessons learned from CSLP's experiences will be communicated to key government of Ghana counterparts to inform this discussion at the national level, wherever possible.

## Local Capacity Development

In view of the fact that local institutions and individuals are considered as a major factor for sustainability, CSLP takes every opportunity to build local capacity. Several of the training modules, which are designed to enhance skills and capacity within the communities, are targeted at local institutions such as the CREMAs, the VSLAs, Farmers Based Organizations (FBOs), the Traditional Authorities, Faith Based Organizations and local government institutions.

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

CSLP's relationship with B-BOVID/TRACTOR has provided a very useful lesson in the direction of PPP. In this relationship, the limited resources provided serves as a boost for the private sector to make services available to support other community members with shared objectives of activities already undertaken with CSLP. This lesson is being tried in relation to beehive construction for farmers interested in beekeeping.

Approximately 70 farmers have expressed interest in adopting beekeeping as a livelihood. There are no places where one can easily buy beehives in the Western Region. Since beehives also require very strict precision in their construction, CSLP has decided to identify interested carpenters in the region and train them with the aid of a consultant. In so doing, they can construct beehives as when as is necessary and

required by farmers. This will hopefully ensure sustainability in the process and exemplifies another attempt at building private sector capacity.

## Science, Technology, and Innovation Impacts

The carbon accounting and sequestration work that the CSLP is engaged with focuses on the farm and community level. Work at this level of detail is cutting edge in Ghana, and quite likely, in all of West Africa. The farmers being trained in the use of GPS to locate and measure the different land use cover types on their farmlands provides them with the means to be more spatially aware of their landscape. The GPS mapping activity, has also made farmers more aware of the activities taking place within their farm boundaries and has helped them gain a greater perspective for improved management of their land. Importantly, the collective power of this information also allows district planners to have a better, real-time, sense of what is happening on these landscapes. It provides planners with a broader, science-based picture of opportunities for conservation and other land-use related decisions. In addition, the CSLP is obtaining better measures of local carbon stocks that can be related to each individual farmer and what this means to him/her and the land's use.

Thus, the CSLP is engaged at expanding access to the latest science, technology and innovation concepts to inform decision making with the best available information at the community, local, regional and national levels. This is a critical activity for supporting good governance and is being conducted with other USAID-funded activities in the Western Region and within the rest of Ghana to share best practices and better inform decision making by farmers, communities and government agencies.

## STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

During this quarter, CSLP has implemented a number of activities in collaboration with regional and district partners. These partners included the regional office of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and the Regional and District Offices of the Development Planning Units. These institutions participated in the training of community members and local institutions in the use of GPS for the estimation of land areas.

The partners have expressed appreciation for the CSLP's efforts to train the community members and the contribution being made to the community's capacity to better manage themselves. They lauded the training on the grounds that it will now be possible for community members to gather data concerning development locations to support the district assembly Medium Term Development Plans and for community members to have necessary awareness of crop production, conservation and resources management in light of climate changes.

As noted earlier, the CSLP also worked with the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission to train selected farmers in the identification of naturally occurring forest tree species on their farms. Farmers are often too quick to clear and remove forest tree seedlings sprouting under their cocoa and coconut plantations not realizing that these might be very valuable species in the commercial sense and sparing them could bring them additional income in a few years time. Encouraging this farmer-assisted natural regeneration can also provide shade for the primary cover crop and sequester additional carbon and perhaps provide other secondary products. The farmers who received the training will help to train

others and also be used as a resource in identifying commercial trees that can serve as seed sources for forest tree seedling production in private and community-supported nurseries.

## MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Issues continue with trying to satisfy the government institutions that require monthly reporting and disbursements (e.g. Ghana Revenue Authority, SSNIT). These offices have weak capacity to track documentation provided to them. Documents are easily misplaced and the CSLP often is asked to provide additional copies or evidence of documents and payments that we have previously provided.

The CSLP office premises continue to have routine maintenance and administrative issues with the landlord, with the security company contracted to provide services and the general maintenance of outdated (outmoded) electrical systems.

The aging vehicles are also a constant concern as mentioned earlier. As the project relies heavily on many staff being in the field 3.5 days out of 5 per week, reliance on vehicles to carry out the activities planned for the project is very significant. Vehicle complications have impacted the ability to carry out some key activities on time. The prospect of acquiring a used vehicle from another USAID-funded project along with the delivery of a newly procured vehicle in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, will hopefully help mitigate many of the complications related to transport during this quarter.

Both vehicles/drivers, as noted above, are in the field for significant amounts of the workweek. This means that administrative staff relies on other resources to move about outside of the office in support of the field activities and the overall project goals and objectives. This is usually very inefficient and staff resort to relying on taxis (with very questionable safety standards), personal vehicles and the occasional rented vehicle. In hindsight, the CSLP should have started with a minimum of three vehicles and drivers given the geographic expanse of the project.

## LESSON LEARNED

During a series of meetings with the management of the Western Region Coordinating Council (WRCC), including the Regional Minister and the Deputy Regional Minister, revelations occurred concerning the perception they have about some projects in the region. The WRCC seemed not to be aware of some important outputs that many projects had made over the years and this has led to the WRCC creating tighter rules for developing partners due in large part to mistrust brought about by the lack of, or inadequate, communication.

The CSLP is striving to avoid such complications. In discussions with some of the key regional stakeholders, the project has been encouraged to establish and maintain regular communication with the WRCC. It is now part of the project's routine to regularly inform the Regional Minister and all key regional stakeholders through written letters about events within the communities. For instance, when the Town and Country Planning Unit was invited to participate in the GPS training for the community members, the Regional Minister was copied, as were the district officials where the event was happening. This and similar professional courtesies are already paying dividends; they have facilitated better partner relationships especially with the project's regional stakeholders and the WRCC. These

stakeholders are also sending staff to participate in CSLP activities. This contributes to the project's efforts to increase institutional capacity in the project area while also maintaining strong relationships.

Administratively, the project and its technical staff are learning about the detailed thinking and the advance planning that are essential before conducting an event that brings in a cross section of participants. The due diligence aspect of project development takes time, and an appreciation for that fact by all concerned. When three bids have to be obtained from widely divergent vendors it takes time to identify them, physically visit them because they do not advertise or have a website or even email, prepare the invitation to bid documentation, physically deliver the requests for quotation, receive the bids, evaluate the bids, physically issue/deliver an award and then begin to arrange for the delivery of the vendor's goods/services and enter into the detailed conversations to get these to the field sites they are intended for in the most effective and timely manner possible. With limited staff, vehicles and resources of the CSLP, these are also transaction costs that have to be recognized and appreciated by each member of the staff.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Beekeeping and beehive construction trainings that were initially slated to take place during the quarter, have been postponed to take place in January and February 2015. Later in the quarter, a second module (Advanced Beekeeping) will also start in the project's operational area. This will begin to provide interested farmers with basic management, maintenance and record keeping skills associated with managing an apiary.

The climate smart agriculture training that started in the Ahanta West and Shama Districts during the quarter under review will continue with Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East Districts. About 200 farmers from these three districts are expected to participate. The initial climate smart agriculture modules focus on vegetable production in agroforestry systems that lend themselves to climate change mitigation.

The VSLA Specialist is preparing for formal visits with district assembly staff including the planning staff, Business Advisory Center, and others to provide them with more information about the VSLAs. Interest among communities is growing in the districts where the project has already helped to establish these associations. They are seen as an excellent avenue for greater self-sufficiency and as a source of funding for investments in community conservation activities. The Specialist is also preparing to participate in a short course during the quarter that helps VSLA specialists develop management information systems that can contribute to improving VSLAs, tracking their progress and increasing their efficiencies.

The third regional stakeholders meeting will be organized by the project for early February. A discussion of the most recent quarter's activities is planned along with the projected work plan for the upcoming quarter. Many of the stakeholders have been participating in several of the CSLP's field activities during the last quarter so their inputs, interest, and ideas for collaboration and assistance are expected to be more keenly focused compared to the previous two meetings.

The CSLP's Program Manager from the USFS-IP has planned a 10-day visit beginning in mid-February. He will review progress to date, plans for the coming months and discuss administrative and technical

issues. The project also sees this as an opportunity to engage, hopefully via a visit to field sites, with Forestry Commission staff and USAID/Ghana managers. Plans are in place for at least a 2-day visit with visitors from outside of Takoradi.

Next quarter, the CSLP will also increase its collaboration with TRACTOR/B-BOVID and Hen Mpoano to implement specific activities and pursue the project objectives. First, in line with the MOU it signed with TRACTOR/B-BOVID last March, the CSLP is looking to establish a more formal arrangement. This will focus on:

- Building TRACTOR's capacity to plan and initiate in the implementation of climate change mitigation approaches with farmer's agricultural activities in the six coastal districts;
- Working with TRACTOR agriculturalists, through hands-on work with the CSLP technical staff, to inculcate agroforestry experience and LED approaches to on-farm technical assistance; and,
- Providing technical assistance through targeted activities at B-BOVID's demonstration farm that encompass agroforestry with vegetable production, show and enhance the value of secondary forests and fallow lands and provide forest and fruit tree seedlings for area farmers at the demonstration site's own tree nursery.

The initial 3-month agreement with Hen Mpoano for the facilitation of the Greater Amanzule processes ends in early February 2015. The CSLP is already working to provide the NGO with another grant to ensure that the co-management process that has now been re-kindled is taken to a fruitful conclusion. More specifically, the CSLP and Hen Mpoano will work together with traditional authorities, local government, 23 communities, NGOs and the private sector in the Greater Amanzule Wetlands. The work will focus on:

- Establishing functional wetland management committees;
- Ensuring that a formal co-management process is in place; and,
- Having a collection of respected and useful management plans developed.

The timeline for this grant is likely to extend to the end of the third quarter of FY2016 in order to achieve the desired outputs.

USAID/Ghana is engaging an independent consultant beginning the latter part of February 2015 to provide an assessment of its food security programs and efforts to improve farmer livelihoods. As part of this assessment, the consultant will also look at the CSLP activities using the same filters and provide recommendations on how currently established, and perhaps modified, CSLP activities could contribute more to farmer livelihoods and increased food security in the six districts where the project is operating. The consultant is expected to spend from 2 to 4 weeks assessing options and opportunities for the project with a menu of different budget and timeline options. The project also sees this as an opportunity to better capture the relationship assets with B-BOVID/TRACTOR and Ministry of Food and Agriculture and to build stronger ties between the area's farmers, the private sector and local supply chain mechanisms.

The USFS-IP is planning to engage a consultant to support CSLP staff and improve the project's capacity in M&E so as to have a more systematic approach to collecting and recording pertinent project data. This activity, likely to take place later in the quarter, will not simply assess the project's current approaches to M&E and make recommendations but will also work to improve each staff member's

capacity to take a more holistic perspective and become more effective at collecting, recording and analyzing M&E information.

The CSLP is making plans to collaborate with the organizers of Asa Baako Music and Arts festival that will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. The project will join other entities to foster greater awareness about climate change impacts and mitigation, livelihood issues, conservation and biodiversity in coastal communities. Asa Baako, which was launched in Busua five years ago, is an annual festival that brings people together to experience the culture of the people of Busua and Ghana as a whole. CSLP's collaboration is likely to consist of drama, a film show or music and dance fun fare to inform people of the CSLP and its activities with the local population.

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

There were no specific issues raised or comments made.

## ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY

**Table I(a): PMP Indicator progress - USAID Standard Indicators and Project Custom Indicators**

Development Objective (DO): To promote low emissions development in Ghana's Western Region by strengthening community-based natural resource management and monitoring											
Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2015		Quarterly Status – FY 2015				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Intermediate Result (IR) 1: To Improve Livelihoods Through Enhanced Natural Resource Management Practices											
Sub-IR: 1.3. Promote incentives to implement improved natural resources management for improving livelihoods, biodiversity and carbon sequestration											
4.8.1-26 <b>Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance</b>	GPS/GIS Field Data	2014	0	1,200 Ha	316	316				26.4	
4.8.1-6 <b>Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance</b>	Field Data	2014	0	600 People	107	107				17.8	45 men 62 women
Sub-IR: 1.4: Increase capacity on interagency coordination and extension services (related to ecosystem services and landscape restoration) for GOG partners											
4.8.2-14 <b>Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance</b>	Capacity Building /Event Reports	2014	0	50	7	7				14	

<b>Intermediate Result (IR) 2: Strengthened Stakeholder Engagements and Coordination on Sustainable Landscape Management</b>											
<b>Sub-IR: 2.1: Improve public awareness on the relationship between ecosystem services and livelihoods</b>											
<b>4.8.1-29 <u>Number of person hours</u> of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance</b>	<b>Training Reports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9600 hours</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>829</b>				<b>8.64</b>	
<b>Intermediate Result (IR) 3: Enhanced Capacity for Ecosystem Services Monitoring</b>											
<b>Sub-IR: 3.1: Provide capacity building on forest and wetland carbon and other ecosystem services measurement and 3.3 Integrating lessons learned on national level jurisdictional monitoring, reporting and verification systems to integrate into a regional REDD+ system framework</b>											
<b>4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in <u>metric tons of CO2e</u>, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance</b>	<b>Field Data</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,496 CO<sub>2</sub> e</b>	<b>6,480</b>	<b>6,480</b>				<b>32</b>	
<b>4.8.2-29 <u>Number of person hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance</b>	<b>Training Event Reports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,800 hours</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>148</b>				<b>3.1</b>	