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# Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project Quarterly Report

Third Quarter – April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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AOR Name: Justice Odoi

Submitted by: Steven Dennison (PhD), Project Director

US Forest Service International Programs

P.O. Box MC 3407, Takoradi, Ghana

Tel: +233 (0) 312297824, +233 (0) 263982961

Email: [cslp.director@gmail.com](mailto:cslp.director@gmail.com)

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)</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>Agreement Number:</b>	<b>AEG-T-00-07-00003</b>
<b>Name of Subcontractors/Sub-awardees:</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>April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015</b>

### 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 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 is supporting 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 is aimed at promoting 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 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 metric tons of CO2e, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	20,496 CO2e	6,480	2,085	0		41.8	N
<b>4.8.1-26 Number of hectares 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	20	12 <sup>2</sup>		29.0	N
<b>4.8.1-29 Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance</b>	0	9,600 hours	829	1,316	1,808		41.2	N
<b>4.8.1-6 Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	600 people	107	79	71		42.8	Y <sup>3</sup>
<b>4.8.2-14 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance</b>	0 <sup>4</sup>	50 institutions	7	30	23		120.0	Y
<b>4.8.2-29 Number of person hours of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance</b>	0	4,800 hours	148	2,412	289		59.4	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>Area under climate smart agriculture

<sup>3</sup>Determination of increased economic benefits resulting from many of the project related activities are often time lagged.

<sup>4</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, DoFA, WD, BAC) 5

# ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

## Progress Narrative

CSLP continued with activities mostly under IR 1 and IR 2 with more limited activity under IR 3 due to the resignation of the Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist during the early weeks of the quarter in April 2015. Therefore, this quarterly report highlights the following events and activities that were undertaken:

- ✓ Field demonstration training and monitoring for 93 farmers in climate smart vegetable production;
- ✓ Beekeeping trainings continued during the quarter with 30 people, to include 4 women, who were trained in beekeeping basics, hive establishment and management of the apiary;
- ✓ 280 people trained to identify and nurture about 60 species of tropical trees that grow and regenerate naturally on their farms and in their secondary forest areas;
- ✓ 170 people trained in agroforestry and enrichment planting for native ecosystems restoration;
- ✓ Over 61,000 tree seedlings of various species raised at CSLP-supported nurseries and were ready for lifting and transplanting during the upcoming rainy season when planting will be optimal;
- ✓ Four new VSLA groups enlisted and, together with already existing groups, are undergoing capacity building for effective functioning;
- ✓ The CSLP facilitated discussions with a cross section of woodlot farmers and charcoal enterprise practitioners to identify what issues are critical in their activities and which require attention either locally or at the national level;
- ✓ 2 CSLP staff participated in the International Watershed Management Seminar organized by the USFS International Programs;
- ✓ The World Environment Day 2015 was celebrated in Adusuazo in the Jomoro district under the auspices of the Adusuazo and Asonti junior high school climate change clubs; and,
- ✓ A media day was organized in Ayawora and Adubrim in the Ellembelle district.

## Implementation Status

### 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>• Demonstration Trainings and Monitoring Climate Smart Agriculture</li> <li>• Train vegetable farmers on climate smart vegetable production – Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> <li>• Train vegetable farmers on climate smart vegetable production – Composting</li> <li>• Build Capacity of farmers in Beekeeping Part 2</li> <li>• Procure relevant livelihood support equipment/tools – beekeeping</li> <li>• Study tour for selected farmers to successful livelihood activities and agroforestry sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers are conversant with environmentally friendly agricultural practices including beekeeping.</li> </ul>	September 2015

Following the training of over 400 farmers in climate smart agriculture during the previous quarter, 147 pledged to implement some of these practices in the production of vegetables. The CSLP, in collaboration with the extension officers of the Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA), developed a monitoring-demonstration strategy to help ensure that the farmers adopting the practices were following the guidelines correctly. The plan includes regular visitation and demonstrations. During this quarter, 93 farmers, including 20 women, were part of the visitation and demonstration plan. During the visits, the following issues were discussed and considered:

- Avoidance of bush burning in the preparation of land for crop production;
- Application of organic fertilizers such as animal manure and compost to improve the nutrients of the soil;
- Adoption of integrated pest management to control pest and diseases especially in vegetable farms;
- Integrating trees with crop production-agroforestry; and,
- Creating buffer zones and planting trees in riparian areas to protect watersheds.

The farmers also received additional coaching to help establish their desired demonstrations. The demonstration activities included soil nutrient improvement through the use of local organic materials (composting), nursing of improved certified vegetable seeds and the adoption of integrated pest management strategies.



Figure 1. Using bamboo to construct a fence for the stockpile compost method at Adubrim.



Figure 2. A completed stockpile compost at Adusuazo in Jomoro District.

The 24 farmers whose sites were visited in 11 of CSLP's communities are noted in Table 1.

**Table 1. Farmers whose fields were visited and received training in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)**

District	Community	Gender composition of farmer sites visited			Estimated land area (ha) under CSA
		Female	Male	Total	
Ahanta-West	Tumentu	-	1	1	1.12
	Aketekyi	1	2	3	1.21
	Cape Three Points	3	-	3	1.61
Jomoro	Adusuazo	-	4	4	1.6
	Tweako # 1	1	1	2	0.8
	Fawoman	1	-	1	0.8
Nzema East	Asonti	1	2	3	1.2
Ellembelle	Adubrim	1	2	3	1.4
	Ayawora	1	-	1	0.8
	Fiasolo	-	1	1	0.6
Shama	Yabiw	-	1	1	0.8
<b>Totals</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11.94</b>

Techniques for the improvement of soil nutrients were also emphasized during the visits and these included the use of by-products such as:

- Cocoa pod husks (both fresh and dry) which is most common in the Ellembelle and Jomoro districts;



- Domestic animal (especially poultry and ruminants) droppings that are cleaned up daily and disposed of. These may be incorporated in the compost piles as “green stuff”; and,
- Kitchen wastes that includes plantain and cassava wastes that are very common in most households.

The visits included training in the use of environmentally friendly preparations to control pests. These include neem extract and chili pepper – garlic preparations. Farmers who expressed concern about pest problems were trained during the quarter. The table below indicates the number of farmers by gender and their choice of preparation adopted. During the demonstration, other farmers became interested and joined the training to learn more about non-conventional pest control methods.

**Table 2. Farmers who received training in Integrated Pest Management**

Community	Participants					
	Neem Recipe Preparation			Chili Pepper Recipe Preparation		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Tweako # 1	7	10	17	10	12	22
Fawoman	5	1	6	--	--	--
Fiasolo	--	--	--	3	8	11
Yabiw	5	15	20	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>

A factor that contributes to low crop yields within the six coastal districts, is seed quality. To encourage farmers to utilize good quality seeds, the CSLP worked with Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA) agents, and convinced some farmers to acquire and plant seeds of improved vegetable varieties through the government department for nursing and transplanting. Table 3 indicates the number of farmers in the various communities and the type of certified seeds procured.

**Table 3. Certified seeds procured and planted by farmers during the reporting period.**

Community	Egg Pepper	Eggplant	Okra	Cabbage	Onion
	<i>--- Number of farmers planting seeds ---</i>				
Tumentu	--	3	--	--	--
Aketekyi	--	3	--	--	--
Cape Three Points	--	2	--	--	--
Tweako#1	10	--	3	1	1
Adusuazo	6	7	3	--	--
Fawoman	--	--	--	2	2
Ayawora	--	6	--	--	--
Adubrim	--	6	--	2	2
Asonti	11	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

The farmers were taken through seed sowing demonstrations at nine sites in nine communities with the support of DoFA staff. The seed sowing demonstration was done with 74 farmers, out of which 21 were women as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Number of Farmers who participated in the seed nursing demonstration**

Community	No of Farmers			DoFA staff
	F	M	Total	
Aketekyi	-	4	4	1
Tumentu	-	3	3	1
Cape Three Points	6	-	6	2
Adubrim	3	12	15	
Cape Three Points	-	3	3	
Tweako # 1	5	11	16	
Ayawora	2	4	6	
Fawoman	5	1	6	
Asonti	3	12	15	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>5</b>



**Figure 3. Farmers being taken through seed nursing demonstrations with the support of DoFA staff in Asonti, Nzema East District.**

These climate smart agriculture visits will continue into the next quarter until all of the registered 150 farmers' fields have been visited and supported in their establishment. As the tree planting season will commence at the beginning of the next quarter, subsequent visits will incorporate discussions with farmers that lead to the inclusion of trees in their respective sites, either for the provision of shade, nutrient fixation, fruit production or non-timber forest products production as options to diversify their livelihoods.

The beekeeping training continued during the quarter and was a continuation for farmers in communities where the initial training did not take place. The training, outlined in the box below, followed the same syllabus as that conducted in the previous quarter. The objective is to prepare farmers for the bee swarming season, normally expected from August through October. The training provides the basics for setting up the hive for colonization and managing it until ready for harvest. Subsequent trainings have been designed to provide the skills for harvesting, processing and marketing. These latter trainings will take place beyond the swarming season, probably during the first quarter of the next fiscal year.

PART 101: BASICS OF BEEKEEPING	PART 102: SETTING UP AN APIARY AND EARLY MANAGEMENT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background of beekeeping               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reasons for beekeeping: products and services</li> <li>b. Approaches to beekeeping</li> <li>c. Value and life of the honeybee;</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Basic honeybee biology – life cycle and social divisions</li> <li>3. Products that can be harvested from apiaries?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choosing and making a beehive</li> <li>2. Where to keep bees / siting an apiary</li> <li>3. Bee forage – preferred plant species</li> <li>4. Obtaining colonies</li> <li>5. Beekeeping equipment/tools and their uses</li> <li>6. Maintenance of hives and apiary</li> <li>7. Seasonal management</li> <li>8. Pests and diseases and their management</li> <li>9. Handling bees – safety Issues</li> <li>10. How to determine when to harvest</li> </ol>



**Figure 4. Beehives (42) prepared by CSLP-trained artisans in Takoradi.**



**Figure 5. Beehive establishment demonstration.**

During the quarter, 30 farmers, including 4 women, were taught the basics of beekeeping, setting up an apiary and managing the hive. Seven men and three women were from Aketakyi in Ahanta West District, 10 men from Krobo and another nine men and one woman from Yabiw (both in Shama District) received the training.

Two CSLP-trained artisans in Kokompe, Takoradi produced 42 new beehives during the quarter. This was done through a contract relationship between them and CSLP. This relationship will ensure the supply of about 200 beehives in total to the registered farmers. The plan is to provide one hive for each trained farmer and support him/her via trainings in the apiary establishment, the initial product harvest from the hive, basic hive maintenance and management and product marketing. Beyond this, any farmer who wants extra hive(s) will have to purchase it from any of the trained artisans. Other beehive artisans trained by the CSLP last quarter from Jomoro and Ellembele Districts have also been engaged by farmers to build hives. These latter artisans are often challenged by the ready availability of materials and a reliable source of electricity to operate saws and routers.

## 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>• Training on agroforestry and enrichment planting for native tree cover (Ecosystem) restoration.</li> <li>• Initiate planting to restore mangroves at Yabiw and Akwidaa</li> <li>• Facilitate planting of Distributed seedlings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers are prepared and set to begin seedlings transplanting</li> </ul>	June 2015
1.2.2 Establish and manage forest trees nurseries in four communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tending operations and monitoring of community nurseries</li> <li>• Purchase additional seedlings from specialized sources</li> <li>• Lift and distribute seedlings to farmers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seedlings are ready to be transplanted</li> </ul>	June 2015

Farmers were trained during the quarter in enrichment/agroforestry planting and how to nurture natural regeneration of native trees on-farm. Across all the CSLP communities, 280 were trained in farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), including 60 women. Of the 170 farmers trained in enrichment/agroforestry planting, 50 were women. The objectives of these trainings were to support farmers to plan and implement agroforestry practices of their choice. The FMNR training activities sought to take advantage of the availability of natural regeneration of indigenous and valuable species already present on a farmer's land, but are often treated as "weeds", several of which are difficult to propagate in tree nurseries or by cuttings.

Two important outcomes of the FMNR trainings include these findings:

- Farmers have learned how to identify the young stages of over 60 tree species that were identified during the field exercise. Although the identified trees encountered had multiple uses that make them appropriate for optimizing benefits from them, most farmers did not know of these uses. Some of the uses include as medicine, fuelwood, soil fertility enhancement, carving, timber (for construction), natural dyes and fruit as food.
- Farmers explained that they normally felled all trees during land preparation for farming and had rarely allowed trees to regrow. They followed this logic for two reasons. First, they were not certain of the ownership, and second, because they were unfamiliar with how the trees could be used. Now, with the exposure gained from this training, many are enthusiastic to bring some of the trees back on their farms and maintain trees that would have normally been felled.

The agroforestry options discussed, range from enrichment planting in avoided degradation secondary sites (where some want to incorporate beekeeping), cocoa agroforestry, climate smart/vegetable agroforestry, and coconut agroforestry. The training also highlighted how the arrangement of the trees could allow for various benefits. Some of the arrangements include scattering the trees within the site randomly, arranging the trees in parallel lines, or planting along boundaries (especially for plantation crops such as cocoa, coconut and oil palm). Farmers who were interested in cocoa agroforestry were suggested to use a rate of about 18 trees per hectare to avoid overcrowding.

Tree species desired varied greatly, from those who wanted trees for timber to fruit production and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The NTFP seedlings that the CSLP is providing include nsoko chew stick (*Garcinia afzelii*), whentia (*Xylopi aethiopica*) and wedeaba (*Monodora myristica*) (which are medicinal) and prekese (*Tetrapleura tetraptera*). The most widely requested (and prepared for this season) NTFP species is nsoko.

**Table 5: Seedling type and quantity available for planting**

Tree Species	PANOSA	KAA	Tumentu	Tweako # 1	Adubrim	Yabiw	Total
<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i> (Emere)			1,190	1,777	1,086		4,053
<i>Terminalia superba</i> (ofram)			3,000	4,647	5,486		13,133
<i>Kusia</i>			1	320	955		1,276
<i>Kyenkyen</i>			100	200	154		454
<i>Black Mahogany</i>			1,072	900	1,075		3,047
<i>Entandrophragma angolense</i>		1,200					1,200
<i>Pipterdeniastrum Africana</i> (Dahoma)		100					100
<i>Mammea Africana</i> (Bompagya)		800					800
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Widieaba)		5					5
<i>Guarea spp.</i> (Kwaboroho)		300					300
<i>Khaya ivorensis</i> (Mahogany)		8,000					8,000
<i>Garcinia afzelii</i> (Nsoko)	8,666						8,666
<i>Tetrapluera tetraptera</i> (Prekese)	320						320
<i>Xylopi aethiopica</i> (Hwentia)	2,000						2,000
Cassia						4,963	4,963
Mangroves						9,880	9,880
<i>Heretiera utilis</i> (Nyankom)	400	3,000					3,400
							-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,386</b>	<b>13,405</b>	<b>5,363</b>	<b>7,844</b>	<b>8,756</b>	<b>14,843</b>	<b>61,597</b>

Note: PANOSA and KAA are private seedling producers engaged on contract by CSLP.

The CSLP has over 61,000 seedlings of various species and quantities in stock, as shown in Table 5. Arrangements are being made for them to be lifted and distributed to farmers in the various communities for planting during the next quarter.

CSLP facilitated discussions with the major woodlot/charcoal production practitioners in Dwomo, Yabiw and Krobo in the Shama district with the objective of reviewing the processes and steps involved in their activities. The objective was to enable them to self-assess by:

- Evaluating woodlot management practices from establishment stage to charcoal production stage;
- Listing major problems that may be associated especially with charcoal production; and,
- Brainstorming potential solutions that could serve as guides for the refinement of the draft guidelines.

The discussions involved a cross section of 25 practitioners from the three communities (16 from Yabiw, including 2 women, 7 men from Krobo and 2 men from Dwomo). Table 6 highlights the main issues discussed and the outcomes from the exercise.

**Table 6: Summary Outcome of Woodlot/Charcoal**

Issue	Recommendation	Remarks
Financing cassia harvesting operations often times becomes difficult to the extent that most of the woodlot owners take advance payments from prospective charcoal middlemen who end up paying less than the market price for a bag of charcoal	It was noted that the CSLP's VSLA specialist has introduced the village savings and loan association idea in these communities already. It is now important to follow-up on its formal implementation at Yabiw and Krobo	Here is an opportunity for tying cell phone technology into the charcoal supply chain and for the producers to have better market information.
Flaring of wood due to inadequate material for covering the pile of wood in the earth mound kilns during some seasons as well as ineffective monitoring of the carbonization process	Pilot the use of improved kiln (metal kiln) for the production of charcoal	Some farmers are familiar with the use of kilns for the production of charcoal and they know it to be least susceptible to flaring of the wood, reduces heat transmission to the operator's body and thus, in terms of health and safety it is the most suitable. It is also known to have a better recovery within a short time than the traditional earth mound kiln used in their communities.
Intense heat and smoke from the carbonization process that poses health problems to practitioners. Most of them reported illness after each charcoal production cycle	Build capacity of the charcoal woodlot owners in best management practices with particular reference to practices that improve yield of wood and also carbon storage in soil. In this regard, possibilities for incorporating different fast-growing species into the charcoal woodlot system as well as short cycle annual crops into the coppicing stage of the woodlot rotation needs to be explored	

The draft woodlot management and charcoal enterprises module developed by the CSLP Community Benefits Specialist has been modified to accommodate these ideas.

The uncertainty surrounding tree ownership continues to be a major concern to many people within the CSLP area of engagement who are interested in planting trees. Most people are engaged in the planting and are hopeful that the necessary actions will be taken to clear the confusion as soon as possible. The CSLP remains committed to crafting a draft position paper and to engage stakeholder discussions on this topic. This position will build on the provision of security of tenure on traditional institutional systems and the local government system and de-emphasize current requirements such as maps that, in most situations, become expensive for small scale farmers like the CSLP's engaged farmers to develop and maintain.

## 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
<b>1.3.1</b> Formation of Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlist interested members for VSLAs</li> <li>Arrange meetings with newly formed groups</li> <li>Orientation meetings with District officials / Opinion Leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New VSLA groups enlisted and under training.</li> </ul>	September 2016
<b>1.3.2</b> Training of VSLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct Modular Trainings from Module 1 to Module 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VSLAs are operational and implement their rules accordingly</li> </ul>	September 2016
<b>1.3.4</b> Training of VSLA Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a criteria for selecting the Village Agents (VAs)</li> <li>Identify and select potential VAs</li> <li>Draft presentations for the trainings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community VSLA Agents in place</li> <li>Draft list of Potential VAs</li> <li>Draft Module</li> </ul>	June 2015
<b>1.3.6</b> Study tour to model VSLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify Individuals for the trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced Confidence in VSLA members</li> <li>VSLA share lessons and interests.</li> </ul>	September 2015
<b>1.3.9</b> Develop improvement in woodlot management and charcoal enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct training on management of woodlots and charcoal enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
<b>1.3.10</b> Explore options for registration of on-farm regenerated trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize stakeholders' meetings on options for registration of on-farm regenerated trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options of registration of planted trees/naturally regenerated trees available to farmers</li> </ul>	September 2015

Four new VSLAs were initiated during the quarter. The four groups are listed in the Table 7.

**Table 7: Newly Enlisted VSLAs**

District	Community	Name of VSLA	Number of Members		Training Modules Covered	Main Goal
			Males	Females		
Ellembelle	Adubrim	Nyame Mmre	9	14	2	Avoided deforestation/beekeeping and climate smart agriculture (CSA)
Nzema East	Asonti	Abotare	4	9	2	Avoided deforestation/beekeeping, CSA, school fees
		Nkabom	2	10	1	To be determined
Shama	Dwomo	Emmanuel	5	8	3	Natural resources based livelihoods and schools fees

The CSLP is finding that initiating new VSLAs is most strongly influenced by the successful experiences of existing VSLAs and the benefits that the members are gaining. As each VSLA is established, the group completes seven modular trainings that will make them a fully-fledged VSLA. Each module's training ends with the members implementing its content. For example, at the end of Modular 3, which is on the 'Development of Constitution', members will run through a template and complete the drafting of the constitution. Out of the 15 VSLAs, 9 have completed the 6<sup>th</sup> Training Module on loan repayments. The 7<sup>th</sup> Module takes place in the 52<sup>nd</sup> week after the beginning of the first share purchase and the first share out. For the CSLP supported VSLAs, this final module will likely take place in October 2015.

Two orientation meetings were organized for the Ahanta West and Jomoro district assemblies in the month of June 2015. Representatives from the CSLP communities where VSLAs are currently functioning were present to share their experiences with those who are not yet a part of a VSLA. The district offices represented included the Community Development Officers, National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) and Business Advisory Center (BAC) officers.

The primary objective of these meetings was to create more awareness about VSLAs in other communities but they also served to enhance the confidence of the district assembly officials in the VSLAs. Additionally, these meetings could help facilitate the establishment of new groups in the district's communities. The meetings briefed participants on topics such as the history of VSLA, how beneficial the VSLA can be, process for the establishment of VSLA with emphasis on conditions and rules to ensure cohesion (e.g. membership self-selection criteria), overview of the seven training modules, minimum and maximum number of members required per VSLA, equipment and tools required, safety of cash box and importance of confidentiality in the group's proceedings and fund balances. It was also emphasized that as much as individuals and groups have the liberty to utilize their funds on anything they wished, they are strongly encouraged to use some funds on natural resources related activities that will lead to sustenance of the environment and help ensure sustainable and more diverse livelihoods in the district's communities. VSLA members who were present shared their experiences and answered questions.

During the quarter, a draft terms of reference (ToR) was been developed for the selection and general functioning of Village Agents (VAs). The main purpose of training the Village Agents is to assist the CSLP's VSLA Specialist in communities with a mature VSLA. The VAs will free

*Nana Asua Meah, Chief of Adubrim in Jomoro District testifies on the usefulness of VSLA*



“The introduction of the VSLA in our community has brought very huge relief to the members. I personally benefited when I received support to enable me pay my electricity bill to save me from being disconnected by the Electricity Company of Ghana. After re-paying, I am currently submitting application to enable me pay my wards school fees in the senior high school.”



up the Specialist's time to initiate and monitor new VSLA's within the CSLP's geographic area. Some of the tasks that these agents will be performing include:

- Community entry and sensitization
- Facilitating VSLA group formation
- Facilitating VSLA modules training
- Assisting groups in record keeping based on the member passbook system
- Support groups with linkages to external financial institutions
- Assisting groups to resolve conflicts
- Participate in activities organized for VAs by VSLA Specialist or the CSLP

An initial list of potential VAs has been developed with 14 people including 3 women from 14 VSLAs. They will be presented to the respective VSLAs for their own members to assess for selection as their Village Agent.

A field visit/tour for selected VSLA members has been planned for the next quarter whereby experiences can be shared among other VSLAs. This will be in two stages, namely internal (which is within the CSLP operational area) and external (especially in the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions). These tours have been postponed slightly to allow some time for most of the groups to mature and be versed in the VSLA processes. The internal visits for newer and/or less active VSLAs to visit and share with fellow CSLP facilitated VSLAs is likely to occur in August 2015.

## 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>	September 2016
1.4.2. Engage in professional/staff development activities/trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in intervention area specific training/seminar – Watershed Seminar by USFS-IP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share lessons from other continents in watershed management</li> </ul>	May 2015

CSLP participated in a national stakeholders' workshop during the quarter focused on the review of the Community Resources Management Areas (CREMAs) section of the Wildlife Resources Management Act 2011 that is before the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. This was the final workshop in a series that was funded by the Business Advocacy Advisory Centre. The objective of the project was to facilitate inputs on concerns of all stakeholders including CREMA members, civil society organizations, chiefs and elders on the draft bill relative to its intended role to serve as a platform for the implementation of critical initiatives such as climate change, REDD+, the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

CSLP raised issues concerning the need for the CREMAs not to be tagged to any of the two main divisions of the Forestry Commission (i.e. Forest Services Division and the Wildlife Division). CSLP suggested it would be better if CREMAs were placed within a section of law that is not necessarily labeled to belong to either division but rather, given status under the term community rights. This would create the opportunity for CREMA members to conveniently benefit from the services of both the Forest Services Division and the Wildlife Division, rather than just one division as is now the practice which can cause challenges in working with the other division.

The workshop, which was attended by representatives of stakeholders such as local and international non-governmental organizations, Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines, CREMA members and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands, Forestry and Mines, submitted proposals for amendment and onward submission to Parliament. It was also agreed for representatives of civil society groups involved in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement processes to note and ensure that these concerns on CREMAs are captured in the review and consolidation of the forest laws of Ghana.

CSLP was represented by two staff at the 2015 International Watershed Management Seminar organized by the United States Forest Service International Program in Arizona. The goals included:

1. To see, understand, discuss and articulate the impact of multiple uses on watersheds.
2. Think critically about the economic importance of water and proven solutions that promote best management practices (BMP).
3. Identify techniques and skills to facilitate community participation, manage conflicts, problem-solve and negotiate watershed management issues.

The three week seminar exposed the participants to a host of best management practices (BMP) in the management of natural resources.

## 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 17 community interactions / training (using videos, drama etc.) on critical coastal issues (1 in each community)</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 a series of basic trainings on NRM/Climate Change</li> <li>• Organize international day celebration at local level (World Environment Day 2015)</li> <li>• Organize field visits with media and other stakeholders</li> </ul> Produce a brochure on climate change	Community members and school children become conversant with environment, livelihoods and climate change issues.	September 2015
<b>Sub IR 2.2</b> Promote stakeholder engagement and coordination at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize quarterly Regional Stakeholders meetings (4 in total)</li> </ul>	CSLP fits into the regional and local governance development agenda within the Western Region	September 2015
<b>Sub IR 2.3</b> Promote platforms that will support sustainable landscapes management	Organize 12 training programs for different local institutions e.g. CREMA, Faith based, AWG, PCC	Local institutions more aware of sustainable NRM and actively promoting it in their communities	September 2015

One significant way in which the CSLP worked with communities this quarter was via its interactions using climate change videos. The videos were shown at night in the nine communities listed in Table 8 below.

**Table 8. Communities where climate change videos were shown during the quarter**

DISTRICT	COMMUNITY
Jomoro	Tweakor 2
Ellembelle	Adubrim
	Ayawora
	Sendu
	Fiasolo
Nzema East	Bokro
	Asonti
Ahanta West	Tumentu
	Cape Three Points

CSLP chose to use a video format in order to attract community members through an entertainment venue as opposed to only a lecture or presentation. The video event consisted of three parts:

- Question and answer discussions with community members to assess their view on climate change;
- A 16 minute video presentation on climate change with intermittent discussions; and,
- An open discussion on what participants can do to help address the issues/impacts of climate change.

The video contains local scenes showing the impact of flooding and storms within the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis and Shama District. The impact for participants is significant as they hear the stories in their local language. The average attendance per community is 180 women, men and children.

In addition to raising awareness about climate change, the events also served to increase interest by community members in participation in CSLP activities. Bokro has, for the past year, always had low participation in all CSLP activities to the extent that the team contemplated its withdrawal from the project. But immediately following the climate change video presentation, 19 men and 11 women registered for CSLP-supported interventions in tree planting, beekeeping and climate smart vegetable production.

Two workshop/training events were held for the District Planning and Coordinating Units (DPCU) of the six coastal districts in the Western Region. The first training, held in Esiam (Ellembelle District), was attended by 29 participants from Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East districts, and the second was in Agona (Ahanta West District) with 33 participants from the STMA, Ahanta West and Shama districts.

These training sessions were comprised of:

- A 16 minute video that reported on the flooding that occurred in Shama District in 2012; and,
- A PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of Climate Change in Ghana, its causes, signs and the impacts of climate change.

Following the presentations, discussions focused on issues that included:

- Pragmatic measures District Assemblies can perform to address climate change impacts;
- Liaising with the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) on their strategic plans and advance flood warning signs;
- Having the Assemblies partnering with CSLP to plant trees in open areas; and,
- The basic challenges of addressing climate change issues at the district level given the number of, stakeholders involved.

The participants in both workshops were excited because, according to them, the National Development Planning Commission requires them to include climate change issues in their plans. However, many of the participants said they lack the skills for identifying what the issues are and what can be done. Moving into the next quarter, CSLP expects to begin working with the district assemblies (through their medium term development plans) to help them identify the areas within their jurisdiction that are likely to be the most vulnerable to climate change. This is

also an area where the CSLP can work with its sister project (the University of Cape Coast Capacity Building Project), which is engaged with climate change adaptation trainings with these same district assemblies.

In another area, 24 school teachers, including 14 women, participated in a climate change training facilitated by the CSLP in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission. The teachers were selected from seven public primary and junior high schools, one private school and two senior high schools (the Takoradi Senior High School and the Archbishop Porter Girls Senior High School). All are located in the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA). In order to build on existing the foundation, CSLP focused on these schools as they have an existing relationship with the Wildlife Division, either having established Wildlife Clubs or Environmental Clubs. The training at this point focused on the teachers with the anticipation that they will share what they have learned with their students.

Another training focused on two climate change clubs in Adusuazo and Asonti. This training aimed to promote better understanding of the importance of wild animals to ensure their protection among Climate Change Club members. The training was facilitated with the collaboration of CSLP and the Wildlife Division in Takoradi. Sixty-five students and four teachers were trained. Thirty-nine participants (24 boys, 15 girls) were from Asonti Metropolitan Assembly Junior High School and 23 participants (13 boys, 10 girls) were from Adusuazo District Assembly Junior High School. They were educated on the sections of the wildlife laws that cover the list of wildlife prohibited from hunting and/or capturing, the hunting seasons, and the importance of the closed season for wildlife reproduction.



**Figure 6. Students participating in World Environment Day.**

The CSLP joined the international community to celebrate the 2015 World Environment Day on Friday, June 5 at Adusuazo, in the Jomoro District under the auspices of the Adusuazo junior high school and Asonti Metropolitan junior high school climate change clubs. The global theme for the day was “Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care”. However, CSLP chose a local theme ‘Future Generations also need the Environment’.

Events for the day included a brass band procession that saw students, teachers and community members with placards conveying diverse messages on the environment. Participants, numbering over 150, marched through the community amidst brass band music. Other events included drama pieces to depict the importance of tree planting, a quiz competition and a painting exhibition. All these activities were led by the climate change club members. The day was graced by the District Director of Education for the Jomoro district and the Deputy District Coordinating Director who represented the District Chief Executive of Jomoro district.

A field media day was organized by CSLP in Ayawora and Adubrim, both communities in Ellebelle District. The day provided an opportunity for stakeholders (the media, regional

officials as well as district stakeholders and community members), to discuss the CSLP interventions, their implementation and to make suggestions for their improvement. Thirty-two people from outside the communities took part in the field trip. They included media personnel (from print, online, television and radio), Regional & District stakeholders (Ellembelle District Assembly, Department of Food and Agriculture, Town and Country Planning Department, Economic Planning Unit, Regional Coordinating Council) and the majority of the CSLP team.

The following day the quarterly Regional Stakeholder's meeting was held in Esiama (Ellembelle District). This was the fourth quarterly meeting of the group and the first one to take place outside of Takoradi. The eight regional representatives were from the:

- Regional Economic Planning Unit;
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
- Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD); and,
- National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI).

The Regional Economic Planning Director commended the CSLP for activities implemented during the quarter. These activities (all described previously), and especially the climate change trainings, GPS mapping, and the agriculture-related programs were considered quite useful development for meeting objectives set by the National Development Planning Commission. There was a concern, however, that the district planners have not been capturing the CSLP's activities in their quarterly reports to the region. As the meeting concluded, the Regional Coordinating Council pledged to continue its support and collaboration for the CSLP.

In another cross-cutting training activity, 87 people were trained in the "Environment, Ecosystem and Livelihoods in the Coastal Districts of Ghana's Western Region". The objective was to encourage them to change attitudes in the use and management of their local natural environment. Seventy-eight of the total number were VSLA members from Asonti (2 groups) and Tweako #1(1 group); the other nine (3 men, 6 women) were not VSLA members.

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

Intermediate Result	Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Planned Date of Completion
<b>Sub IR 3.1:</b> Provide capacity building on forest and wetland carbon and other ecosystem services measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide practical training for Community Assistants and stakeholders on carbon measurement in the field</li> <li>• Collect baseline C-stocks data in all land-cover types for all CSLP intervention sites</li> <li>• Analyze C-Stocks data and assign coefficient per site/tree species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP constituents are knowledgeable of ecosystem services measurement and the results influence their decision-making.</li> </ul>	September 2015
<b>Sub IR 3.2.</b> Collect and utilize biophysical and socioeconomic data to inform land-use planning and decision-making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory mapping of areas of intervention within CSLP target communities</li> <li>• Work with Hen Mpoano to produce base maps for GAW and other CSLP intervention districts/areas</li> <li>• Work with TCP in six districts to identify open areas for restoration, enrichment and securing the sites from encroachment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP intervention sites identified and mapped out.</li> </ul>	September 2015
<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the national GHG accounting (AFOLU sector) working group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP is abreast with National standards in GHG activities.</li> </ul>	September 2015

Due to the resignation of the Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist during the quarter no significant progress was reported for this IR. Progress will be reported in the next quarter to show continued emphasis on this IR and its cross-cutting importance for the project.

### Implementation Challenges

The absence of Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist put a hold on all field activities relative to IR 3 as described above. This meant that all the capacity building activities for Community Assistants in mapping and actual mapping activities were put on hold.

The quarter coincided with the major rainy season and there were several community events that had to be postponed for a number of reasons including road blockages due to flooding, funerals including for one of CSLP's Community Assistants, and critical farming activities such as drying of cocoa beans and sowing of annual food crops.

## PMP Update

A consultant has been engaged and is set to begin activities in the ensuing quarter to support CSLP in making its Monitoring and Evaluation system more efficient. The consultant is expected to conclude on recommendations for CSLP by the end of the next quarter and in time for the development of the annual work plan and annual report.

# INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

## Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

The trend relative to women's participation has not changed significantly. There is, however, a growing awareness for women such that they do not feel intimidated to participate with CSLP. Participants in the village savings and loan associations continue to remain primarily women. Women's participation in the climate smart vegetable production is also significant. In some districts, women constitute about 50% of the participants. Overall, the average is about 25%.

It is hoped that with the recruitment of the new Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist, adding greater gender balance to the CSLP technical team, will also serve as inspiration for greater women's participation in CSLP interventions.

## Sustainability Mechanisms

The relationship between the CSLP and TRACTOR/B-BOVID has continued to grow with the signing of a grant agreement between the two organizations. The objective of the agreement is to strengthen the capacity of TRACTOR/B-BOVID to promote and address key components of ecological farming while helping to diversify livelihoods and improve food security in rural communities. The overall grant is planned for twelve months. There is an initial "test period" of three months so that both parties can examine its efficacy. At the end of the initial period, an assessment by CSLP will determine whether to continue with the collaboration.

Similarly, processes are advancing for a grant arrangement between Hen Mpoano and CSLP to resume, following the successful completion of the initial period that was implemented in the first quarter of this fiscal year. It will continue where the initial set of activities left off, seeking to facilitate the establishment of a management structure across 23 communities and two districts for the Greater Amanzule Wetland in the Western Region of Ghana. This larger grant is expected to be carried out over the next 12 months.

The CSLP continues to participate in the Western Region Implementers meetings that occur monthly in Takoradi. The participants of these meetings are institutions that are implementing donor-funded projects within the Western Region and many are funded by USAID. The objective of these meetings is to promote sharing of goals, plans and ideas and identify potential areas of synergy and support for one another.



## Environmental Compliance

Since CSLP has not done significant planting during the period, there has not been any likelihood of causing any major environmental changes. Nonetheless, CSLP has ensured that environmental concerns are taken into considerations and any potential negative impacts are mitigated. Tree nursery sites are the major concerns from now until the end of this quarter. All nursery sites are located on fairly level ground except one which is on a gradual slope. In all cases, beds have been arranged across the slope to reduce potential threats of erosion.

The M&E consultant will likely support us with ideas for enhancing environmental compliance.

## 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

The CSLP continued with support for refining the legal regime for the management of CREMAs in the country by participating in the stakeholders' review of the sections on the laws providing for establishment of CREMAs. In particular, CSLP is concerned about the hesitation of some staff of the Forest Services Division to engage with CREMAs as the current mechanism for CREMA management rests with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission. As was done in the workshop, CSLP will continue to advocate the establishment of CREMAs as community forestry mechanisms and not to be established solely within one division.

Tree tenure policy is another critical issue for the sustenance of the interventions of CSLP. Farmers, rational as they are, will always assess whether they or their descendants will benefit from their efforts. It is also recognized that the continual strong decision-making power of the Forestry Commission in these matters is an anathema to a farmer's incentive to grow and be stewards of commercial and agroforestry trees growing on his/her land. The CSLP acknowledges the need for a sound and solid advocacy for farmers' tree tenure rights. CSLP will continue to work in engaging the right allies and to promote positive dialogue to this end. Anything less than success will lead to disappointment among the farmers.

## Local Capacity Development

The CSLP was faced with another need for engaging the district planners during the quarter. It turned out that although they have captured the CSLP activities in their Medium Term Development Plans (MTDP), their quarterly reports, submitted to the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), do not reflect these activities. In response, CSLP has started a policy of joint monitoring of some field activities and events with the district planners. During the quarter, four meetings were organized with the planners to update them on CSLP activities and outputs so that they can be more easily incorporated into their quarterly reports/plans to the RCC.

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

The CSLP has concluded on a first grant agreement with TRACTOR/B-BOVID. This agreement has the objective of building their staff capacity to be able to facilitate climate change conscious farming activities with their out-grower farmers.

### Science, Technology, and Innovation Impacts

Attempts to promulgate local entrepreneurs in activities that will benefit the local environment and also help to address tree crop farmers and others' demand for certain tree species remains stalled. The CSLP remains optimistic that it will improve the supply chain, and the benefits associated with them in the future. Chew sticks and specialty species such as nutmeg are examples of where there is sufficient demand for an entrepreneur to get started but current technology is lacking. The CSLP continues to search for innovative individuals to support in undertaking these activities and to help them increase their capacity and absorb the risks in this sector.

## STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Through the quest to promote greening of the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis, new stakeholder relationships are being established. These include the Ladies Association of the Forestry Commission, the Western Region Branch, and the Department of Parks and Gardens of the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly. The CSLP is also forging relationships with the City Works Engineer, the Urban Roads Engineer and the Metropolitan Town and Country Planner to identify suitable sites for beautification and greening within the STMA during the next quarter.

## MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The CSLP has recruited a new, well qualified Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist to fill that position vacant since late April. She signed her contract with CSLP and commenced work in late June 2015. An orientation covering policy issues and work environment has been organized for her and she has already been introduced to the Regional Stakeholders. She is being now introduced to the district stakeholders and the communities in order for her to begin full engagement with them.

The absence of a substantive Environmental Services and Spatial Planning Specialist has created a significant gap in the progress toward the project's PMP targets, especially those linked to IR 3. This has also meant a stop on mapping activities for the quarter and a significant dearth of calculations linked to carbon estimation. The new technical staff person will begin to close the gap toward the end of the next quarter, but it is doubtful that the targets estimated at the beginning of the fiscal year will be achieved due to this pause in activity under this IR.

CSLP has been somewhat estranged from the Western Region Forest Services Division (FSD). They have participated in only a few of the quarterly meetings and have been hesitant to participate in other activities. The team will continue to make efforts to engage them, including invitations to all relevant training events, workshops and meetings. The project has had more success in working with the district-level staff. We suspect that the tree tenure issues and those linked to climate change are topics where the CSLP can be most successful in complementary activities with this division.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Three public events occurred during the quarter that created the opportunity for CSLP to listen to stakeholders' views. These were the World Environment Day Celebration, the Media Day Celebration and the Regional Stakeholders' meetings. The feedback received during and after these events has been favorable. CSLP believes it is due to the advance effort that is spent to ensure that relevant stakeholders are updated on issues and where services of stakeholders are welcome to complement one another's objectives that helps to keep them engaged.

CSLP is honest in its discussions and interactions with all its partners and accepts responsibility to do only what is allowable and practical while discussing what is not possible. This honesty has created a level of trust that enhances collaborations with partners.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

During the upcoming quarter, CSLP has planned the following activities:

- Tree seedling outplanting from community-supported nurseries;
- Beehive establishment and monitoring visits once bees begin swarming;
- Newly established VSLAs continue through modules and existing VSLAs move into development phase;
- Finalization of grant with Hen Mpoano and continuation of Greater Amanzule Wetlands management activities;
- Monitoring of a small grant to TRACTOR to augment ongoing activities;
- Continued engagement with the Forestry Commission's Ladies Association and the STMA Parks and Gardens, TCPD to identify sites and protect green areas within the Metropolitan Assembly, notably the Essei Wetland;
- Monitoring, with the DoFA agents, CSA-inspired actions with community farmers;
- Continued construction and placement of beehives in previously identified apiary sites on farms;
- Regional stakeholder meeting;
- Working with USAID/Ghana in a stock-taking and assessment exercise of the CSLP; and,
- Engaging a short-term M & E specialist to provide support and improvement to the project's monitoring and evaluation systems.

## 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 <u>Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance</u>	GPS/GIS Field Data	2014	0	1,200 Ha	348	316	20	12		29.0	
4.8.1-6 <u>Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance</u>	Field Data	2014	0	600 People	257	107	79	71		42.8	
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 <u>Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance</u>	Capacity Building /Event Reports	2014	0	50	60	7	30	23		120.0	

<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 of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance</u></b>	<b>Training Reports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,600 hours</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,808</b>		<b>41.2</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 <u>Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance</u></b>	<b>Field Data</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,496 CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>8,565</b>	<b>6,480</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>41.8</b>	
<b>4.8.2-29 <u>Number of person hours of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance</u></b>	<b>Training Event Reports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,800 hours</b>	<b>2,849</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>289</b>		<b>59.4</b>	

## ANNEX B: SUCCESS STORIES

### FARMER STOPS POACHING DUE TO USAID INTERVENTION

Without the timely intervention by USAID-funded and US Forest Service-managed Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP), a farmer at Tweakor No 1 in the Jomoro District of Ghana's Western Region, would have continued his illegal hunting activity in the Ankasa rain forest, one of the last virgin forests in Ghana which borders his community. The farmer noted that the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)<sup>1</sup>, formed with the CSLP's assistance, has allowed him to refrain from continuing the illegal act. He made the revelation when the CSLP's Activity Manager at USAID, Justice Odoi and Isaiah Tuohieno of the US Embassy in Ghana, joined the CSLP team for a monitoring visit to Navrongo and Tweakor No 1 in late April 2015. The farmer, responding to a question from Justice about their impressions of the project, noted;

*'To be honest, I used to enter the forest to kill animals for a simple reason: to pay the school fees of my children. However, since joining the VSLA I have stopped that act. Now, I can easily get a loan from the group to pay the school fees. I knew that going to the forest was illegal and also felt sad and scared because I went there alone at night leaving my wife and children at home; it was risky, anything negative could have happened to me in the forest, or even on the way. Now, I don't go there anymore, and won't ever go again because I can pay my children's school fees from funds I obtain from my membership in the VSLA.'*

As part of the trip, the team visited a secondary forest of a farmer where the CSLP has provided a beehive that has now been colonized. The farmer, with several others, has agreed not to deforest such places but use it for beekeeping and other forest products. The team also visited one of the CSLP's tree nursery sites at Tweakor No 1 (pictured below), and interacted with farmers there.

Farmers applauded USAID for the project and lauded many of the CSLP's interventions. These included beekeeping as an alternative livelihood, several targeted trainings such as climate change awareness, climate smart agriculture, farmer managed natural regeneration, and the VSLA, which they emphasized, has helped them to build a better savings culture accompanied by its timely access to a means of credit which is desperately needed as the farmer's story above demonstrates.



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

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<sup>1</sup> Is a member/community managed group of 15-25 people who save together and take small loans from those savings

## USAID CREATES CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADORS

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

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

Previously, a significant number of farmers who planted trees initiated by past climate change projects that promised cash rewards, were at the verge of completely cutting down those trees as no such rewards were received. But now with the outreach interventions by the CSLP team, coupled with awareness being enhanced by CCC members, the remaining trees



**Club members marching through a community with messages on climate change to raise awareness**

will continue to grow on their land as farmers are now willing to keep them without expecting any direct financial rewards.

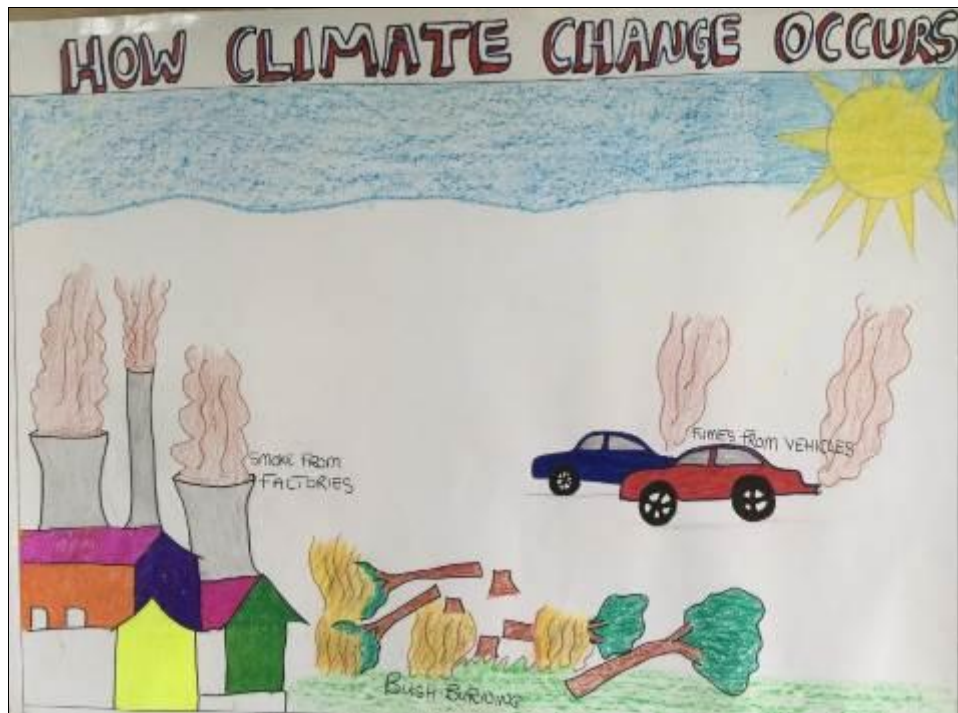
Currently one of the clubs, Asonti Municipal Assembly Junior High School CCC, has an organic farm (located less than 5 meters from the school premises) and intends to use it to educate their parents and other adults on Climate Smart Agricultural practices. As observed by one of the teachers,

Mr. Somiah, *"most farmers in Ghana now use agrochemicals for almost every farming activity. They complain of*

*not having money but buy lots of agrochemicals. However, they could have saved money by practicing organic ways of farming and that is what members of the CC Club have started through the support of CSLP. In few months, our farm will serve as a demonstration site for farmers outside the region"*. The club members are currently waiting for their supply of some tree seedlings from CSLP to plant in their farm. They are promoting agroforestry in the communities as they recognize tree planting as one of the ways to address the impacts of climate change.



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



**Artwork by Adusuazo District Assembly JHS Climate Change club**

Over the past several months a number of media groups (print, online, TV and radio) have followed with keen interest the activities of the two clubs as is evidenced in their local, regional and national reporting. There is no doubt that these club members will continue to serve as Climate Change Ambassadors for years to come. The District Director of Education for Jomoro District of Ghana has observed, "... the CSLP has caught these children at the right time, for as you catch them young, they will be yours forever".