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# COASTAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT

## Quarterly Report

FIRST QUARTER – OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agroforestry and Other Land Uses
B-BOVID	Building Business on Values Integrity and Dignity
BMP	Best Management Practice(s)
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CREMA	Community Resources Management Association
CRMC	Community Resources Management Committee
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DA	District Assembly/ies
EDIF	Export Development Investment Fund (of Ghana)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FBO	Faith Based Organizations
FC	Forestry Commission
FCM/FCMP	Fisheries and Coastal Management Program
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Services Division (of the Forestry Commission)
FY	Fiscal (or Financial) Year
GAW	Greater Amanzule Wetland
GAWCCC	Greater Amanzule Wetland Community Conservation Committee
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHG	Green House Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOG/GoG	Government of Ghana
GSCD	Ghana Supply Chain Development Project
ICFG	Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Management Project
IP	International Programs (of the USFS)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Result
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IUCN	International Union of Conservation Naturalists
LULC	Land Use/Land Cover
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METSS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NBSSI	National Board of Small Scale Industries
NGO	Non Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products

PAPA	Participating Agency Program Agreement
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD+	Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMSC	Resources Management Service Center
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SL	Sustainable Landscapes
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STMA	Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly
TCPD	Town and Country Planning Department
TRACTOR	Transforming Rural Agricultural Communities Through Organic Re-engineering
UCC	University of Cape Coast
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USG	United States Government
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WD	Wildlife Division (of the Forestry Commission)
WR	Western Region
WRCF	Western Region Coastal Foundation

# I. 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 / 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>October 1 to December 31, 2015</b>

## I.1 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 in Ghana's Western Region.



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

To confront the 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, more diverse livelihoods, better land management of existing natural resources, increased soil fertility, and increased carbon stocks. Moreover, improved land management and livelihood diversity 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.

## I.2 Summary of Results to Date

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	Annual Target	Q1 FY16	Q2 FY16	Q3 FY16	Q4 FY16	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in <u>metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e</u> , reduced, sequestered or avoided as a result of USG assistance	0	8,000 Co <sub>2</sub> e	_1				-	No
4.8.1-6 Number of <u>people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	900	429				47.7%	Yes
4.8.1-26 Number of <u>hectares</u> of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	0	800 Ha	483				60.4%	Yes
4.8.1-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	0	8,000	154				2%	No
4.8.2-14 Number of <u>institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	0	70	9				12.9%	Yes
4.8.2-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance	0	4,500	228				5.1%	No

<sup>1</sup> Protocol for estimations is being developed with the support of the Ghana AFOLU Team and FORIG.

## 2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

### 2.1 Progress Narrative

As the new fiscal year began, there were assurances from USAID/Ghana that FY 2016 will not be a close-out year, but rather the CSLP will be extended and expanded. This means that the intermediate results and associated activities elaborated in the CSLP Work Plan for the third year will continue to build on the lessons learned and results of the previous years with an aim of a full year of implementation. CSLP continues to integrate the participation of regional and district-level government stakeholders, as well as that of the CSLP's two grantees, Hen Mpoano and TRACTOR. The results of these partnerships are proving fruitful for achieving results and longer-term sustainability as is evidenced throughout this report.

The major achievements during the quarter include:

- 36 Climate Smart Agriculture vegetable demonstration plots of various sizes established and plans for organizing the farmers into production or marketing groups commenced
- Discussions began with several stakeholders to kick-start urban forestry during the coming planting season across the six districts
- Monitoring of trees planted during the last year is on-going and for the area planted, 95% of planted tree seedlings survived through the end of the quarter
- More than 9,000 mangrove seedlings planted in the Shama district
- More than 20,000 tree seedlings have been requested for planting during the coming season; the assessment continues
- Three new VSLAs were established during the quarter and are completing training bringing the total number of established VSLAs to 19. Six VSLAs reached their share-out during the quarter, having completed the full cycle of training and modules.
- Two Climate Change Clubs embarked on community clean-up exercises and a football competition. Four new Climate Change Clubs were established during the quarter.
- CSLP participated in the National Farmers' Day celebration in the Jomoro District sponsoring and honoring three CSLP engaged farmers. In Nzema East District, a CSLP-supported Climate Change Club won a Farmer's Day award for the Asoni School and a CSLP Community Assistant won the Best Farmer Contact award.
- Six CRMCs of the Cape Three points CREMA were trained in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission on the importance of wildlife
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Western Region Stakeholders meeting took place with a positive formal recognition of the CSLP's activities from the Western Regional Minister and with a number of recommendations for the CSLP
- Three VSLAs were trained in climate change awareness



- The Ghana AFOLU team and FORIG are supporting the CSLP to establish a protocol for the estimation of carbon stocks within the CSLP catchment area
- 274 hectares of land area where planting has taken place were mapped during the quarter
- 12 Community Conservation Committees were initiated within the Greater Amanzule Wetland Area in collaboration with Hen Mpoano; a critical step on the way to establishing a co-management process and plan for the area’s unique natural resources and biodiversity

## ***Intermediate Result 1: Improved Livelihoods through Enhanced Natural Resources Management Practices***

**Table 1. Planned Activities for IR 1**

<b>Activities to be Implemented</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Outstanding Activity</b>
Sub IR 1.1: Provide capacity building for targeted community groups to effectively manage and conserve priority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More farmers trained in beekeeping, apiary management and honey collection</li> <li>• More interested farmers set-up CSA demonstration sites</li> <li>• Climate Smart Vegetable producer groups formed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 farmers have been identified for training in the basics of beekeeping.</li> <li>• 36 farmers (including 17 women) have set up Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) vegetable plots</li> <li>• Initial meetings of Climate Smart Vegetable producer groups have taken place in 4 CSLP communities</li> </ul>	
Sub IR 1.2: Identify, develop and demonstrate appropriate agroforestry and forest landscape restoration methods (technology and practices) for native ecosystems and improved livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of institutions have increased capacity in urban forestry planning, planting and management (fruit trees and amenity plantings)</li> <li>• Planted trees are monitored</li> <li>• Arboretum developed at TRACTOR Angu site as a demonstration tool</li> <li>• Charcoal woodlots in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified institutions have been engaged in discussions in preparation for planting in the coming season</li> <li>• Over 95% of planted trees have survived</li> <li>• Site has been identified for the establishment of an arboretum in Angu</li> <li>• Woodlot practitioners</li> </ul>	

	<p>Shama District monitored in line with best management practices (BMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degraded mangrove site in Yabiw re-planted</li> <li>• Management plan developed for re-planted mangrove site in Yabiw</li> </ul>	<p>visited are practicing some BMPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 9,000 mangrove seedlings planted in two sites within the same wetland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management plan development will begin after the re-planting</li> </ul>
<p>Sub IR 1.3: Promote incentives to implement NRM for improving livelihoods, biodiversity and carbon sequestration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All farmers are supplied with the quantities and numbers of seedlings desired during the coming planting season</li> <li>• Supported selected groups/individuals raise specific tree seedlings</li> <li>• Improved kiln technology for charcoal woodlot enterprises in Shama District piloted</li> <li>• New Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) formed</li> <li>• VSLAs Trained and also monitored</li> <li>• VSLAs trained in record keeping</li> <li>• Study tour to model VSLAs organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 269 farmers have requested over 20,000 seedlings for planting this coming planting season</li> <li>• One central nursery site identified</li> <li>• 2 options of kiln are being considered</li> <li>• 3 news VSLAs were established during the quarter</li> <li>• Training and monitoring continued</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record keeping training yet to start</li> <li>• Study tour postponed</li> </ul>

Five people who live outside of the 17 CSLP communities have expressed interest in beekeeping and apiary management. Hen Mpoano’s work in the Greater Amanzule area has identified an additional three people. A training has been postponed until Hen Mpoano and the CSLP completes the community assessment activities in the Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) area. A training for all eight will be set up at a convenient venue in the next quarter whereby they can be taken through the two basic beekeeping training modules.

Thirty six farmers (including 17 women) have established CSA demonstration plots. Most are growing the traditional pepper, okra, tomatoes and eggplant, and a few have ventured to try other vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce and cucumber.



**Figure 2. Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo on his farm**



**Figure 3. CSA eggplant and tomatoes on display at National Farmer's Day celebration at Azuleti**

With the objectives of promoting environmentally friendly practices, farmers have been introduced to the use of organic manure (the current demonstration plots are using cow dung) to improve soil fertility; they are also using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach that uses chili pepper and garlic in a liquid that is sprayed on their vegetables to control pests as opposed to chemical insecticides and herbicides. Some of the farmers started harvesting in this last quarter and one award-winning farmer exhibited some of his produce during the recent National Farmer's Day celebration in December 2015. CSLP has also been working with Ministry of Agriculture (MoFA) extension agents to introduce certified seeds to the CSA demonstration farmers.

A number of these farmers have also expressed interest in establishing the nitrogen-fixing tree species, *Gliricidia sepium*, on their sites to help boost vegetable production. The CSLP will work with them to acquire the seedlings for this complementary agroforestry activity.

The CSLP is encouraging the CSA vegetable producers to organize themselves into groups. The discussions with the farmers highlight the advantages of coming together into groups including:

- Having a common vision, soliciting training, and/or undergoing capacity building as a group in modules such as group dynamics and entrepreneurship skills
- Supporting one another and sharing experiences in their vegetable production activities, and
- Being able to market their produce on a more timely basis, at better prices and also receive services from service providers who are keen to be more efficient in their services to farmers.

The group formation discussion has started in 4 communities: Adubrim, Cape Three Points, Fawoman and Adusuazo. The Cape Three Points group is now settled with 12 members (six have set up their farms already with six more ready to set up in the next season). The 12 members have been taken through the first training module, "Why Form a Group?"

The CSLP has been contacted by a number of institutions in its operational area concerning urban tree planting and greening activities. During the last quarter the project met with Metropolitan/Municipal/District Town and Country Planning offices, Parks and Gardens, the Traditional Authority of Nzema Manle, Ghana Education Service, and the Forest Services Division. Discussions have focused on the need for more awareness on the importance of urban forestry as well as inclusion of more fruit trees in public areas, adjacent to schools and along urban streets and roadways. Table 2

provides a brief summary of where some of these urban forestry activities are being explored and where planning has been initiated.

**Table 2. Some urban forestry activity sites identified with the CSLP by district**

District	Community	Possible Sites
<b>Jomoro</b>	Elubo	Streets, school compounds
	Beyin	Streets, school compounds
	Half Assini	Streets
<b>Ellembelle</b>	Ayinase	Streets
	Esiama	Streets
	Nkroful	Streets
<b>Nzema East</b>	Axim	Streets
	Nsein	Streets
<b>Ahanta West</b>	Agona	Streets
<b>Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan</b>	Ngyeresia	Reclaimed site for recreation
	Essipong Stadium	Entrance road, and stadium environs
	Sekondi Takoradi	Some school compounds

Monitoring of the CSLP delivered and planted tree seedlings took place during the quarter and is ongoing. Of the 21,584 seedlings that were planted in the quarter, 20,524 are surviving, giving a survival rate of 95% through the end of December 2015. There are four communities where no monitoring has occurred, eight communities where monitoring has started and is on-going and five communities where monitoring is complete. This seedling monitoring is conducted with the support of the Community Assistants (CAs).

A site has been identified at TRACTOR/B-BOVID Demonstration Farm in Angu for the establishment of an arboretum. The arboretum site will be used to demonstrate rare, but useful plant/tree species of the locality. Placards will be used to identify these species with their common names and their uses. People knowledgeable of the plant types and their uses, will be consulted to help identify the species of interest. The CSLP will identify and engage a seasoned botanist with thorough knowledge of plants and their uses (including those for medicinal, seasoning and spice purposes) to assist with the identification process during the second and third quarters. A specific site map for the arboretum, the species inventory and also other plants indigenous to the region but not growing on the site, will be considered for inclusion. TRACTOR and the CSLP will work together to make the arboretum a training venue available for farmers, GoG officials, NGOs and schools who will visit the Demonstration Farm.

Some of the woodlot practitioners who were trained in Best Management Practices (BMP) last year were monitored during the quarter. It was observed that they are now allowing other trees to regenerate and grow along with their planted *Casia siamea* species illustrating that they are now mindful of biodiversity conservation. Two practitioners have also decided to practice zero burning in the establishment of their woodlots.



**Figure 4. Transferring mangrove seedlings for planting**



**Figure 5. Mangrove seedlings at the edge of the wetland, waiting to be planted**

A total of 9,120 mangrove seedlings were planted in two Shama District sites in the same wetland area by the people of Yabiw and Anto-Tre. The site closest to Yabiw received 4,505 seedlings, and the Anto-Tre site received 4,615 seedlings. The seedlings were planted at a 3m x 3m interval.

Tree seedling demand for the coming planting season had been assessed in 11 CSLP communities across three districts thus far. A total of 20,344 seedlings, comprising 27 species, have been requested by 269 farmers. The seedling demand assessment with the remaining communities will be completed in the next quarter.

The CSLP has decided to maintain the Adubrim nursery as the central location for the production of the majority of the seedlings required for planting this year. This follows the good work done by the Adubrim CAs (both women) involved in the past year in keeping and managing an excellent nursery. Apart from this central nursery, individuals and/or groups who are interested in setting up small on-farm nurseries will be identified and also supported as satellite nurseries to augment the central nursery in Adubrim. The Crops Research Institute in Ayinase (Jomoro District) will be engaged to produce fruit tree seedlings for distribution.

In another activity area, two options for charcoal kilns have been identified as potentially useful for introduction to the woodlot practitioners in Shama District. These are the mobile metal kilns and concrete/brick kilns as shown below. These two options each have their own advantages and disadvantages. The metal type is mobile and can be assembled anywhere. Its fabrication, however, requires a professional metalworker from Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. The concrete/brick one on the other hand is being promoted by the Ankobra Beach Resort in the Nzema East District. The resort staff are ready to train interested people in its construction. It is, however, not mobile, meaning wood cuttings have to be transported to the kiln for processing. The CSLP will work with woodlot practitioners during the next quarter to make the most practical choice for testing/piloting one of the design options.



**Figure 6. Interior view (left) and front view (right) of the concrete/brick kiln**



**Figure 7. Metal mobile kiln under assembly**

Three new VSLAs were established during the quarter. One group completed the third training module and the other two completed the fifth module (out of seven) by the end of the quarter. Aside from the three new VSLAs, all the remaining VSLAs were at various stages within the seven modular training cycle. Six out of the 19 VSLAs reached Module 7, which is the Share Out stage that completes the formal training cycle. During the share out (which can only happen once all loans have been repaid), all loan funds and the fine funds are shared according to the members' shares in their passbooks. Also at this stage a number of other decisions taken by the members of the VSLA in preparation for the next cycle. A number of these include:

- Any member who wishes to leave the group should be free to do so
- New members can now be allowed to join, if all remaining members agree
- The continuing members decide on the share price for the next cycle
- If the group wishes to establish seed capital to initiate the next cycle, they do so at this point. All members, including new members, must contribute the same amount. It can be more than 5 shares on this one occasion.
- The Field Specialist then explains to the group that in their next meeting, they must hold elections and then revise their constitution, which new members must sign. (S)he then offers to attend the next meeting to assist with elections and the constitution.

As noted above, the Module 7 is the last training for a group and therefore subsequent interactions with the group are by way of providing support to enhance their activities. Thus, six VSLAs could be considered to have graduated from the training process and will likely require far less assistance from the CSLP team to continue their saving and loan activities. Such groups will continue to be monitored to assess the economic and social impacts that result over the longer-term.



**Figure 8. Excited Nyame Nhyira VSLA members of Fawoman displaying their profit after their first Share Out**

**Table 3. Cash Analysis of six VSLAs at Share Out**

VSLA	Community	Date of First Savings	Date of Share-out	Membership			Total Savings (GH¢)	Loan Fund*		Profit (GH¢)	Social Fund (GH¢)	Return on Savings (%)	Ending Share Value
				Total	Males	Females		GH¢	US \$				
Nyame Na Aye	Ayawora	Aug-14	Oct-15	25	13	12	6,373	8,037	2,115	1,701	514	--	1.261
Biakoye	Adubrim	Sep-14	Nov-15	23	9	14	8,352	9,871	2,598	1,519	800	18.19	2.360
Dzigbordi	Navrongo	Oct-14	Nov-15	19	9	10	5,102	5,766	1,517	834	500	16.35	1.160
Odo	Adubrim	Sep-14	Nov-15	25	11	14	6,078	7,782	2,048	1,704	500	28.04	1.280
Nyame Nhyira	Fawoman	Nov-14	Dec-15	18	4	14	7,112	8,802	2,316	1,690	590	23.76	2.475
Yesu Mo	Tweakor1	Feb-15	Dec-15	30	15	15	5,799	8,297	2,183	2,514	10	43.35	1.434
<b>Totals</b>				<b>140</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>38,816</b>	<b>48,555</b>	<b>12,778</b>	<b>9,961</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>

\*Exchange rate: 3.8 GH¢/1.00 US \$

The plan to take all VSLA groups through a record keeping training is still on course and the training curriculum is being drafted as this report is written. It was been postponed for the following reasons:

- The widespread nature of the 19 VSLAs meant that there was need for extensive time in order to be able to provide all the weekly trainings that each one of them required.
- Training for the share out for the six noted above of was critical importance and was made to supersede the record keeping training.
- It was decided to allow full training through the 7 modules so that there would be adequate learning to influence the content and design of the record-keeping module.



## ***Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened Engagement and Coordination on Sustainable Landscapes Management***

**Table 4. Planned Activities for IR 2**

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Sub IR 2.1: Improve public awareness on the relationship between ecosystem services and livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two school environmental clubs, supported/trained to organize awareness events (e.g. artwork, clean-up, games, quiz, radio programs, study tour). Engage other schools on environmental issues</li> <li>• 5 new school Environmental Clubs formed and offered awareness trainings on NRM/Climate Change and events such as quiz, drama, clean-up</li> <li>• 24 NRM/ Biodiversity conservation awareness trainings offered for different local groups/institutions (e.g. CREMAs / CRMCs, Faith based, local FBOs, VSLAs) 6 per quarter</li> <li>• International/National Day celebration organized</li> <li>• IEC Materials (2016 CSLP branded Calendars, Newsletter, factsheet, posters) produced and distributed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Club established organic plantain and cassava farms</li> <li>• Clubs organized a community clean-up exercise and a football match</li> <li>• 4 new School Climate Change Clubs were formed during the quarter</li> <li>• 6 trainings were organized for 6 CRMCs of the Cape Three Points CREMA on the importance of wildlife</li> <li>• CSLP participated in the 2015 Farmer's Day celebration where 3 CSLP farmers received awards</li> <li>• CSLP branded calendars have been ordered</li> </ul>	
Sub IR 2.2 Promote stakeholder engagement and coordination at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Regional GoG Stakeholders meeting organized</li> <li>• Quarterly district level stakeholders meetings organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Stakeholders' meeting took place at the Kingstel Hotel Conference Room in Takoradi</li> <li>• 2 meetings were organized for 5 districts to discuss</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update meetings with traditional authorities in CSLP intervention communities organized</li> </ul>	<p>CSLP activities during the quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 update meetings were organized for the stool chiefs of CSLP communities in the Jomoro, Ellembelle and Nzema East Assemblies</li> </ul>	
Sub IR 2.3: Promote platforms that will support sustainable landscapes management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Awareness trainings for youth groups, VSLA members, unit committee members organized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Awareness trainings were organized for 3 VSLAs in the Ellembelle District</li> </ul>	

The Asonti Metropolitan Junior High School Climate Change Club established two farms with the objective to practice low/no use of dangerous chemicals. They are a plantain farm and a cassava farm. They also planted trees within the compound of the school to improve the shade system. The plantain farm won the school an award during the 2015 National Farmer’s Day Celebration. The club has applied only organic fertilizers such as kitchen wastes and cocoa husk wastes to the farms.



**Photos from top left, clockwise:** Asonti club cleaning up around school grounds, Aduazo club after the football match, inauguration of the Yabiw club executives, and Komfoeku club inauguration.

During the quarter, two clean-up exercises were organized by the Asonti and Adusuazo Climate Change Clubs. Initiated by the school clubs, it enticed other students to clean the whole community of refuse and weeds. The Adusuazo Club also organized a football match between club members and non-club members of the school after the clean-up exercise.

Four new climate change clubs were established during the quarter in three districts as listed in Table 5, bringing the total now supported by the CSLP to six.

**Table 5. Newly established school climate change clubs**

District	Club Name	Membership
Ahanta West	Akwidaa SDA Junior High School	100
Shama	Yabiw Methodist Junior High School	24
Shama	Komfoeku D/A Junior High School	33
Nzema East	Bokro M/A Junior High School	20

All members of the new clubs were taken through the CSLP Climate Change Brochure and each given a copy of the document. All the clubs elected their executives and the Komfoeku Climate Change Club created a motto as well.



**Figure 9. Akwidaa CRMC with their trainers**

Six trainings were organized for six Community Resources Management Committees (CRMCs) of the Cape Three Points CREMA in the Ahanta West District in biodiversity conservation awareness. The trainings, attended by a total of 72 participants (22 women, 50 men), were facilitated by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission’s Western Regional Office in Takoradi. The topic was, “*The Importance of Wildlife and the Need for their Protection*”. The training was aimed at helping the CRMC members to understand the roles of wildlife in the environment, the laws

protecting wildlife, especially the closed season, and their role as CREMA executives in their implementation. The 14 remaining CRMCs will be trained in the subsequent quarters of FY 2016.

In a broader awareness raising activity, the CSLP participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> National Farmer’s Day celebration that took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. All staff of the CSLP participated in the Jomoro District event at Azuleti. Three CSLP farmers (including one woman) were presented with the awards exclusively sponsored by both CSLP and the Jomoro District. Elsewhere on the same day in Ankyernyin, others supported by the CSLP also received awards. Table 6 lists the CSLP-affiliated awardees.

At the event, the CSLP erected a stand with photos depicting the importance of food crop production using little or no hazardous chemicals. It attracted many visitors who wanted to learn more and engage in conversations with the CSLP team on the project’s experiences in the region.



**Figure 10. CSLP's stand at the Azuleti Farmer's Day grounds**



**Figure 11. Gladys Atsu receiving her award certificate from the CSLP Director with district MOFA officials observing**

**Table 6. CSLP awardees for the 31<sup>st</sup> National Farmer's Day, 4 December 2015**

Award Winner	Gender	Location	District	Summary of Citation
Gladys Atsu	Female	Navrongo	Jomoro	Best Farmer in improved natural resources management /sustainable landscape management, female category
Walter Cudjoe Adzoko	Male	Navrongo	Jomoro	Best Farmer in improved natural resources management /sustainable landscape management, male category
Listowell Adus Medwenlemenwo	Male	Adusuazo	Jomoro	Best Farmer in organic vegetable production
Daniel Boah Somiah	Male	Asonti	Nzema East	Best Contact Farmer for the Municipality
Asonti M/A Junior High School / Climate Change Club	---	Asonti	Nzema East	Best First Cycle School in Agriculture Development

700 CSLP branded calendars have been designed and ordered for print with expected delivery the second week of January 2016. They will be distributed to CSLP stakeholders thereafter.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Western Regional technical stakeholders (first meeting for FY2016) took place on Friday, December 18, 2015 at the Kingstel Hotel in Takoradi. For the first time, all technical staff of the CSLP participated in the meeting giving an opportunity for all Government of Ghana (GoG) staff to know the full team. Seven regional institutions were represented at the meeting. The Regional Minister commended the efforts of the CSLP in a written statement read by his representative, the head of the Regional Economic Planning Unit. Some key CSLP activities highlighted in the Minister's statement were that:

- a) The CSLP's climate change mitigation and adaptation activities have gone a long way to complement the District Medium Term Development Plans and other national processes that currently address climate change;
- b) The CSLP is helping the local economy by augmenting public awareness, coordinating and building capacity of Government of Ghana (GoG) institutions, farmer groups and civil society organization (CSOs) and improving livelihoods through natural resource management such as mangrove enrichment, beekeeping and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs); and
- c) CSLP's recent facilitation of greening some identified sites and parks in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis is to be commended.

**Table 7. Areas of additional activity for the CSLP recommended by the Regional Stakeholders**

Activity	Recommendation
<i>Climate Smart Vegetable Production:</i> Are farmers reaching the best markets for their goods?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing of the goods should be considered</li> <li>• Farmers need to get better value for their organic products</li> </ul>
<i>Farm Mapping</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spatial data should be put into a standard format which will be useable by all relevant stakeholders including the MMDAs</li> <li>• It will help institutions such as TCPD for spatial planning purposes and / or to guide planning.</li> </ul>
<i>Beekeeping:</i> How is CSLP dealing with the marketing of honey?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be conscious effort to avoid adulteration of the honey</li> <li>• Branding and marketing should be pursued</li> <li>• The beekeepers should be put into groups and assisted to source funds from EDIF and other donors</li> <li>• CSLP should expand the base of beekeepers by training more interested farmers. It is a key diversified livelihood option that should be promoted.</li> </ul>
<i>Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Awareness Trainings for CRMCs:</i> Are the CRMCs active?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most CRMCs (Community Resource Management Committee of CREMA) are not functional</li> <li>• The Wildlife Division (WD) needs to do continuous monitoring and ensure the groups are active</li> </ul>
<i>Tree Planting and Ownership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nsoko (chew stick) is an income-generating tree and should not be looked at from only the conservation angle.</li> <li>• Pursue processes that will lead to the validity of tree ownership.</li> </ul>

Two meetings were organized to hold discussions with five Municipal/District Assembly officials to update them on the outcome of interventions that took place in their areas of jurisdiction. The first meeting included Shama and the Ahanta West District staffs, while the second meeting included representatives from Jomoro, Nzema East and Ellebelle Districts. Community development officers, district MoFA officers, the Ghana Education Service, Town and Country Planning departments, development officers, business advisory staff, district coordinating officers, district health officials and social welfare staff were all part of the 32 participants in these two gatherings.



**Figure 12. Meeting of CSLP Communities' chiefs and elders of Jomoro district**

The meetings discussed activities that had been carried out within their jurisdiction by CSLP, with some members present who were activity participants. The CSLP uses these meetings to refine and clarify activity objectives and to coordinate future plans with district staff. The CSLP also provides summaries in hard copy of the previous quarter's project activities to complement their own quarterly reports to their superiors.

The CSLP also facilitated two meetings with chiefs and elders of CSLP communities in Ellembelle, Nzema East and Jomoro districts. These venues served to brief the 33 chiefs who are the traditional custodians of the communities and lands. These meetings helped to solidify confidence in the CSLP's actions on the landscape and help increase the chiefs' awareness of what has been achieved in their communities and what is being planned for the subsequent quarter. The chiefs in the remaining three districts will be engaged in the next quarter.

Three Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), all in the Ellembelle District, were given training to enhance their awareness about climate change. This training for the 76 participants (45 were women) focused on strategies that will help them adapt to the changes, including the adoption of the climate conscious farming practices, promoted by the CSLP.

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

**Table 8. Planned Activities for IR 3**

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Sub IR 3.1 Provide capacity building on forest and wetland carbon and other ecosystems services measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversant with institutions involved with spatial plan activities, data they use and their database formats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions began with district staff to highlight the importance of collaboration and sharing spatial data</li> </ul>	An interview-based survey will be developed and administered with the district administrations and the traditional authorities to identify outside reserve natural resource areas (e.g., sacred groves) to enhance their management
Sub IR 3.2: Collect and utilize biophysical and socio economic data to inform land-use planning and decision-making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon stock measurements in CSLP communities streamlined with AFOLU standards with the support of FORIG</li> <li>• All CSLP intervention sites mapped</li> <li>• All mapped farms are fitted into district base maps with attributes (GIS) with the support of Hen Mpoano</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP has contacted FORIG and discussed the objectives of CSLP with them. They have committed to support CSLP in this direction</li> <li>• 172.24 Ha of planted area mapped during the quarter</li> <li>• All the data that has been collected of CSLP intervention sites have been transferred to Hen Mpoano for processing</li> </ul>	
Sub IR 3.3: Integrating lessons learned on national level jurisdictional monitoring, reporting and verification systems into a regional REDD+ system framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacts/linkages established with national Institutions and their stakeholder/ partners leading climate change issues</li> <li>• CSLP lessons learned and experiences shared with AFOLU working group and their best practices incorporated into CSLP activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSLP has contacted IUCN in order to share lessons. The IUCN is implementing the Pro-Poor REDD+ Project in the Western Region</li> <li>• CSLP is engaging Forestry Commission officials and an AFOLU team member to share in CSLP's carbon calculation protocol development</li> </ul>	

During the quarterly meetings with the Districts/Municipal/Metropolitan Administration officials, the need for sharing spatial data with the CSLP was discussed. Some of the immediate and obvious advantages of such collaboration include:

- Avoiding spending resources to gather the same data;
- Creating opportunities for interactive learning and training; and,
- Helping to ensure that data sets align from one local institution to another.

The project’s initial discussions noted that there are a number of institutions working with spatial data apart from the Town and Country Department and the Development Planning office. Table 9 lists some of these institutions and some of the data that they are collecting/monitoring in the six coastal districts where the CSLP is active. The project also understands that there are other institutions actively engaged with spatial data in the area.

**Table 9. Institutions involved in spatial planning and data required**

Institution	Types of Data Collected/Monitored
The Department of Food and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site maps of areas potential for food crop production</li> <li>• Demarcation of field operational areas for extension agents</li> </ul>
Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demarcate forests from other land uses</li> <li>• Resources assessment/survey</li> </ul>
Spatial Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District development plans</li> </ul>
Some NGOs, e.g., Hen Mpoano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of vulnerability maps etc.</li> </ul>

The CSLP is designing a guided interview questionnaire to engage the districts individually to identify other (not private) institutions and to research them and the data being collected. The activity will also seek to identify natural resource areas of interest such as sacred groves, identify stakeholders and engage them on sustainable management issues, identify the spatial context of the districts and share information with the TCPD for their planning benefits.

During the quarter, the CSLP contacted scientists at the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) to help refine the CSLP protocol for carbon measurement and monitoring. As part of the collaboration agreed upon, FORIG will visit the CSLP and its field activities to better understand the issues and put the project’s carbon measurement efforts into the national context.

At the same time, through another new collaborative effort between FORIG and the University of Cape Coast (UCC) Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project, the CSLP is planning to support a UCC graduate student to work in carbon stock estimation of mangroves in the Greater Amanzule Wetland area.

Land use and land cover (LULC) was mapped in communities participating in the CSLP’s interventions during the quarter covering 274 hectares of upland sites and 209 hectares in wetlands and mangroves. These areas were on sites in each of the districts where the project is active, except the STMA.

All the data collected from CSLP intervention sites have been transferred to Hen Mpoano. Hen Mpoano is in the processing of cleaning the data. Once cleaned, meta data will be superimposed on the maps



into a GIS that will be useable by the district assemblies and the Western Region GIS Hub in the Regional Town and Country Planning Office.

Another contact has been established with the IUCN, which is implementing a pro-poor REDD+ project in the Western Region. Here again, the CSLP is working to share lessons and work together to create common ground on some critical issues for engagement with district, regional and national decision makers.

Collaboration with Hen Mpoano through a grant from the CSLP is aimed at developing and implementing a co-management process to help conserve and protect the biological resources of the Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW). The ultimate objective of the activities is to ensure the livelihoods of the community members in the wetland area and to achieve national and international recognition of the GAW as a high conservation value area. The grant collaboration is building on Hen Mpoano's long-standing relationships with the communities connected with the wetland through their role in the Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Project. The grant follows the successful implementation of the earlier phase funded by the CSLP that focused mainly on a wider awareness building activity with stakeholders on previously agreed on strategies for the management of the wetland. The current phase, started in the last quarter, is facilitating the establishment of the agreed management scenario at the community level. In the current fiscal year, it is helping to establish functioning committees that provide formal grass roots structures for discussion and decision-making around each community's management plans.

**Table 10. Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation Activities Achieved**

Activities To be Implemented	Expected Output	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Identify 2 broad groups of communities and/or community clusters	12 communities selected for Pilot I and an additional 11 communities for Pilot II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 communities divided into 4 groups, 2 groups per district; each district group subdivided into 2 subgroups of 6 communities. Six community groups from each district forms Pilot I for interaction in the first six months of FY 2016</li> <li>• Community meetings organized to create awareness on the pilot phase</li> </ul>	
Formation of community wetlands conservation committees (GAWCCCs)	23 Community - level structures in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 GAWCCCs formed with 200 members (49 are women)</li> <li>• Guidelines developed</li> <li>• Executives elected</li> <li>• Patrons selected</li> <li>• 12 GAWCCCs inaugurated</li> </ul>	The second group of communities, Pilot II is scheduled for 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter
Identification of livelihood options	Livelihood options identified and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livelihood assessment conducted for all the 12 Pilot I communities</li> </ul>	Further interaction to narrow long list of livelihood options to about 3 critical ones
Formation of district wetlands conservation committees	District Wetland Conservation Committees operational		Postponed to the next quarter

As the GAW is widespread and cuts across two districts, it was decided to work in two phases with a smaller number of communities in each phase to make the tasks more manageable. It also creates the opportunity to learn additional lessons from the process. The 23 communities (roughly 12 communities per district) were divided into 4 clusters of 6 each that is 2 clusters per district. One cluster per district was selected making 12 communities in all for the initial pilot (Pilot I).

During the quarter, individual community-level meetings were organized to create awareness on the roll out activities and to refresh community member memories on the results and conclusions of the previous grant that ended in January 2015. The Greater Amanzule Wetland Community Conservation Committees (GAWCCCs) were formed in each of the Pilot I communities and inaugurated. There are a total of 200 members (including 49 women) from the 12 communities. The elected executives for all the 12 communities have, with training assistance from the grantee, developed guidelines for the management of the respective committees.

The process for the identification of livelihood opportunities to be developed was started in the 12 Pilot I communities. The CSLP staff will refine the lists from each community early in the next quarter and begin more in-depth interactions with self-selected community members. Some of the livelihood activities in the GAW communities include:

- Fishing farming
- Coconut Farming
- Cassava processing
- Woodlot/Fuel wood harvesting and sales
- Improved fish smoking
- Charcoal production
- Fish processing
- Vegetable Farming

District-level Wetland Conservation Committees will be formed during the next quarter in each of the two districts, Jomoro and Ellembelle, capitalizing on existing structures and experiences where appropriate.

## 2.2 Implementation challenges

Weather-wise, the period from October to December was quite dry compared to some other years when October would have been considered as part of the minor planting season. This affected most planting activities. Of the over 44,000 seedlings that were delivered to farmers, nearly 9,000 of them were not planted because the farmers thought they would die for lack of water. Similarly, most of the CSA demonstration set ups had to be postponed.

During the quarter under review, four Metropolitan/Districts did not have substantive Chief Executives. These were the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis, Jomoro, Ahanta West and Shama. This affected some activities. For instance, the urban greening efforts with the GoG partners in the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis was affected. The stakeholders have made visits, interacted with other stakeholders and identified some sites and made proposals for action. The next stage is to share the ideas with the metropolitan management for their consent and approval.

During the last quarterly Regional Stakeholders meeting in December 2015, there was still the challenge of the Municipal/District staff not reporting comprehensively on the activities of CSLP in their quarterly reports to the Regional Coordinating Council. During the meeting, the regional stakeholders were provided information illustrating that:

- The CSLP activities should be reflected in each of the district Medium Term Development Plans;
- That the staff are invited to all relevant events such as trainings, media days, etc.; and,
- That there is a quarterly briefing of district staff by the CSLP to discuss the planned activities and the state of implementation within the various municipal/districts; the district is also provided with hard (and or soft) copies of these summaries.

The CSLP will continue to work with the districts and the regional stakeholders to facilitate the communication and reporting functions when/where appropriate.

## 2.3 PMP Update

A short term M&E consultant was engaged late in FY 2015 and submitted his final report during the quarter. The purpose for this consultancy assignment was to support the CSLP in its review of its Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), the project’s indicator tracking tools and data collection sheets so as to streamline the M&E processes and ensure a more robust system. A summary of the findings are listed in Table 11.

**Table 11: Summary of Key Findings and Recommended Actions**

FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
No project risks/critical assumptions are specified in the Results Framework	Project risks or key assumptions must be specified
Full-time M&E staff lacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-time M&amp;E staff needed</li> <li>• Capacity building training in M&amp;E required for key staff</li> </ul>
No documented standard operating procedures (SOPs)	SOPs must be institutionalized
A comprehensive data quality assessment overdue	A comprehensive data quality assessment needed
Existing data storage, protection and backup processes deficient	A server-based data protection and backup needed
No central database that can also store GIS data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive central geo-database required using SQL</li> <li>• A robust access database could be explored as an alternative</li> </ul>
Some key custom indicators lacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt or modify the relevant custom indicators (as proposed) for integration</li> <li>• Set realistic targets for the custom indicators once approved</li> </ul>
No baseline data collected for indicator 4.8-7	Collect baseline data for indicator 4.8-7

A number of custom indicators were also proposed by the consultant. The CSLP staff collectively reviewed these and added two additional ones. The list of custom indicators now being monitored by the project include:

- C-1 Number of people benefiting from Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) as a result of USG assistance
- C-2 Number of person hours of training completed in VSL modules and related financial trainings as a result of USG assistance
- C-3 Percentage of beneficiaries adopting sustainable practices in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
- C-4 Number of community sensitization sessions on climate change issues and/or natural resource management (NRM)/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
- C-5 Number of persons and institutions receiving start-up items for improved NRM/ biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
- C-6 Number of tree (seedlings) planted and surviving in towns/villages as a result of USG assistance

Indicator reference sheets have been drafted for all six and are under review. Implementation will begin in the next quarter.

CSLP participated in the USAID/Ghana Economic Growth Implementing Partners' M&E Staff Working Group Meeting held on November 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Coconut Grove Hotel in Accra. Topics highlighted included:

- Conducting indicator data verification,
- Data quality assessment and evidence-based decision making.

There was a hands-on training session on the Feed the Future Monitoring System (FtFMS) which is a web-based database.

## 3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

### 3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

Gender roles continue to factor heavily into CSLP activities. While the men continue to indulge in activities that utilize the best part of land (i.e. better nutrients and bigger portions of land), the women in many of the communities where CSLP works, are involved in value chain commodities and most of the food crops production such as vegetables. This is reflected directly in the VSLA membership and the CSA demonstration activities where women make up the majority of the participants.

CSLP is continuously leveraging this engagement to ensure that women's involvement is enhanced. The project has noted that about 30 percent of the female members of the VSLAs have not yet planted trees, or been engaged in tree planting-related activities promoted by the project. The CSLP is engaging these women through awareness raising activities related to climate change and is encouraging them to plant trees if they have land, or on the other hand, encourage their husbands and other family members to consider tree planting.

In order to encourage more women to participate in CSLP activities, a female farmer registered with the project was presented an award during the recent National Farmer's Day celebration for her involvement in beekeeping, cocoa-agroforestry and being a member and chairperson of a VSLA.

### 3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

Strong and effective VSLAs hold the potential to ensure sustainability of many interventions. The VSLAs are mechanisms that ensure that community members work together, especially if the self-selection mechanism is effective and allows only people who trust one another to come together. The VSLA will also provide an opportunity for individuals to access funds to implement new, improved practices that they may see through CSLP interventions. Thus, the continuous training of the VSLAs on a variety of project-related topics is necessary in order to expose members to alternative management practices.

The climate change clubs supported by the CSLP are also growing in popularity with stronger collaboration with the Ghana Education Service and the FC's Wildlife Division. The project has had preliminary discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency because they have a school program focusing on climate change as well. The school venue represents an excellent opportunity for the CSLP. These young minds and their enthusiasm are excellent local ambassadors for behavior changes and activities on the landscape that impact long term sustainable use and management of the region's natural biological heritage.

### 3.3 Environmental Compliance

CSLP, during the quarter, did not implement any activity that could be considered to have negative impact on the environment.

### 3.4 Global Climate Change

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

### 3.5 Policy and Governance Support

Lack of effective local level policy and governance implementation has led to the degradation of mangroves in most places within the Western Region. Most communities have lost their mangrove resources due to the fact that people can harvest quantities irrespective of age of the trees, without the need to replant or restore harvested areas. This quarter, the CSLP gave more impetus to local level governance as it relates to mangrove management in the Shama District's Yabiw and Antotre communities where mangrove re-planting activities have been initiated. The groundwork is being established to develop a long term management plan for these wetland and mangrove areas within the district. Similarly, within the Greater Amanzule Wetland areas, community level structures are being formed which will facilitate community level agreements on rules and regulations for the management of their wetland resources. Beyond the community level committees, there will be district level committees and potentially the two districts will have an umbrella body to supervise the two districts' committees.

### 3.6 Local Capacity Development

One of the objectives of the collaboration between TRACTOR and CSLP, is to build local capacity in the implementation of climate change activities in the communities. The two TRACTOR staff who have worked closely with the CSLP Specialists over recent months, have built some amount of confidence in

communicating on the topic of climate change. During the quarter, TRACTOR had an engagement with four radio stations in Takoradi namely:

- Radio Maxx: 105.1
- Spice FM: 91.9
- Beach FM: 105.5
- Skyy Power FM: 93.5



**Figure 13. TRACTOR Staff in Skyy FM Studio**



**Figure 14. Diabene SHS Students on a visit to the Angu Demonstration Farm**

The theme of the program was on establishing the relationship between agroforestry, food security, and climate change adaptation. The outcome of the program was that the agriculture science and science students of Diabene Senior High School contacted TRACTOR and arranged a visit to the Angu site to obtain a firsthand understanding of the site and what it is demonstrating related to these topics.

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

CSLP is proud of the relationship with TRACTOR/B-BOVID in the sense that it continues to promote this public private partnership model which will benefit the business and non-profit arm in the long term. CSLP is exploring another form of a similar relationship connected with the VSLAs by linking them to potential institutions such as banks/rural banks and input suppliers. The initial discussions underway with the institutions are informational to tell them of how the VSLAs operate and what kind of relationships the VSLAs would like to have with them; and also to discuss what conditions will result in win-win relationships. Updates on these potential collaborations will be reported in subsequent quarterly reports.

### **3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation Impacts**

In the pursuit of reduced chemical impact on the environment, CSLP is promoting the use of a mixture of soap and powdered chili pepper or garlic in the control of pests, particularly on vegetables as part of the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) activities. This has proved quite effective and is being adopted by the CSLP farmers. Based on this, some farmers have requested for knapsack sprayers to be bought for them in order to make it easy for the application. There are other opportunities such as neem extracts. The neem tree, unfortunately, is not a common tree species growing in most of the communities of the area. Farmers are being encouraged to be diligent in the application of these while CSLP facilitates a wider adoption of these practices.

## 4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Regular participation by stakeholders in the regional stakeholders' meetings continues to provide observations, critiques and comments on the CSLP's activities and programs. The Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission was absent from several earlier stakeholders' meetings. Following a face-to-face engagement with the Regional Manager, one of her Deputy Regional Managers was nominated as the CSLP contact and her representative to attend all meetings when she is not available. Thus, CSLP is now engaging with the FSD regional office on a more regular basis.

The Municipal/District level partners have also collaborated effectively. They are by extension, the offices of the regional stakeholders which include the Town and Country Planning, Economic Planning, and Department of Food and Agriculture.

Another area where stakeholder participation is on-going, concerns the greening and tree planting in the larger, more urbanized communities. In the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly in particular, the following institution are working together with the CSLP:

- |                              |                                   |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Town and Country Planning | 3. Parks and Gardens              | 5. Forest Services Division |
| 2. Economic Planning         | 4. Hydrological Survey Department | 6. Urban Roads              |

## 5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The CSLP administrative and technical staff provided inputs and comments to the CSLP Extension and Expansion Proposal drafts that were prepared by the USAID consultant who undertook a stock taking exercise of the project at the end of FY 2015.

The project continues to implement recommendations from the administrative and financial review that was conducted during the last quarter of FY 2015.

Electricity and internet service provider (ISP) issues continue. The generator continues to be a reliable backup during the *dumsor* times, but the ISP is more problematic in times of no power from the electrical grid.

The rental contract for the CSLP office expires at the end of February 2016. Office staff is working with the landlord's representative to extend the lease until the end of September 2016. This is the official end of the USFS IP's current agreement with USAID/Ghana for CSLP. If/when the project is extended then a new lease agreement will be explored, either with the current landlord or at a new location.

## 6. LESSONS LEARNED

The responses received by farmers at the National Farmer's Day celebration in Jomoro District in connection with organic production of vegetables, points to a larger interest amongst farmers beyond the current reach of CSLP. Many farmers expressed their concerns about inappropriate use of chemicals and the associated health hazards. The main challenge seems to be the lack of technical know-how and alternative options available to many farmers. The CSLP will continue to enhance the demonstrations as designed in the CSAs and follow it up with support for the marketing of the produce. Some farmers seem not to believe the possibility of producing without chemicals and so have earmarked very small sizes of land for this on a trial basis until they see solid results.

The linkage of improved natural resources restoration and/or management with livelihood opportunities seems to be a plausible idea. There are, however, a few considerations to be factored into the choices of livelihood options. First, there needs to be a decision made as to whether the benefits are for subsistence or for income generation. If it is for subsistence, the product must be known to the people and potentially play some critical role in their socio-cultural setting. If it is for income generation, then the value chain must be understood and the practitioners supported to fit into the chain. There are instances where they will satisfy both subsistence and income generation. These ideas are influencing the CSLP's facilitation processes for the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) vegetable production, honey production and the charcoal production.

## 7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

The discussions under each IR in the preceding text highlighted a number of activities that had been planned for the first quarter that will be initiated, and in some cases completed, in the next quarter. Most prominent of these is the project's collaboration with Hen Mpoano under the grant for initiating co-management of the GAW resources. The CSLP, in the coming quarter, will work with members in the 12 Pilot I communities to begin tackling the livelihood diversity issues. Some include tree planting, CSA and working with other entities in the area who interact with the fisher folk of these coastal hamlets. Plans are also underway to begin establishing VSLAs in the communities that are interested. Part of this effort involves a study tour/visit to other CSLP communities with VSLA experience. One-on-one discussions about their experiences should be encouraging to the Pilot I communities.

Other activities and actions planned for the next quarter include a study tour with CSLP champion farmers to learn more about tree planting and agroforestry from farmers at other sites adjacent to the region. Part of this will also simply involve exchange visits and discussions to other CSLP-registered communities. Tree seed sources, planting experiences, farmer-managed natural regeneration and the Cocoa Board policy to plant trees for shade are all part of the curriculum planned for this training tour.

In addition, the following activities are planned for the next quarter:

Basic beekeeping and apiary establishment training will be provided to new farmers being registered with the CSLP.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) demonstration sites will continue to be established and monitored.



CSA production groups that focus on improving their own practices as well as becoming more effective at using the food crop supply chains in the area will be formed and receive training in the next quarter.

Discussions with the communities of Yabiw and Antotre and the Shama District Assembly will focus on a strategy to develop a management plan for the wetland and mangrove areas in those two communities.

A bookkeeping training is being developed and will be implemented for mature VSLAs within the CSLP operational area.

Mapping of LULC on CSLP-registered farms will continue as will the participatory mapping of the GAW communities under the grant with Hen Mpoano.

The project will participate in a stock-taking exercise with the USGS and USAID/Ghana on the coastal forests, mangrove and wetland areas scheduled for the quarter.

The CSLP's Spatial Planning and Ecosystems Services specialist will present a paper at the Humboldt Kolleg Meeting at the University of Ghana, Legon on Reducing Carbon Footprints within the Coastal Sector.

A district-level interactive interview survey will be initiated to better understand each district's knowledge of its natural areas, the plans for those areas, the level of detail on data collected related to them, other data repositories (entities working in the district with similar data), the gaps in such data, and how the district uses these data in its planning and other activities.

The CSLP also plans to host two national level Forestry Commission officials on an informational and inspection visit to CSLP sites during the quarter. This will be scheduled during the quarterly oversight visit by the USFS-IP Program Manager.

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

Based on comments and observations provided on the Annual Progress Report, the CSLP has attempted to be clearer on numbers for various activities so that results are specific. In addition, this report attempts to clearly describe the outcomes of certain activities in order to answer the "so what" questions. Under the M&E Implementation section, plans to address other areas not covered by standard indicators are described.

The 2016 Work Plan provided a narrative on adjustments to targets for the project's six standard indicators. The summaries provided with the IRs presented in this report also reflect the adjustments stated in the Work Plan.

## ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY

Achieved progress versus planned for the period disaggregated by gender, geographic area and other relevant factors (use table below).

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

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 2016		Quarterly Status – FY 2016				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
<b>Intermediate Result (IR): 1 Improved Livelihoods through Enhanced Natural Resources Management Practices</b>											
<b>Sub-IR:</b>											
<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>	Field Data	2014	0	900	429	429				47.7%	
<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>	GPS/GIS Field Data	2014	0	800	483	483				21.5%	
<b>Sub-IR:</b>											
<b>4.8.2-14 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance</b>	Capacity Building Event Reports	2014	0	70	9	9				12.9%	

Intermediate Result (IR): 2 Strengthened Stakeholder Engagements and Coordination on Sustainable Landscape Management											
Sub-IR:											
4.8.1-29 <u>Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance</u>	Training Reports	2014	0	8,000	154	154				2%	
Intermediate Result (IR): 3 Enhanced Capacity for Ecosystem Services Monitoring											
Sub-IR:											
4.8-7 <u>Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO2e, reduced or sequestered, or avoided as a result of USG assistance</u>	Field data	2014	0	8,000	-	-					Consulting to define protocol for estimation
4.8.2-29 <u>Number of person hours of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance</u>	Training event Reports	2014	0	4,500	228	228				5%	

## ANNEX B. SUCCESS STORIES

### FARMER EMBARKS ON BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN

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



**Adus at his CSA vegetable farm**

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

## Gladys Atsu

### Facts about Gladys

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



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

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

Asked what she feels about CSLP, she said,

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

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

## USAID INTERVENTIONS APPLAUDED AT 31<sup>ST</sup> FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION

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

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

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



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