



USAID | GHANA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COASTAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Quarterly Report

THIRD QUARTER – APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2017

Submission Date: August 1, 2017

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

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

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: director@cslp-gh.org



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

Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PAPA	Participating Agency Program Agreement
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMSC	Resources Management Service Center
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SL	Sustainable Landscapes
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STMA	Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly
TOT	Training of Trainers
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

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

I.1 Program Description/Introduction

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

Most land in the Western Region outside forest reserves, other protected areas and sacred groves has already been deforested and converted to agriculture, mainly in the form of tree crops. The current challenge is to find ways of taking pressure off the remaining forests and other natural areas while improving livelihoods. The CSLP has had success during the first phase (2013-2016) in conserving key areas of secondary forest through activities such as beekeeping and increasing tree cover on degraded agricultural lands through farmer managed natural regeneration and enrichment planting.

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 intensities can lead to droughts in some areas and floods in others. In addition to storm events, other adverse impacts to the region from climate change include rising sea levels, salt water intrusion producing higher salinity rates of coastal water sources, changes in marine and terrestrial biological life cycles, and the likely extirpation of species.

USAID/Ghana's Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment of 2011 identified the need for the Feed the Future (FTF) programs to mitigate any possible negative effects on forests and other natural areas from agriculture expansion. That threat, together with increased demand for fuel wood and charcoal production, are the dominant drivers of deforestation. Moreover, health risks increase as the quality and quantity of water resources for human and productive uses declines as a result of the hydrologic functions of watershed catchment areas being disrupted by agricultural expansion, deforestation and mining.

The United States Geological Survey-generated maps below (Figure 1) show the agricultural trend across Ghana. The rapid expansion of farmland threatens the remaining forests and natural areas and segments of the population that rely

on these resources for their livelihoods. Many poorer rural inhabitants depend on natural products to supplement their income; frequently, these products are their main source of revenue. This is the case especially for youth, women and the elderly, and the loss of this income source equals a dramatic loss as it relates to food security.

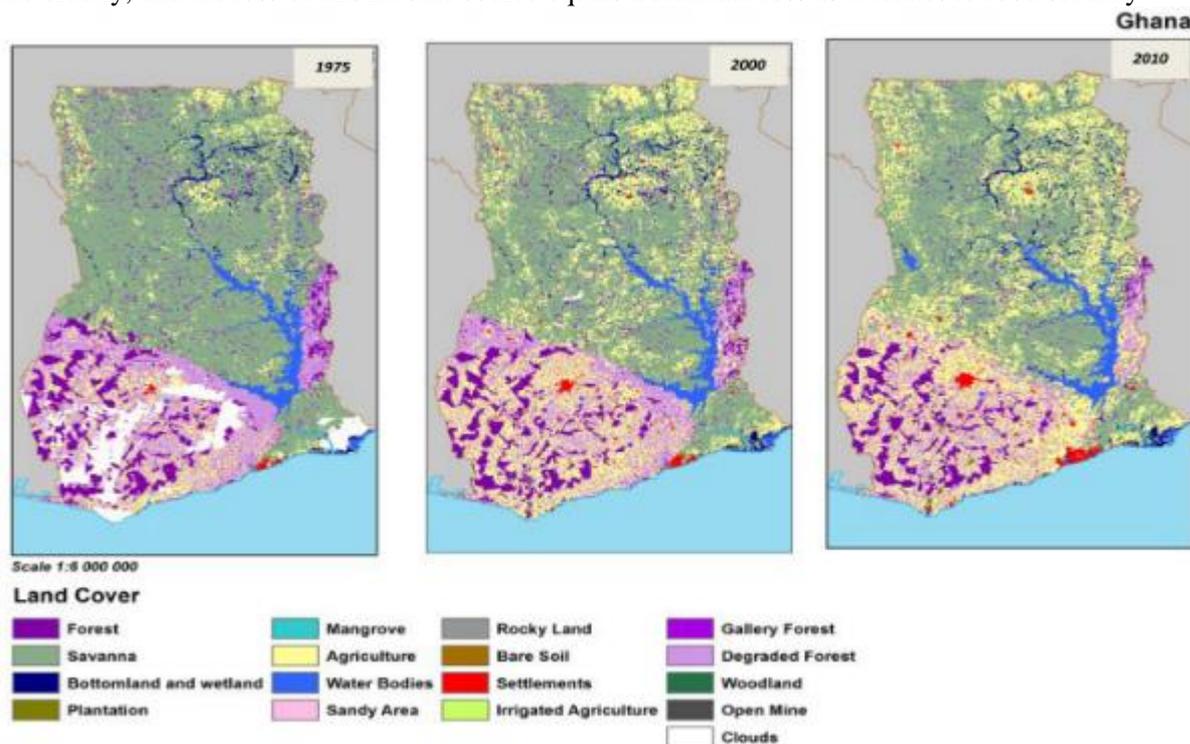


Figure 1. Ghana Land Cover Trends 1975-2010. USGS 2014.

On a broader scale, the lack of sound watershed management and the increasing rates of deforestation throughout much of the region, particularly in riparian zones, have negatively impacted water quantity and quality in the three main river systems running through the CSLP target zone. Fishing communities on these rivers and along the coast are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain their livelihoods. The CSLP has been working with communities in mangrove and wetland areas to reforest degraded mangroves that serve as important fish habitat to help mitigate these impacts. In addition, working with local NGO partner, Hen Mpoano, the CSLP is engaging communities in the Greater Amanzule Wetlands area to increase their cooperation and potential to establish management plans for the region that can help plan for local and district development and conserve the biological heritage of these important wetland areas. This work will continue in an expansion phase with the goal of achieving a legally recognized conservation status for the area within a few years.

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

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

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

As part of the expansion, the CSLP will support Ghana's economic development agenda and strategies such as the Shared Growth and Development Agenda, Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS), and the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP II). USAID/Ghana's Development Objective 2 also supports two US Presidential Initiatives related to the CSLP, including Feed the Future and Global Climate Change. Funding for the project's second phase comes from the Feed the Future initiative.

The CSLP's interventions have brought awareness among farmers, community members and government officials and substantially increased the understanding of these impacts among stakeholders in the Western Region. Climate smart agriculture activities are helping farmers adopt strategies to mitigate impacts of this changing climate, reducing the need for high cost inputs, and examining simple strategies that will help sustain or increase the productivity of their agricultural crops even in the face of less predictable weather. In its second phase, the CSLP is building on its previous work and also placing greater emphasis on farms as small businesses, including helping to create farmer enterprises, strengthen farmer input networks and striving for improved marketability of their produce thereby increasing overall production value and opportunities for microeconomic growth.

One area where the CSLP is engaged is in the formation and support of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to help build stronger financial safety nets especially for women in the region. Nearly 20 VSLAs were established by the end of the first phase, with seven of those groups having completed a full year of modular training that resulted in an average return on investment of 25% across that sample. Participants were able to pay school fees, start small businesses and achieve greater financial stability to sustain them through challenging market price fluctuations. In addition, the ability for women and young people to gain greater financial power has helped increase their decision making influence within their households, including activities that favor conservation of natural resources and lower carbon emissions.

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

2. SUMMARY OF RESULTS TO DATE

Table 1: Indicator Targets and Achievements

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2014	Annual Target	Q1 FY17	Q2 FY17	Q3 FY17	Q4 FY17	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 CO₂e</u> , reduced, sequestered or avoided as a result of USG assistance	0	7,000,000	--	4,066,852	64,218	--	59%	Y
4.8.1-6 Number of <u>people</u> with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	1,200	--	1,113	--	--	93%	Y
4.8.1-26 Number of <u>hectares</u> of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	0	1,415	450	89	315	--	60%	Y
4.8.1-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	0	8,500	1,967	2,860	3,282	--	95%	Y
4.8.2-14 Number of <u>institutions</u> with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	0	75	--	31	20	--	68%	Y
4.8.2-29 Number of person <u>hours</u> of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance	0	5,000	688	1,406	1,738	--	77%	Y

EG. 3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	831	191	291	205	--	80%	Y
EG. 3.2-4 Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) receiving UGS food security-related organizational development assistance	0	63	--	49	8	--	90%	Y
E.G. 3.2-17 Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	344	--	123	115	--	69%	Y
E.G. 3.2-18 Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	0	80	--	14.35	31.5	--	57%	Y
E.G. 3.2-20 Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices	0	50	--	27	6	--	66%	Y
C-1 Number of person hours of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance	0	5,000	834	255	314	--	28%	Y
C-2 Number of community sensitization sessions on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	50	16	23	5	--	88%	Y

C-3 Number of persons receiving start-up items for improved NRM/ biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	0	600	--	264	10	--	45%	Y
C-4 Number of project-planted seedlings surviving in towns/communities as a result of USG assistance	0	65,000	--	--	--	--	N/A	Y

3. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

3.1 Progress Narrative

There was a significant emphasis this quarter on livelihood activities across the coastal landscape. This is exhibited in this report with the formal modular trainings undertaken with farmers on the CSLP landscapes, with the very practical training and hands on coaching that took place with individual farmers on their farm plots, and in the Training of Trainers activities where the project engaged Ministry of Food and Agriculture's (MoFA) extension agents. These activities included ways of improving and enhancing the benefits for people who have adopted these ventures. There were trainings in climate smart/conservation agriculture (CSA) for community members, the development and monitoring of demonstration plots and practical exercises with the farmer enterprise groups that the CSLP is helping to establish.

There were also efforts made that supported institutions such as public schools to enhance the integrity of natural resources through tree planting efforts and monitoring of community wetlands adjacent to their campuses. The project continues to encourage a savings culture through the Village Savings and Loan model. The level of positive community response is most encouraging and it is hoped that the baseline survey conducted in conjunction with the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project during the quarter bears this out. Over the past year, the demand to help support new VSLAs in the six coastal district exceeds the CSLP's ability to keep up and still provide the needed coaching and monitoring that will ensure its long term success.

District and regional institutions are beginning to reference the CSLP's activities as models to emulate for community development. The MoFA regional director sent his deputies to the CSLP during the quarter to examine ways for more and continued collaboration in livelihood diversification activities, and district spatial planning bodies regularly contact CSLP technical staff for project updates, data and comparisons with what is set out in their district development plans.

Project successes, tempered with healthy criticism and ideas for improvement, are in large part due to the support for project activities from traditional authorities, technical and managerial district staff and regional stakeholders. The project's quarterly updates to these groups helps to maintain a healthy dialog and helps the project and the stakeholders stay abreast of a large number of activities. Other CSLP-supported actions in this most recent quarter, such as the annual Media Day and the support of World Environment Day (5 June), also create another level of awareness that helps to highlight the benefits of the project's activities in local communities. These and other details are provided in this section and a complete list of daily events where the CSLP was engaged are found in Annex C.

Other notable achievements for the quarter are summarized below.

- Mobile metal kilns (2) were delivered to Yabiw and Krobo charcoal producers associations. These were developed and made available as a pilot effort by the CSLP following earlier trainings (in FY 2016) in woodlot management and best practices for charcoal production linked to these woodlots. The farmers expressed interest in improving their charcoal yield and the CSLP researched models that were more environmentally benign than traditional methods. Two producer associations were formed with project support to manage the kilns and charcoal production. These groups, which include 40% female membership, are being supported to improve their carbonization process to increase yield and reduce the volume of carbon emissions. The initial trainings with the kiln firings have pointed out some design flaws that are currently being corrected. The pilot units will be tested again in the next quarter, hopefully with positive results with the aim of producing charcoal with reduced environmental impacts.
- During the quarter about 200 farmers, including 85 women, received basic training with the CSLP's climate smart agriculture (CSA) vegetable production. The self-selected trainees first learned about the basic tenants of CSA and the main, easily learned practices. In subsequent sessions, hands-on and practical training was conducted in a farmer's field setting. The practices are designed to restore the degraded lands and lead to soil improvement to sustainable crop production systems with little, or a very minimum, use of the harmful chemicals such as pesticides that these farmers traditionally use on their farms. In addition to environmental benefits, such improved practices can reduce costs and improve economic benefits for farmers.
- Farmers trained by the CSLP in basic beekeeping practices and management are gradually realizing benefits from their time and efforts. Of the more than 150 farmers initially trained, two thirds have established apiaries according to the guidelines provided by the CSLP and more than half of this number have had their hives colonized. Thirty-five beekeepers were trained in honey harvesting and processing during the quarter. In another sign of adoption, three people also ordered three beehives from one of the CSLP-trained beehive artisans. One of

the beehive buyers was trained by the CSLP, the other two placed their orders based on what they witnessed with other CSLP-supported farmers. The project is continuing to carefully monitor what is increasingly seen as a unique and fickle environment for honey production in the coastal zone of the Western Region but are hopeful that adoption of beekeeping can help maintain forest cover where the hives are situated and thereby contribute to improve economic and environmental conditions.

- Addressing a constant and growing demand for access to finance, two new VSLAs were formed during the quarter, bringing the total supported by the project to 33. Four of these groups completed the full training cycle in the quarter, two for the first time and two for the second time. The share out activity that marks the end of the cycle is consistently one of incredulity for the members as they realize their benefits from their savings and loan efforts. In almost every instance, an association that completes the cycle immediately commits to another cycle and with an increase in the interest rates that they charge themselves for the loans they take/grant. Association members recognize that they can do what their local formal financial institutions cannot: allow them to save money and at the same time receive loans, all the while earning more for their efforts than what local banks pay in interest and national treasury notes pay. For the CSLP-supported VSLAs the return on their monies is commonly above 20 percent which is helping members to provide greater access to education for their children, pay medical expenses, start new enterprises and invest in more sustainable livelihood activities such as beekeeping and climate smart agriculture as described in this report.
- Two new natural resources related livelihoods were introduced in formal training venues following an assessment in the previous quarter and in response to a demand from a broad swath of community members. Snail and mushroom farming was introduced to 142 people. Seventy-five, including 34 women, were provided with initial information on mushroom production while 67 (with 23 women) were taken through what it is necessary for a snail-farming venture. Follow-on efforts will determine where the sincere interests are and who could be the first adopters that the CSLP can support with technical advice, marketing connections and help identify financial resources to help pay for the initial inputs.
- Improved cassava varieties that were supplied to more than 100 farmers within the Greater Amanzule Wetland area are beginning to mature for harvest. These were planted in response to a local demand for cassava for an area that previously had a low or nonexistent supply. CSLP's NGO grantee, Hen Mpoano, provided the cuttings following a rigorous effort from MoFA to use improved varieties. Now there is likely to be more than the traditional local markets can handle. Hen Mpoano is working with possible buyers outside traditional markets such as third-party buyers who furnish foodstuffs to private sector users such as mining, oil and gas companies. Cassava is a relatively easy crop to grow but does not have the higher market value of say organically-produced vegetables. Achieving the balance between higher value crops that require more effort and the lower labor-demanding crops like cassava is the challenge that project staff and Hen Mpoano will continue to work to address.
- Given the growing interest by school administration officials in the region to increase tree cover on their campuses in order to provide environmental services of cleaner air, shade from the intense tropical sun, and potential non-timber forest products from the trees, CSLP has embarked on urban forestry tree planting activities. During the quarter, nearly 1,500 tree seedlings, comprised of five species, were distributed to 10 junior and high schools within the coastal landscape for planting. From monitoring visits conducted by the team of the newly planted seedlings as well as those planted in previous years, it is apparent that both students and administrators have gained an appreciation for the benefits the trees can provide and have gained further knowledge especially about some of the non-timber forest products the trees can provide including as medicinal or nutritional value.
- The coastal wetlands in the Western Region face great pressure from development including the oil and gas industry, urban expansion and conversion to agriculture. Communities around the coastal wetlands depend upon these areas for their livelihoods as they are important fish breeding habitat for many fishermen and also host numerous mangrove species that are a key component used in smoking fish for processing. Given this importance and the vital environmental services provided by these wetlands in mitigating impacts of climate change, CSLP is working with existing community management organizations as well as building the capacity of new organizations to improve management of these wetlands. During the quarter, five CRMC executives, including two women, visited the Conservation Committee members in Ankobra to learn about mangrove replanting—from nursery establishment to transplanting and monitoring. The committee executives gained a greater understanding of the skills involved in establishing and managing a mangrove nursery that can aid them as they aim to restore some of the degraded wetland areas near their community. As a result, committee members have already identified a site for the nursery and are eager to establish it in the coming months.
- Throughout the districts in the Western Region, lack of coordination between government officials and donors as well as sharing of lessons learned is often cited as a hindrance to sustainable development. CSLP has established regular, quarterly update meetings with district and regional stakeholders in order to provide updates and receive these important partners' inputs on project activities. During the quarter, CSLP held another such quarterly meeting including a briefing by the Community Development and Social Welfare offices from the various

assemblies on their activities. Such meetings provide a venue for the officials to provide updates to their government counterparts as to activities they are undertaking that can help create synergies between offices and hopefully lead to more sustainable activities moving forward.

- Awareness of protected areas, their importance, and means of managing natural resources as can be found in such areas, is limited in most areas where the CSLP is engaged. In order to increase awareness and knowledge about one such area, the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve, CSLP organized a celebration in honor of the 2017 World Environment Day at Cape Three Points. This area, which has been designated as a globally significant biodiversity area, provides important livelihood and environmental benefits to communities near it. The event involved district stakeholders, community based organizations such as the CREMA, Climate Change School Clubs in Akwidaa, Forestry Commission’s Wildlife Division and the Forest Services Division. As a result of the event, community members have gained a greater understanding of the importance of protected areas and the benefits such reserves provide to communities.
- District level assembly and municipal planning offices throughout the six coastal districts often lack the capacity to effectively plan for development and management of their districts due to a lack of spatial planning capacity. Given the pressure of development in this area from oil and gas industry, urban development, and agriculture, as well as a need to ensure food security for vulnerable communities through the district, CSLP has been supporting assemblies to build their capacity in spatial planning efforts. During the quarter, four district/municipal assemblies from the Western Region were met to plan continuing efforts to enhance their planning capacity. In addition, a total of 168 hectares of food crop farms and two community wetland sites from the Greater Amanzule Wetland area were mapped during the quarter. This information is helping farmers to better understand their resources, quantify the amount of land cover change as a result of CSLP interventions, and serve as a resource for district planners to increase their understanding of ongoing activities on the ground. Such activities are being recorded as key outputs for medium term development plans as required by the districts to be submitted to the national government every four years, indicating the strong desire for these improved skills as it relates to community and natural resource management.

Output 1: Increased Incomes from Livelihood Diversification

Table 2. Planned Activities for Output 1

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Activity 1.1 Intensified and Diversified Climate Smart Technologies Adopted by Target Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlot charcoal producers adopt improved charcoal production technology • Farmers applying new technologies in their food crop farms • Demonstration food crop farms for sustainable production established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mobile metal charcoal production kilns have been delivered to Krobo and Yabiw charcoal producers associations • About 200 farmers were trained in climate smart agriculture best practices • 7 CSA vegetable sites were established in five districts 	
Activity 1.2: Natural Resource Value Chain Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beekeepers are skilled and operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 beekeepers from 3 communities receive start-up equipment • 35 beekeepers (29 males and 6 females) received training in honey harvesting and processing • Apiaries were monitored to assess implementation of Best Management Practices. 	

<p>Activity 1.3: Economic Opportunities Increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More VSLAs formed and functional • Modular trainings within the VSLA model are organized for VSLA members • Livelihood opportunities increased in GAW area • Service providers interact with CSLP enterprise groups to enhance their activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new VSLAs were formed in Anlo Beach and Cape Three Points • 33 VSLAs received modular trainings/monitoring during the quarter • 4 VSLAs reached share-out during the quarter • 100 VSLA members assessed in a baseline survey effort to assess livelihoods and changes due to project activities • GAW pilot cassava producers being linked to markets • 1 CSA vegetable demonstration site established in Egbazo in the GAW • Refresher training on group dynamics for one enterprise group 	
<p>Activity 1.4 Capacities Enhanced for Diversified Livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested beneficiaries identified for NRM-related supplementary livelihood options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected farmers were trained in mushroom farming • Selected farmers trained in snail farming 	

Pilot Improved Charcoal Kiln

Shama District in the Western Region of Ghana is noted for its charcoal production especially due to the presence of woodlots used for production. In many parts of the country, charcoal production has impacts on forest areas as trees are harvested in order to produce this important fuelwood for use throughout the country. While the system of using plantations for such production is more sustainable, the CSLP identified a need to provide further training and support to the farmers managing these woodlots in order to improve on efficiencies and reduce their environmental impacts.

In the FY 2015 and 2016, the CSLP organized the practitioners from Yabiw and Krobo and trained them in woodlot best management practices (BMP) that included allowing natural regeneration to avoid the loss of indigenous biodiversity and land preparation practices that avoids burning, or at least a reduced rate of burning. Project staff also learned that there are numerous challenges that they face including the following:

- Incomplete carbonization of the wood especially during the dry season when the soil becomes too hard and difficult to dig for covering the piles of wood and there is a lack of fresh leaf biomass for covering the mound,
- Their own exposure to high heat as they monitor the charcoal production process; and,
- The relatively low yield of charcoal from the traditional processes currently in use.

Following discussions with the charcoal producers, the CSLP agreed to pilot a metal mobile kiln that would allow the producers to move the apparatus to different sites within their communities. During the quarter, two mobile metal kilns were delivered, one each to Yabiw and Krobo. Through the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Kumasi, a contact was made in Tandan in Ellembelle District who facilitated the design for the pilot kilns' fabrication. This practitioner (who was also trained by INBAR), trained the members from the Shama District charcoal producers associations which was formed with CSLP support.

During the kiln firing training, the lighting was difficult and not all the wood was carbonized. Another practitioner was identified in Daboase in Wassa West District who makes charcoal using a metal kiln. A small group of the Shama District producers visited his site to learn more about his stationary metal kiln. From the kiln-firing training experiences and the visit in Daboase it was surmised that the two CSLP facilitated metal mobile kilns are best suited for bamboo carbonization. Bamboo (a grass species) is less dense than the biomass of the *Cassia spp.* being fired in Yabiw and Krobo. The two kilns are now being re-fabricated to allow more air inlets and outlets as the next best approach to provide more carbonization. The next round of firing and testing will occur in the next quarter, hopefully with better results.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Vegetable Production

CSLP is promoting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) vegetable production across the Western Region coastal landscape. The CSA vegetable production has best management practices (BMP) that include:

- Promoting the use of manure (e.g. poultry manure)
- Encouraging the integration of nitrogen fixing trees
- Promoting the use of IPM practices
- Planting in lines
- Improving post-harvest soil and site management
- Promoting the use of compost
- Avoiding the use of herbicides
- Promoting the use of certified seeds
- Using bamboo vinegar as pesticide
- Avoiding/reducing burning practices

Most farmlands in the landscape have suffered from over use without environmentally friendly means of sustaining soil quality resulting in lower yield for farmers. To compensate, farmers use large doses of chemicals in an attempt to achieve appreciable yields; in most cases, chemicals are used in doses far beyond manufacturers recommendations. This means that most vegetables produced on traditional plots are full of chemicals resulting in low shelf life of the produce, impacts to the health of consumers and a further deterioration of the soils as their acid content increases. While farmers openly admit that such practices are not acceptable, they do not believe that one can produce vegetables in any way without using high doses of chemical fertilizer. The CSLP is helping to provide them with the skills needed to establish environmentally friendly vegetable farms for themselves and as demonstration for other community members from which to learn.

During this last quarter, 202 farmers (including 85 women) were trained in environmentally friendly production practices. Participants were exposed to the science behind the best management practices, mainly with pictures given that many are illiterate. Following the classroom setting, the farmers were also taken through a practical hands-on-training that creates the opportunity for all to observe and participate in each of the activities. For these hands-on sessions, 194 people, including 90 women, took part from seven communities across four districts. In each community, the group of CSA practitioners selected one demonstration site in a strategic location where other community members can see progress of the farm. On these sites, the farmers participate in the activities with the support of the CSLP staff and DoFA extension staff. The trainees and their demonstration sites will be monitored to ensure that best management practices are adopted and as a means of learning of issues or challenges that the farmer experiences at the site.

Another group of 28 farmers who expressed interest in establishing CSA vegetable farms underwent the second part of a training following earlier classroom training to explain the basis of CSA practices. The 28 farmers (15 women, 13 men) in Egbazo, selected one farmer's site to be used as the demonstration plot where the practical hands-on-training was conducted. The practical hands-on-training created the opportunity for all the 28 members to each go through all the steps they were taught in the classroom setting. All members of the group are being encouraged to set up their individual CSA plots.

Extension officers from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), six each from Shama District and Ahanta West District, were trained in the tenets of CSLP CSA vegetable production. During the same training, 24 men and 6 women from the Ahanta West District, identified by MoFA as lead farmers, were also trained.

The list of CSA practices listed earlier have become attractive to farmers as opposed to the application of chemical fertilizers and other insecticides that farmers also abuse by applying in higher doses than recommended. When samples are displayed especially at national farmers' days, many farmers outside of the CSLP also express interest in this practice. As a result, CSLP is increasing the use of a training of trainers approach to facilitate the spread of knowledge and skills beyond the CSLP operational communities. The extension officers and their respective lead farmers will be monitored and supported to set up more CSA vegetable demonstration sites in their towns and communities.

The CSLP is also collaborating with the Western Region Coastal Foundation (WRCF), an UKAid-funded project, to train a number of catfish aquaculture practitioners in CSA vegetable production. This is a complementary exercise given the easy access to water. The aquaculture practices also demand that the fishpond water is periodically drained and replaced with fresh water to improve the water quality. This pond water, naturally rich in nutrients, may be used to water vegetables especially during the dry season. Basic informational training was organized for 111 aquaculture association farmers, including 39 women and was followed by establishing three catfish ponds-vegetable demonstration sites adjacent to catfish ponds in three different communities in Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts.

Introduction to Beekeeping

Startup equipment to help establish apiaries was provided to 10 men from 3 communities. Each of the beneficiaries has received training in apiary establishment. The farmers are being supported to set-up the hives to be colonized and at the same time being monitored to ensure that they implement all the relevant best management practices and also learn from the experiences of other beekeepers that the CSLP has supported with such equipment and training.

Already, these trainings and the experiences being gained are paying off. The project learned during the quarter that three farmers have ordered beehives from the CSLP-trained beehive artisan and resident in Fawoman in the Jomoro District. Two of the farmers are adopters from a non CSLP community (Kanokware), while the third, a project trained beekeeper, ordered and paid for his new beehive to complement the one provided by the project.

A honey harvesting and processing training was provided in the quarter to 35 CSLP trained beekeepers including six women. This training, organized for beekeepers who have colonized hives, covered topics such as:

- Inspecting the hive to monitor honey maturity
- Wearing of appropriate protective clothing
- Extracting honey from combs
- Determining mature honey for harvesting
- Required tools and their uses
- Storing of honey

The trainees were also encouraged to either belong to already existing groups, or to organize into groups to ensure that their learning and their experiences are shared to support one another.

The CSLP continues to follow through with the findings provided by the beekeeping specialist during the second quarter and are using these lessons to reinforce the trainings now provided in subsequent modules. Poor hive hygiene and pests are critical contributors to the absconding of bees, and monitoring visits to the various apiaries are used to coach farmers on the importance of paying attention to such details. The CSLP's monitoring is also providing valuable information about the Western Region's environment and what can be done to help ensure honey production in beehives in a variety of microsites common in the region. The monitoring continues to provide more lessons that are factored into the best management practices being promoted to CSLP-supported farmers and in follow-up and hands-on trainings with DoFA extension agents.

Village Savings and Loan Associations

Two new VSLAs were established during the quarter, one at Anlo Beach in Shama District, and the second at Cape Three Points in Ahanta West District. Each of these new groups have started the seven module training process that will continue over the next eight to ten months to familiarize themselves with the savings and loan process and also to build management and governance confidence within the group. Membership in both groups is dominated by women with a total of 34 women and 13 men in these newly formed groups. The CSLP now supports a total of 33 VSLAs (including four via the project's small grant to Hen Mpoano).

There were four VSLAs that reached the share-out stage during the quarter; two marking the milestone for the first time and the two others completing the cycle for the second time. Table 3 shows the performance of the four groups that reached share-out during the quarter.

Table 3: Performance snapshot of four VSLAs at share-out during the quarter

Community	VSLA	Status	Membership			Total Savings (GH¢)*	Total Loan Fund (GH¢)*	Profit on Loans (GH¢)*	Social Fund (GH¢)*	Return On Savings (%)
			Total	M	F					
Asonti	Nyame Ye	2 ND Share out	25	7	18	12,542	14,443	1,901	78	15 %
Ayawora	Biakoye	2 ND Share out	25	13	12	13,230	16,781	3,551	978	27 %
Bokoro	Onza Nyamenle Ye	1 ST Share out	24	7	17	5,221	6,918	1,697	484	33 %
Old Kabenlasuzo	Nyamenleba hile	1 ST Share out	18	8	10	2,685	3,060	375	936	14 %

*GH¢ to USD rate equivalent to 4.3 GH¢:1USD.

In collaboration with the USAID-funded Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), the CSLP capitalized on an opportunity to collect baseline information on community livelihoods in areas where the project supports VSLAs. A sample of 100 VSLA members from more than a dozen communities in the six coastal districts were interviewed by the SFMP and CSLP trained enumerators. Results are anticipated in the next quarter and will help assess community perceptions of the CSLP livelihood strategies and their value to VSLA members in particular.

CSLP Enterprise Groups Formation/Training

A refresher training was organized for 18 members (10 males and 8 females) who constitute an enterprise group who deal in CSA vegetable production and beekeeping in Fawoman (Jomoro District) during the quarter. They were encouraged to admit new members, re-elect officers and review their constitution as a means of bringing greater energy and interest to the group.

Natural Resources-Related Livelihoods

With the aim of creating more livelihood opportunities for community members to diversify and enhance their lives, the project conducted an assessment during the second quarter to determine new potential livelihood options. The result indicated a fair number of people were interested in knowing more about, and perhaps investing in snail and mushroom farming. Two batches of trainings were conducted in this most recent quarter covering basic information about snail and mushroom farming for community members. A total of 75 people (including 34 women) were trained in mushroom farming; 67 people (with 23 women) received basics about snail farming.

Topics treated under each of the trainings were as follows:

Snail Farming	Mushroom Farming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is snail farming • Importance of snail farming • Key steps in establishing a snail farm • Inputs and cost benefits of snail farming • Marketing and value addition of snail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of mushroom • Types of edible mushroom • What is mushroom farming • Financing mushroom production • Steps in establishing mushroom farm

To ensure success and adoption, the CSLP will work, in a pilot effort, with two to three individual farmers who understand the risks of such ventures. Such efforts will focus on coaching and providing technical advice to assist farmers in startup and connecting with markets. The engaged farmers will be expected to provide inputs from their own resources and/or secure a loan from their membership in a local VSLA to begin such endeavors.

Livelihoods in the Greater Amanzule Wetland Area

The Greater Amanzule Wetlands (GAW) is a large swamp and wetland area in the coastal regions dominated by three mangrove species. It extends from the Jomoro’s district border with Côte d’Ivoire in the west through Ellembelle District and into part of Nzema East District. Portions of the area are quite pristine and serve as strategic values as primary hatcheries for the nation’s marine (pelagic) fisheries. Among the population that lives in and adjacent to the GAW, its value as a source of livelihoods is significant. Nonetheless, it is not recognized with any conservation status for the important social, economic and environmental value it provides to the region and country as a whole.

At present, it continues to suffer from unplanned and growing infrastructure development. Given the relative lack of coordination between stakeholders for the management of the area, and the patchwork nature of the wetlands throughout the two districts, the need for coordination of management of the area was recommended during the previous USAID-funded Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Project. In addition to increasing coordination and cooperation in management, the need for policy reform and recognition of the need for protection of the mangrove ecosystems was highlighted.

Collectively, these factors have influenced the objectives and the scope of the collaboration between the CSLP and its grantee, Hen Mpoano. Core to this effort has been a governance and co-management objective that encompasses the GAW area and has included the establishment of 25 Community Conservation Committees and 2 District Conservation Committees. To help ensure the sustenance of these efforts, CSLP and Hen Mpoano have promoted VSLAs and alternate livelihoods to help diversify risks to community members.

Two years ago, cassava was very scarce within the coastal districts of the Western Region and threatened food security among communities there. During last year’s planting season, with the support of MoFA, Hen Mpoano introduced planting materials of three improved varieties of cassava in six GAW communities to 116 farmers (76 men, 40 women). Hen Mpoano worked to avoid a repeat of the cycle of high volumes of cassava production but with no

market, followed by no planting the following year by discouraged farmers, and the onset of greater food insecurity. To do this, Hen Mpoano started an initiative to secure market linkages in advance of the maturation of the product. It has worked with a number of institutions, local market queens, the district office of the Ghana Government Planting for Food and Jobs Initiative (which is working to register all cassava producers in the district), agents of Guinness Ghana, manufacturers of Ruut Extra (an alcoholic drink), and ATS (a catering institution providing food and cleaning services to local industries such as ENI, Tullow Oil, Golfields and Newmont Ghana). The relationship with ATS, could result in ATS procuring some quantity of cassava, or processed cassava – *gari*, and vegetables from the farmers. This effort will continue to be pursued during the coming quarter(s) to help ensure fruition and market linkages with cassava farmers in the GAW area.

Output 2: Improved Environment and Natural Resources Management

Table 4. Planned Activities for Output 2

Activities to be Implemented	Expected Outputs	Achievements	Outstanding Activity
Activity 2.1: Forestry and Agroforestry Interventions Developed and Practiced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban forestry facilitated for stakeholders in the coastal landscape Degraded mangrove areas restored by CREMA and Climate Change Club members in Akwidaa area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,481 seedlings were distributed to 10 schools within 5 district/metropolitan assemblies 3 men and 2 women from Ketakor near Akwidaa in the Ahanta West District embarked on a learning visit to Ankobra mangrove nursery in Ellembelle District 	
Activity 2.2: Carbon Sequestration improved and effectively Monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CSLP intervention sites are mapped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 168.11 hectares of CSLP food crop intervention sites were mapped from 3 districts 	
Activities 2.3: Stakeholder Coordination Strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District GoG agencies and other institutions updated on CSLP interventions and promote project activities Western Region GoG agencies and other Institutions Updated on CSLP Interventions and promote project activities CSLP interventions are monitored by a cross section of media CSLP participates in dialogue platforms CSLP stakeholders and beneficiaries identified with unique ID numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quarterly local government agencies update took place during the quarter Western Region stakeholders updated on CSLP activities during the quarter Media personnel visited CSLP/Hen Mpoano implementation sites in Ellembelle District WRCC dialogue on new Local Government Act 2016 CSLP participated in the Western Region Implementing Partners meeting to share lessons CSLP's unique beneficiary identification system has been established 	
Activity 2.4: Capacities Increased in Climate Change Adaptation and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CREMAs strengthened to support wetland conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 CRMCs of the Cape Three Points CREMA were trained in community wetland management 	

<p>Natural Resource Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Clubs strengthened to enable them support climate change education • DoFA extension officers have improved skills in the facilitation of CSA best Practices • Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies integrate climate change and natural resources management into spatial planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CRMCs of the Cape Three Points CREMA were trained in the content and implementation of their constitution • Representatives of Komfoeku Climate Change Club embarked on study tour • 48 farmers and MoFA extension officers have undergone training of trainers sessions in best management practices in CSA vegetable production • CSLP interacted individually with 4 Municipal/District Assemblies and the Western Region TCPD to assess their spatial planning capacity needs 	
------------------------------------	--	--	--

Urban Forestry

Ten schools in five of the six municipal and district assemblies in the CSLP’s geographic area received 1,481 tree seedlings from the project during the quarter. The number of tree seedlings (comprised of three indigenous species) delivered to a school depended on the size of area available for planting. These seedlings are the remnants of the CSLP-facilitated Adubrim nursery that were not ready for transplanting last year.

Schools that received seedlings for planting around their campuses in previous periods were also visited to monitor seedling survival rates. The overall survival rate of just over 60% is not overly encouraging. Most coastal community schools, particularly in the Jomoro District, have relatively sandy soils and therefore low survival rates. Watering and protecting the seedlings from small ruminants, as well as siting the plantings in poor soil conditions are some of the challenges to success. As such, the project will improve its training and monitoring with schools to identify means for improvement and survivability of the planted seedlings.

Study Visit on Mangrove Re-planting to Ankobra

Five executive members (including two women) of the Ketakor Community Resources Management Committee (CRMC) of the Cape Three Points Community Resources Management Association (CREMA) in the Ahanta West District visited their counterpart executive members of the Community Conservation Committee of Ankobra in the Ellebelle District. The objective of the visit was to learn about the processes that are carried out to re-plant degraded mangrove sites within their jurisdiction. They visited the Ankobra mangrove nursery as well as some of the areas that had been re-planted and are presently growing.

The visitors were quite surprised to know that mangroves can be re-planted successfully. Their knowledge related to the establishment of a mangrove nursery including how to obtain mature propagules, finding good soil for filling polybags, management of the germinated propagules as well as how to mobilize community members to support in the various steps until transplanting was increased. As a result, community members have become so convinced and excited to begin re-planting activities in their community that they have already identified a site for this venture.

Mangrove Re-planting in Anlo Beach

Anlo Beach in the Shama District is home to large tracts of mangrove forests. With fishing as the major livelihood activity in this community, large areas of the forest have been harvested to aid in smoking fish as well as for use in building of homes and as domestic fuelwood. For about a decade now, many projects have facilitated re-planting under the guidance of local NGOs such as Friends of the Nation and Hen Mpoano (under the Integrated Coastal Fisheries and Governance and the Sustainable Fisheries Management Projects). There are still large tracts of degraded mangrove areas which need to be re-planted and due to the many engagements on awareness creation on the values and importance of mangroves to their livelihoods, a section of the community members have been reaching out for the CSLP’s support to facilitate further re-planting of these degraded areas of mangrove forest.

During the quarter, over 1,200 mangrove seedlings were established. The seedling establishment will continue until the end of the minor rainy season and barring unforeseen weather events, the seedlings will be transplanted in November 2017. The re-planted mangrove will now be managed in line with the Shama District wetland management body by-laws for the benefit of the assembly, community and also the section of community who have supported the planting. This management body was established by community members with the help of CSLP to aid in oversight and management of the mangrove areas.

Mapping of CSLP Intervention Sites

The goal of estimating the quantity of greenhouse gases sequestered continued alongside the estimation of areas that were put under improved management. Both objectives called for the mapping of all areas under CSLP interventions.

A total of 168 hectares of food crop sites, including cocoa farms, were mapped during the quarter. The area mapped is within seven communities in three districts namely Jomoro, Ellembelle and Ahanta West. Another 147 hectares of mangrove under community conservation were mapped in Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts.

Quarterly Update for Local Government Institutions

The quarterly district/municipal/metropolitan assemblies’ meeting took place during the quarter. These meetings create the opportunity for the CSLP to share its progress and challenges as well as seek input from stakeholders as to where improvements can be made and to provide a venue for coordination between the various government institutions represented. The 35 participants (26 men, 9 women) came from five assemblies representing a range of government technical departments including:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Coordinating/Administration Unit | Ghana Education Service |
| Department of Food and Agriculture | Town and Country Planning Department |
| Community Development | Business Advisory Center |
| Development Planning | Social Welfare Department |

The Community Development offices from the five districts made presentations on their activities as is now a common practice at these meetings as a means of creating improved dialogue between the government partner offices. Topics have included efforts to improve recycling of plastic waste, water quality testing occurring throughout the region, efforts at registering disabled persons for greater government support, and hygiene education being promoted by government bodies, amongst others. The next quarterly meeting in September 2017 will provide the District Ghana Education Service offices to highlight their work.

CSLP 2017 Media Day and Western Region Stakeholders Meeting

Similar to the update meetings provided for the district assembly members and traditional authorities, the CSLP also met with its regional stakeholders. These included the:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Western Region Coordinating Council (WRCC) | Ghana Education Service (GES) |
| Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) | Economic Planning Unit (EPU) |
| Department of Food and Agriculture (DoFA) | Wildlife Division (WD) |
| National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) | |
| Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | |

A total of 11 officials (7 men, 4 women) representing the institutions listed above were present. The Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission, named as a stakeholder by the Government of Ghana at the beginning of the project in 2013, is chronically absent (despite many personal invitations and efforts on the part of the project). Along with the updates on the CSLP’s activities, the regional stakeholders provided comments and recommendations to further strengthen the projects activities. A sampling of these is noted in Table 5.



Figure 2. Anyanzinli mangrove nursery under discussion on the CSLP Media Day 2017

Table 5: Examples of recommendations from the CSLP’s Regional Stakeholders at the quarterly meeting

Thematic area	Recommendation
2017 World Environment Day celebration focused on the Cape Three Points Forest and challenges with poaching, <i>galamsey</i> and illegal chainsaw cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSLP may consider more intensive advocacy on the Cape Three Points Forest given its status as a globally significant biodiversity area • CSLP may follow suit of the ICFG project and leverage funds from oil companies (e.g. Tullow) to support community monitoring of the forest • The Economic Planning Unit of the WRCC must ensure that key conservation areas and eco-tourism sites take center stage in the Medium Term Development Plans of the coastal assemblies as that will help in marketing, advertisement and conservation of the sites
CSLP intervention sites & mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSLP should share data on farms mapped with TCPD to help in planning purposes • The TCPD should coordinate data sharing with all institutions including MoFA to better plan areas for agricultural production, food security
CSLP CSA vegetable production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the sizes and increasing the number of demo sites would lead to greater success of the CSA concepts
Greening Sekondi Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The renewed interest by the metropolitan assembly should be supported to ensure success of urban forestry efforts

The stakeholders’ meeting was preceded the day before by the annual CSLP Media Day where a selection of media from radio, television and online platforms, together with regional, district and community stakeholders visited a number of CSLP intervention sites to assess the extent of implementation and provide opportunities for the GoG representatives and the media to interact directly with community members where the CSLP is engaged. The Media Day visits took place in the following CSLP and Hen Mpoano facilitated communities in the Ellembele District.

Table 6: Community focal points for the CSLP 2017 Media Day

Community	Focus
Anyanzinli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Committee members explained the knowledge gained through establishment of mangrove nursery and replanting of 5,000 mangrove seedlings over an area of 2.5 hectares
Kamgbunli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with CSA vegetable producers at a vegetable demonstration site • Joint CSLP & UKAid-funded WRCF catfish aquaculture site with CSLP CSA vegetable production demonstration site visited and lessons learned highlighted
Kamgbunli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koryele VSLA share purchase meeting where members explained their operations and discussed achievements and challenges in the effort

CSLP Participates in Policy Dialogue

The CSLP, through the invitation of the WRCC, participated in an awareness sensitization on the Local Government Act 936 of 2016. The program was facilitated by the Institute of Local Government Studies and in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralization. The meeting sought to enhance the knowledge and practice of local government actors by explaining the new Act 936 2016 and its distinct features.

Western Region Implementing Partners’ (IP’s) Meeting

CSLP participated in the Western Region Implementing Partners’ (IP’s) meeting which took place during the quarter. The quarterly meetings are meant to create the opportunity for all donor-supported projects to share goals, achievements, challenges, areas of operation and leverage resources where possible. This quarter’s meeting was hosted by the Western Region Coastal Foundation and featured two presentation and discussion forums. One introduced the UCC/CCM’s Ghana Fisheries and Coastal Management Data Hub officially launched earlier this year and the second looked at economic opportunities for urban youth presented by Global Communities.

CSLP Stakeholder and Beneficiary Identification System Developed

The CSLP is seeking to ensure that all registered beneficiaries are easily identified at all times with a unique identity to reduce the likelihood of double counting when quantifying project results. The unique ID identifies an individual with a number that defines the name, gender, community and district where he/she is located. If a number is repeated, the software interacts and asks for an immediate correction. Assigning the unique ID numbers began during the quarter under review and so far 1,460 beneficiaries have been assigned. Additional profile data on each beneficiary will be added that will allow more comprehensive queries and comparative analyses among the CSLP's beneficiaries.

CREMAs Support Wetland Conservation

Although in existence for over a decade, the Cape Three Points CREMA is not fully functional and therefore unable to fully manage the wetland conservation efforts in its area. Working with the CSLP staff, the CREMA identified areas where more capacity building would be beneficial. During the quarter, two trainings were organized for three of the CREMA's CRMCs to develop their skills in mobilizing the whole community for action around mangrove management activities. The training topics included the role of CRMCs in wetland and mangrove management as well as mobilizing community members for action.

Sixty-five people from the three CRMCs participated in these two trainings (21 men, 44 women) facilitated in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission. The lead facilitator was the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) Chairman. The trainees found the training timely and essential to their role as managers of natural resources in their communities. Following the trainings, two of the groups put their new and revised knowledge to work organizing their communities in clean-up activities in their respective wetland areas to make the areas attractive to people who want to visit there.

Also during the quarter, another three CRMCs in the Ahanta West District received training to improve their understanding of the basic principles of CRMCs and implement the tenets of their constitution. A total of 62 people, including 33 females were trained during this exercise.

Climate Change Clubs

The CSLP provided the logistics for representatives of the Komfueku D/A Junior High School Climate Change Club to undertake a study tour during the quarter. The representatives included five patron teachers, the District Science Coordinator of the Shama District Ghana Education Service, and 2 boys and 2 girls. The group visited three sites during the day-long tour including:

<u>Site/Institution</u>	<u>Focus</u>
Ankobra Community Conservation Committee at Ankobra Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mangrove forest and mangrove nursery, importance of coastal mangroves
Ankobra Beach bamboo charcoal kiln and organic farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Products and uses of the kiln, particularly vinegar• Types of vegetables grown and the importance of growing and eating organic products
The birth place of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah in Nkroful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biography of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and history of Ghana

Based on the feedback of the teachers and the school kids, they were happy for what they were exposed to on the day and were committed to share the lessons with their colleagues back home. This was displayed in the many pictures taken by the teachers to be shared on Shama District organized Climate Change Club WhatsApp platform.

Assessment of Districts' Spatial Planning Needs

The CSLP has been working with district assembly staff in the Western Region to build their capacities in spatial planning. Much of this is aimed at providing basic elements that will allow the districts to absorb and use the spatial data being collected by the CSLP on their respective landscapes. The goal is for the districts to thoroughly incorporate these data in their Medium Term Development Plans and to use it in their planning efforts. The data transfer will only be useful if the officers involved have the requisite skills in spatial planning to be able to interpret them.

In FY 2016, CSLP's attempt to build the district staff's capacity yielded low response and interest. In the second quarter of FY 2017, a meeting held with the management of each of the districts showed sincere interest in the project's efforts and provided an agreement to re-assess basic spatial planning needs that the CSLP could address within its manageable interest. Other discussions at the meeting noted that the initial lack of interest was due to lack of computer literacy among the trainees, lack of functional equipment (software, laptops, GPS units), and even the wrong staff participating in the training exercises.

During the quarter, CSLP interacted with the districts of Jomoro, Ellembelle, Ahanta West and Shama and the Western Region GIS Hub to follow through on what was agreed with the district management staff. The assessment demonstrated that the districts each have unique circumstances and needs that impact their spatial planning efforts. Many of these are relative to staff numbers and skills in spatial planning, equipment availability (computers and GPS units), and each district’s own development needs based on available resources and economic opportunities. All the districts highlighted that their spatial planning efforts benefited from the previous USAID-funded ICFG and LOGODEP projects. Currently, what is critical for most of the districts to succeed with spatial planning efforts is the fact that most of the trained staff have been lost through transfers and a substantial portion of the original equipment is not in useable condition.

Based on this assessment the CSLP will now begin (in the next and subsequent quarters) to tailor training to help address specific spatial planning training needs district by district. This will include a basic operational guide to assist the different district departments in gathering, storing and using spatial planning data—a tool that can lead to greater sustainability by being available beyond transfers of staff between districts. The need for additional GPS units that the different departments can use is another area where the CSLP plans to provide some basic support. At best, a district has one or two units for use by assembly staff. The project will work to increase this number by at least two additional units per district and provide new/refresher trainings on their use and management. District Coordinating Directors have agreed to help coordinate each of the heads of the thematic areas such as health, agriculture, forestry to identify computer literate staff for any specific spatial planning trainings in the DA.

World Environment Day Celebration

The World Environment Day (WED) was established by the United Nations General Assembly to mark the opening of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and is celebrated every year on June 5. The CSLP and partners organized a local event at Cape Three Points in the Ahanta West District aimed at raising awareness in line with the global theme “Connecting People to Nature”, and to support the efforts of various stakeholders to better manage the Cape Three Points Forest whose whole area is a Globally Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBA) that is under threats from development, hunting and degradation. Activities at the event included a parade through the Cape Three Points community, speeches by government agency representatives, drama sketches by the Cape Three Points CREMA and the Akwidaa SDA JHS Climate Change club and a tour into the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve.



Figure 3. Procession through Cape Three Points community on World Environment Day 5 June 2017

Greater Amanzule Wetland Area Activities

In its grant to local NGO, Hen Mpoano, the CSLP is supporting activities meant to strengthen governance and community mobilization skills for the conservation committee members in the Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) area. During this quarter, these activities were comprised of monitoring visits, trainings for the conservation committee members, resource mapping and the restoration of degraded mangrove sites. Further details are provided below.

Monitoring Visits to CCCs

During the quarter, seven Community Conservation Committees (out of 25) in the GAW were monitored to assess their progress in the activities they outlined in their respective management plans. It was observed that the communities where the CCC is tied to a VSLA were more active and their agreed upon meetings more regular. The VSLA, therefore may be used as a driver to enhance the likelihood of success of the committees given its regular, weekly nature which aids in promoting the work of the conservation committees.

Capacity Building for CCCs

A total of 54 conservation committee members (42 men, 12 women) from three communities were trained in conflict management and basic communication skills during the quarter. It is increasingly recognized that good communication that touches on the right reasons and benefits are key to convincing community members to commit themselves to improved mangrove management. Secondly, the use of a common resource by people of varied interests and objectives is likely to generate conflicts and the committee members must be able to help mitigate conflict in order to achieve improved management success. These trainings will be continued in order to reach all communities within the GAW engaged area.

Update of Traditional Authorities

A meeting was arranged to update all the chiefs from the 25 GAW communities. The meeting, which also had the Paramount Chief of the Ajomoro (Nzema Manle) Traditional Area in attendance, highlighted for the chiefs, progress made since the last meeting and sought advice and recommendations from the chiefs. Some recommendations suggested by the chiefs were:

- The semi-annual chiefs' update meetings should be increased in frequency to be a quarterly update;
- There should be more intensive involvement of the chiefs with CCC members and Hen Mpoano staff
- Having the chiefs develop more interest in the activities of the committees and provide them with all needed support.

Following this meeting, the Ajomoro Traditional Council invited Hen Mpoano to brief the whole council of chiefs on the activities on the Greater Amanzule Wetland.

Wetland Resource Mapping

Mapping activities also took place during the quarter in some communities. The essence of the wetland mapping is to have an understanding of the extent of the resources, including the extent of degraded areas, in order to more effectively plan any management activity such as restoration and utilization. Generally, the mapping depends on the knowledge of the people and is gathered through a participatory process with the aid of an aerial photo of the area. The community members indicate on the aerial photo the external boundaries and the differences in vegetation cover such as bamboo or mangrove, water bodies, the extent of the areas that require actions such as re-planting. Following the participatory mapping in the community, the community members then lead the team with a GPS unit to ground truth and pick relevant GPS points to confirm such distinct areas.

During the quarter, participatory mapping was done in Ekpu in the Jomoro District while ground truthing was done in Alloakpoke in Ellebelle District and Mangyea in Jomoro District. The participatory mapping in Ekpu will be followed with the ground truthing. Once ground truthing is concluded, it is referred to the community for validation as the last activity for the mapping exercise as a means of providing improved information to the communities for management and monitoring.

Mangrove Wetland Restoration

The Anyanzinli wetland area has sections of mangroves and other vegetation as well as water body spanning an area of over 193 hectares. Out of the 83 hectares of mangrove, about 18 hectares are degraded. One of the degraded areas, measuring of 2.5 hectares, was re-planted during the quarter. The 5,000 mangrove seedlings used in this effort were obtained from their own mangrove nursery which received inputs from Ankobra SFMP supported nursery.

CSLP Grantee Leverages Additional Conservation Funding

CSLP grantee Hen Mpoano has built upon the work being conducted under the CSLP efforts to build the capacity of community and district level management bodies to more effectively monitor the Greater Amanzule Wetlands complex. Efforts to work towards a formal conservation status are being recognized and as such, Hen Mpoano has recently been awarded funding from Rainforest Trust to augment their existing work with these resource committees—a powerful example of how USAID funding is helping to leverage interest and funding from other conservation oriented donors.

4. IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

While the livelihood activities being promoted by CSLP based upon interest of farmers throughout the Western Region, have shown great promise based upon participation rates in trainings and capacity building activities, there remain challenges to implementing the activities and ensuring sustainability. Current challenges are described below.

Beekeeping

In monitoring apiaries that have been introduced and managed by dozens of farmers across the region, and based upon expertise from an engaged beekeeping expert, the coastal districts of the Western Region have unique ecological and climatic conditions that significantly alter the apiary cycle that is common throughout most of Ghana. The project's experience shows that the calendar for production that is normally used in other regions in Ghana does not necessarily correspond in the Western Region. As a result, the team is more closely monitoring hive production and will learn more from the project-supported beekeepers over the coming months to try and develop best practices for this unique subregion that can ensure greater success.

Mobile Metal Kilns

The introduction of the mobile metal charcoal kilns to create efficiencies in charcoal production and therefore reduce costs to producers and impacts on forest cover, has faced challenges largely in the initial design phase. The initial design of the demonstration mobile kiln was based on advice from the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Kumasi. This design was largely based on carbonization of bamboo which is much less dense than the standard cassia wood that is used for production of charcoal in the Western Region. As a result, the demonstration kiln is being redesigned to be more appropriate to the users in Krobo and Yabw where CSLP is piloting this effort.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Vegetable Production

Current efforts in training and building capacity of farmers to implement climate smart agriculture practices have been met with significant interest throughout the region. While interest is high, the competing availability of subsidized fertilizer being promoted by the Government of Ghana, creates a disincentive for the adoption of organic and climate resilient agricultural practices as being promoted by CSLP. Climate smart practices aim to rehabilitate soil conditions but can require up to four years to be visible to farmers. As a result of this significant time lag, and since fertilizer use can show faster results, farmers who are looking for shorter term results, may be more likely to revert to input intensive and less sustainable farming practices. To help mitigate this issue the CSLP will continue to promote and develop linkages that help strengthen the regional ties between producers and buyers in the organic vegetable market chain alongside other donor programs (UKAid, Ghana Supply Chain Support Project, et.al.).

5. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

5.1 GENDER EQUALITY AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

One significant example of female empowerment from the quarter relates to the production of more sustainable charcoal in the Shama District. Culturally usually seen as a male-dominated business opportunity, women were generally not producing charcoal outside of assisting with bagging the coals after production. With a conscious effort to increase female participation in production so as to improve economic opportunities for women, CSLP has seen more than 50% participation by women in the charcoal producer associations being formed to support producers with training and market linkages. The hope is that higher participation by women through these training activities will empower them with the skills and knowledge to be able to undertake charcoal production efforts in the future as livelihood opportunities.

5.2 SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS

One key area where CSLP has struggled to gain effective partnerships to build greater sustainability is in relation to spatial planning with district level planners. Monitoring efforts demonstrated that adoption of best practices were not being implemented. Based upon meetings held with district assembly planning staff in each district during the quarter, CSLP now better understands the needs of each district and its staff and has thus developed a more unique work plan to best support each district. Together with the Coordinating Directors and the planning officers, the training curricula will be designed to meet the specific district needs and thus relevant to their planning and capacity

requirements so that they will more likely own the processes and outcomes. In addition, the CSLP will aim to coordinate more closely with other spatial planning efforts (such as other USAID initiatives linked to democracy and governance programming) so as to complement one another's programs while reducing likelihood of overburdening district assembly staff with donor-funded initiatives.

5.3 GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The initial three years of the CSLP's program were the result of direct support of GCC monies. Indicators tracked and activities undertaken had climate change as a focal point. Beginning in FY 2017, and with the projects 3-year extension, the funding source changed to the Feed the Future initiative. The source change has resulted in a re-emphasis on food security and approaching farming as a small business in the area of influence. New economic growth indicators were added (see Annex A) but the global climate change indicators are still tracked and are an integral part of the CSLPs approaches in its work with area farmers, district and regional government institutions and traditional authorities, NGOs and private sector entities. Additional evidence can be found throughout this report in instances where the CSLP works with these groups on climate smart agriculture, monitoring wetlands and mangroves that sequester carbon in substantial quantities, and on broad climate change awareness issues in school clubs, with recognized conservation committees and with other community-based organizations.

5.4 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

The tree tenure law and unclear process for registering trees as required by law in Ghana, are often cited as significant reasons why farmers are hesitant to plant and depend upon income from trees for livelihoods. CSLP has promoted tree planting throughout the region as a means of improving soil quality, agricultural production through agroforestry practices and as a means of providing further resilience by adding an additional potential income source to farms. As a part of this effort, and given the experience the team has gained on the ground by learning about challenges faced by farmers, the CSLP has engaged at the national level in dialogues to promote clearer tree registration and tree tenure policies. While a new form has been approved as of April 2017, CSLP has yet to be able to review the form and attempt to utilize it in the Western Region.

The project has additional questions that it believes are vital to ensuring sustainability for forestry and agroforestry interventions in the Western Region. One key question is whether the form will allow for indication as to whether the farmer is registering trees for the first time or if he/she has registered trees previously through another process. Additional concerns include:

- Is the farmer to pay fees? If so, how much are the fees?
- Are only planted trees eligible for registration
- How will the Forestry Commission store forms and ensure data is accessible when needed?
- Can young, naturally regenerated trees be registered?
- Can ownership be transferred (e.g. from father to son)?

CSLP continues to follow up on these questions with the Forestry Commission's Resources Management Service Center in Kumasi (the institution leading the process) to help ensure that the CSLP farmers who have planted trees or nurtured natural regeneration of trees as a result of this project's efforts, are able to register their trees to ensure greater likelihood of sustainability.

5.5 LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

One key area where CSLP is building local capacity and leveraging local partners is through the Climate Smart Agriculture efforts. CSLP has engaged 116 extension officers and champion farmers (including 18 women), who have undergone a training of trainers program to promote CSA best practices. This ToT approach has taken place in Nzema East, Ahanta West and Shama districts. Through upcoming monitoring efforts, CSLP will identify the extent to which these farmers are able to reach even larger numbers of community members to promote this more sustainable agriculture approach and put it into practice. By linking government extension staff with farmers, it is additionally hoped that local government capacity can further support farmers after the end of CSLP to reinforce key skills and knowledge to more likely ensure sustainability.

5.6 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (GDA) IMPACTS

In promoting climate smart agriculture, CSLP has developed new public private partnerships to aid in production and potential market linkages. The first such partnership is with East-West Seed which is an Asian marketing company producing tropical vegetable seeds. East West Seeds is in partnership with Tema-based Tikola and serves as their representative in promoting such improved seed varieties in Ghana. In partnership with East-West Seed/TIKOLA and

Ankobra Beach Resort in the Nzema East district, CSLP farmers have benefited from a study tour and training on organic vegetable production. This visit and training provided additional knowledge to farmers on inputs available to them as well as potential markets for their produce. As the CSLP aims to further this partnership over the coming months, it is hoped this leveraging of public private partners will lead to a sustainable collaboration between producer groups and such private enterprises.

6. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

CSLP efforts have included work to promote urban forestry efforts within the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) area since there are not many traditional tree crop farming activities occurring in this largely urban/peri-urban district. CSLP believes that promoting increased tree cover within the STMA can provide opportunities for increased carbon sequestration, improve air quality in the metropolitan area, beautify the city, and possibly even provide fruit and non-timber forest products for residents.

Stakeholder discussions and planning for such urban forestry efforts started in 2015 but was largely stalled due to a lack of leadership by the STMA partners. Recently, with a change in leadership due to the change in national administration, leadership at the metropolitan assembly requested a briefing by CSLP on potential support. As a result, a steering committee has now been established to explore where urban forestry efforts can take place and includes representatives from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, National Disaster Management Organization, Business Advisory Centre, Town and Country Planning Department, Parks and Gardens and the Urban Roads Authority. CSLP is hopeful that as a result of this renewed interest, urban forestry efforts will move forward with demonstrable results in the coming months.

7. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

A few human resource changes have occurred within the CSLP team during the quarter. The CSLP Office Assistant resigned during the quarter and a replacement is being recruited to begin during the final quarter of 2017. The addition of the Program Support Officer to the CSLP team was completed in May. This staff member will further support technical staff with training and workshops as well as data collection and entry related to monitoring and evaluation. Finally, a Communications Specialist is being recruited in order to allow the Monitoring and Evaluation and Communications Specialist to be able to fully devote his time to monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Plans remain in place to conduct a gender assessment of the CSLP activities and have a gender strategy in place for the two remaining years of the project. The scope of work for a Ghanaian consultant is being finalized and a short list of consultant candidates for the assessment has been made. The consultant's period of work is anticipated for September 2017.

To best capitalize on lessons learned during the CSLP project and especially this last year, the CSLP team held a retreat in advance of the annual work planning efforts. The focus of the retreat was to review the project's technical activities and the administrative support for those activities with special consideration for lessons learned, means of ensuring sustainability, and gender considerations that will further improve likelihood of success of project interventions. Such feedback will be used to ensure even stronger work plan activities are developed during the annual work planning exercises in July 2017.

8. LESSONS LEARNED

Instead of introducing new livelihood activities all together, there are a number of already existing livelihood opportunities that the people of the coastal districts are engaged in and are used to. These include subsistence level small ruminants and poultry production which if they are able to produce more than the family needs, they could sell the surplus. These animals are found in almost every community and in most households but appear in a state that indicate a clear lack of good nutritional, housing and medical care. CSLP could begin to provide integrated technical advice where farm wastes are fed to the animals and animal wastes such as droppings are sent to the farm fields. The technical support could come under the following:

- Improved housing with local materials such as forest sticks, bamboo, rattan, canes and raffia

- Improved nutrition utilizing multipurpose trees/shrubs, kitchen/farm wastes
- Linkage to service providers for improved health care

9. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Planned activities for the upcoming quarter will basically stay the course in the areas of livelihood diversification and support, VSLA monitoring and training, continued mapping of farm areas with CSLP interventions and wetlands in the GAW where Community Conservation Committees are actively pursuing co-management and conservation of their wetlands. There are several other activities that are more unique and these are noted in the list below.

- The CSLP will organize a five-day workshop in the next quarter to develop the FY 2018 Work Plan due on 1 September 2017. The project will also actively liaise with its sister projects, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project and the Fisheries and Coastal Management Capacity Building Support Project, to ensure effective collaboration and cooperation in areas of common interest and especially where jurisdictions and activities overlap.
- A gender assessment will be conducted and a gender strategy formulated for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
- A liaison and lessons learned field encounter is planned for August 2017 with the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (WABiCC). This USAID/West Africa-funded project has a number of elements in common with the CSLP including a climate change focus, management of wetlands, livelihood diversity and policy formulation linked to landscape level conservation and natural resources management. The WABiCC lens is regional but capitalizing on unique institutions and sites. The CSLP is anchored in grass roots experiences that can percolate to regional and (hopefully) national levels.

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

There were no comments received on the quarter two, Fiscal Year 2017 report from the CSLP AOR.

ANNEX A. Progress Summary

Table 1. PMP Indicator Progress - USAID Standard Indicators and Project Custom Indicators

Project Goal: To promote low emissions development in Ghana's Western Region by strengthening community-based natural resource management and monitoring. Purpose: Poverty reduction and increased resiliency in communities in the six coastal districts in the Western Region through improved natural resource management, livelihood diversification, value chain development, and ecosystem restoration											
Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Output 1: Increased incomes from livelihood diversification											
Sub-:											
EG. 3.2-1 <u>Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training</u>	Training Reports	2016	0	861	687	191	291	205	N/A	80%	Indicator on target and will be fully achieved at the end of the FY
EG. 3.2-4 <u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) receiving UGS food security-related organizational development assistance</u>	Project records	2016	0	63	57	--	49	8	N/A	90%	Indicator on target
EG. 3.2-17 <u>Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices</u>	Field Data/ Project records	2016	0	344	238	--	123	115	N/A	69%	Indicator on target
EG. 3.2-18 <u>Number of hectares of land under improved technologies or management practices</u>	GPS/GIS Field Data	2016	0	80	46	--	14	32	N/A	57%	Mapping of sites ongoing.
EG. 3.2-20 <u>Number of for profit private enterprises, producers organizations, waters users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations (CBOs) that applied improved</u>	Field Data/ Reports	2016	0	50	33	--	27	6	N/A	66%	Indicator on target

organization-level technologies or management practices											
4.8.1-6 Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation as a result of USG assistance	Field Data	2014	0	1,200	1,113	--	1,113	--	N/A	93%	Indicator on target
Output 2: Improved environment and natural resource management											
4.8.1-26 Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	GPS/GIS maps, Field Data	2014	0	1,415	854	450	89	315	N/A	60%	Mapping of mangrove sites ongoing.
4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO2e, reduced or sequestered, or avoided as a result of USG assistance	Field data	2014	0	7,000,000	4,131,069	-	4,066,852	64,218	N/A	59%	On target
4.8.1-29 Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Training Reports	2014	0	8,500	8,109	1,967	2,860	3,282	N/A	95%	Indicator on target
4.8.2-29 Number of person hours of training completed in climate change as a result of USG assistance	Training event Reports	2014	0	5,000	3,832	688	1,406	1,738	N/A	77%	Indicator on target
4.8.2-14 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	Field data	2014	0	75	51	-	31	20	-	68%	Indicator on target
Custom Indicators											
C-1 Number of person hours of training completed in VSL modules as a result of USG assistance	Training event Reports	2014	0	5,000	1,403	834	255	314	N/A	28%	Indicator on target
C-2 Number of community sensitization sessions on climate change issues and/or NRM/biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	Field data	2014	0	50	44	16	23	5	N/A	88%	Indicator on target

C-3 Number of persons receiving start-up items for improved NRM/ biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	Field data	2014	0	600	274	--	264	10	N/A	45%	Indicator on target
C-4 Number of project-planted seedlings surviving in towns/communities as a result of USG assistance	Field data	2014	0	65,000	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	N/A	Annual reporting

ANNEX B. STORIES FROM THE FIELD



FEMALE FARMERS EMPOWERED TO HOLD LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



Assuming a leadership role in Ghana, even at the community level, continues to be something often dominated by men. During Ghana's 2016 general election campaigns, there was great public support for increasing the number of women in parliament at the national level. The parliament that began working in January 2017, now includes 35 women out of a total of 275 parliamentarians (an increase of six women from the previous national elections). The US Agency for International Development-funded Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) is similarly interested in promoting female leaders and is doing so through empowering women in the Western Region. To date, seven of the project's Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are chaired and managed by women who had previously not held such a leadership role. Relatedly, women form 80% of the 165 management committee members from the more than 30 VSLA groups facilitated by the CSLP.

The US Forest Service-managed CSLP has also used its Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) vegetable production activities to mentor other female champions. From 14 CSA vegetable groups with over 150 members, two groups are chaired by women and 60% of management committee members are females. To further support these leaders, CSLP is supporting them with numeracy, literacy and basic record keeping skills to ensure they have the skills and resources available to manage their new found opportunities beyond the life of the project. These female leaders are making their impact felt by effectively managing their groups, serving as role models and transferring new skills in leadership to other women, men and children in their communities. As noted by some of the women, "we now feel empowered in various spheres of life and are poised to attempt greater leadership responsibilities".

Within the past three years, the CSLP has improved the economic benefits of more than 400 female farmers through improved agricultural and livelihood activities using the VSLA as a sustainable financing scheme for other interventions.

A VSLA is a member or community managed group of 15-25 people who save together and take small loans from those savings. Each member has a passbook for recording share purchases (savings) and loans.

Photos: Top: CSLP farmer, Gladys Atsu addressing the media on CSLP's food security intervention Middle: CSLP organic vegetable farmer, Cecilia Tandoh receiving award from the CSLP Director on Farmers Day. Bottom: Executives of Nebeyin VSLA at Asonti at a share out meeting.

www.feedthefuture.gov



ANNEX C. EVENTS LOG

FY 2017, Quarter 3, April-May-June

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Apr 1		✓			Capacity building training on CSA	Conducted for 10 enterprise group champions
Apr 3		✓			EMMP training for staff	Internal training for CSLP team after USAID's training on ESDM & EMMP.
Apr 3`		✓			Enumerator training on VSLA survey by CSLP/SFMP	Held in Mankessim. Participants: Enumerators, CSLP, SFMP, CEWEFIA, DAA, DAASGIFT
Apr 4	✓				Spatial Planning Needs Assessment	With Jomoro district assembly staff: DCD, TCPD, Development Planners
Apr 4		✓			CSA training	Organized for farmers at Ayawora
Apr 5-7				✓	Ground truthing mapping	1 community: Alloakpoke
Apr 5		✓			ToT on CC for WRCF partners	Held at Busua Beach for 27 participants from WRCF, FoN, Hen Mpoano, OSGCOND & COLANDEF. CC brochures printed.
Apr 5-7		✓			VSLA monitoring	5 communities
Apr 5-7				✓	Distribution of cassava stems to farmers	Farmers in 6 communities
Apr 6	✓				Food security & CSA training	For farmers & VSLA members in Adubrim. CSA demo site established at Adubrim.
Apr 6	✓				Food security training	For 28 farmers at Kamgbunli.
Apr 6	✓				Meeting with Charcoal producers	In Krobo, Shama District
Apr 6&7				✓	Creating channels within mangroves	At Old Kablesuazo
Apr 7			✓		Monitoring visit to CC Clubs	Adubrim D/A JHS & Asonti M/A JHS CCCs
Apr 7		✓			Training on wetland in schools	2 schools: Yabiw Meth. JHS and Akwidaa SDA JHS. Collaboration with UCC.
Apr 11-12		✓			NRM training for CREMA	3 communities in Ahanta West district
Apr 11-13		✓			VSLA monitoring & MIS data collection	4 VLSA/ communities
Apr 12	✓				Spatial Planning Needs Assessment	With Ellebelle district assembly officials
Apr 12		✓			Educational tour to Sawoma mangrove site	Organized for 5 CREMA members from Ketakor
Apr 13	✓				Meeting with Daasgift & Hen Mpoano	Discussion on VSLA scale up
Apr 13			✓		CSA demonstration farm site visit	Komfueku JHS CC Club CSA farm
Apr 18 & 25	✓				Linking cassava farmers to market	Meeting held in Takoradi and facilitated by Hen Mpoano.
Apr 19	✓				Meeting with Mangrove NGO	Meeting held in Accra
Apr 19			✓		Visit to WRCF aquaculture site	4 communities visited for selection of suitable sites for CSA practices
Apr 19-21		✓			VSLA monitoring	3 communities
Apr 20-21		✓			NRM training for CREMA	3 communities in Ahanta West district with 62 participants
Apr 25	✓				Field monitoring visit to Fawoman	With Jomoro District Community Development Officer. Witnessed VSLA share purchase meeting, visited apiary and CSA sites.

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
Apr 25-28	✓				Community entry on CSLP/SFMP VSLA survey	Communities/VSLAs selected for survey
Apr 26		✓			CSA training for farmers	Organized for farmers at Anlo Beach
Apr 27	✓				Wetland Volunteer Group meeting	Yabiw Volunteer group members
Apr 5, 27		✓			Mangrove nursery establishment	2 communities
Apr 4,5,11, 12,25,26		✓			VSLA training and monitoring	5 GAW communities
Apr 12, 26&27		✓			NRM training for conservation committees	4 committees
May 2-5				✓	SFMP data collection	VSLAs selected for survey
May 2-5				✓	Participatory mapping and ground truthing	3 communities
May 2&3		✓			NRM training for CREMA	3 CRMCs in Ahanta West with 65 members
May 3	✓				Formation of charcoal Producers Association	Interim leaders selected. 23 members at Krobo & 21 at Yabiw
May 3-4		✓			CSA training for farmers	3 communities
May 3	✓				GAW traditional authorities meeting	Held at Azuleloanu
May 4				✓	Installation of charcoal mobile kiln	2 installed
May 5-10		✓			Training in operations of charcoal kiln	Participants from Krobo & Yabiw
May 4	✓				Spatial Planning Needs Assessment	With Ahanta West District Assembly staff
May 4			✓		Support to farmer to establish tree nursery	Commercial tree nursery established by a female farmer at Sendu
May 8		✓			EMMP training for staff	11 CSLP team members. CSLP's EMMP reviewed and revised
May 8	✓				USAID IPs meeting	Held in Accra
May 10				✓	Farm mapping	In Navrongo
May 10-12		✓			VSLA monitoring	4 communities
May 16,24				✓	Tree seedling distribution to schools	In Jomoro & Shama Districts
May 12	✓				VSLA scale up meeting	Held in Accra at METSS office
May 12, 19, 26		✓			Training on wetland in schools	2 schools: Yabiw Meth. JHS and Akwidaa SDA JHS. Collaboration with UCC.
May 11-13			✓		Monitoring visit to conservation committees	4 committee. Visit made to ENI dumping site at Sanzule
May 15-19		✓			ToT on gender & environment for female teachers follow-on	29 schools in Shama district. 1,055 students trained
May 16-19		✓			VSLA monitoring	10 VSLAs
May 17	✓				Spatial Planning Needs Assessment	With Shama District Assembly staff
May 17		✓			Nursery Management: hands-on training for committee members	2 committees/communities
May 18-20				✓	Ecosystem Based Livelihood Assessment	Conducted in 4 communities
May 19 & 22			✓		Charcoal mobile kiln research	At Daboase
May 22-26		✓			UCC ICZM workshop	Attended by CSLP staff. Held in Cape Coast.
May 23-24			✓		Monitoring of VSLAs formed by Hen Mpoano	4 VSLAs visited
May 24	✓				Meeting with WRCF	Focus on CC education scale up
May 24, 26		✓			NRM training for conservation committees	30 members from 3 committees

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
May 25		✓			Educational tour for Komfueku D/A JHS CCC	To Ankobra Beach hotel's organic farm, CSLP/HM mangrove nursery site at Sawoma. 11 participants (excluding CSLP team)
May 25		✓			Record keeping training	Conducted for 38 members in 2 VSLAs at Anlo Beach
May 26	✓				UCC CCM review of wetland monitoring program	Attended by CSLP staff
May 26		✓			Cocoa shade tree restoration training	Organized for farmers in Bokro and Tweakor 2; with COCOBOD-CHED
May 30	✓				Meeting with WRCC TCPD	At WRCC
May 30		✓			ToT for DoFA Staff and lead farmers	Organized for Ahanta West DoFA
May 30-31				✓	Preparations on World Environment Day	Field visits, meeting with FSD and others
May 31	✓				Pyxera meeting on BSP review	Held at Akroma Plaza, Takoradi
May 2-31		✓			VSLA Training and Monitoring	4 communities
June 1		✓			CSA hands-on training	2 communities: Ekpu & Tweakor 2
June 1				✓	Seedling distribution	By Hen Mpoano
June 4				✓	Re-fabrication of charcoal mobile kiln	Done by vendor
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30		✓			Training on wetland in schools	Yabiw and Akwidaa. Quiz on wetland organized for Yabiw CCC members
June 5				✓	2017 World Environment Day	Held at Cape Three Points with Climate change club, WD, FSD, GES, DA & Media houses.
June 5-8		✓			CSA trainings	4 communities
June 7-8		✓			VSLA monitoring and trainings	3 VSLAs
June 7		✓			Introduction to mushroom training	44 farmers from 8 communities
June 8		✓			Introduction to snail farming training	53 farmers from 7 communities
June 7-9		✓			NRM training for conservation committees	3 committees
June 9	✓				Meeting by charcoal producers	At Yabiw
June 13		✓			CSA training	1 community
June 13-16		✓			VSLA monitoring	5 communities
June 13-16				✓	Ecosystem based livelihood assessment	Conducted in 4 communities
June 6-28		✓			VSLA monitoring	4 Amanzule communities
June 7-21				✓	Mangrove restoration	2 communities. 6,000 seedlings planted
June 14				✓	Monitoring of CCC	Komfueku JHS CCC
June 15	✓				Meeting with fisher folks in Shama	Focus on mangrove conservation
June 8, 15	✓				Media Day planning meeting	Held with Hen Mpoano team
June 20		✓			Honey harvesting training	Held at Esiamia
June 21	✓				Meeting with WABiCC & SFMP	Held in Accra
June 21		✓			Monitoring of apiaries	1 community
June 20-22				✓	Wetland Mapping/Ground truthing	At Ekpu
June 22				✓	GAW success story field trip	To Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli & Kamgbunli
June 23	✓				Technical staff retreat	Held at Kingstel Hotel, Takoradi
June 20-22		✓			VSLA monitoring	4 communities
June 22	✓				Update meeting with District officials	5 coastal districts. 34 GoG officials
June 28				✓	Media Day with Regional stakeholders	2 communities. Participation by TCPD, NBSSI, WD, GES & Media
June 29	✓				12 th Regional Stakeholder Meeting	Held in Ellebelle district
June 29		✓			CSA training	At New Ankasa. With WRCCF

Date(s)	Event Type				Event Description	Comments/Observations
	Meeting	Training	Visitation	Other		
June 29-30		✓			VSLA monitoring	2 VSLAs
June 28-30			✓		Monitoring of conservation committees	4 committees
June 30		✓			CSA ToT for Shama DoFA	Organized for DoFA staff & lead farmers
TOTALS	28	48	8	19		

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

Last update: July 18, 2017