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PEOPLE, RULES, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES (PROSPER)

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT (Final)
1 January- 31 March 2013



April 2013

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Front Cover Photo: Community representatives enter the Big Gio Forest as part of a mapping exercise in Nimba County

Front Cover photo credit: Nick Thomas, Tetra Tech ARD

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

AML	Arcelor Mittal Liberia
APM	Advanced Participation Methods
ASNAPP	Agribusiness in Sustainable African Plant Products
AYP	Advancing Youth Program
BCC	Behavior Change and Communications
BOTPAL	Botanical Products Association of Liberia
CA	Community Assembly
CDWG	Curriculum Development Working Group
CFDC	Community Forestry Development Committee
CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CFO	County Forestry Officer
CI	Conservation International
CJPS	Center for Justice and Peace Studies
CM	Community Mobilizers
COA	Communications Outreach Advisor
CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
dTS	Development and Training Services
EMMP	Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan
ENNR	East Nimba Nature Reserve
ETD	Environmental Threshold Decision
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FED	Food and Enterprise Development Project
FEWG	Forestry Education Working Group
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
GIO	Gender Integration Officer
GoL	Government of Liberia
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IRD	International Relief and Development
LA	Livelihoods Advisor
L/LEDA	Leader, Livelihoods and Enterprise Development Activities
L/EDOA	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities
LFSP	Liberia Forest Support Program
L-MEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LRCFP	Land Rights and Community Forestry Program

LTTP	Liberia Teacher Training Program
MES	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAEAL	National Adult Education Association of Liberia
NBST	National Benefit Sharing Trust
NNBSG	Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
ODA	Organizational Development Specialist
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
PUP	Private Use Permit
SCFA	Senior Community Forestry Advisor
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

To build on previous investments in the forestry and agricultural sectors, particularly the Land Rights and Community Forestry Program (2007-2011) and the Liberia Forestry Support Program (2011-2012), USAID contracted Tetra Tech ARD in May 2012 to implement a new, five-year program (2012-2017) entitled People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER). The overall goal of the program is to introduce, operationalize, and refine appropriate models for community management of forest resources for local self-governance and enterprise development in targeted areas of the country. The three primary objectives of the program are:

- 1) Expand educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance;
- 2) Improve community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in target areas;
- 3) Enhance community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest-based and agriculture-based enterprises in target areas.

This third quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the period from January 1 through March 31, 2013. Individual monthly progress reports were also prepared for USAID.

As the report sections that follow reveal, January through March was a period of intense activity across all three program components and in all of the PROSPER sites. This included a number of outreach and awareness activities the program's seven "new" sites that were designed to reinforce PROSPER staff and community understanding of community forestry, the Community Rights Law, and the procedures required to establish community assemblies and management bodies. Stakeholder consultations enabled PROSPER to solicit the views of different local actors on their interest in engaging in community forestry and to identify potential forest lands. Related livelihood activities included preparation for farmer field school (FFS) activities, and support to BOTPAL in accessing revolving funds and equipment for the 2013 Griffonia campaign.

In the mature PROSPER sites in northern Nimba, implementation of the management plan continued through support to the CFMB and Forest Guards to implement community-generated rules, introduce the permit system, and resolve boundary and farming issues in the Gba community forest.

The larger context in which PROSPER operates remained troubled in the 2nd Quarter. Rural communities throughout the country struggled to protect their natural resources and to negotiate and/or enforce social agreements under mounting pressure from well-funded mining, agricultural and timber interests – with little support from responsible Government institutions. A sudden surge in applications to the FDA to establish authorized community forests confirmed the prediction of many observers that logging companies would exploit this mechanism to gain access to Liberia's forests after the "back door" provided by Private Use Permits had been slammed shut in January.

PROSPER devoted a significant amount of attention and energy in the 2nd Quarter to advising and advocating for partner communities on land and forest management issues arising from permits or concessions awarded to private companies on their territory, or from proposed partnerships with private

interests. This included an iron ore exploration permit allegedly issued to Mount Bele Resources on Bleih Community Forest land and a permit to process iron ore tailings in the southwestern portion of the Barcoline community. In March, PROSPER and the FDA staff were mobilized at the request of certain members of the Kpogblen Clan in District 4 (Grand Bassa) to deal with an attempted “hijacking” of the community forest process underway in that community. PROSPER advised the community to resist pressure from a national legislator to sign an agreement that would hand logging rights over to a timber company (LTTC) of ill repute once their community forest management agreement is authorized. During the quarter, PROSPER took part in ongoing discussions concerning management of the East Nimba Nature Reserve, and supported the full participation of CFMB representatives from the Zor, Gba, and Bleih community forests in that process.

During the quarter, PROSPER provided information to the GOL and its partners on land and forest management issues encountered on the ground in program-supported communities. PROSPER’s DCOP reported to the CFWG in January on the surge in demand for community forests following the moratorium on PUPs, and made a presentation to the Forestry sector donor working group in late March. Information was shared with representatives from the Land Commission, Global Witness and the United Nations Sanctions Monitoring Committee representative.

Deliverables Summary:

No *new* contract deliverables were due during the second quarter of FY 2013 (Jan.-Mar. 2013). One contract deliverable due in the *first* quarter of FY 2013 was submitted for USAID review and approval:

- Biodiversity assessments completed for new sites (#24)

Another deliverable, due in Q3, was submitted ahead of schedule:

- Community forestry curriculum elements identified and teachers training needs assessment and curriculum review (Deliverable 7)

Three other contract deliverables due in the *first* quarter of FY 2013 underwent substantial development or revision during the second quarter but remain outstanding:

- Sector surveys and analyses for selected forestry and agricultural value chains (#2)
- Report summarizing findings of review of formal primary school curriculum, adult literacy curriculum, and non-formal education materials, and identifying opportunities to integrate environmental themes (#26)
- First outreach campaign launched to improve public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues (#28)

Contract deliverables to be completed in the third quarter of FY 2013:

- Environmental curriculum materials field tested with MOE staff, other USAID implementing partners, teachers and primary school students in schools in target sites (#3)
- Public outreach and awareness building approaches field-tested with relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders along the themes of sustainable natural

resources management, land tenure and property rights, environmental compliance, and community-based forest management (#5)

- Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and property rights, and environmental awareness (#11)

Pending USAID approval, the following deliverables due (by contract) during the 3rd Quarter will be completed during the 4th Quarter to allow PROSPER to take better advantage of May and June (to forge ahead with field work), while reserving the preparation of handbooks and legal reviews until July-September when heavy rains will favor such “indoor work”.

- Community Forest Management Handbook that outlines the development, registration, operations and management of community forests is revised/developed, provided to communities and to other partner organizations, and used by stakeholders (#12)
- Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners (#13)
- Draft of laws, regulations or policies for enactment by necessary GOL legal authorities in support of secure land tenure and property rights for communities in forested areas are developed /revised and disseminated in collaboration with stakeholders (#15)
- Year 1 Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the formal, adult education and non-formal curricula are revised and tested (#27)

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Staffing:

PROSPER's technical team was reinforced during the 2nd Quarter by the arrival of Eugene Cole from Sierra Leone on January 21 as the program's new Leader for Educational Development and Outreach Activities (LEDOA), replacing Philip Sedlak. A natural resource/environmental specialist with strong program management experience, Mr. Cole spurred collaboration between PROSPER and its key institutional partners (the Ministry of Education and the Community Forestry Working Group) in developing an enhanced environmental curriculum for the formal primary school system and in designing and planning the first annual outreach campaign – "Make community forestry rights real".

Other staffing actions in the second quarter included the hiring (Feb. 6) of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Edward J. Roberts, in support of M&E Unit Head, Darlington Vangehn. In March, PROSPER implementing partner, NAEAL, hired an experienced Liberian curriculum development expert, Melvin Dorwison, to support the environmental curriculum development and testing effort on a part-time basis through August 2013. As of March 31, one important technical post – GIS expert – remained unfilled despite ongoing efforts to recruit a suitable candidate.

The addition of abovementioned staff in the 2nd Quarter, brought the "enlarged" PROSPER team to a total of 68 members. 27 of these are Tetra Tech ARD employees; the others are provided by PROSPER implementing partners: ACDI VOCA (2), and CJPS, AGRHA, and NAEAL (13 each). 45 of the 68 team members are field-based.

With a large team in constant motion on Liberia's poorly-maintained road network, the risk of accidents is a permanent concern for PROSPER. A serious motorcycle accident in February involving the head of PROSPER's Grand Bassa office prompted the Chief of Party to ask CJPS, AGRHA, and NAEAL to remind their 36 field employees of the safety guidelines (including mandatory helmet use) that each of them agreed to abide by as operators of PROSPER-funded motorcycles. Clear, graduated sanctions were defined for non-compliance with safety guidelines, culminating in automatic dismissal for a third offense.

Subcontract Administration:

PROSPER's three national subcontract partners (AGRHA, CJPS, NAEAL) were fully deployed throughout the 2nd Quarter. In addition to a full-time staff member based out of PROSPER's main office in Monrovia, each partner provided one officer/coordinator for each of PROSPER's three field offices. (Sanniquellie, Tappita, and Buchanan) and 9 community mobilizers (based in PROSPER-supported community forestry sites). Most of the 36 field staff provided by PROSPER's national subcontractors did not work under the predecessor projects (LRCFP and LFSP) and were not familiar with the forestry sector. Many had only limited practical experience in rural community development. Therefore, many of them are in a learning-by-doing initiation during this first year of PROSPER implementation. PROSPER technical staff prepared and led most of the field activities executed in the 2nd Quarter. The hands-on training provided to subcontractor staff on such subjects as the steps to establishing a community forest or the setting up of governance structures, enabled them to then extend this training and technical support to other communities. At the end of the 2nd Quarter, most of the subcontractor staff had been in service for 4-6 months – sufficient time for PROSPER Heads of Office to make some preliminary assessments concerning their ability to carry out the work required of them. In the 3rd Quarter, PROSPER will undertake a 6-month review of IP staff, in close consultation with CJPS, AGRHA, and NAEAL.

Several measures were taken in the 2nd Quarter to improve the flow of information between field-based staff of PROSPER's national subcontractors to county office heads and component leaders in Monrovia in order to strengthen coordination and monitoring. In February, PROSPER asked the field office coordinators of CJPS, AGRHA, and NAEAL to begin attending PROSPER's bi-monthly technical sessions on a rotating basis. In March, the Livelihoods Component instituted a weekly reporting requirement for AGRHA community mobilizers and coordinators. To improve and standardize quarterly reporting, PROSPER provided the three subcontractors with a uniform format to use. PROSPER purchased USB modems for the IP coordinators' shared computer in the Buchanan, Sanniquellie, and Tappita offices that provides them with access to the Internet for e-mail communication and transmission of files.

Providing adequate material and logistical support for the 36 field-based subcontractor staff continued to present challenges in the 2nd quarter – especially for community mobilizers posted in remote locations, far from county offices. Rough and muddy road conditions wreak havoc on motorcycle chains and brake systems, for example, necessitating frequent cleaning and maintenance, as well as replacement of spare parts that are not readily available up-country. The scarcity of gas stations in rural Liberia requires PROSPER to store fuel at its field offices, and to provide community mobilizers with jerry cans of gasoline that they transport by motorcycle to their villages. As the national subcontractors have no field-based logistical support capacity, the tasks of maintaining and refueling the 36 motorcycles and monitoring their use fall entirely on PROSPER's field office administrators.

No missions to Liberia were carried out in the 2nd Quarter by any of PROSPER's international subcontractors. A scope of work for remote assistance from dTS in carrying out PROSPER's gender integration plan from Mar. 2013 to Mar. 2014 was approved and a contract modification signed. Work sessions were organized with FFI to refine the subcontractor's draft biomonitoring training and technical assistance proposal. PROSPER engaged Rutgers on requested refinements of major deliverables, notably the second revision of the Biodiversity Assessment and Ethnobotanical/Value Chain Survey. The PROSPER Livelihoods team worked with ASNAPP to design and plan a technical assistance mission in April to assess the effectiveness of the training that ASNAPP provided in November 2012 to Griffonia collectors and buyers.

Procurement:

PROSPER processed 18 purchase orders in the second quarter for goods and services totaling \$87,719. Items procured ranged from satellite imagery for community forest mapping, to bamboo reeds for fence construction at PROSPER's Sanniquellie office. Half of the amount above was for a new four-wheel drive vehicle, which will be delivered in June and will help reduce the unseemly amounts that PROSPER is currently expending each month to maintain the four vehicles inherited from LFSP (two, 2011 Ford Rangers, a 2011 Toyota Hilux pick-up, and a 2008 Toyota Prado) in usable condition.

During the quarter, PROSPER also issued two firm fixed-price contracts for professional and technical services. This included a \$2,200 contract with A&O, Inc. for renovation of PROSPER's Tappita field office, and a \$3,329 contract with Agro-Stewards to assess the feasibility of supporting the rehabilitation of rubber farms in the Tappita district.

Offices:

Following Tetra Tech Home Office approval of the competitive procurement conducted for the purchase of building materials for the Tappita field office, renovation work commenced in late January. As of late March, the work was largely completed, with the exception of some painting and finishing work on windows. Two additional structural improvements are needed for the Tappita office and will be

completed in the 3rd Quarter: replacement of the septic system on the main office building and the construction of a bamboo reed perimeter fence.

Structural improvements needed on PROSPER's Buchanan office include construction of a generator house and installation of a fence. Pro forma invoices for the generator house were solicited in March but have been rejected as exorbitant. PROSPER is currently working through the Buchanan office landlord to identify more reasonable vendors for generator house.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Performance Monitoring:

PROSPER's Performance Management Plan was approved by USAID on January 30. In February, PROSPER successfully entered FY-2013 Quarter 1 performance data into USAID's Performance Indicator Database System (PIDS). PROSPER's presented "actuals" against targets for the six program indicators listed below:

- 1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices;
- 1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management;
- 2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting);
- 2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values;
- 2.3.1: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance
- 3.2.1: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training.

First quarter results exceeded *annual* targets for two indicators (2.1.2, 3.2.1), highlighting the need to revise initial targets.

FY-2013 Quarter 2 performance data is presented in Appendix 3. Data is available for 7 of 8 indicators for which PROSPER had Q2 targets. The program met or exceeded targets for 2 of the 8 indicators (1.4.1, 2.2.1). PROSPER fell short on 5 indicators (*1.4.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 3.2.2, and 3.3.1*), but expects to meet annual targets for all of them. Data collection and analysis concerning indicator 3.1 (*Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance*) are delayed due to BOTPAL's failure to use prescribed tracking sheets for Griffonia harvest/sales.

In addition to working with Monrovia- and field-based team members in March to assemble data for reporting against the program's PMP indicators, PROSPER's M&E Specialist and M&E Officer each undertook field missions in March to assess the efficacy of specific training activities.

The M&E Specialist (MES) traveled to all three PROSPER zones between mid-February and early March to gather information and community feedback on three program activities: 1) Awareness-raising on the process for establishing a community forest; 2) establishment of farmer field schools, and; 3) Griffonia collection. The MES report underlined significant implementation concerns with regard to farmer field schools and Griffonia collection, some of which were addressed (e.g. more rigorous application of selection criteria for FFS participants, procurement of new tools) and some which remained unresolved at the end of the quarter (insufficient follow-up of Griffonia purchasing campaign).

In late March, the M&E Officer travelled to Grand Bassa to participate in a village-level sensitization campaign on the Community Rights Law (CRL). The M&E Officer assisted the Grand Bassa team in using two instruments: a participant feedback/evaluation questionnaire designed to gather participants' feedback on the usefulness of the training, the clarity of the information provided, etc. A second instrument was designed to measure the extent to which participants had seized the main points of the sensitization sessions. Results are currently being compiled and analyzed.

Both efforts described above represent the start of an effort which the M&E Unit will lead, to systematically gather feedback from participants on the perceived usefulness and quality of training and technical assistance provided by PROSPER, and to objectively determine what participants are learning.

In March, the M&E Unit began designing a survey to be conducted in April 2013 to assess the extent to which farmer field school graduates from predecessor projects (LRCFP, LFSP) are actually *applying* cultural techniques and management practices taught in Farmer Field Schools.

Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan

On January 30, PROSPER received written observations from USAID concerning the EMMP urging the program to confirm the “implementability” of the very comprehensive plan or to propose a simpler, but more workable plan. In March, Tetra Tech ARD’s home office Senior Technical Advisor/Manager (STA/M) for PROSPER developed a “PROSPER EMMP Implementation Cheat Sheet” summarizing the program’s principal EMMP action responsibilities for each of the following activity arenas: Policy SOWs, Policy meetings, SOWs on land use and community forest planning, Trainings and management plan development, Development of specific management plans, All field activities and trainings, and Value chain reports. For Tetra Tech ARD, the program activity arena that poses the most difficulty for EMMP definition is *NRM enterprise development*. In March, the STA/M sought USAID/COR feedback and guidance on the following questions:

- What constitutes a “substantively distinct incidence of support”
- What the manageable interest of PROSPER is in: “demonstrating that benefits accruing to non-sustainable harvesters will be controlled/limited”
- How far to go with the requirement for reference to a “sustainable resource management plan.”

In consultation with USAID, PROSPER will pursue efforts in the 3rd Quarter to define an implementable EMMP. In the meantime, the program will continue to implement various elements of the draft EMMP related to the collection of NTFP and development of Farmer Field School models, through training and implementation as part of the livelihoods program.

Gender Integration:

A gender integration plan was submitted to USAID and approved early in the quarter. The plan identified interventions for specific activities by component and was distributed to all of the PROSPER staff for review. To support the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) to implement these activities, the dTS gender consultant responsible for the development of the plan was contracted for remote support to the GIO. In March, the gender consultant reviewed the leadership training modules prior to implementation (see Activity 2.1) and developed a methodology with the GIO to assess the progress in the implementation of the Gender Integration Plan – an activity that will be carried out in the next quarter.

COMPONENT WORK PLANS

The replacement of the Leader for Educational Development and Outreach Activities (L/EDOA) in mid-January introduced renewed energy and enthusiasm in the Component 1 team that was manifest in a flurry of planning and implementation activities throughout the quarter. By the end of the quarter, the Component 1 team with assistance from CSO and government partners, developed illustrative modules for both primary school environmental curriculum and FTI's community forestry curriculum, and conducted numerous outreach and awareness activities at the field level with a particular focus in northern Nimba sites where management plan implementation gathered momentum. In the new sites in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties, posters developed in the previous quarter were used by field staff to support outreach efforts. In Monrovia, a major focus of activities was the development and implementation of an action plan for the "Make Community Forestry Rights Real" outreach campaign that will be launched in May 2013.

COMPONENT 1: EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, NRM, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Activity 1.1: Collaboratively support the development and/or modification of primary formal and non-formal school curricula to increase knowledge and understanding related to natural resources, their management, and the related rights and responsibilities of government and citizens

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Curriculum development specialists identified and formal primary school curriculum lesson plans developed

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments:

Following meetings in January with the MoE and other education stakeholders, members of the Curriculum Development Working Group agreed that PROSPER would focus on development of lesson plans and instructional materials rather than refine the existing primary school curriculum. It was further agreed to mobilize Liberian experts from the MoE and high performing teachers in the government school systems to support the curriculum development. These volunteers were selected by the Component 1 team following recommendations by the MoE and interviews conducted by PROSPER staff. The volunteers developed six illustrative environmental education lesson plans under the leadership of the L/EDOA and with the assistance of STTA. After field testing, these will serve as models for the development of an additional 56 lesson plans that will be integrated into the existing MoE curriculum.



Figure 1: Curriculum development specialists discuss and develop lesson plan templates.

Activity 1.2: Collaboratively support the development of outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Outreach and awareness materials developed for National Outreach Campaign, "Make Community Forest Rights Real"

On-going planning and learning-by-doing activities for “Make Community Forestry Rights Real” campaign
CSO and government staff trained in media technologies for outreach campaigns
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Launching of the Outreach Campaign delayed until May 2013 (Deliverable 28)

Key Accomplishments:

Planning and preparation of the National Outreach campaign dominated the activities under Component 1. An action plan was developed shortly upon arrival by the incoming L/EDOA in collaboration with Outreach and Awareness Advisor (OAA) that was shared with the Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG) members actively participating in the outreach campaign. PROSPER has endeavored to involve CFWG members in all aspects of preparation and planning including review of Scopes of Work for service providers, review and assessment of bids, identification of venues in various locations, and outreach to local government. While this has proved to be time consuming, the CFWG participants and PROSPER staff have gained skills that will enable them to use similar approaches in their own and future campaign efforts.

As part of the planning and capacity-building process, Tetra Tech ARD Media Specialist, Morgan Hillenbrand, worked closely with members of the PROSPER team and CFWG to develop a video product that will be used in the upcoming campaign. In addition to providing training in behavior change communications, the participants learned how to develop messages, create a story board, and received basic training in video editing. The final video product has been field tested at PROSPER sites and with PROSPER partners to assess the impact of the messages and to gather suggestions for improvements. Revisions will be made to the video before it is used in the upcoming outreach campaign that will be launched in May 2013.



Figure 2: A young actor performs one of the outreach skits on hunting. He is being filmed by members of the CFWG for the Make Community Forest Rights Real film.

Activity 1.3: Develop a CF (Community Forestry) curriculum and support capacity development of FTI (Forestry Training Institute) staff to implement

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Lecture on community forestry and geospatial technologies delivered to FTI students and faculty
FTI community forestry curriculum developed and reviewed
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period; the following were delivered ahead of schedule: Community forestry curriculum elements identified and teachers training needs assessment and curriculum review (Deliverable 7; due FY1, Q3)

Key Accomplishments:

Dr. Ken Bauer's assessment of the current FTI curriculum and proposed sequencing for a community forestry curriculum at FTI was submitted to USAID in January 2013. The report was distributed to staff, faculty and advisors to FTI in advance of a workshop that was led by the L/EDOA with support from the CF Advisor and Education Advisor. At the workshop it was agreed that PROSPER would develop illustrative lesson plans and syllabi for the proposed curriculum once FTI has finalized the framework of the two-year curriculum. The L/EDOA is also working closely with FFI to determine if short courses developed by FFI for FTI under the Darwin initiative can be adapted to the proposed Community Forestry curriculum.

To support FTI faculty and students' development, arrangements have been made with FTI to provide lectures by visiting consultants. During this quarter, Tetra Tech ARD Geospatial Specialist, Nick Thomas delivered a lecture on geospatial technologies and community forestry planning to students and faculty at FTI.



Figure 3: FTI faculty, staff, and students discuss the recommendations of Dr. Bauer's report.

Activity 1.4: Work with civil society institutions and communities to support policy dialogue, develop communication and coordination strategies, and support effective stakeholder engagement in the development of NRM, land, and environmental policy

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Presentations made to Forestry Development Authority staff, forestry sector donor representatives, and the Community Forestry Working Group

Collaboration with UNMIL Civil Affairs and County government to address Guinean encroachment in northern Nimba

Supported Sinoe-based CFMB to publicize threats to community forestry implementation

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments:

Several presentations were made to forestry stakeholder groups during the reporting period. Most notably, the DCOP reported on the surge in demand for community forests following the moratorium on Private Use Permits to the CFWG in January, and to the Forestry sector donor working group at the FDA in late March. Additional meetings were held and information shared with representatives from the Land Commission, Global Witness and the United Nations Sanctions Monitoring Committee representative. The presentation to the Forestry Donors Working Group also included a presentation by the Chair of the CFMB in Numopoh community in Sinoe County. This CFMB, created through USAID support under LRCFP, has come under pressure to enter into logging contracts of questionable validity. The Chairman pleaded with the donor community to continue and to expand support for community forestry since implementation of the current CRL and regulations requires capacity that is currently not possessed by communities, CSO and the FDA.

PROSPER continues to engage local government and to forge strong relations between communities and their representatives at the local level. During the quarter, community members attending the County Development Committee meetings alerted officials to cross-border incursions in the Gba forest. Following these reports, PROSPER staff and community representatives accompanied the Nimba County



Figure 4: Sugar cane wine operation near the Guinea border in the Gba Community Forest.

Superintendent and representatives from the Civil Affairs Unit of UNMIL to investigate reports of cross-border incursion into the Gba Community Forest. UNMIL was asked to join because of the international nature and potential volatility of the situation. The team found several diamond mining pits and sugar cane operations within the forest. Three miners working in the area were dressed in Guinean army uniforms, assumedly to intimidate local people and deter interference.

Activity 1.5: Train communities receiving benefit sharing funds from commercial logging and key partners such as the National Benefit Sharing Trust Board, FDA, private sector actors, and others on more effective and environmentally sound development programs for their communities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

There were no results to report during the quarter

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

No activities to report during the period. However, it was reported in the media that more than US\$13 million had been transferred from the FDA to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) from timber operators for ultimate distribution to communities affected by Timber Sale Contracts and Forest Management Contracts. This money was to be held in escrow by the MoF until the National Benefit Sharing Trust (NBST) could open an account. For more than a year now, the NBST had tried to raise the funds to open an account to receive the funds. At one point, the LFSP program was approached for the funds but was refused by the COP because the NBST Chair would not agree to return the seed funds once the escrow account funds were received from MoF. In the interim, the \$13 million dollars given to the MoF has gone missing. These issues raise serious questions about the long-term viability of the NBST and the suitability of this NBST as a means to distribute benefits to communities.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT LEADING TO MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND REDUCED THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY IN TARGET AREAS

During this quarter, field activities focused on building community and staff capacity to support the development of community forest management activities. This included outreach and awareness activities, the development of video products for the upcoming “Make Community Forestry Rights Real” campaign, mapping, stakeholder consultations, and trainings related to the Community Rights Law (CRL). In the mature PROSPER sites in northern Nimba, implementation of the management plan continued through support to the CFMB and Forest Guards to implement community-generated rules, introduce the permit system, and resolve boundary and farming issues in the Gba CF. Some of these field-based activities (mapping and outreach) were supported through STTA, while others were supported and documented by PROSPER staff for inclusion in the How-to Handbooks. At the national level, PROSPER management staff continued to follow issues arising from the findings of the President’s Special Independent Investigation Board (SIIB) and the ensuing Executive Order and shared information within the forestry sector on the growing pressure to use community forestry as a mechanism for timber operations.

Activity 2.1: Build community capacity for forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Community Assembly members trained in leadership skills
Community forestry areas identified and applications for authorized community forestry status developed by communities
Options developed by community leaders and representatives to address multiple and conflicting uses of the Gba CF
Community leaders in northern Nimba better informed of AML and subcontracted conservation organization’s interests
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments

While there were delays in activities related to elections of the Community Assemblies and formation of CFMB, numerous activities were undertaken that strengthened community capacity to undertake forest governance and management activities. Specifically, in the seven (7) new sites, stakeholder community profiling information was verified, outreach and awareness provided on the steps required to create an authorized community forest, and discussions were held to organize communities and/or clans into management units through multiple workshops with community leaders and representatives. By the end of the consultations, each of the new sites had a firm grasp of the steps needed to create an authorized community forest (see Snapshots for details), had agreed on the forest area that would be covered under a community forest management agreement, and had gained consensus on how to organize themselves along ethnic or administrative lines for forest management (a summary of the organizing units for each site is summarized in Table 1 below). Following this, field staff and mobilizers worked with community-appointed committees to draft letters of application to the FDA consistent with the regulatory requirements and supported the mobilization of community leaders to collect the US\$250 filing fee.



Figure 5: Community members discuss and proposed community forest boundaries.

Once target communities had agreed on the proposed areas for community forestry, they undertook mapping exercises to identify the boundaries of the proposed community forest areas and adjacent communities –

initially with the support of Tetra Tech ARD's Geospatial Specialist, Nick Thomas, and subsequently with FDA and PROSPER staff that had been trained by Mr. Thomas. This information will not only support the future boundary demarcation and zoning exercises related to forest management, but will help to identify neighboring communities to consult during the public notice period required under the CRL regulation.

Options for Gba Community Settlements and Farms in the CF

- Demarcate around villages
- Allow people to harvest their crops for not more than 4 years then vacate the forest
- Compensate farmers leaving the CF with tree crops
- Re-demarcate the boundaries to leave out farms and settlements
- Create more awareness
- Support alternative livelihood activities outside the CF
- Re-enforce ban on new settlements/farms through awareness
- Re-settle farmers from inside the community forest and compensate
- Compensate CFMBs and CF guards
- Allow farmers to farm for (2) years and move
- Relocation

In the three older sites in northern Nimba, major accomplishments included the introduction of rules and permitting systems in the community forests. This was done through theatre, radio, and outreach by community leaders and CFMB. Forest Guards also received targeted training in community outreach led by PROSPER staff and FDA. Permits are available at the CF Offices and the implementing partners will support the CFMB to distribute these permits in the upcoming months. The location of settlements and farms within the Gba Community Forest remained unresolved during the period. However, PROSPER supported the Gba community to take several significant steps to address these issues, including support for a major stakeholder meeting that included leaders as well as affected community members. A list of potential options was generated for further intra-community discussion (see text box to left for list of options for discussion). The PROSPER Community Mobilizers continue to support participants from this meeting to discuss the identified options with their constituents. It is hoped that the community can come to a decision in the next months with continued PROSPER support.

However, the recent disclosure by Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) of its intent to relocate up to 200 farmers currently farming in and near the Gba CF has complicated the issue since those farmers will be compensated by AML. This will also further limit the available land for farmers who are currently farming in and around the Gba CF. These meetings were organized to discuss various options to address the presence of these farms and settlements in the CF.

Table 1: Summary of proposed Community Forest sites in PROSPER areas

PROSPER Site	Proposed CF Name	Names of Clan(s)	District(s)	Notes
Tappita	Kbarblea District Community Forest	Beautuo Clan (Gio) Behwah Clan (Gio) Duobozon Clan (Gio) Geyui Clan (Krahn)	Kbarblea District	This CFMB proposes to manage the area of the Big Gio located in the Boe-Quilla District.
Tappita	Boe Quilla Community Forest	Quilla Clan (Gio) Sah Clan (Gio) Boe Clan (Gio)	Boe-Quilla District	This CFMB proposes to manage the area of the Big Gio located in the Boe-Quilla District.
Tappita	Gblor/Gbeah Community Forest	Gblor & Gbeah (Gio)	Doe District	This CFMB proposes to organize two distinct forest areas: one will be jointly managed within the Big Gio National Forest, and the second will be managed by the Gblor Clan through a CFMB subcommittee.
Tappita	Sehzuplay Community Forest	Sehzuplay (Gio)	Doe District	Located in the northern portion of the Doe District. Ongoing dispute with neighbors in Boe Quilla District.
Sanniquellie	Sehyi Community Forest	Seyhi Clan (Mano)	Senequellie-Mah	This forest is inside the AML concession area and the Mount Bele Resources concession
Grand Bassa	TBD	Kpogblen Clan (Bassa)	District 4	There are two patches of forest that will be covered under the CFMA. Each will be managed by subcommittees of the CFMB based on geography
Grand Bassa	TBD	Multiple clans and ethnic groups including Bassa, Kru, Fanti, & Loma	Buchanan	There are two patches of forest that are under consideration for community forest: one mangrove forest, and one upland forest. These will be managed by subcommittees of the CFMB made up of representatives located in close proximity to the areas.

Community stakeholder meetings were held in the Doe District near Tappita to determine how communities wanted to organize themselves for community forest management. The Gblor, Gbeah and Sehzuplay clans' customary claims to land cover more than half of the Big Gio Forest area. Outputs from the mapping exercises

conducted in January by Geospatial Expert, Nicholas Thomas, supported the delineation of the clan boundaries. Ultimately, the Gblor and Gbeah Clans will work together while the Sehzuplay clan will manage another portion of the forest. The Sehzuplay clan is located closest to the road and part of the customary land is covered by a deed that served as the basis for the Doe Clan PUP.

Mapping of the Seyhi community area commenced in the final week of February. Various stakeholders were involved in the process that sought to identify the clan boundaries and identify priority areas for community forestry. A similar activity was undertaken in District 4, Grand Bassa. In District 4, part of the community's forest currently lies within a PUP that was issued to the "People of District 3, Grand Bassa". The mapping exercise helped to identify potential areas for community forest. The community is unaware of any deed for the area, although they did report that a survey had begun there but was never completed during the years of the Doe administration. Both activities were led by Koko Dennis, a FDA cadre member who was trained in the methodology by Nick Thomas in January 2013.

A meeting was convened between the various northern Nimba stakeholders in Monrovia including community representatives, District Commissioners, AML, CI, USAID and PROSPER. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the various interests of the stakeholders so as to move forward with co-management. PROSPER will continue to support the communities of northern Nimba in planning and management efforts related to the ENNR and the larger landscapes through direct support for community forestry, and by assisting the community to understand the issues at play so that they are able to negotiate for their rights. For example, AML (and their subcontractors FFI and CI) are interested in biodiversity both for conservation, but also as a means to obtain support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Phase II operations. Communities need to understand these interests in order to negotiate with much more sophisticated partners on use and management of areas both within and outside the CFs. PROSPER supported community leaders to meet with their constituents prior to the workshop in Monrovia in order to gather information regarding the community's position on ENNR management, conservation agreements, and the role of the Co-Management Committee. Additional issues will undoubtedly arise as AML prepares to relocate communities in preparation for Phase II operations while ramping up management of the ENNR as a strict nature reserve.

To further build the capacity of community leaders in northern Nimba, thirty-eight (38) men and women from the Gba and Zor Community Assemblies participated in a leadership training course led by the GIO and the NAEAL Program Coordinator. Adaptations to the training materials developed under LRCFP were made in consideration of the Gender Implementation Plan.

Activity 2.2: Strengthen capacity of FDA, EPA, and CSOs to support sustainable forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

CSO partner staff increased their practical understanding of the CRL and its regulation through training and implementation of field activities.

CFWG members trained in the development of video as an outreach and awareness tool

FDA and forest sector donors debriefed on community forestry-related activities

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments:

Members of PROSPER's CSO partners have all been mobilized to the PROSPER field sites and have been active participants in field activities as well as recipients of training in the Community Rights Law (CRL) and regulation, outreach and awareness techniques, community mapping, and community mobilizing strategies. FDA staff assigned to the PROSPER site areas have also participated in these trainings and activities and have "learned by doing". The FDA staff in Grand Bassa has played a vital role in drawing attention to inconsistencies in the application of the CRL to their superiors in Monrovia and Buchanan. At a recent planning meeting, one of the FDA staff commented that they had previously never even read the CRL, even though they were responsible for its implementation.

The FDA responded positively to a request by ARD to clarify the role of the FDA staff on the PROSPER program. A MOU is currently under development that will enable PROSPER to transfer motorcycles to FDA cadre staff for their use in the field.

Tetra Tech ARD's Media Specialist, Morgan Hillenbrand, trained members of the CFWG in the use of video in behavior change communications. As part of this practical, hands-on training, members of the CFWG worked closely with Ms. Hillenbrand to design and shoot footage in the PROSPER sites that was used to develop a video that will be used in the upcoming "Make Community Forestry Rights Real" campaign (see Activity 1.2). The media kit used to develop the

video was left with the PROSPER staff in order to collect additional footage for other BCC products. It is anticipated that Ms. Hillenbrand will return to Liberia in the fourth quarter to provide additional training in the development of video products once a larger catalogue of materials is accrued.



Figure 6: CFWG members take break from filming on top of Mount Nimba.

A presentation was made to the FDA and forestry sector donors on March 28, 2013 to brief the participants on the field activities related to community forestry. The recent moratorium on Private Use Permits has coincided with a sharp increase in the interest of community forestry as a mechanism for commercial timber operations. Applications have been developed hurriedly and under questionable influence of legislators and powerful timber interests. The FDA and CSO capacity to monitor these applications and agreements for compliance with the CRL is limited. As a result, PROSPER management is currently working with the COR to develop strategies to address this shortfall in light of the growing demand for community forestry in Liberia.

Activity 2.3: Support development of legal framework for CF and LTPR

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Consultant identified and contracted to develop policy briefs

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period

Key Accomplishments:

The Special Independent Investigation Body (SIIB) appointed by the president to investigate the PUP scandal issued a report in early January that included a number of recommendations that were acted upon through Executive Order #44. This included the formation of a committee led by the Governance Commission to review the forestry legal framework. Proposals to undertake this work have been provided to the donors. In the interim, PROSPER contracted Dr. Solomon Mombeshora to draft policy briefs that will highlight some of the forestry policy issues, including inconsistencies in the CRL law and regulation. Dr. Mombeshora will commence this work in late April.

Activity 2.4: Increase knowledge of forest ecosystems and design appropriate interventions

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Draft of Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook developed by subcontractor FFI

Contract deliverables due during the quarter Biodiversity Threats Assessment Report was due during the previous quarter (FY1, Q1) but submission to USAID delayed due to delayed field work. Deliverable was submitted during the period (Deliverable 24)

Key Accomplishments:

The biodiversity assessment of the PROSPER sites conducted by FFI was submitted to USAID during the period. The L/EDOA and OAA have begun the process of reviewing the report to identify potential material to include in outreach and education materials at the PROSPER sites. In the interim and following discussions with the PROSPER technical team, FFI has developed and submitted for review a draft handbook for biodiversity monitoring. This draft will be finalized following a workshop/peer review in late April before final submission to USAID.

COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED COMMUNITY-BASED LIVELIHOODS DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED AND AGRICULTURE-BASED ENTERPRISES IN TARGET AREAS

Component 3 activities focused on preparations for the Farmer Field Schools and the transformation of CPOP and CPG to cooperatives. Griffonia collection took place through BOTPAL with PROSPER providing links to revolving fund financing. A rubber assessment was conducted to ascertain the viability of rehabilitating rubber farms in the Tappita area and nurseries for NTFPs were established at all of the sites.

ACTIVITY 3.1: Assist communities, selected resource user groups within communities, and other appropriate public and private stakeholders to develop enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources and payments for ecosystem services

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE MOBILIZATION QUARTER

BOTPAL met criteria and received US\$24,000 from AGRHA-managed revolving fund for collection and transportation of Griffonia

NTFP collectors mobilized in all PROSPER sites

15 NTFP nurseries established

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Sector surveys and analyses for selected forestry and agricultural value chains was due in the previous quarter (FY1, Q1) but submission to USAID delayed (Deliverable 2) until next quarter.

Key Accomplishments:

NTFP Activities: The Griffonia collection season started in late December and will conclude in April. PROSPER linked Botanical Products Association of Liberia (BOTPAL) to AGRHA's Revolving Fund which allowed BOTPAL to pre-finance the purchase of Griffonia in advance of securing a buyer. Prices offered in Monrovia were low early in the season (less than \$2/kg) compared to the \$4/kg end-of-season sale price from 2012. The buying efforts by BOTPAL in Southern Nimba were of particular concern. In the previous year under LFSP, BOTPAL collected a significant amount of Griffonia from southern Nimba. However

during the current (2013) campaign, BOTPAL failed to mobilize an effective network of agents in that area. The high initial costs to establish such a network, the lack of organizational capacity (which was obscured by "subsidized support" under LRCFP and LFSP), and the initial market price indicators (\$2.30/Kilo ex Monrovia) issued by ASNAPP, might have discouraged BOTPAL from moving in on a large scale. In late March, through an emergency intervention by PROSPER, five shopkeepers received basic training on Griffonia, quality assessment and trade aspects. Cash was made available by BOTPAL for these agents, but very little Griffonia was purchased from collectors. By the time agents were in place there was not much Griffonia left to be harvested or collected from the forest because most had fallen from the vine and begun germinating as a result of the intermittent early rains.

In Grand Bassa, the BOTPAL performance was even less visible than in Southern Nimba. Because of a total absence of a BOTPAL infrastructure, and no experience in the area from earlier years, AGRHA field staff were mobilized for the acquisition of Griffonia in District 4 and Barcoline. However, the operation started late and by the time the AGRHA staff were ready to buy Griffonia from the 300 trained collectors, it became apparent that another unknown buyer had purchased the collected Griffonia for 210-230 LD/kg (approximately US\$3/kg), much more than the BOTPAL-offered price of 125-150 LD (approximately US\$1.50/kg). The quantity of Griffonia purchased by the unknown buyer could not be determined.



Figure 7: Griffonia seeds on drying racks in northern Nimba.

As a result of the circumstances in southern Nimba and Grand Bassa and low initial price offers, Griffonia export volumes are expected to be low this year. The uncertainty of securing a higher price and the need to pay back the revolving fund contributed to BOTPAL's conservative offers to collectors. While prices fluctuate every year throughout the collection season, end-of-season prices over the last three years do tend to top \$4/kg. PROSPER and BOTPAL need to further explore the Griffonia market in Liberia to determine if there are buyers that would be willing to assume or mitigate the risks for BOTPAL. To date, BOTPAL and PROSPER have been unable to find a buyer who is willing to assume risk and offer high prices in the early part of the season. PROSPER will undertake a post-campaign analysis aimed at confirming the economic viability of Griffonia given transport and marketing challenges, and reassessing the organizational model and capacity of BOTPAL. Based on the capacity assessment, PROSPER will elaborate a strategy for restructuring and strengthening BOTPAL (with a focus on strategic and operational planning), but may also elect to support the emergence of separate NTFP marketing entities in Tappita and Grand Bassa.

A decision to develop an improved structure and operational model for BOTPAL will be conditional upon the full repayment of the loan it took from the Griffonia Revolving Fund, managed and operated by AGRHA. The deadline for repayment of the loan is May 31, 2013.

Training and awareness on Good Collection Practices was provided to potential collectors. BOTPAL members were part of the training team. These trainings took place in December 2012 and January 2013. Though material support has been provided to BOTPAL in the form of wooden storage pallets, jute storage bags, drying racks, tarpaulins, pre-printed tracking sheets and moisture meters, no direct management support was provided by PROSPER in the day-to-day running of the operations. Visits were conducted season to the Zorgowee warehouse of BOTPAL during the collection to check on drying practices, final moisture content of the product and storage conditions of the goods. Advice and suggestions were provided by the PROSPER staff on possible improvements. Over the duration of the collection season PROSPER provided information to BOTPAL regarding possible sale opportunities and offers made locally and internationally (through ASNAPP).

In both the 2010-2011 (LRCFP) and the 2011-2012 (LFSP) collection season the real strength (or weakness) of BOTPAL's structure and capacity was not brought to light due to various direct and indirect support systems like the intensive ASNAPP management of the whole process, and the collection support of a trader/agent in the Tappita area, who could not participate in this past collection season. In the 2011-2012 collection season, BOTPAL had serious quality issues which resulted in a lower than anticipated sales price. The 2012-2013 collection season showed a major improvement of the quality of the final product, with a moisture content of <10%.

Sites were selected for Griffonia nurseries that will be associated with 9 Farmer Field School (FFS) sites in Northern Nimba, 4 FFS sites in Southern Nimba and 2 FFS sites in Buchanan. Polythene bags were provided to all sites as well as screening materials to sift the soil for potting. Each site has the capacity to raise 3,000 Griffonia seedlings. These seedlings are part of the mitigation efforts documented in the PROSPER EMMP Statement for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Fruit and Nut-based NTFP's Enterprise Development.

Commercial and non-commercial nurseries established with the support of USAID, e.g. SHOPS (oil palm seedlings) and LIFE II (cocoa seedlings), have been identified in Nimba. They will be used to provide planting material for FFS and individual farmers who qualify for PROSPER support, i.e. those who opt to stop farming within the boundaries of the demarcated community forests.



Figure 8 - Agrosteward technician inspects a rubber farm near Tappita in Nimba.

Tree Crop Activities: Initial reconnaissance and fact-finding has been carried out to identify existing cocoa growers interested in forming marketing associations. There are several clusters of old cocoa farms in Northern Nimba which comprise 30 to 40 cocoa trees per farm. The process to form a growers association will start in the 4th Quarter.

An assessment of the potential to rehabilitate smallholder rubber farms in Southern Nimba was conducted by Agrostewards, a local NGO specializing in rubber plantation rehabilitation with smallholder farmers. Agrosteward's report will be finalized early in the next quarter and will be used to support the livelihoods strategy that aims to reduce the need to clear additional forestland for livelihood purposes.

Agricultural Activities: Most of the cassava grinders and oil presses (Freedom Mills) distributed under LRCFP and LFSP have developed maintenance problems that have caused the cassava production groups (CPG) and commercial palm oil producer (CPOP) operations to come to a halt. During the 2nd Quarter, PROSPER and the Gbargna-based manufacturer (Moonlight) visited four CPGs and four CPOPs in Northern Nimba. While the manufacturer's mechanic was able to make some minor repairs on-site, several of the machines had to be hauled back to the Gbargna workshop for replacement of parts (rollers, pulleys, bearings, handle). PROSPER is working with the manufacturer to complete those repairs and to provide maintenance and training to mitigate mechanical failures in future. In the meantime, PROSPER pursued efforts to restructure the CPG and CPOP into cooperatives that will be registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). Awareness meetings were organized with CPG and CPOPs in February to explain and build support for the restructuring, and a revised memorandum of understanding was drafted.

The five newly-formed CPGs and one CPOP consist of persons who came from other groups and newly recruited persons from within the town. The new groups were initially set up and structured in the same way as the older groups, whereby all members (6-7 persons per group) performed a role in the operation of the machinery. The re-structuring efforts from group to cooperative also have to be applied to the "new groups". In total 14 groups will have to be reformed into cooperatives during the 2013 work plan.

All eight FFS established under LRCFP/LFSP have prepared their demonstration fields for planting. All of these sites will start off with the Griffonia nurseries and will be followed by cowpeas and cassava, plantain and rice planting. Beekeeping and snail raising training will be provided to these FFS participants and will be incorporated as part of an integrated farming system. Emphasis in level two training will be on how to maintain or increase soil fertility through crop rotation.

Faced with practical budget limitations and concerned about the sustainability of incentives previously provided to FFS participants, PROSPER proposed some modifications in the organization of its 9 FFS in northern Nimba in the 2nd Quarter that include increasing the number of FFS participants, but decreasing the number of monthly sessions attended from 4 to 2 per participant. Not unexpectedly, this change (and others under consideration), have met with resistance that will need to be resolved. Other FFS issues requiring prompt resolution concern the nature of "compensation" to be provided FFS participants (PROSPER will provide meals rather than a cash payment) and status of land use agreements for FFS (some demonstration fields belong to former "master farmers" who are reclaiming land for own use).

ACTIVITY: 3.2 Reduce threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE MOBILIZATION QUARTER

Farmer Field School (FFS) session continued in northern Nimba

Three (3) new FFS sites established, layouts designed, and participants selected in 7 sites

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

New Farmer field school (FFS) sites have been selected in the Seyhi Clan area (northern Nimba), and in Southern Nimba and Grand Bassa. in Buchanan Koyuah Town (District 4) and Massah Town (Barcoline). The fields have been prepared in all of the sites with the exception of swamp rice sites in Southern Nimba that are currently undergoing an assessment to determine if they can be used for this purpose. PROSPER is using criteria established by FED to determine whether or not they are substantially degraded. This is required in order to comply with USAID regulations that do not permit conversion of wetlands without extensive ESIA. FFS are slated to start planting activities in April.



Figure 9: Farmer field school participants in Zolowee, Nimba County.

ACTIVITY: 3.3 Work with stakeholders to provide feedback/share lessons learned in best practices, workable approaches, and recommended actions to improve the effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE MOBILIZATION QUARTER

Participated in Agriculture Coordination Committee Meetings on a monthly basis

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

PROSPER participated in January and February meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Committee Meetings and discussed presenting on PROSPER activities in future meetings of the group.

ACTIVITY: 3.4 Establish test plots to determine baseline greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) in a representative sample of land use areas under a variety of management regimes and monitor their changes the production cycle

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE MOBILIZATION QUARTER

No results to report for the quarter

No contract deliverables due during the quarter

No activities to report on during this quarter.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROSPER STAFF LIST

Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
Technical					
1	Reid	Stephen	Chief of Party		14 May 2012
2	Litz	Vaneska	Deputy COP/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights		01 June 2012
3	Cole	Eugene	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities		22 January 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Communications and Outreach Advisor		01 June 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 June 2012
6	Koffa	Samuel	Senior Community Forestry Advisor (STTA)		12 July 2012
7	Kweme	Dominic	Organizational Development Advisor	CJPS	01 June 2012
8	de Waard	Peter	Leader, Livelihoods & Enterprise Development Activities	ACDI/VOCA	18 June 2012
9	Bedell	Hodo	Livelihoods Advisor	ACDI/VOCA	01 June 2012
10	Nyepan	Josephus	Livelihoods Program Officer	AGRHA	01 June 2012
11	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 June 2012
12	Vangehn	Darlington	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		01 June 2012
13	Roberts	Edward	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		06 February 2013
Financial and Administrative					
14	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 June 2012
15	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 June 2012
16	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 June 2012
17	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 July 2012
18	Bestman	Arthur	Administrative Operations Officer		17 Dec 2012

Support Staff					
19	Saylee	Moses	Caretaker		01 June 2012
20	Johnson	Frederick	Head Driver		01 June 2012
21	Dukuly	Abraham	Driver		01 June 2012
22	Habah	John	Driver		01 June 2012
23	Weltee	Othello	Driver		08 Oct 2012
24	Boykai	Joel	Driver		01 June 2012

Full-time Staff: Sanniquellie Field Office (northern Nimba County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Biah	D. Nuah	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		01 June 2012
2	Ville	James	Field Office Administrator		28 August 2012
3	Kollie	Henry	Driver		02 January 2013

Full-time Staff: Tappita Field Office (southern Nimba County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Vesselee	Martin	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		08 Oct 2012
2	Kikeh	Joseph	Field Office Administrator		19 Nov 2012
3	Gant	Garretson	Driver		05 Nov 2012

Full-time Staff: Buchanan Field Office (Grand Bassa County)

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Taylor	Joseph	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		22 Oct 2012
2	Dugbeh	Sam	Field Office Administrator		03 Dec 2012
3	Manobah	Folley	Driver		16 Oct 2012

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

	Title	Date Submitted (2013)	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
1	Gender Integration Plan	January 1	D-1	COR approval pending
2	Quarterly Financial Report (Q1 FY 2013)	January 11	RR-6	
3	Second Quarterly Report (Oct-Dec 2012)	January 18	RR-5	
4	Biodiversity Assessment Report	January 27	D-24	COR approval pending
5	Monthly Progress Report, January 2013	February 3	RR-4	
6	STTA Report (excerpt) Visit to Liberia Forest Development Agency (FDA) GIS Unit, Nick Thomas, Geospatial Expert	February 11	RR-12	
7	Draft Curriculum for Forestry Training Institute and Recommendations	February 15	D-7	
8	Monthly Progress Report, February 2013	March 10	RR-4	

APPENDIX 3 - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING

TABLE - QUARTER 2, FY-13

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY13 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY13 % Actual vs Target
Intermediate Result 1: Increased educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance									
1.1 Number of institutions with increased capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-		-	-
Sub Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved capacity of MOE to deliver formal and non-formal primary and adult education curricula on natural resource management and governance									
1.1.1: Percentage of MOE primary school students in targeted areas receiving education on environment and natural resources based on strengthened curriculum – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
1.1.2: Percentage of MOE adult literacy centers in targeted areas using the environmental curriculum materials in their instruction – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 1.2: Improved capacity of CSOs to design and conduct outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues									
1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	15	10	0	5	n/a	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.3: Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum									
1.3.1: Number of technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements – <i>Custom /Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
1.3.2: Number of individuals supported by program to conduct applied research at one or more of the program's pilot sites – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development									

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY13 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY13 % Actual vs Target
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	1	1	1	100%	33%
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	0	2	1	50%	17%
Sub Intermediate Result: 1.5 : Increased capacity of Community Forestry Development Committees to develop effective, environmentally-sound development programs to use Forest Management Committee social agreement funds									
1.5.1: Number of community projects approved and funded by CFDC and NBST using the modified criteria to screen applications for environmental impacts – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities									
2.1: Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	13.5 K	Annual target	Annual target			0
Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management									
2.1.1: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	24 K		11.5	0	-	0
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	100	33	0	36	-	69%
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	15	0	2	0	0%	0 %
Sub Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management									
2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	25	5	2	15	750%	80%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.3: : Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations									
2.3.1: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	2	2	0	0	-	100%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY13 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY13 % Actual vs Target
Sub Intermediate Result 2.4: Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs									
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	5		0	0	-	0
Intermediate Result 3: Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas									
3.1: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	620	0	200	n/a	-	n/a
Sub Intermediate Result 3.1: Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises									
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	#	0	0	2	0	0	0	-	0
Sub Intermediate Result 3.2: Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities									
3.2.1: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output</i>	#	0	0	275	200	0	0	-	72%
3.2.2: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	80	0	10	0	0%	0 %
Sub Intermediate Result 3.3: Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.									
3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	2		1	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.4: Improved data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) present in forest areas under different management regimes									
3.4.1: Number of test plots generating data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) to inform decision-makers regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimize climate change – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0

APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER - JANUARY TO MARCH 2013

N	Dates (2013)	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
1	January 17	Griffonia collectors training	Train Griffonia collectors in techniques and benefits of sustainable harvesting Educate collectors on how and which griffonia seeds to collect from the forest, and to process the collected seeds into high quality griffonia to be sold on the (world) market	Grand Bassa	Kpogblen Clan	1	17	54	0	71
2	January 18					1	24	36	0	60
3	January 19					1	12	28	0	40
4	January 20					1	25	35	0	60
5	January 21					1	22	38	0	60
6	January 22				Barcoline Community	1	13	17	0	30
7	January 23 – 25	Outreach training workshop	Strengthen the capacity of CSO / CFWG members to use behavior change theories and models to create effective outreach campaigns, including analysis of the context/situation, discussion of target audiences, identification of key messages and campaign challenges, and analysis of existing materials that can be modified, adapted and used for the national outreach campaign	Monrovia	N / A	3	2	11	1	14
8	January 21	Stakeholders consultation meeting	Solicit the collective views of stakeholders on willingness to engage in Community Forestry and to identify potential forest land for Community Forestry	Nimba County	Gblor Clan	1	13	28	0	41
9	January 22				Beatuo Clan	1	12	48	0	60
10	January 23				Boe and Quilla District	1	8	30	0	38

N	Dates (2013)	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
11	January 24				Sehzueplay Clan	1	9	40	0	49
12	January 25	Stakeholders consultation meeting	Jointly solicit the collective views of stakeholders on willingness to engage in Community Forestry and to identify potential forest land for Community Forestry	Nimba	Boe and Quilla District	1	8	48	0	56
13	January 27	Community mapping exercise	To map out internal community boundaries and borders with their neighboring communities	Grand Bassa	Barcoline	1	0	10	0	10
14	January 28			Nimba County	Gblor Clan	1	0	29	0	29
15	January 29			Nimba County	Boe and Quilla District	1	4	35	0	39
16	January 30			Nimba County	Beatuo Clan	1	0	28	0	28
17	February 6			Grand Bassa	Barcoline	1	2	21		23
	February 8	Validation workshop on the revised FTI curriculum	Review of the Community Forestry curriculum and review /assessment report on FTI	Bomi County	N/A	1	2	21	0	23
18	February 18-19	Stakeholders consultation meeting	Solicit the collective views of stakeholders on willingness to engage in Community Forestry and to identify potential forest land for Community Forestry	Grand Bassa	Kpogblen Clan	2	9	51	0	60
20	February 21- 22	Community profiling	Provide baseline information on the community, its history, socio-economic composition, infrastructure, governance and institutions, livelihoods and the current condition, management and use of forest resources. Establish relations with the community, create awareness about the project; build rapport with the community, and begin to understand some of the NRM-related issues in the community.	Grand Bassa	Barcoline Community	2	12	18	0	30

N	Dates (2013)	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
21	February 21 - 22	Community forest mapping and transect walk	Identify forest areas and gather land use information	Grand Bassa County	Kpogblen Clan	2	1	24	0	25
22	February 25-26	CRL regulation training for field staff	Enable field staff to understand and interpret the CRL and CRL regulations to forest communities	Grand Bassa	N / A	2	0	0	15	15
23	February 23, 2013	Training of communities members for the formation of CAs and CFMBs	Prepare community members for the formation of the Community Assemblies and Community Forest Management Bodies in Grand Bassa County	Grand Bassa County	Barcoline Community	1	10	20	0	25
24	February 27					1	8	22	0	30
25	February 28				Kpogblen Clan	1	10	13	0	30
26	February 27 – March 1	Forest guards training	Review roles of community forest guards, discuss effective techniques, do patrol planning	Nimba County	Gba Community	3	0	36	0	36
27	March 4 – 8	Leadership training for Community Assembly members	Build the capacity of Community Assembly member on their respective roles and responsibilities for the management of the community forest	Nimba County	Gba Community	4	5	31	0	36
28	March 5 - 6	CRL regulation training for staff	To enable field staff to understand and interpret the CRL and CRL regulations to forest communities	Nimba County	N / A	1	0	0	16	16
29	March 7	Pre-preparation workshop for stakeholders	Prepare stakeholders ahead of the formation of the Community Assembly workshop	Nimba County	Sehzueplay Clan	1	8	35	4	47
30	March 8			Nimba County	Gblor Clan	1	5	29	0	34
31	March 11			Grand Bassa	Kparblee Clan	1	5	30	0	35
32	March 12			Nimba County	Boe & Quilla Clan	1	4	27	0	31
33	March 18 - 19	CRL regulation training for staff	Enable field staff to understand and interpret the CRL and CRL regulations to forest communities	Nimba County	N / A	1	0	0	15	15
34	March 20	Community Assembly formation preparation	Prepare stakeholders of the new site ahead of pre-qualification by FDA for the formation of the CA.	Nimba County	Sehyi Geh	1	3	23	0	26

N	Dates (2013)	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
35	March 25 – 28	Teachers' orientation workshop	Orient Liberian teacher-volunteers on initiative to strengthen environmental content in primary school lesson plans	Margibi County	N / A	4	0	11	2	13
36	March 26 - 29	Mentoring of community members on the CRL	Ensure that community members understand and know their rights as it relates to the forest and forest land and NRM for decision making	Grand Bassa County	Kpogblen Clan (Farr Town, Gueh Town, Korjuah Town, Cotton Tree, Keiyah Town, Gbowelleh, Bodd Dollar Town)	1	10	13	0	23
37						1	8	16	0	26
38						1	9	16	0	25
39						1	12	11	0	23
40						1	3	8	0	11
41						1	5	15	0	15
42						1	5	14	0	19

APPENDIX 5: SUCCESS STORIES



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SNAPSHOT

Building Awareness of Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Youth demand better community oversight of pit sawing and hunting in Gblor forest



Presently, access to Tappita's forest resources is limited by a rudimentary network of dirt roads and plank bridges

Steadily increasing pressure on Liberia's land and forest resources resulting from population growth, the expansion of commercial concessions, and other factors has intensified competition for resources among rural inhabitants and generated serious conflicts in some communities. To respond to these challenges, communities are often required to modify traditional systems and rules for resource management. A recent example from lower Nimba demonstrates that youth in Liberia – when equipped with good information about sustainable management and community rights – can play a very positive and forceful role in promoting more transparent and effective management of forest resources.

The Gblor community forest located in the Doe District near Tappita in lower Nimba county has long been known as a “hunters’ camp” for the bush meat trade and a source of abundant, high-quality timber for pit sawyers. With no strong controls in place, clan members and visitors from outside Nimba County have both taken advantage of the resources the forest offers.

In November 2012, elders of this Gblor clan awarded a pit sawing permit to a group of local investors to cut wood for planks within the Gblor community forest. The local investors paid LD\$23,000 or approximately \$311 US for the right to log in the forest for six months. In early January 2013, the youth of the Gblor clan organized a meeting with their elders to express their concern about the sustainability of the open access regime, and the permit awarded by the elders to pit sawyers. The youth representatives demanded that the elders cancel the pit sawyer agreement and repay the fee, noting that, [since PROSPER began working with the Gblor clan on community forestry development in September 2012] “we are all now informed about sustainable management of forest resources and will not allow any individual to extract trees or hunt in our community forest in a non-sustainable manner.” They furthermore urged the elders to set up forest monitoring committees to better regulate access to the forest.

The elders refused to consider the request from the youth, prompting the youth to convoke a large meeting of elders and youth from all the towns in the Gblor clan. At that meeting, elders from the various towns supported the youth and called on their leaders to reform the forest management system. At the same time, they encouraged their peers to reimburse the pit sawyers and ask them to leave the forest. When the elders rejected this appeal as well, the youth of Gblor wrote letters to the Forestry Development Authority and other citizens living in Monrovia to help resolve the issues.

Finally, the leaders of the Gblor clan, including the four elders who were engaged in awarding the pit sawyer permits, agreed to revoke the permits. The LD\$23,000 was paid back to the sawyers and they were subsequently asked to withdraw from the forest. Based on the consensus reached by representatives from the seven towns, a committee was set up to monitor all activities taking place within and around the Gblor forest, notably farming, hunting and sawing.

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SNAPSHOT

Making Rights Real

Understanding the Community Rights Law (CRL) empowers local communities



Community Mobilizer, Isaac Kabakollie talks to community members using a poster to explain the steps required to develop a community forest management agreement and plan.

"All other logging companies should wait and give us some time with PROSPER. When we are through with PROSPER, we will invite you to talk."

*-Morris Dargar
Town Chief, Bold Dollar Town*

Telling Our Story

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USAID Liberia's PROSPER program has been working with the Kpogblen Clan in a remote part of Grand Bassa County since September 2012 to support the creation of community forests. During the site selection process, PROSPER staff discovered that a Private Use Permit (PUP) had recently been issued on some of the community's forestland, which gave an international timber company access to an area of 66,000 ha. The 25-year permit (based on a deed whose authenticity has since been called into question) was negotiated by a few elite members of the community. In return, the community was promised \$3/m³ for every tree harvested (a tiny fraction of its market value), and construction of two school buildings and a clinic with a combined value of less than US\$36,000.

One of the first actions that PROSPER takes to assist communities interested in establishing a community forest is to inform them of the steps involved in granting a community forestry management agreement (CFMA) and the associated rights and responsibilities. The Government of Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has limited capacity to provide these basic extension services, and for most members of the Kpogblen Clan this was all new information. Upon learning of their rights to manage their forests through representative institutions, to negotiate benefits, and to learn the value of their forests through inventory processes, members of the community expressed dismay that their leaders had signed the PUP agreement. They eagerly seized the opportunity to establish community forestry in their remaining forest areas.

In January 2013 the President of Liberia issued a moratorium on PUPs following an independent investigation. The findings of the investigative committee strongly suggest that almost all of the PUPs should be invalidated. This has opened the door for the Kpogblen Clan to expand their community forest into the area covered by the PUP, and may provide them with the opportunity to negotiate more substantive rights with timber operators in the future.

Unfortunately, some commercial timber stakeholders and unscrupulous government authorities are taking advantage of the CFMA process. They have attempted to influence local leaders to sign agreements that commit the Kpogblen Clan to contract with companies under unfavorable terms before all of the steps in establishing a community forest can be properly completed. Fortunately, the Kpogblen Clan has an increased level of awareness regarding a community's rights to manage their forest, select operators, and receive benefits and this has allowed the Clan to rebuff the efforts of these companies until they feel prepared and empowered to engage in such negotiations. As one of the youth leaders stated to a logging company representative: "Sit quietly and allow us to teach you about the Community Rights Law".

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