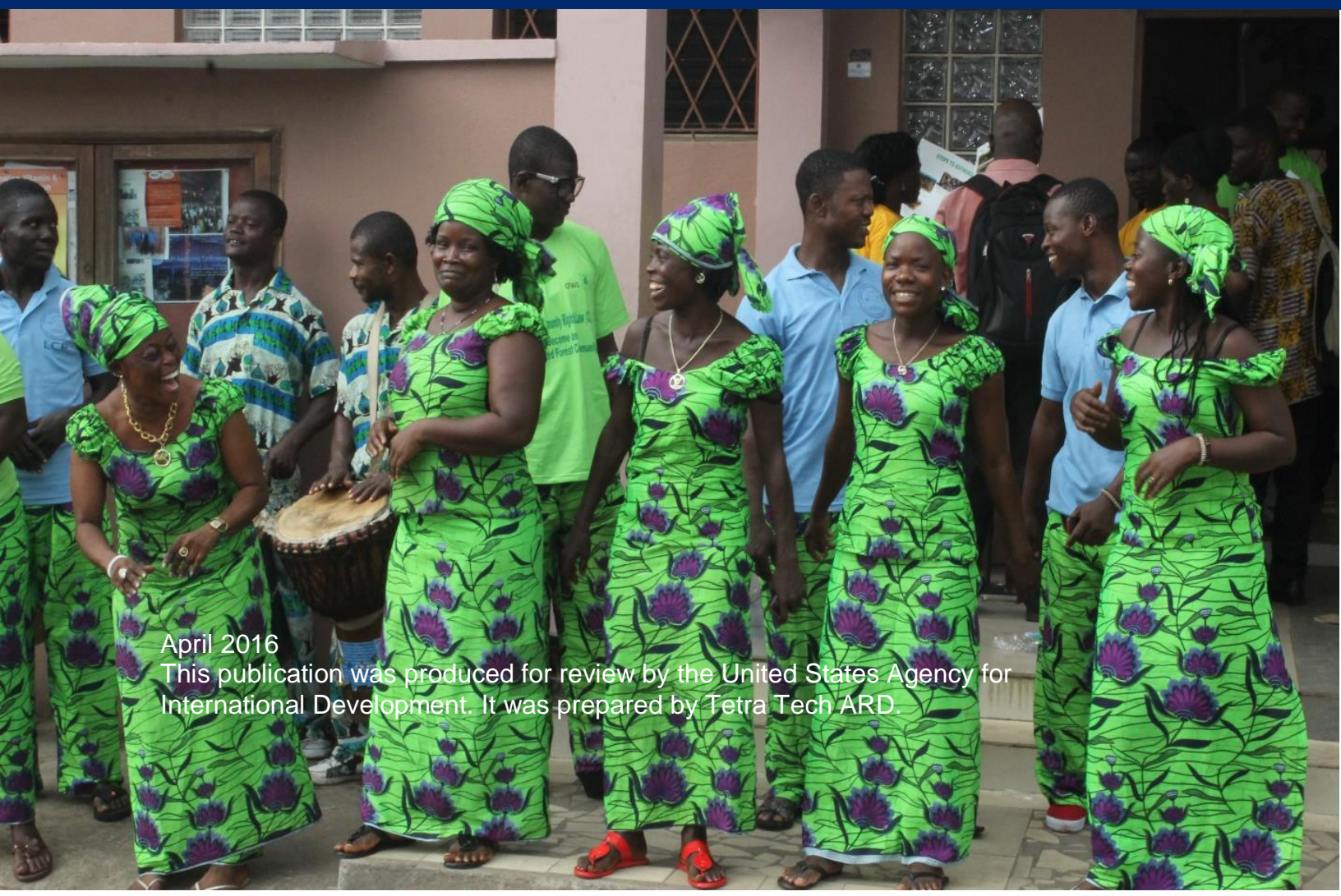




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PEOPLE, RULES, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES (PROSPER)

QUARTERLY REPORT, FY16 Q2
1 January – 31 March 2016



April 2016

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech ARD.

Front Cover Photo: Community members arriving for the Fourth Annual Outreach and Awareness Campaign Launch in Monrovia, March 2016

Photo Credit: Jackson Nobeh, PROSPER Component One Lead

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ACRONYMS

ACC	Agriculture Coordinating Council
AGRHA	Action for Greater Harvest
AML	ArcelorMittal Liberia
APM	Advanced Participation Methods
ASNAPP	Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products
AYP	Advancing Youth Program
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BGF	Big Gio Forest
BOTPAL	Botanical Products Association of Liberia
CA	Community Assembly
CDC	County Development Committee
CDSC	Community Development Steering Committee
CDWG	Curriculum Development Working Group
CF	Community Forestry
CFDC	Community Forestry Development Committee
CFG	Community Forest Guard
CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CFMB	Community Forestry Management Body
CFOC	Community Forest Organizing Committees
CFWG	Community Forestry Working Group
CI	Conservation International
CJPS	Center for Justice and Peace Studies
CM	Community Mobilizer
COA	Communications and Outreach Advisor (PROSPER)
COP	Chief of Party (PROSPER)
CPG	Cassava-producing Group
CPOP	Commercial Palm Oil Producers

CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWG	Cocoa Working Group
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party (PROSPER)
EA	Educational Advisor (PROSPER)
ELI	Environmental Law Institute
ENNR	East Nimba Nature Reserve
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ETD	Environmental Threshold Decision
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FED	Food and Enterprise Development Project
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FFS	Farmer Field School
FMC	Forest Management Concession
Ftf	Feed the Future
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
GAP	Good Agricultural/Agroforestry Practices
GIO	Gender Integration Officer
GOL	Government of Liberia
GVL	Golden Veroleum Liberia
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
JCFMB	Joint Community Forestry Management Body
L-MEP	Liberia-Monitoring and Evaluation Project
L/EDOA	Lead for Education Development and Outreach Activities (PROSPER)
L/LEDA	Lead for Livelihood and Enterprise Development Activities (PROSPER)
LA	Livelihoods Advisor (PROSPER)
LAC	Liberian Agriculture Company
LC	Land Commission
LFSP	Liberia Forest Support Program
LRCFP	Land Rights and Community Forestry Program
LTTA	Long-term Technical Assistance

LTTP	Liberia Teacher Training Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
M&E Specialist	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (PROSPER)
MDA	Minerals Development Agreement
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAEAL	National Adult Education Association of Liberia
NBST	National Benefit Sharing Trust
NBSTB	NBST Board
NCCSC	National Climate Change Steering Committee and Secretariat (NCCSC)
NFRL	National Forestry Reform Law
NNBSG	Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
ODGA	Organizational Development and Governance Advisor (PROSPER)
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PIDS	Project Information Database System
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
PUP	Private Use Permit
SADS	Skills and Agricultural Development Services
SAMFU	Save My Future Foundation
SCFA	Senior Community Forestry Advisor (PROSPER)
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
STEWARD	Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
TSC	Timber Sale Contract
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service

VPA-SU	Voluntary Partnership Agreement Support Unit
WONGOSOL	Women's NGOs Secretariat of Liberia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To build on previous United States Government 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; and
3. Enhance community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest-based and agriculture-based enterprises in target areas.

January – March 2016 marked one of the busiest quarters during the PROSPER project. In January, PROSPER supported the work of four (4) STTAs on the project to provide the following technical assistance:

1. Emiko Gunthe – GIS Expert (23 Jan – 11 Feb 2016)
 - a. To provide follow on training in GIS skills to PROSPER and FDA GIS Specialists and field staff including spatial data management, analysis and cartography skills
 - b. To review the project GIS database along with related data collection standards and protocols
2. Peter Aldinger – Legal and Policy Expert (21 Jan – 13 Feb 2016)
 - a. Developed three (3) Policy Briefs:
 - i. The importance of Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC): strategies for realization;
 - ii. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement: backstopping the community rights law; and,
 - iii. The Proposed Local Government Act: Community Forestry and Decentralization
3. Leif Kindberg – Communication and Outreach Specialist (23 Jan – 8 Feb 2016)
 - a. Assessed the effectiveness of Deliverables 5, 11, 15 and 17, while providing an update for Deliverable 6.
4. Vaneska Litz – Community Forestry Management Specialist – (30 Jan – 20 Feb 2016)
 - a. Technical input, oversight and guidance to the PROSPER support Community Forest activities in northern Nimba

In February, after a very long process to modify the PROSPER contract to include an extended Outreach and Awareness Campaign to several additional counties, USAID approved the modification.

The modification included four additional vehicles and five (5) new positions: an international full-time FDA Advisor; two additional Drivers; one Communications and Outreach Coordinator; and, a Finance Assistant. Currently, all of the positions are staffed. The three additional counties were strategically selected with the FDA based on the number of current CF applications in the surrounding areas. The new counties include Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, and Sinoe.

In March, PROSPER conducted the Fourth Annual Outreach and Awareness Campaign with the theme of “Make Community Forest Rights Real”. The event was well attended and feedback has been positive. PROSPER teams have already deployed to the field sites to distribute materials and messages to the communities. Following the Launch, PROSPER held the FY16Q3 Work Planning session in Monrovia.

Throughout the quarter, PROSPER and the FDA worked closely together to continue with demarcation exercises in all of the PROSPER sites. Demarcation notices are scheduled to be posted in all PROSPER communities by the end of April 2016.

There were nine deliverables due during FY16Q2, which includes five deliverables that were carried over from FY16Q1. Three of the deliverables were submitted, of which one has been approved and two are pending approval. Two of the deliverables are complete and are being reviewed for branding by TTARD’s Home Office. Four are not complete but are scheduled to be complete during FY16Q3. Finally, a deliverable scheduled for FY16Q3 was submitted ahead of schedule and pending approval. A more detailed summary of the deliverables is found in Annex 5, below.

This Quarterly Report provides a description of the activities undertaken by PROSPER during the second quarter of fiscal year 2016 (FY16Q2), January – March 2016.

FY16 Q2 HIGHLIGHTS

Component 1: Education, Outreach, and Awareness

- Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum
- Trained local theater groups in the effective delivery of community forestry messages using dramas, skits, traditional songs, and dance
- Launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign
- Finalized and submitted articles for publication in local media to promote the launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach campaign
- Developed outreach materials to promote community members’ understanding of the CRL and CRL Regulations
- Developed radio messages and collaborated with community radio stations to broadcast a 42-episode drama
- Provided training for mobilizers to effectively engage teachers in EE clubs, using lesson plans developed with the MoE
- In collaboration with students and teachers, helped develop, and supported the implementation of EE club programs

Component 2: Forest Management and Biodiversity

- Supported the completion of the Gba and Blei CFMPs, the revision and development of their CF rules, and helped define next-steps to promote permitting systems

- Supported CFOCs from applicant communities in Grand Bassa to develop presentations for the CDSC meeting, and facilitated attendance
- Supported the Gba, Zor, and Blei CFMBs to develop presentations for the scheduled CDSC meeting
- Provided training to CFMBs on their new financial policy and business management skills
- Supported the FDA by validating the preliminary demarcation that was done for the proposed CF at Sehyi, through ground-truthing
- Facilitated the participation of CF governance bodies at County-level policy and development forums
- FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings
- Capacity building of FDA cadre
- Capacity building, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders
- Supported the Zor Community Forest to address violations of the community's constitution and bylaws
- Supported Capacity Building for Biomonitoring

Component 3: Livelihood and Enterprise Development

- Nine new crop diversification groups identified
- Training of six crop diversification groups in basic financial and business management. Four of the groups' constitutions were drafted, validated and signed to formalize groups as enterprises, and constitutions drafted for the remaining two groups
- Provision of technical assistance to twenty four crop diversification groups
- Identification of a long-term platform for dissemination of agriculture produce prices to ensure farmers have improved market information
- Six additional hives colonized in four communities; two in Tappita and two in Buchanan
- Two hives harvested in one community in Tappita
- Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) subcontract modified

I.0 PROSPER SITES

The following map and matrices list the established and proposed Community Forests being supported under PROSPER.



	County	Town	Community	Hectares (Approx)	Comments
1	Grand Bassa	Buchanan	Barconnie	240	Pilot Community
2	Grand Bassa	District 4	Kpogblean	11,903	Pilot Community
3	Nimba	Tappita	Gblor	8,176	Pilot Community
4	Nimba	Tappita	Gbear/Gblor	8,834	Pilot Community
5	Nimba	Tappita	Kparblee	10,707	Pilot Community
6	Nimba	Tappita	Boe Quilla	7,675	Pilot Community

7	Nimba	Tappita	Sehzuplay	9,410	Pilot Community
8	Nimba	Sannequellie	Sehyi	667	Pilot Community
9	Nimba	Sannequellie	Gba	10,939	Established CF under LRCFP
10	Nimba	Sannequellie	Zor	1,112	Established CF under LRCFP
11	Nimba	Sannequellie	Blei	614	Established CF under LRCFP

2.0 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

2.1 STAFFING

Personnel changes for FY16Q2 affecting PROSPER included the following:

1. In February, the Deputy Lead for Community Forest Management Activities (DLCFMA) unexpectedly resigned causing a ripple effect of vacancies.
 - a. Martin Vesselee is acting DLCFMA (he was the Head of Office in Sanniquellie)
 - b. William Paypay is acting HOO in Sanniquellie (he was NAEAL Coordinator)
 - c. NAEAL will need to replace the Coordinator if Paypay is hired by TTARD
2. Also in February, one of PROSPER's two M&E Officers unexpectedly resigned to go to a new USAID contract. The remaining M&E Officer is competent but very new. It is likely an STTA will need to come in May to assist with training a new M&E Officer.
3. Recruiting for staff continue to be an ongoing challenge as staff are being recruited by other USAID contracts. In the last year, PROSPER has needed to replace four staff members due to recruitment by other USAID projects. Surprisingly, not one of the projects has contacted PROSPER to inquire about salary history or work performance.
4. As mentioned above, the recent Technical Modification to the PROSPER contract added five (5) new positions.
 - a. FDA Advisor (Peter Aldinger)
 - b. Communication and Outreach Coordinator (Vivian Gartayn)
 - c. Finance Assistant (Edward Paye)
 - d. Driver (2) (Francis Vanbo & Jallah Johnson)

2.2 SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

National Subcontractors

There were no significant administrative actions taken with the two national subcontractors, the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL) or the Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS).

International Subcontractors

- PCI Media – Contract complete.
- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes.
- ASNAPP – No significant administrative changes.
- ACDI/VOCA's - No significant administrative changes.
- FFI – No significant administrative changes.
- dTS – No significant administrative changes.

2.3 CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Gender Integration:

Gender Forum conducted at Forestry Technical Institute

As part of its ongoing effort to integrate gender equality and motivate women to play a more active role in community forestry, three presentations were organized and delivered on January 29, February 26, and March 25, at the Gender and Social Inclusion Forum hosted by FTI at their campus in Tubmanburg City.

On January 29, Mr. John S. McKay, the Quality Control Officer from the FDA's Commercial Forestry Department spoke on the topic, "Reducing the Gender Gap in Community Forestry". After providing an overview of community forestry, Mr. McKay proceeded to discuss women as forest users, gender exclusion in CF management, the constraints placed upon women's participation, and some of the strategies that might be employed to address these problems.

Following the first two presentations, interactive question and answer sessions were held, followed by group quizzes, with questions drawn from presentations, the Community Rights Law (CRL) and the CRL Regulations. Questions largely focused on the nine-step process that must be followed before a community is granted Authorized Forest Community status. Prizes were distributed to 40 participants, including phone cards and CF outreach materials.



On February 26, Sister Mary-Lauren Browne, the Board Chair of the Forestry Development Authority and President of the Stella Maris Polytechnic, talked on the "The Role of Young People in the Development of Our Nation". She stated that for Liberia's forests to be sustainably managed, the youth of Liberia have to realize their critical role, as they now constitute a majority of the population. She argued that it was especially important for the youth – as agents of change – to maintain a positive mindset, especially with the challenges posed by climate change and other international threats, such as terrorism. She encouraged attendees to be proactive and remain on guard to politicians or people with personal interest trying to manipulate them. She also voiced her concern about changes to Liberia's climate, observing that the rainy season and the dry season are almost indistinguishable: "Sometimes I get so confused and wonder what's going on". She concluded by speaking of the critical need for communities to take charge of their forests and

forest resources for their own benefit, and for the benefit of future generations.

The presentation on March 25 by Moriah Yeakula, Assistant Minister of Labor for Administration, brought together the same audience to discuss, "The Importance of Formal Education in Today's World". After providing an overview of the benefits of formal education, she emphasized four points: that formal education provides problem-solving skills and helps people to think critically; that it makes

people more attractive to employers; that it increases income levels; and that it is critical for nation building. The Assistant Minister proceeded to share her own experiences, and emphasized that although she succeeded without a formal education, she was the exception, rather than the rule. The students asked that the young Minister pay them a second visit, as they thoroughly enjoyed interacting with her, felt as though she empathizes with them, and understood and articulated the issues they are concerned about.

Over 140 participants, including members of the student body, faculty, administration and support staff, attended each of the forums. At least 70 women participated in all 3 sessions.

Participated in the International Women's Day Celebration

PROSPER directly supported 15 women from Northern and Southern Nimba County, and 4 women from Grand Bassa County, so that they could participate at the "International Women's Day" celebrations on March 8, held in Luebeyee Town, Sanniquellie Mahn District, and Buchanan City. The day was celebrated under the national theme, "Pledge for Parity by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality".

This year, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection organized the celebrations in Grand Bassa County. A wide range of line ministries, government agencies, UN organizations, INGOs, and NGOs/CSOs attended the event, as well as the "He/She" champion, Vice President Joseph N. Boikai. PROSPER, along with a variety of other women's groups from the Crop Diversification Small Groups association, set up booths to showcase their produce (cassava, plantain, pepper, palm oil). Speeches and statements were made honoring the role of individuals who had promoted gender equality over the years.

The Gender Officer took the opportunity to highlight PROSPER's work in supporting the FDA, to help communities acquire Authorized Forest Community status and sustainably manage their forest resources. She called on partners to support and work with local women at the community level so that women are better represented – and better able to represent themselves – and able to substantively participate in decision-making. The team then took Julia Duncan Cassell, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection on a guided tour of the produce booths.

At the Luebeyee Town Hall in Sanniquellie Mahn District, where the celebration took place in Nimba County, Margaret Yormie, a representative from Boe-Quilla community, delivered a presentation on behalf of PROSPER. She outlined some of the achievements that had been made in the livelihoods and community forestry sectors, with the help of PROSPER. Through cost sharing, some of the communities have been able to acquire oil palm processors and water pumps to increase yields in oil palm and off-season crop production. In her presentation, she stated, "at first, we really didn't believe women could take part in sustainable forest management. But today, men and women are all working together to protect the forest".

Capacity Development Training for Governance Structures and Local Authorities

PROSPER and the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL) developed an Inclusive Group Facilitation Skills Training Manual, which was used to strengthen the capacity of local communities in sustainable CF management practices. Training exercises were held between February 17 and March 12, which brought together 204 participants (129 males and 75 females), including local leaders, CPOPs, CPGs, and observers from other pilot sites.

The first phase of the training brought together ACDI/VOCA and NAEAL coordinators and field mobilizers, who were given a two-day train-the-trainer course. Course participants then conducted their own trainings in the CF sites run by PROSPER. The training focused on the following objectives:

promoting inclusiveness, to foster community ownership and participation; increasing participants' knowledge, and developing their skills, with regard to facilitating group discussions; and to improve participants' communication and public speaking skills. Once over, community members were asked to openly evaluate the workshops. Generally, attendees appreciated the content of the workshops, though some people requested that more days be allocated for the training. Other suggestions/recommendations included expanding the training to CFOCs, involving members of the local government, and inviting more community members.

3.0 COMPONENT I: EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

COMPONENT I STATEMENT

The goal of Component I is to increase educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, natural resource management (NRM), biodiversity conservation and environmental compliance. Activities under this component support the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop and pilot test curriculum materials including lesson plans and accompanying teaching and learning aids to strengthen formal primary school instruction on environmental and natural resource matters; engage the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to increase public awareness of natural resources and environmental management issues; and support the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum.

COMPONENT I ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY I.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 & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 24) - Year I Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula

Provided training for mobilizers to effectively engage teachers in EE clubs, using lesson plans developed with the MoE
(Result)

In collaboration with students and teachers, helped develop, and supported the implementation of EE club programs
(Result)

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 24 - Year I Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula. (An STTA has been identified and will be completing this deliverable in Q3)

Major Achievements

- Provided training for mobilizers to effectively engage teachers in EE clubs, using lesson plans developed with the MoE
- In collaboration with students and teachers, helped develop, and supported the implementation of EE club programs

Provided training for mobilizers to effectively engage teachers in EE clubs, using lesson plans developed with the MoE

In mid-January, PROSPER provided training to all education and outreach field coordinators and community mobilizers on methods to effectively support rural teachers, in state-run schools, and to organize and administer nature clubs, in the counties of Grand Bassa and Nimba. The training was designed around the lessons plans developed for the MoE and included classroom lessons and field exercises. The objective of the training was to promote the EE curriculum by fostering extracurricular activities; encouraging girls with an interest in environmental issues to remain in school; and educate pupils about the importance of the environment, and the benefits of sustainable forest management.

In collaboration with students and teachers, helped develop, and supported the implementation of EE club programs

PROSPER education and outreach field coordinators and community mobilizers directly supported the establishment of fifteen (15) nature clubs in Grand Bassa and Nimba, which together now includes 226 members. Nearly half of all these members (49.5%) are girls, but girls dominate the clubs' leadership. This can be attributed to the efforts made by PROSPER to educate girls on the importance of environmental issues, the benefits of staying in school, and the need to challenge traditional gender stereotypes in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. PROSPER is directly supporting the nature clubs and their activities, through the provision of education – in the form of Teachers-in-charge (TICs) – technical assistance, and gardening tools.

Towards the end of the quarter, PROSPER also met with partners in the area of natural resource management, including SCNL, CI, SAMFU, FFI and AML, to inform them about the EE activities being conducted, in collaboration with the MoE; and to see whether any partners were supporting similar clubs and/or activities, so that efforts to promote environmental education could be better coordinated. An assessment of the MoE's capacity was also conducted at the end of the quarter to identify the areas in which PROSPER can best provide support, with regard to the implementation of the EE program and the running of nature clubs.

ACTIVITY 1.2: COLLABORATIVELY SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 5a) – Assessment of Del 5

(Deliverable 11a) – Assessment of Del 11

(Deliverable 15a) – Assessment of Del 15

Trained local theater groups in the effective delivery of community forestry messages using dramas, skits, traditional songs, and dance **(Result)**

Launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign **(Result)**

Finalized and submitted articles for publication in local media to promote the launch of the 4th Annual Community

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

Forestry Outreach campaign **(Result)**

Developed outreach materials to promote community members' understanding of the CRL and CRL Regulations **(Result)**

Developed radio messages and collaborated with community radio stations to broadcast a 42-episode drama **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 5a – Formal Assessment of Del 5 - Public outreach and awareness building approaches field tested with relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders along the themes of sustainable natural resource management, land tenure and property rights, environmental compliance, and community-based forest management. (An STTA has been identified and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in Q3)
- b) Deliverable 11a – Formal Assessment of Del 11 - Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness. (An STTA has been identified and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in Q3)
- c) Deliverable 15a – Formal Assessment of Del 15 - Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia. (An STTA has been identified and the assessment is scheduled to be completed in Q3).

Major Achievements

- Trained local theater groups in the effective delivery of community forestry messages using dramas, skits, traditional songs, and dance
- Launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign
- Finalized and submitted articles for publication in local media to promote the launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach campaign
- Developed outreach materials to promote community members' understanding of the CRL and CRL Regulations
- Developed radio messages and collaborated with community radio stations to broadcast a 42-episode drama

Trained local theater groups in the effective delivery of community forestry messages using dramas, skits, traditional songs, and dance

In mid-February, PROSPER trained two theater troupes from the Gba and Zor communities, and provided them with materials to for their performances. This was in response to requests submitted by the Gba, Zor and Blei CFMBs for support in the promotion of new forest rules and permitting systems, which PROSPER helped to develop. The training included how to develop and effectively convey messages through dramas, skits, traditional songs, and dance. With the support of the PROSPER field team, the Gba and Zor CFMBs commenced outreach activities to inform Forest Community members and members of adjacent communities in late March. These efforts will ultimately coincide with and complement the 4th Annual Outreach Campaign in these two communities.

In late March, PROSPER employed the Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) to develop dramas and skits for four (4) theater troupes in Southern Nimba and Grand Bassa, to educate communities about CFMAs

and forest governance bodies. Training of these troupes began at the end of the quarter. Once completed, the troupes will take part in the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign at the community-level.

Launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign

On March 30, the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign was launched at the Monrovia Christian Fellowship Center in Sinkor, Monrovia – “Making Community Forest Rights Real. As suggested by the title of the event, the main objective of the campaign is to make communities aware of their rights and obligations under the CRL and CRL Regulations; but it is also to build the capacity of local and national institutions to design and conduct outreach campaigns to promote sustainable forest management.

Over 350 people attended the launch event, 125 more than expected. This can be attributed to the success of the prelaunch awareness program, which included the placement of panelists from the FDA and CFWG on two popular breakfast radio broadcasts – the Super Morning Show (Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS)) and the Truth Breakfast Show (Truth FM), on April 28 and 29, respectively. Representatives from forest dependent communities arrived from Nimba, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties. Also in attendance were representatives from USAID, SCNL, VPA-SU, SAMFU, SADs, FFI, CI, FIFES, the World Bank, various CSOs, the Chinese Embassy, FTI, UL, Stella Maris Polytechnic, EPA, MIA, MoE, MoL, and the Liberian legislature. Mr. Neto Z. Lighe, the Minister of Labor, and one of the FDA’s Board of Directors, delivered the keynote address.



Liberia Crusaders for Peace perform a drama at the 4th Annual Outreach

Finalized and submitted articles for publication in local media to promote the launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign

PROSPER, with the support of the CFWG, developed and placed five (5) articles in local newspapers to promote the campaign and explain its objectives, in preparation for the 4th Annual Outreach. In the days following the campaign launch at least four (4) local newspapers wrote articles covering the event.

Developed outreach materials to promote community members’ understanding of the CRL and CRL Regulations

In preparation for the launch and rollout of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach Campaign, PROSPER, in collaboration with the FDA and CFWG, developed and produced a variety of outreach materials to promote understanding of the CRL and CRL Regulations, and sustainable forest management. These included:

- Copies of the CRL

- Copies of the CRL Regulations
- Illustrated materials explaining the process of how forest governance bodies are created
- Flyers on the rules and permitting systems, for the more mature sites
- Illustrated posters explaining the difference between sustainable and unsustainable harvesting of forest products
- Posters explaining the nine-step process that needs to be followed in order to attain Authorized Forest Community status
- Illustrated materials explaining the effects of unregulated hunting
- Illustrated posters indicating some of the protected animals in Liberia
- Illustrated materials explaining the effects and legal consequences of illegal chainsaw logging
- Ten (10) core messages relating to the CRL and sustainable forest management, printed on colored T-shirts
- Calendars showcasing Liberia's biodiversity and protected wildlife
- A variety of colored caps, printed with the campaign's message

These materials were widely distributed to launch participants. Over 300 persons received an assortment of materials, to be used to educate communities.



Hon. Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr. addresses launch participants.



Liberian Crusaders for Peace performing at the 4th Annual Outreach.

Developed radio messages and collaborated with community radio stations to broadcast a 42-episode drama

As part of its outreach program to support the FDA, PROSPER had a variety of messages broadcast on national and local radio stations to explain and promote the community forestry program. In addition to the panels organized to promote awareness of the launch of the 4th Annual Community Forestry Outreach campaign, PROSPER facilitated messages to explain the new forest rules and permitting systems in the Gba and Zor communities, which were broadcast over a period of fourteen (14) days on

Radio Nimba. Broadcasts focused on explaining the new system of rules and permitting, its benefit, and the consequences of non-compliance. Broadcasts were conducted in simple Liberian English.

As part of its extended outreach, PROSPER contacted two (2) community radio stations in both Zwedru and Greenville in Southern Liberia, and one (1) community radio in Western Liberia, in order to develop a plan to broadcast messages about the community forestry program, including the 42-episode drama. The PROSPER staff is currently preparing to train radio producers from these stations to effectively present dramas and respond to questions on call-in radio programs. Community radio stations will also host discussion panels to stimulate informed debate, to complement the messages delivered during the various episodes.

ACTIVITY 1.3: DEVELOP A CF CURRICULUM AND SUPPORT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF FTI STAFF TO IMPLEMENT

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

No contractual deliverable due this quarter.

Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum (Result)

Deliverables due during this quarter

a) No deliverables due this quarter

Major Achievements

- Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum

Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum

PROSPER, in close collaboration with FTI Faculty, had previously designed and delivered a community forestry curriculum in FY14 (Deliverable 8), which was later revised in FY15 (Deliverable 8a). Consistent with the scope of work, PROSPER commenced periodic observations and assessments of the delivery of the CF curriculum, to ensure effective delivery. Periodic observations and assessments began on February 19, and will continue twice a week, as the curriculum proceeds.

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

With USAID concurrence, since FY14 AWP, Activity 1.4 has been combined and reported with Activity 2.2. For activity details, please see Component 2.2.

ACTIVITY 1.5: SUPPORT THE FDA TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS OF ISSUING NEW COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 9) Community Forestry Issuance Handbook including checklists produced and in use by the FDA Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements

Improved capacity of FDA to responsibly issue new Community Forestry Management Agreement

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 9 – Community Forestry Issuance Handbook including checklists produced and in use by the FDA Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements. (The new FDA Advisor has completed the first draft of this and it is expected to be complete in Q3)

Major Achievements

- This deliverable is the culmination of several STTA works. Considerable progress is expected towards the completion of this deliverable in Q3.

4.0 COMPONENT 2: FOREST MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

COMPONENT 2 STATEMENT

The goal of the forest management and biodiversity component is to develop viable models of community-based forest management that lead to more sustainable forest management practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in target areas. Activities under this component seek to build the institutional and human capacity of communities, FDA, and CSOs to implement sustainable forest management while developing an enabling legal framework that is informed by stakeholder experience.

COMPONENT 2 ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 2.1: BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 12) - Community Forest Management Handbook that outlines the development, registration, operations, and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, Private sector actors, and other stakeholders.

Supported the completion of the Gba and Blei CFMPs, the revision and development of their CF rules, and helped define next-steps to promote permitting systems **(Result)**

Supported CFOCs from applicant communities in Grand Bassa to develop presentations for the CDSC meeting, and facilitated attendance **(Result)**

Supported the Gba, Zor, and Blei CFMBs to develop presentations for the scheduled CDSC meeting **(Result)**

Provided training to CFMBs on their new financial policy and business management skills **(Result)**

Supported the FDA by validating the preliminary demarcation that was done for the proposed CF at Sehyi, through ground-truthing **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 12 - Community Forest Management Handbook that outlines the development, registration, operations, and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, Private sector actors, and other stakeholders. (This was due in Q1. It is complete and has been submitted to USAID and has been approved)

Major Achievements

- Supported the completion of the Gba and Blei CFMPs, the revision and development of their CF rules, and helped define next-steps to promote permitting systems
- Supported CFOCs from applicant communities in Grand Bassa to develop presentations for the CDSC meeting, and facilitated attendance

- Supported the Gba, Zor, and Blei CFMBs to develop presentations for the scheduled CDSC meeting
- Provided training to CFMBs on their new financial policy and business management skills
- Supported the FDA by validating the preliminary demarcation that was done for the proposed CF at Sehyi, through ground-truthing
- Facilitated the participation of CF governance bodies at County-level policy and development forums

Continued Support to CFMBs in Older Sites in the Gba, Blei and Zor Communities in Northern Nimba

Supported management plan and rules template development for Authorized Forest Communities and defined next steps to promote permitting systems

During the quarter, the PROSPER Project Manager, Vaneska Litz, provided STTA in support of the development of the management plan and rules template for Authorized Forest Communities and to define the next steps to promoting permitting systems.

She reviewed and finalized the Gba and Blei Community Forest Management Plans (CFMP) with the Gba and Blei Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) and Executive Committee (EC). During the review sessions it was realized that implementation of the CFMP was difficult, due to the lack of a clear understanding of the CFMPs content. Additionally, literacy challenges and large CF guidance documents proved to be difficult for many individuals to fully comprehend. It underscored the need to develop simple templates that can be easily understood and used by the CFMB. The consultant proposed a simplified template that focuses on management activities, with minimal legal language.

The consultant reviewed and finalized the Gba and Blei community forest rules with their respective CFMB and EC. The review revealed that outside of PROSPER supported activities, communities have done little to develop and promote rules to govern the use of their forest resources. The consultant proposed a template that provides both guidelines and draft language that can be used by CFMBs and the FDA (or other organizations providing technical assistance) to develop their rules. The Gba and Blei CFMBs finalized their rules with the Community Assembly, which were approved by the EC. The rules were passed on to the FDA for final review and record, and the CA established an action plan for the rules' implementation.

The consultant also worked with the respective CFMBs and ECs to define a process to strengthen the permitting system. The permitting system will be introduced in the Gba and Blei communities next quarter, primarily as a means to control access and use by non-community members that had been using the communities' forest lands.

This has since evolved into a forest user registration system. The CA has put in place a road map to eventually register all forest users. This will start with consultations and awareness sessions with local administrations and local authorities. Persons who have been using forest resources in the Gba CF will be given a three-month grace period once registration starts, while those who have been using forest resources in the Blei CF will be given a one-month grace period, so as to ensure that all such persons are given sufficient time to adapt to the new situation. The Gba and Blei CFMBs and CA continues to provide leadership throughout this process, with support from PROSPER.

All Community Forest Sites

Provided training to CFMBs in financial policy and business management

The Business Development Advisor (BDA) continued business management training for CFMBs and women crop diversification groups in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties, to enhance their capacities in the use of the Business Management Planning and Financial Policy. The training during the period under review also focused on proposal writing skills, the provision of training materials, and establishing clear roles and responsibilities as per the bylaws. The PROSPER BDA will provide further training to the CFMBs to develop proposals for the use of funds in line with the draft financial policy.

Consulted with CI/partners on the potential for piloting Conservation Agreements in the Barconnie communities

On February 18, PROSPER field staff attended the signing ceremony of a conservation agreement, which focused on the coastal belt and sea turtle conservation, between four towns/villages (Sarwien, Blewein Bleedy and Newcess) in Barconnie community and CI/SNCL. More communities may be included in the future, if CI/SNCL determine that the agreement is achieving its objectives.

Supported the FDA to ground-truth and address issues arising from the preliminary demarcation

General capacity strengthening for effective GPS use

In January, a geospatial consultant was hired to review demarcation data from all sites, during which they identified various inconsistencies in the data recorded relating to GPS settings. The PROSPER GIS Specialist subsequently provided training to the FDA Cadre and project staff on how to use GPS devices, with an emphasis on settings consistency in data collection and recording. This included walking the CF boundaries and verifying that all coordinates had been accurately recorded.

Sehyi proposed CF

As part of the validation process in the proposed Sehyi CF, PROSPER supported the FDA by ground-truthing the claimed area over the period, March 22-26. PROSPER also organized a meeting of stakeholders on March 22 to address some of the issues relating to farming around the proposed CF boundary line. The farmers agreed to discontinue their activities at the close of the pending harvest season, and the Sehyi community – led by the Sannequellie Mah District Commissioner – committed to enforcing this. The PROSPER field team and the FDA cadre, together with the monitoring team of the Sehyi CF, will provide support to the community leaders to ensure farmers adhere to their commitments.

Barconnie proposed CF

The proposed Barconnie community forest is represented by four patches of forest – the Paye, Varyacon, Kokpeh and Donnie. The preliminary demarcation showed that the claimed forest areas were extremely small, posing challenges to effective collective management. The PROSPER team brought this to the attention of the community, which then convened a stakeholder forum and agreed to expand each of their four forest patches. The FDA, with support from PROSPER, will conduct the demarcation of the expanded areas and verify earlier boundary data in the next quarter.

District #4 – Kortro and Martro proposed CFs

After it was discovered that the Kortro proposed community forest overlapped with the LAC (Liberia Agricultural Company), the FDA, accompanied by PROSPER, approached the district Representative, Mr. Robertson Siaway. After being briefed, Rep. Siaway met with the LAC General Manager, whereupon both parties agreed to confirm LAC's boundaries by collecting accurate geospatial information, so that a reliable cadaster could be compared with the Kortro data. Though LAC does not have the authority to cede land to the community, as the local concessionaire it is best placed to work with the appropriate government agencies to resolve any dispute. The FDA, with support from PROSPER, will conduct ground-truthing and validate the Kortro proposed community forest area early in the third quarter.

No further work has been done in the Martro proposed community forest, since the preliminary demarcation and production of the base map. The FDA, with support from PROSPER, will conduct ground-truthing and validate the Martro proposed community forest area in May.

Tappita – Big Gio Forest (BGF) and Gblor

The initial ground-truthing exercise in the BGF showed that the demarcation teams had deviated from the provisionally established internal boundaries, which had been identified by the Sehzeplay, Boe-Quilla, Kparblee and Gbear-Gblor communities in 2013. There was also a dispute between Kparblee and Boe-Quilla Districts/Clans regarding the boundary line passing through Yeteepaa, a town within the BGF that traditionally falls within Boe-Quilla. To address these issues, the PROSPER team organized a large meeting with the community leaders, county representatives, the Superintendent, District Superintendents, Paramount Chiefs, and CFOCs from all of the proposed CFs. After a full day of discussion, the various parties agreed to – for the most part – maintain their provisional internal boundaries established in 2013. A slight modification was made between Gbear-Gblor and Kparblee, while a major change was made between Boe-Quilla and Kparblee in the northern section of the BGF. All participants agreed to these changes, after which a resolution was drafted; this will be finalized by the Superintendent of Tappita in the third quarter. In direct support of the agreement, county-level stakeholders and leaders from Kparblee and Boe-Quilla visited the disputed areas and confirmed the new physical boundaries together.

The FDA, with support from PROSPER, will demarcate and validate all of the internal boundaries of the BGF, and ground-truth the Gblor proposed CF early next quarter.

Supported the CF governance bodies to participate in County-level forums

The CDSC meeting was held during the period under review in Grand Bassa County on January 21. PROSPER helped Community Forestry Organizing Committees (CFOCs) develop presentations about their plans and progress, and facilitated the movement of CFOC members to and from the CDSC meeting. The CFOCs from applicant communities in District 4 and Barconnie each sent two representatives. PROSPER also supported CF leaders from Sannequellie and Tappita to develop presentations, though the CDSC meeting was ultimately cancelled.

ACTIVITY 2.2 AND 1.4: STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF FDA, EPA, AND CSOS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

No contractual deliverables due this quarter

FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings **(Result)**

Capacity building of FDA cadre **(Result)**

Capacity building, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

a) No deliverables due this quarter

Major Achievements

- FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings
- Capacity building of FDA cadre

- Capacity building, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders

FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings

Throughout the quarter, the FDA and PROSPER held several coordination meetings. These focused on coordinating STTAs, organizing field programs and the movement of Monrovia-based personnel, and developing a plan to extend outreach activities to three additional counties.

The FDA Managing Director (MD) was instrumental in pushing the extended outreach forward, emphasizing the need for swift action. The CF Technical Manager led the selection of the three additional counties, two from the southeastern region (FDA Region 4) and one from the western region (FDA Region 1). During the initial reconnaissance trip to the three counties, the PROSPER team worked closely with FDA Regional Officers and Community Extension Officers, who were extremely supportive. **(Report on extended outreach available)**

Conducted capacity building coordination and cooperation with stakeholders

During the period under review PROSPER continued to coordinate with the FDA and support capacity building of the FDA cadre, and to coordinate and cooperate with other stakeholders. In January, the geospatial consultant hired by PROSPER, Emiko Guthe, and the PROSPER GIS Specialist provided GPS training to the FDA Cadre, emphasizing settings consistency in data collection and recording, and effective use of standard data sheets.

A specific training was organized for the FDA GIS Department. Unfortunately, key FDA GIS staff members were unavailable. Those present did not possess the technical knowledge needed to be able to make use of the training. However, the GIS consultant has been providing remote support to the team (FDA/PROSPER staff) to ensure accurate collection and recording of geospatial data.

Provided support to the FDA to compile findings of the demarcation data

Demarcation data continues to be compiled and finalized, in collaboration with the FDA.

ACTIVITY 2.3: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CF AND LTPR

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 26d) – Three Policy Briefs – Not due until Q3, but submitted ahead of schedule

Supported the Zor forest community address violations of the community's constitution and bylaws **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 26d – Three Policy Briefs (This deliverable was not due until Q3. However, it has been completed and submitted to USAID.) The three Policy Briefs were on the following subjects:
 - i. The importance of Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC): strategies for realization;
 - ii. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement: backstopping the community rights law; and,
 - iii. The Proposed Local Government Act: Community Forestry and Decentralization

Major Achievements

- Supported the Zor Community Forest to address violations of the community's constitution and bylaws

Supported the Zor forest community address violations of the community's constitution and bylaws

At the end of March, it came to light that the Chief Officer of the Zor CFMB had allegedly colluded with the Chairperson of the EC and the head of the forest guards and entered into an arrangement to sell "chewing sticks" to a woman from Ivory Coast, without the knowledge and consent of the CA. The Chief Officer had previously been sanctioned for applying for a logging permit without consulting other CFMB officers or the CA. On discovery of the latest violation, the head of the Sannequellie office was immediately directed to confiscate all equipment that PROSPER had been providing to support the Chief Officer. PROSPER staff reminded officers of the CFMB and members of the CA of the need to follow internal rules, as established under the Forest Community's constitution and bylaws, and warned that failure to do so may jeopardize future support to the community.

Following review of the constitution and bylaws, the CFMB and EC consulted with locally based officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the FDA, and decided to suspend the three Forest Community officials, pending the results of a full investigation. These events, though negative, demonstrate that communities are able to govern themselves and address unauthorized uses of forest resources, when adequately informed and supported. PROSPER continues to support the community's governance bodies in the application of the Zor constitution and bylaws, as this issue is addressed.

ACTIVITY 2.4: INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND DESIGN APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 13a) Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners)

Supported capacity building for biomonitoring **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (Biodiversity Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners (DELIVERABLE 13a). This deliverable was finalized by FFI, PROSPER's biodiversity partner, but not in time for submission to USAID prior to this report.

Major Achievements

- Supported Capacity Building for Biomonitoring

Supported capacity building for biomonitoring

A comprehensive training report on the capacity for implementing the biomonitoring handbook was submitted by FFI to PROSPER. This report will form the basis for further training, guide protocols for participation of community members and FDA staff in establishing the biomonitoring system and field data collection.

5.0 COMPONENT 3: LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

COMPONENT 3 STATEMENT

A key objective of PROSPER is to identify and scale up sustainable community-based livelihoods and forest-based enterprises in order to support sustainable forest management activities while reducing the threats to biodiversity. This includes the development and strengthening of value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFP) through capacity building of collectors' groups and the introduction of processing equipment to add value and decrease labor demands. Under PROSPER additional activities are piloted to demonstrate other ways by which communities can increase their income while supporting sustainable forest management.

COMPONENT 3 ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 3.1 INCREASED NUMBER OF SUSTAINABLE AGRO/FOREST-BASED ENTERPRISES

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)

(Deliverable 17) Development and assessment of series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia and annual revision

(Deliverable 16) Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource-based enterprises and annual revision

Agriculture and wood based enterprises members trained in financial and business management **(Result)**

Oil palm processing capacity expanded **(Result)**

Oil Palm Processing Group Based Enterprises establish and operational **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 17 - Development and assessment of series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia and annual revision. (This deliverable has been completed and has been submitted to USAID. However, because of the large size of the deliverable, it will be necessary to transfer the information to a hard drive and deliver it to the mission. See below for more information on the deliverable)
- b) Deliverable 16 - Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource-based enterprises. (This deliverable has been submitted to USAID and is pending approval. See below for more information on the deliverable)

DELIVERABLE 17 Assessed by ACDI/VOCA (Component 3)

PROSPER Component 1 team provided ACDI/VOCA (Component 3) with various scripts, manuals, radio programs, etc that support community-based forest products for review and evaluation. Both component teams met for clarification on the comments made by Component 3. It was agreed by the two teams that the materials will be rolled out in the communities, and that subsequent feedbacks will be generated for onward annual revision and updates. ACDI/VOCA also submitted three publications (crop diversification, oil palm nursery management, and oil palm out-planting) to Tetra Tech ARD for branding. These will subsequently be printed for training purposes and will be disseminated by ACDI/VOCA through the ACC to partners in the sector.

DELIVERABLE 16 Submitted

ACDI/VOCA submitted the Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual to TetraTech ARD in fulfillment of Deliverable 16. The manual was comprised of eleven modules touching on various topics including a work book for participants. The final product is expected to be printed in the next quarter and will be rolled out in the field with some established agriculture and wood based enterprises.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – AGRICULTURE AND WOOD-BASED ENTERPRISES

During the quarter, support was focused on providing ToT for agriculture-based business trainers with business management skills and knowledge and proposal writing skills for three CFMBs.

Major Achievements

- ToT organized for agriculture- based business trainers
- Three days introductory training in proposal writing skills to three CFMBs (Blei, Gba and Zor) in Sanniquellie
- Printing of financial policy and business training materials for wood-based enterprises

A one-day ToT for agriculture-based business trainers was conducted by the PROSPER Business Development Advisor (BDA) with selected members of the crop diversification and oil palm processing groups in the Tappita region around the Big Gio Forest (BGF). 19 (10 male, 9 female) members from the two groups participated in the ToT, including four ACDI/VOCA livelihood staff. The criteria for selecting the trainers from the two groups was based on the level of participation and understanding exhibited during basic business training sessions with the groups as well as their influence in the community coupled with their level of literacy. The field staff included in the training was meant to support the community based trainers. Topics covered during the ToT included but were not limited to: stages in business development, Farming-as-a-Business, cash management, budgeting, recording transactions, basic organizational development, etc.

Meanwhile, as part of the process that began last quarter (FY16 Q1) of providing business training to the CFMBs, the BDA organized and conducted three days of introductory training in March in business

plan development and proposal writing skills with three CFMBs (Gba, Blei and Zor) in Sehyikinpa near Sanniquellie. This was as a result of the recommendation made last quarter by the three groups during the training on financial policies and procedures and business development to enable them write business plans in the future. It was attended by 27 members (19 male, 8 female). The first day started with the adoption (signing) and presentation of the printed copies of the Financial Policy and Procedures which were vetted and approved by senior Liberia PROSPER technical managers. All copies of the policies were signed and distributed among the communities.

Also distributed among the communities were the business training materials that were compiled and approved by PROSPER technical managers. Each copy of these documents is on reserve at the Sanniquellie field office and Monrovia office. Though the participants were enthusiastic about the proposal and business plan writing trainings, they could not easily understand some of the topics such as sales and cash flow forecasting, and marketing because only few of the participants have been involved in some form of petty trading in their communities. The CFMBs asked PROSPER to run two additional trainings in order to give them a firmer understanding of everything included in the training. Hence, it was agreed that the next and second phase will be a revision of the first training sessions while the third phase will cover sections that will allow each community to identify a specific project/business to be fully developed. This will help them operationalize ideas and concepts around business planning and proposal writing. They are highly motivated and are requesting USAID-Liberia/PROSPER to continue such support.

Lessons Learned

During the trainings, the BDA uncovered a host of capacity issues among various groups across the sites. The CFMBs business plan and proposal writing skills training objectives could not be fully met in one session because most members were new to these topics. It was agreed to run two additional training sessions for members to benefit fully from the trainings.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – OIL PALM-BASED ENTERPRISES

Oil Palm Nurseries

Major Achievements

Support by PROSPER through Kwakerdoe to the four oil palm nurseries established in FY15 in four communities (Beatuo, Behwallay, Old Yorpea and Toweh Town) around the Big Gio Forest continued during the quarter. Kwakerdoe provided extension and technical support which included the identification of insect pests (weevils and beetles) that are harmful to young oil palm seedlings as well as the physiological appearance of a water stressed oil palm seedling¹. These are important technical skills that oil palm nursery managers need to know in order to take all the necessary steps to avoid an outbreak of these pests. They were advised to periodically use wood ash at the base of the seedlings within poly bags and spray soap solution on the palm fronds to serve as a repellent against any insects.

In addition, the group in Toweh Town began another oil palm nursery on their own without the support of PROSPER. In their quest to continue their enterprise development activity in oil palm nursery management, they raised an amount of 1,260 USD among themselves and ordered one thousand two hundred (1200) pre-germinated seeds from the Ivory Coast through Kwakerdoe. The pre-germinated seeds are being managed in a pre-nursery.

¹ This is the physical signs that are shown by a palm seedling when there is insufficient water for the seedling.

Meanwhile, as planned in the FY16 Annual Work Plan(AWP) in order to support five additional new nurseries in five communities, 13 (9 male, 4 female) oil palm farmers in three communities (Doeyelay, Graie and Marlay) have paid an amount of 857 USD to PROSPER that will be turned over to Kwakerdoe later as part of their contribution toward the purchase of the pre-germinated seeds to be ordered from the Ivory Coast to establish the new nursery in their respective communities. PROSPER has given the communities interested in participating in the oil palm nursery activities a deadline at the end of April to complete the payment towards the pre-germinated seeds. The deadline was agreed to with Kwakerdoe in order to begin a new nursery at the start of the rainy season (preferably in May) which will reduce the number of months that the seedlings will spend on the nursery before they are out planted in the field.

Lessons Learned

One of the most important lessons learned here comes from the group in Toweh Town who has started their own nursery. Through sound technical hands-on training, groups can quickly realize the impact and then go on to make their own smart decisions while working collaboratively together. Some of the group members are teachers that are teaching in the Junior High School in the Town, and retired workers of LAMCO. As a result of their literacy and understanding of the environmental issues, they easily understand the negative impact of shifting cultivation and the threats to biodiversity. These teachers and retire workers are influencing their group members to focus on best agriculture practices and economic options which make the group distinct from the three other oil palm nursery groups. This is a huge and exciting lesson learned.

Also, the FY15 oil palm nursery activity began in March 2015 and it is expected that the seedlings will remain at the nursery until June 2016 in order to coincide with the rainy season for planting in the field. The rain will support the young out planted seedlings for continuous growth without individual watering as is the case at the nursery. However, the labor and time for the management of seedlings for this amount of time (16 months) is quite lengthy. Therefore, to reduce the time and labor to coincide with the rainy season for out-planting, it is more reasonable to begin the nursery activity preferably in May/June. This will ensure that the seedlings stay on the nursery for 12-13 months (May 2015- June 2017), reducing labor, time and resources. It is in the light of this observation that the time for the payment for the 2016 activity has been extended to the end of April 2016. It is also an opportunity to give additional time for interested farmers to contribute to the process.

Oil Palm Processing Support

a) Training on the use of Freedom Mill

Prior to the training of the Freedom Mill users, mobilization was carried out by PROSPER to inform the various oil palm farmer groups about the training and demonstration of the Freedom Mills so that the farmers could all agree on the proposed dates. The consultation with the farmers was necessary to ensure that the dates were not in conflict with their farming or any other activity within their various communities.

Consequently, the eight new oil palm groups—six in Tappita (Bonlay, Graie, Grupea, Lorplay, New Yorpea and Yriah), one each in Buchanan (Baye Town), and Sanniquellie (Baintowin) that had contributed toward the purchase of the Freedom Mills in Q1 received the Mills in their communities. Each group participated in a separate, comprehensive training on operations and maintenance to ensure that these skills were passed on to all the group members, especially the group leaders that would serve

as operators. A total of 252 (183male, 79 female) community members participated in the training which covered various topics including:

- Oil palm activity and the link to biodiversity/CF
- Brief history of the Freedom Mill
- Assembling the various parts of the Mill
- Demonstrating the processing of palm fruits
- Post processing activities (disassembling, cleaning, and maintenance)

The training was conducted in partnership with a technician from Moon Light; the manufacturer of the Freedom Mill, in collaboration with PROSPER Component 3 staff. Teaming-up with the manufacturer during installation and training of the new groups is meant to continue creating links and building relationships between the Freedom Mill manufacturer and the various processing groups for future repair services, replacement of spare parts and training. During the training, PROSPER also invited Mr. Andrew Gallah, a community-based Freedom Mill operator in Toweh Town, one of the initial four processing groups established in Q2 FY15 in the Tappita region, and Mr. John Karnu, Chairman and Co-Operator of Kialay Commercial Palm Oil Processors in the Zor Community (Sanniquellie region), to form part of the training team in each of the regions. The presence of Mr. Karnu and Gallah on the team allowed them to share their experiences with Freedom Mill operations and to explain to the new groups how their group is using their Freedom Mill as an established enterprise. They further explained the business aspects of operating the Mills and the proceeds accrued to the groups as a result of the income collected from the mills. Their participation was useful for farmer-to-farmer exchange information exchange and learning that had proven successful in the adoption of agriculture best practices and investment in upgrading activities.

The training team used the visual-aid-Freedom Mill 2 User Guide that was developed by PROSPER in FY14 that simplified all of the steps at the level of a semi-illiterate farmer. The training was practical and interactive, allowing participants to ask questions. Answers were provided by the training team. The farmers were grateful for the provision of the mills as well as the training.

b) Oil palm processed

Oil palm farmers and those collecting palm fruits from the wild continue to use the Freedom Mills in their communities due to the reduced labor required and the efficiency associated with it. As a result, the volume of palm oil produced continues to increase tremendously.

The table below compares the number of processors and oil palm produced between Q2 FY15 & Q2 FY16

Table I

Period	Total Processors	QTY of Oil Produced/gal
Jan-Mar 2015	121	750

Jan-Mar 2016	203	1,448.50
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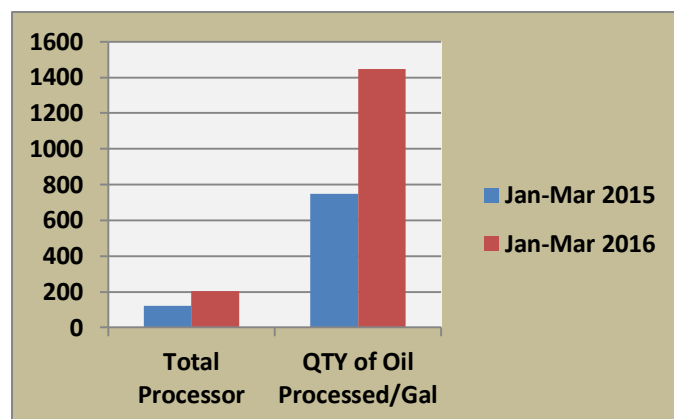


Figure 1: Bar chart comparing the number of oil palm processors and the quantity of oil produced in Q2 FY15 & Q2 FY16

From the above table and as reflected on the chart, during this quarter (Q2 FY16), 203 farmers (male: 141; female: 62) processed 1,448.5 gallons of palm oil using Freedom Mills compared to the 121 (male: 75 ; female: 46) farmers that processed 750 gallons in the same period in FY15. This increase can be attributed to an increased in the number of Freedom Mills from 14 in FY15 to 22 in FY16

coupled with the strong desire of farmers to process their palm fruits mechanically. Farmers' incomes will most likely increase as the price of palm oil is gradually increasing. This is because, a gallon of oil was sold in the Tappita regional market last year for about 2.95 USD, while at the same time this year, the cost is about 3.05 USD/gallon.

c) Four oil palm groups constitutions were validated and signed to formalize groups into enterprises

The BDA facilitated the validation and signing of the four oil palm processing groups' constitutions to formalize the groups into enterprises. The groups are located in Behwallay, Beatuo, Old Yourpea and Toweh Town all around the BGF. The drafted constitutions, including 15 copies, were validated and signed by the groups. Four copies were received by PROSPER; one for the PROSPER field officer, two for the Tappita office and one for the Monrovia office. The rest were left with the groups. With this development, the groups will be able to open bank accounts and conduct transactions with other institutions in more structured manner. Furthermore, they will also be able to seek more formal sources of funding and develop proposals to seek more opportunities. With these skills, groups will be more sustainable and increase member income, thereby reducing their dependency on the forest. These improvements will also help them manage their finances and minimize conflicts and power struggles among them. The groups expressed appreciation to USAID-Liberia/PROSPER for supporting them to achieve such a remarkable goal.

Lessons Learned

The inclusion of Mr. Karnu and Gallah on the Freedom Mill training team for them to share their experiences made the training much easier because they could explain the stages of processing in their dialect (Mano or Gio) to ensure more participants understood them. The lesson learned here is that farmer-to-farmer learning had a great impact on the training outcome.

In addition, the introduction of a new technology such as the Freedom Mill is making life easier for the farmers in processing their palm fruits. In so doing, more farmers are requesting PROSPER's support to

get them a Freedom Mill especially communities around the Big Gio Forest because it was difficult for development partners to reach those communities, so they consider this as a great opportunity.

ACTIVITY 3.2 REDUCE THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY LINKED TO LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 4)
No deliverables due in FY16
Livelihood group members have basic understanding about Community Forestry and the importance of the forest on their livelihood (Result)
Cocoa farmers apply yield improving practices that they have seen on the cocoa demo field days on their own cocoa farms (Result)
Farmer's Groups are able to produce (vegetable) crops in the dry season (Result)
Cocoa farmers can receive farm gate price information through the Liberia Market Prices SMS response system 24/7 (Result)
Beekeepers produce and sell honey from hives in or around Community Forests (Result)

Deliverables due during this quarter

- d) No deliverables due this quarter

COMMUNITY FORESTRY OUTREACH THROUGH EXISTING GROUPS (FED FFS, ETC.)

The review of the Community Forestry materials developed by Component I that includes messages to reduce threats to biodiversity was completed during the quarter. A technical meeting was held between ACDI/VOCA and TetraTech ARD to discuss the messages on the posters for a better understanding of the materials. It was agreed that the materials would be used to create awareness about the need to reduce threats to biodiversity in all PROSPER sites. However, in order to significantly impact the groups that Component 3 is directly working with on livelihood matters such as crop diversification (vegetable production), cocoa rehabilitation, oil palm and beekeeping, Component 3 has carefully selected messages on shifting cultivation/farming, hunting/poaching, and mangrove cutting (Barconnie community) to emphasize with the groups because these farmer groups are directly involved in these biodiversity threat activities.

Moving forward, the Component I Leader organized a comprehensive ToT for the Component 3 Leader on Community Forestry and the threats to biodiversity that includes shifting cultivation/farming, hunting/poaching, artisanal mining, chainsaw logging, fishing, sea turtle hunting and mangrove cutting. Similarly, the Component 3 Leader organized a ToT in Monrovia for all ACDI/VOCA staff. In Q3, Component 3 will roll-out these outreach messages through the PROSPER farmers groups.

COCOA REHABILITATION

Major Achievements

- One hundred thirteen cocoa farmers participate in cocoa rehabilitation demonstration in four communities

- Wenco and Cocoa Farmers signed MoU to formalize cocoa demonstration

During Q2, PROSPER organized a total of 113 (101 male, 12 female) cocoa farmers in four communities in Tappita (Behwallay, Marlay, Old Yorpea and Yorlay #1) around the Big Gio Forest to participate in cocoa rehabilitation demonstrations with Wenco Liberia Limited. The company is involved in the provision of technical assistance to cocoa farmers as well as the purchase and export of dried cocoa beans. Prior to the demonstration, PROSPER facilitated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each of the four groups and Wenco. The MoUs were signed separately by representatives of each of the four farmer groups and the Country Director for Wenco, formalizing their partnership to carry out the cocoa rehabilitation activities for FY16. Under the MoU, Wenco will provide all technical support and training on cocoa production best farming practices and management techniques including under brushing, de-barking, pruning, de-shading, the application of special cocoa fertilizers, and treatments with approved pesticides and fungicides of trees. To reduce post-harvest spoilage and waste, participants also will receive training in cocoa pod harvesting best practices and bean fermentation so that a higher price can be received for a higher quality crop. Additionally, Wenco will provide small scale business and financial management training on cocoa farming to participating farmers. Farmers agreed to participate in and carry out all best cultural practices associated with cocoa rehabilitation activities as instructed by Wenco's field technicians and, moreover, replicate training skills learned from the demonstration sites on their individual cocoa farms.

Following the signing of the MoU, the rehabilitation demonstrations started in earnest in mid-February with two major activities; under-brushing and de-barking of unwanted trees as step one, and in March, de-shading and pruning techniques of the cocoa trees as step two of the cultural practices. At the onset, Wenco field technicians told the farmers that, *"We are starting the cocoa rehabilitation activity on time this year (2016) compared to last year (2015) and Wenco is impressed with the turn-out of the number of cocoa farmers that have signed-in for the demonstration. What is important for you the cocoa farmers is to apply these practices you will learn on your individual farms. When you see the improvement of your farms and the resultant increases in yield, the more you will be encouraged to continue these activities on your farm."*

The demonstration in mid-February in one of the communities (Old Yorpea), coincided with the visit of the USAID Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for PROSPER, Mr. Alexander Kingston. He encouraged the farmers to take the cocoa activities seriously for their own benefit. He also told the farmers how the cocoa activity is linked to the protection of the forest in which USAID is supporting permanent agriculture such as cocoa production.

After the two demonstrations, ACDI/VOCA staff and the Wenco technicians, in partnership with the group leaders, made follow-up farm visits with some of the farmers to find out the adoption rate of the practices applied by the farmers. Thirty five farmers' farms were randomly visited and it was observed that out of the 113 farmers that had participated in the training /demonstration, all 35 (32 male, 3 female) farmers visited had applied the agronomic practices learned from the demonstration plots on at least one acre of their individual farms and the processes are ongoing. The verification of adoption rates will continue, though all of the farms will not be reached due to the distance of some farms.

Lessons Learned

When farmers see the immediate benefit of a practice, they are more likely to adopt the practice as in the case of the cocoa demonstration. They have started seeing tremendous changes in their old cocoa farms under rehabilitation. The lesson learned is that the training provided to the farmers by Wenco has been carefully tailored to meet the needs of the farmers making them more confident to begin the adoption immediately. When a new farming practice is introduced, adoption is sometimes difficult to carry out, but in this case the farmers are seeing immediate improvements in their farms.

CROP DIVERSIFICATION

Major Achievements

- Nine new crop diversification groups identified
- Training of six crop diversification groups in basic financial and business management. Four of the groups' constitutions were drafted, validated and signed to formalize groups as enterprises, and constitutions drafted for the remaining two groups
- Provision of technical assistance to twenty four crop diversification groups

Per the FY16 AWP to identify new crop diversification groups, PROSPER field staff identified nine new crop diversification groups. A total of 253 (59 male, 194 female) are willing to participate in crop diversification activities. Of the nine groups identified four are located around the Big Gio Forest in Tappita (Gbotuo, Marlay, Old Yorpea and Yriah towns), three in Buchanan (Ben's Town, Farr Town, and Zorda) as well as one in the Sanniquellie region (Gorpa). All of these communities are near the community forests.

Following up on the assessment made on four crop diversification groups last quarter to determine specific business training needs, the PROSPER BDA organized and carried out business training for six crop diversification groups; four in Tappita ; two each in Old Yourpea and Zuatuo and one each in Buchana (Baye town) and Sanniquellie (Baintowin). A total of 166 (56male, 110 female) community members participated in the training. The topics covered during the training included the stages of business development, basic record keeping, and concept of farming as a business. The four groups in Tappita validated and signed to their constitutions to formalize the groups into agriculture based enterprises. The BDA also facilitated the drafting of constitutions for two other crop diversification groups; one each in Buchanan (Baye town) and Sanniquellie (Baintowin). The constitution validation process of the two groups will be carried out during next quarter.

The Provision of technical assistance to the twenty four crop diversification groups continued by PROSPER staff during the quarter. Technical assistance carried out included nursery management and transplantation of pepper and bitter-ball seedlings for some crop diversification groups that are involved in dry season vegetable production activities. Activities also included the timely watering of transplanted crops with irrigation pumps to ensure proper growth due to high water demand as a result of the dry season, and the intercropping of vegetable (bitter-balls & pepper) fields with plantain suckers. Intercropping plantain with vegetables will promote a permanent farming system and reduce shifting cultivation; which poses a serious threat to biodiversity.

One of the crop diversification groups in Tappita (Korlay), which consists predominantly of youth, began harvesting their vegetables (bitter-balls) during the quarter. A total of 76.30 USD was gained from about 180 kilogram of bitter-balls, sold in the Tappita regional weekly market. This amount is a good beginning for the group which has not previously been involved in this activity. It is now encouraged to continue the process of crop diversification due to the income that has been generated.

Lessons Learned

Of all the groups that have thus far been engaged, the crop diversification groups in Baintonwin (Sanniquelle) and Baye Town (Buchanan), exhibited very low literacy and understanding of basic Liberian English. While initial assessments of these groups had been done as part of preparation, the challenges of

language comprehensive were not anticipated. Interpreters were identified to further explain the issues in their vernacular. This seriously impacted the time allotted to activities in these parts for which training approaches in these communities are being modified. The ToT for the agri-based business trainers, especially for the crop diversification groups, was difficult to start as all the group members showed up during this section even though a previous selection had been made for specific members to attend. The group members had presumed that attending the training would lead to additional, tangible products and did not want to be left out. It was difficult for some members to understand why some were not part of the section. In some cases the larger group was allowed to sit in on the section with questions and issues restricted to only those who qualified based on the selection criteria for the ToT. As a result we learned that we must be very clear to all group members about why some are selected for teaming and how all the members will eventually benefit.

IMPROVED MARKET INFORMATION

Major Achievements

- Identification of a long-term platform for dissemination of agriculture produce prices to ensure farmers have improved market information

PROSPER met with Lone Star, a mobile phone company that is willing to host the market information platform for the dissemination of agriculture produce prices, particularly for cocoa and palm oil. Lone Star provided a price quotation to set up the platform. When developed, the platform will run 24/7, unlike the current pilot that runs only during office hours and weekdays, which makes it difficult for most farmers to access it. This is because most farmers go to their farms early in the morning and return late in the evening. As a result, they are unable to access the price information. The price quotation from Lone Star has been shared with other stakeholders that are willing to contribute to the process. It is expected that the negotiation with Lone Star will be concluded early next quarter.

Lessons Learned

The key lesson learned here is that any platform piloting for farmers must first consider workday and behavioral practices and incorporate those into the design of the platform.

BUSH MEAT ALTERNATIVE-BEEKEEPING

Major Achievements

- Six additional hives colonized in four communities; two in Tappita and two in Buchana
- Two hives harvested in one community in Tappita
- Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) subcontract modified

The ongoing beekeeping pilot continues to experience progress in increases in the colonization of the hives by the bees. Four communities, two each in Tappita (Dialla & Doeyellay) and Buchanan (Ben's and Bold Dollar), experienced six additional hives colonized. UOF, PROSPER's grantee supporting the beekeeping activities, continued to provide extension visits to all the five groups during the quarter to provide coaching and ensure that the training provided is implemented. During extension visits, uncolonized hives were consistently rebaited. Hives that were not colonized were also relocated to ensure colonization. In total, 20 of the 50 hives (40 percent) provided to the beekeepers have been colonized.

One of the beekeeping groups in Tappita (Korlay) harvested two out of the three hives that had previously been colonized. The group harvested and processed three gallons of honey. The group has been linked to Liberia Pure Honey (LPH) by UOF to ensure that all honey produced by the group and other PROSPER beekeepers are bought for an agreeable price to enable farmers to generate income from the honey produced. The market linkage between farmers and LPH will ensure continuous income generation that will lead to sustainability of the beekeeping activities.

During the quarter, Tetra Tech ARD modified the subcontract with UOF to continue the provision of technical assistance to the beekeeping groups established in FY15, as well as recruit five new groups for FY16. The five new groups will be recruited in Buchanan; two in District #4 and three in Barconnie. The recruitment of the five new groups in Buchanan will increase the number of livelihood activities under PROSPER in the region.

Lessons Learned

The numbers of farmers attending the training sections are gradually dropping out of the program. This is most notable among the females who traditionally have not participated in this occupation because of fear of bees. Women tend to refer to the men to manage their hives. However, this reduction in participation rate will not negatively impact program goals as it was anticipated during the design phase that people would drop out because of fear of bees as well as the potential delay in seeing and the immediate financial benefit of participation.

ALTERNATIVE CHARCOAL PRODUCTION

During the quarter, ACDI/VOCA finalized Roy Hagen's (charcoal consultant) report and submitted this to TetraTech ARD after all comments and concerns raised by TetraTech ARD were fully addressed. ACDI/VOCA is now moving forward with implementing relevant recommendations provided by the consultant that can be beneficial within the remaining LOP.

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

ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 4)

No deliverable due in FY16

Two (2) publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) and other technical committees **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- e) No deliverables due this quarter

Major Achievements

PROSPER attended both the Cocoa Sector Technical Working Group and the ACC meetings in January and February, but could not attend the March meeting due to PROSPER Q3 work planning activities. At

the ACC, the Director for Sector Coordination at the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) called on all partners in the agriculture sector to coordinate their activities to avoid duplication of effort.

PROSPER also attended two stakeholder meetings organized by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). The meetings, including the Bamboo and Rattan Stakeholder meeting, and the National Forests and Landscape Forum (NFLF) Multi-Stakeholders Cross-Sectoral Policy Dialogue Expert Panel Discourse were held at the head offices of the FDA in February and March respectively. The meetings were organized for stakeholders to discuss livelihood matters around forest communities. The Bamboo and Rattan Stakeholder meeting aimed to develop a road map for the development of Liberia's bamboo and rattan sector. At the National Forests and Landscape Forum (NFLF) Multi-Stakeholder Cross –Sectoral Policy Dialogue Expert Panel Discourse, two presentations were made addressing small scale forest enterprises as sustainable development strategies to achieve a sustainable development agenda. PROSPER shared its experiences on the formation of small scale livelihood enterprises such as the establishment of Freedom Mill groups for oil palm processing, beekeeping activities, cocoa rehabilitation, and small scale irrigation for vegetable production activities—all geared to reduce threats to biodiversity.

6.0 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

In November 2012, USAID approved the Performance Management Plan (PMP) developed by Tetra Tech ARD for PROSPER. The PROSPER PMP is a tool used both for reporting to USAID and for internal project learning and adaptive management. During the Annual Work Planning for FY2016, the PMP was revised and submitted to USAID for approval. In December 2015, the PROSPER COR approved the revised PMP. PROSPER's PMP FY16 targets were established for all 18 Indicators.

Data was not entered into USAID Liberia's on-line Performance Information Data System (PIDS) on schedule as the system was down following the departure of the LMEP project. In April, PROSPER M&E Officer was able to attend training with the LSA project (LMEP's replacement) and data was able to be entered. However, there are several indicators from previous years that reflect no data being entered on PIDS, but PROSPER's records indicate the data was entered. This will need to be reviewed with the COR.

ATTAINMENT OF TARGETS

PROSPER met or exceeded its FY16Q2 targets for 7 of the 18 indicators tracked. At USAID's request, PROSPER prepared a comment column explaining all instances in which target attainment was ten percent above or below the projected levels. As indicated, the reasons were quite variable and involved both internal and external factors.

Details concerning PROSPER's attainment of targets in FY16Q2 are summarized in the Table below.

7.0 ANNEXES

ANNEX I: STAFF LIST (31 MARCH 2016)

Total	Per Site	Last	First	Location	Title	Organization	Comments
1	1	Meadows	Paul	Monrovia	Chief of Party	TTARD	
2	2	Cole	Eugene	Monrovia	Deputy Chief of Party	TTARD	
3	3	Aldinger	Peter	Monrovia	FDA Advisor	TTARD	New in FY16Q2
4	4	Vesselee	Martin	Monrovia	Deputy Lead, Component 2	TTARD	Change in Position
5	5	Jackson	Nobeh	Monrovia	Deputy Lead, Component 1	TTARD	
6	6	Johnson	T. Doe	Monrovia	Education Advisor	NAEAL	
7	7	Gartayn	Vivian	Monrovia	Outreach and Communication Advisor	TTARD	New in FY16Q2
8	8	Akoi Forkpa	Laveto	Monrovia	Lead LEDA	ACDI/VOCA	
9	9	Queejay	Marvelous	Monrovia	Senior Field Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
10	10	Dennis	Koko	Monrovia	Liaison Officer/Coordinator Cadre Staff	FDA	Departed Mar 2016
11	11	Miller	Esthella	Monrovia	Gender Integration Officer	TTARD	
12	12	Van Ross	Rechline	Monrovia	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	CJPS	Departing Apr 2016
13	13	Glaydor	Garnahweh	Monrovia	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	TTARD	
14	14	Ndorbor	Macdonald	Monrovia	GIS	TTARD	
15	15	Thompson	Daniel	Monrovia	Business Development Specialist	TTARD	
16	16	Tarr	Vera	Monrovia	Office Manager	TTARD	
17	17	Williams	Joshua	Monrovia	Finance Manager	TTARD	
18	18	Mulbah	Henry	Monrovia	Finance Officer	TTARD	
19	19	Paye	Edward	Monrovia	Administrative/Finance Assisant	TTARD	
20	20	Wheigar	Sando	Monrovia	Procurement/Contracts Officer	TTARD	
21	21	Sartee	Alvis	Monrovia	Administrative Operations Officer	TTARD	
22	22	Dugbeh	Sam	Monrovia	Administrative /Finance Assistant	TTARD	
23	23	Saylee	Moses	Monrovia	Caretaker	TTARD	
24	24	Johnson	Frederick	Monrovia	Head Driver	TTARD	
25	25	Dukuly	Abraham	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	

26	26	Habah	John	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	
27	27	Weltee	Othello	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	
28	28	Boykai	Joel	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	
29	29	Kollie	Henry	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	
30	30	Gant	Garretson	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD	
31	31	Goflee	Evelyn	Monrovia	Caretaker	CJPS	
32	1	Paypay	William	Sanniquellie	Acting Forestry Officer/Head of Office	NAEAL	Change in Position
33	2	Koffa	Ben	Sanniquellie	Field Office Administrator	TTARD	
34	3	Johnson	Jallah	Sanniquellie	Driver	TTARD	New in FY16Q2
35	4	TBD		Sanniquellie	Coordinator	NAEAL	Vacant
36	5	Mahn	Robert	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer – Zor	NAEAL	
37	6	Gomah	Marcus	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Sehyi	NAEAL	
38	7	Nyumah	John	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Gba	NAEAL	
39	8	Saye	Ruth	Sanniquellie	Coordinator	CJPS	
40	9	Sayekea	Ophelia	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Gba	CJPS	
41	10	Baimie	Chyrrei	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Sehyi	CJPS	
42	11	Deemie	Michael	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Zor	CJPS	
43	12	Dahn	Julius	Sanniquellie	Caretaker	CJPS	
44	13	Zonen	Leona	Sanniquellie	Field Facilitator - Sehi	ACDI/VOCA	
45	14	Kerkula	Thomas	Sanniquellie	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
46	15	Kennedy	Wilmot	Sanniquellie	Field Facilitator - Zor	ACDI/VOCA	
47	16	Zayzay	Joseph	Sanniquellie	Extension Officer - Sanniquellie	FDA	
48	1	Biah	D. Nuah	Tappita	Forestry Officer/Head of Office	TTARD	
49	2	Maximore	Gibson	Tappita	Field Office Administrator	TTARD	
50	3	Nambo	Francis V. A.	Tappita	Driver	TTARD	New in FY16Q2
51	4	Brisbane	Joseph	Tappita	Coordinator – Tappita	NAEAL	
52	5	Quaye	Williamson	Tappita	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	NAEAL	
53	6	Dweh	Oliver	Tappita	Mobilizer - Boe-Quilla	NAEAL	
54	7	Kabakollie	Isaac	Tappita	Mobilizer - Kparblee	NAEAL	

55	8	Gayflor	Joseph	Tappita	Mobilizer - Sehzueplay	NAEAL	
56	9	Younquoi	Viola	Tappita	Coordinator -	CJPS	
57	10	Lorseh	Arthur	Tappita	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	CJPS	
59	11	Yoko	Daniel	Tappita	Mobilizer - - Boe-Quilla	CJPS	
60	12	Sangar	Martin	Tappita	Mobilizer - Kparblee	CJPS	
61	13	Gibson	Sam	Tappita	Caretake	CJPS	
62	14	Quaye	Sampson	Tappita	Coordinator Tappita	ACDI/VOCA	
63	15	Wehyie	Patrick	Tappita	Field Facilitator - Boe-Quilla	ACDI/VOCA	
64	16	Kamara	Mcdonald	Tappita	Field Facilitator - Kparblee	ACDI/VOCA	
65	17	Dwana	John	Tappita	Argo Forestry Ranger - Tappita	FDA	
66	1	Gibson	Eugene	Buchanan	Forestry Officer/Head of Office	TTARD	
67	2	Ville	James	Buchanan	Field Office Administrator	TTARD	
68	3	Manobah	Folley	Buchanan	Driver	TTARD	
69	4	Kennedy	Winifred	Buchanan	Coordinator	NAEAL	
70	5	Gorvego	Roland	Buchanan	Mobilizer District 4	NAEAL	
71	6	Blama	Aloysius	Buchanan	Mobilizer Barconnie	NAEAL	
72	7	Folley	Isaac	Buchanan	Coordinator	CJPS	
73	8	Benson	Josiah	Buchanan	Mobilizer - District # 4	CJPS	
74	9	Davids	Robertson	Buchanan	Mobilizer - Barconnie	TTARD	
75	10	Johnson	Rufus	Buchanan	Caretaker	CJPS	
76	11	Mynen	Joe	Buchanan	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
77	12	Newman	Kollie	Buchanan	Field Facilitator District #4	ACDI/VOCA	
78	13	Kpainay	Joseph	Buchanan	Reg. Extension Officer, Grand Bassa County	FDA	
79	14	Johnson	Boima	Buchanan	Agro Forestry Ranger District # 4	FDA	

ANNEX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

Title	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Submission Date	Approved
FY16Q1 Quarterly Report	RR-5	January 22, 2016	March 2, 2016
FY16Q2 Quarterly Accruals Report	RR-7	March 13, 2016	NA
FY16Q2 Quarterly Financial Report	RR-6	TBD	NA
STTA Report -Litz - Rules and Permits of CF's	RR-12	January 22, 2016	NA
STTA Report - Kindberg - Outreach Materials	RR-12	TBD	NA
STTA Report -Aldinger - Policy Briefs	RR-12	April 1, 2016	NA
STTA Report -Gunthe - GIS Advisor	RR-12	April 5, 2016	NA
STTA Report -Hagen - Sustainable Charcoal	RR-12	February 24, 2016	NA
STTA Report - Dunmire - M&E Consultant	RR-12	January 15, 2016	NA
Del. 16 - Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual - ACDI/VOCA	D-16	April 5, 2016	Pending Approval
Del. 26d - Three Policy Briefs - P. Aldinger	D-26(d)	April 1, 2016	Pending Approval
Del. 17 - Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia.	D-17	April 11, 2016	Large Document - Flash Drive to be submitted to COR

ANNEX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2016 Target	2016 Q 2 Target	2016 Q2 Actual	2016 Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY 2016 %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>		3	1	1	100%	33.30%
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>	There were more CSOS members involved in the participatory and design approach for the launch of the 4th Annual campaign	40	5	11	220%	40%
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>	The program target for quarter 2 is 30 technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements. We could not achieve the target this quarter because students have to be trained for a semester in the revised curriculum followed by a testing and evaluation period. The evaluation and testing exercise will commence next semester right after the semester break.	90	30	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>	The program had so much focus on the instruction of the CF curriculum to enable FTI students to better understand the content and materials; as such we couldn't take students into the field for applied research. The project hopes to bring in an STTA next quarter to work with students at one of the identified project site.	15	5	0	0%	53%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development						
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>	The project target 1 policy brief and presentations; however, the program was able to present two policy briefs for this quarter.	4	1	3	300%	100%

1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	At the various project sites there were no County Development Steering Committee Meetings. As such, presentations could not made either by the JCFMB, CFMB, CFOC, CAT, etc. In so doing communities have prepared presentations that will be made to the County Development Steering Committee meetings in the coming quarters.	10	3	2	66%	20%
Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities						
4.8.1-26(a): Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome (ref: 2.1)</i>	Annual Indicator	10,823	-	-	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management						
4.8.1-26(b): Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome (ref: 2.1.1)</i>	Annual Indicator	70K	-	-	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>	The target for this indicator was set in the AWP submitted to USAID. The Project has exceeded the proposed Life of the Project (360). Currently, we have trained 565 community members in the management of their community forestry areas.	40	10	0	0%	0%

2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	The project target is 10 community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues. 17 persons applied conflict management skills with issues on the disputed preliminary boundary dispute in the Big Gio Forest.	35	10	17	170%	49%
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>	The target for this indicator was set in the AWP submitted to USAID. The Project have over exceeded the proposed Life of the Project (70). Currently, we have trained 108 FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staffs in developing practical steps in community forestry areas.	10	3	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.3: : Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations						
4.8.2-28: 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(PROSPER 2.3.1)</i>	Policies, laws, agreements, or regulations are being reviewed by partners at the CF sites and FDA, as such progress report will be given in q3 FY16.	8	1	0	0%	0%
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>	Outreach/awareness products that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated to partners for review and inputs, progress report will be given in q3 FY16.	5	2	0	0%	0%
Intermediate Result 3: Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas						
4.8.1- 6: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>Ft/Outcome(PROSPER 3.1)</i>	FY16 we targeted 30 people with increased economic benefits. We are counting individuals from the Eight (8) Additional New Crops Diversification Groups identified and purchased CPOP machines for use in Southern Nimba, Northern Nimba and Grand Bassa. This have over exceeded our target for this quarter.	100	30	155	517%	311%
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>	We set a target of 2 new groups to be added and trained, due to awareness and the income generations with other enterprises, 8 New enterprises were established and paid for the CPOP and CPG machines in Southern Nimba (Big Gio Forest), Northern Nimba and Grand Bassa.	7	2	8	400%	114%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.2: Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities						
4.5.2-7: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output (PROSPER 3.2.1)</i>	8 new groups were found during the quarter under reviewed, as such we have to provide training for 203 new farmers.	400	100	203	203%	93%

4.5.2-5: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.2.2)</i>	An assessment will be conducted in next quarter to count farmers who have applied new technologies as a result of the training conducted. In quarter I the target was exceeded with 427 farmers documented to apply new technologies	120	30	0	0%	356.00%
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>	Publication have been produced and sent out to partners for review and certification, progress report will be made in q3 FY16	2	1	0	0%	0%

ANNEX 4: WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN FY16Q2

WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD January to March 2016(FY 2016)

#	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	NO of participants			
							F	M	Staff	Total
1	Nov. 10 -13, 2015	Training on the usage of the EE Curriculum	To train MoE Teachers in PROSPER Site on the usage of the EE Curriculum(Indicator: 1.1)	Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties	Buchanan, and Tappita	3	15	44	14	73
2	Mar. 16,2016	Community Forest Working Group (CFWG) Meeting.	To discuss and prepare for the 4 th Annual outreach Campaign of deliverables #5a. (Indicator 1.2.1)	PROSPER Head Office/Monrovia	Monrovia	1	3	8	5	16
3	Feb. 19,2016	To conduct an in class observations.	To do an in class observations on the teaching of the Curriculum materials delivered at FTI.	Bomi County	Tubmanburg	1	13	35	1	49
4	Jan. 18-22,2016	To support FDA to ground truth, Barconie CF demarcation line,to validate the preliminary demarcation result.	To validate preliminary demarcation result	Grand Bassa County	Barconie Community	5	2	7	5	14
5	Feb.4,2016	Community Forest Working group Meeting held at the Monrovia PROSPER Office.	To do presentations of the Draft CFMA and CFMP Templates to members of the CFWG.	PROSPER Monrovia Office	Monrovia	1	8	10	7	25
6			To reduced treat to biodiversity	Nimba County and Grand Bassa	Sanniquellie,Tappita and Buchanan	11	60	119	1	179

			linked to livelihood activities to support program assisted value chains (Indicator 3.1.1)							
7	Jan.13-16&Mar.16,2016		To reduced treat to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities to support program assisted value chains (Indicator 3.2.1/4.5.2-7)	Nimba County	Tappita,and Sanniquellie	5	46	157	1	204

ANNEX 5: DELIVERABLES

During FY16Q2 the following deliverables were action items:

Activity Reference	Del. No	Deliverable	DUE	STATUS	COMMENTS
1.5	9	Community Forestry Issuance Handbook including checklists produced and in use by the FDA Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements.	FY16Q1	In Process	Draft is complete and to be delivered to USAID beginning of FY16Q3. This deliverable was delayed because of the delay of the FDA Advisor
2.1	12	Community Forest Management Handbook that outlines the development, registration, operations, and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, Private sector actors, and other stakeholders.	FY16Q1	Approved	Submitted 22 January 2016. Approved by COR 1 Feb 2016
2.4	13a	Annual revision of Deliverable 13	FY16Q1	In Process	FFI has completed this deliverable. It is under review by TTARD. To be delivered beginning of FY16Q3
3.1	16	Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises.	FY16Q1	Submitted	Submitted 5 April 2016. Pending approval.
3.1/1.2	17	Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia	FY16Q1	Submitted	This deliverable was submitted 11 April. However, because of the size, a flash drive with the materials will be hand-delivered to COR at next COR/COP meeting.
1.1	24	Year 1 Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula	FY16Q2	In Process	An STTA has been selected for this deliverable and the SOW completed. It will be submitted in FY16Q3.
1.2	5a	Formal Assessment of Deliverable 5.	FY16Q2	Not Complete	Will move to Q3. Waiting for more information from MOE

1.2	11a	Assessment of Deliverable 11	FY16Q2	Not Complete	An assessment will be complete in FY16Q3
2.1/1.2	15a	Assessment of Deliverable 15	FY16Q2	Not Complete	This deliverable is currently being used in the information campaign. An assessment will be conducted FY16Q3
2.3	26d	Deliverable 26 - Three Policy Briefs	FY16Q3	Submitted	Submitted 1 April 2016. Pending approval.

ANNEX 6: SNAPSHOTS



SNAPSHOT

KWAKERDOE OIL PALM NURSERY – Donor Dependency to Self-Reliance



An established high yielding oil palm nursery in Toweh Town with PROSPER support through Kwakerdoe Coop. As the nursery news spreads, farmers from nearby towns paid regular visit at the pre nursery site.



Oil palm seedlings being transferred from the pre nursery to main nursery site.



Farmers established and managing new high yielding oil palm nursery without PROSPER support, a complete shift from donor dependency.

Using a permanent agriculture approach to address shifting cultivation, a major threat to biodiversity across PROSPER sites, one constraint oil palm farmers face is the use of traditional methods to process palm fruits in pits, which is a slow, labor intensive process. To address this, a group of PROSPER supported farmers have entered into a cost-sharing arrangement to procure Freedom Mills (oil palm presses) to mechanically process their palm fruits. After attending a PROSPER demonstration on the use of the Freedom Mill, farmers realized the advantages of the Freedom Mill in terms of reduced labor, time and higher productivity. The process has been welcomed by the women of the community as expressed by Ma Nancy Gongbay of member of the Toweh Town oil palm farmers, who stated: *“This machine will be a great help to us, mainly we the women that are involved with buying and selling of palm oil.”*

As farmers continued to mechanically process their palm fruits, they witnessed the efficiency of the Freedom Mill and the need to replace their older palm trees, with the high yielding Tenera variety. This inspired a group of 21 farmers to contribute \$1,260 USD to invest in 1,260 improved high yielding Tenera pre-germinated seeds (equivalent to 21 acres of oil palm farms) from the Kwakerdoe Cooperative, a PROSPER supported NGO that teaches farmers improved oil palm nursery management.

The extensive training provided by Kwakerdoe included nursery preparation and management, handling and sowing of pre-germinated seeds, shading and de-shading of oil palm trees, transplanting, mulching, field layout techniques, and out-planting procedures. The goal of the training was to encourage three outcomes: enable farmers to run their own oil palm nursery without PROSPER's support; continue with replacing of their old tall palm trees with the high-yielding Tenera variety; and, to create potential business opportunities to sell improved oil palm seedlings to other farmers.

In Toweh Town, the farmers decided that replacing the old trees with the Tenera variety created the best opportunity for the community. They decided to contribute US\$ 600 to procure additional 600 pre-germinated high yielding oil palm seeds (**about 10 acres**) through Kwakerdoe Cooperative. The farmers are now using the knowledge and skills acquired from Kwakerdoe to manage the second nursery without PROSPER support, signifying a complete shift from donor dependency to self-reliance, an ideal model for sustainability.



SNAPSHOT

Boundary Dispute Resolution



Representatives from Gbear-Glor and Kparblee indicating the modification made on their internal BGF Boundary.

“...history will remember you for this, and it is something good – a legacy”.

– Honorable Tugbeh Weah



Far right, Statutory Superintendent, Honorable Tugbeh Weah, and representatives from Kparblee, Boe-Quilla.

The District of Tappita in Southern Nimba County has had many boundary conflicts in recent years. The USAID/PROSPER project has recently supported the resolution of a several decades old boundary dispute between the Kparblee and Doe Districts.

The Big Gio Forest (BGF) is 58 thousand hectares of national forest. The government of Liberia is handing over management responsibility for tracks of the forest to four communities for the purpose of piloting community management of the forest. USAID/PROSPER is supporting the Sehzieplay, Gbear-Gblor, Boe-Quilla and Kparblee communities through pilot programs for community forestry management. As part of these management responsibilities, communities must equitably divide the forest area based on historical customary access and use rights prior to 1952 when the forest was gazetted, taking into consideration current clan boundaries.

In 2013, the four pilot communities, with support from USAID PROSPER, developed consensus maps of the internal boundaries of the BGF and what they should look like. During the preliminary demarcation conducted in 2015 –the first ever attempt at marking the physical boundaries on the ground– there were several discrepancies identified in the forest boundary. It was evident that some clans were potentially interested in grabbing land from others. In one instance, the demarcation line in the northern section of the BGF passed through Yeteepaa, a town located within the forest itself. Although it was common public knowledge that the town traditionally lies within Boe-Quilla community, the Kparblee Clan claimed the town was within their community.

The USAID/PROSPER team facilitated a meeting between the clans where they were reminded of their provisional boundaries established in 2013, and the value of being able to resolve their disputes through positive community dialogue. They were also encouraged to focus on the social and economic benefits that self-governance in partnership with their neighboring communities would offer their respective communities. The dialogue between the two communities eventually led to consensus on the forest boundaries and improved relations. The Statutory Superintendent, Hon. Tugbeh Weah, stated that the four clans were making history through finding a resolution without civil strife or the need to take the dispute to court for a resolution. He praised their local leaders, especially District Commissioners and Paramount Chiefs who demonstrated restraint and good judgement in the negotiations.

Following on-ground verification the boundaries, a joint resolution with the new internal boundaries on a BGF map was signed by all clans.

April 2016

Telling Our Story

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