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

FIFTH QUARTERLY REPORT (Final)
1 July - 30 September 2013



July 2013

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Front Cover Photo: Martin Vesselee, Head of the Sanniquellie Field Office, trains community forest guards on GPS data collection in the Bleih Community Forest.

Front Cover photo credit: William Paypay, Coordinator, Sanniquellie Field Office

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DISCLAIMER

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

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ACRONYMS

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

This fifth quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2013 (FY13) which covers July 1 through September 30, 2013. Individual monthly progress reports were also prepared for USAID.

The July to September period marked the conclusion of PROSPER's first full year of implementation. Despite the advent of the rainy season which made movements of PROSPER staff and community partners difficult, and the absence of all three component leaders for 2-3 weeks for annual vacations, the program was able to move ahead with the execution of a wide variety of planned field activities across all three components. This included fifty-two workshops and stakeholder meetings involving more than 2,500 participants

Summary and Highlights:

The education and outreach team (Component 1) wrapped up the first annual outreach campaign, launched in Quarter 3, with a local rollout in Grand Bassa in July. A three-day workshop co-organized by PROSPER and PCI Media Impact in early July allowed program stakeholders to define the key elements of 52-episode radio drama serial for Liberia. The Component 1 team devoted a good part of its energies in August to preparing the faculty of the Forestry Training Institute to deliver its new community forestry curriculum, developed in FY13 with PROSPER's assistance.

The livelihoods and enterprise development team (Component 3) pursued implementation of long-running farmer field school and ag-processing support activities throughout the quarter, while carrying out an internal review and gathering technical information and identifying partners needed to support a shift in emphasis to tree crop-based enterprise development in Year 2.

Under Component 2, the central pillar of the PROSPER program, the community forestry team provided support to the three mature CF sites of northern Nimba and the seven new sites identified under PROSPER. In the mature sites, PROSPER focused its efforts in Quarter 4 on renewing the forest governance institutions and strengthening their internal monitoring structure (forest guards), while

facilitating the Gba community's resolution of the complex and longstanding issue concerning settlements in the CF. In the new proposed CF sites, all of which submitted applications to the FDA for authorized forest community status in Quarter 3, PROSPER pursued activities intended to provide a strong foundation for future CF management. These included the extension of basic awareness-raising activities on community forestry (purpose, potential benefits, obligations and processes), and specific sessions on the role and responsibilities of community forest governance structures and qualifications of leaders. Component 2 activities also included conflict management and leadership training aimed at providing target communities with the skills needed to mitigate land disputes that may arise with the demarcation of their forest. In order to sustain momentum in the program's new sites until the current Government moratorium on new community forest authorizations is lifted, in the fourth quarter PROSPER assisted these communities to establish interim CF "organizing committees".

PROSPER's ongoing efforts to empower communities to sustainably manage their natural resources gives the program a unique, close-up view of the multiple and complex challenges – both internal and external – that rural Liberian communities face in achieving that goal. In the fourth quarter, that experience continued to inform PROSPER's work, providing information and insights that the team integrated into annual work planning sessions organized in August and September, and guiding national-level initiatives such as the establishment of a joint FDA-CFWG review process for new CF management applications.

During Q4, PROSPER continued to share that information and experience at the national level through its participation in different fora including regular meetings of the Land Commission and the Agriculture Coordination Committee. PROSPER also continued to facilitate the participation of forest community leaders in relevant fora such as the County Development Steering Committee and County Forestry Forum in Nimba and Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group where they have gained valuable experience and confidence in presenting their experiences and concerns on important and practical natural resource management and land issues. In August, through a subcontract to the Environmental Law Institute, PROSPER organized stakeholder consultations on the Community Rights Law and Regulation aimed at improving coherence and simplifying the legal framework for community forestry, land tenure and property rights.

With an intense schedule of field activities from July to September and considerable time devoted to preparing preparation of the FY14 work plan, the PROSPER team remained behind schedule in the submission of several deliverables (see table below). PROSPER senior staff met with the USAID COR in late September to review the status of deliverable submission. They concurred on the need for several modifications in the deliverable schedule that could be formalized in a future contract modification.

PROSPER's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit had a packed fourth quarter schedule that included the successful conclusion of the Data Quality Assessment of the PROSPER performance management system in July (see Cross Cutting Activities, below). Integrating the results of PROSPER's extensive fourth quarter activities, the program was able to meet or exceed the targets that were established for 10 of the 15 Indicators monitored in FY13.

Deliverables Summary:

No *new* contract deliverables were due during the fourth quarter of FY13 (July - September 2013).

One contract deliverable due in the first quarter of FY13 was re-submitted for USAID review and approval:

- Biodiversity assessments completed for new sites (#24)

Eight deliverables remain outstanding as of September 30, 2013. A list of the deliverables and their status are provided in the table below.

Deliverable	Original Due Date	Status
Sector surveys and analyses for selected forestry and agricultural value chains – non-NTFP (#2)	November 2012	To be submitted in December 2013
Environmental curriculum materials field tested with MOE staff, other USAID implementing partners, teachers and primary school students in schools in target areas (#3)	May 2013	Testing completed. Report to be submitted in December 2013
Public outreach and awareness building approaches field-tested with relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders (#5)	May 2013	Completed in May-July 2013 Report to be submitted in December 2013
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and property rights, and environmental awareness	May 2013	Completed in May-July 2013. Partial compilation of materials submitted in July 2013. Full compilation of materials to be submitted in November 2013
Community Forest Management Handbook (#12)	May 2013	Recommendation made to defer to Q4, FY14
Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook (#13)	July 2013	Submitted to USAID; approval pending
Year-1 Education Review Workshop (#27)	May 2013	Currently scheduled in Q2, FY14
Three policy briefs developed in collaboration with Community Forestry Right Forum (#29)	May 2013	Currently scheduled in Q1, FY14

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Staffing:

In September PROSPER identified a candidate to fill the long-vacant position of Geospatial Specialist. Mr. Macdonald Ndorbor has six years of relevant work experience as cadastral surveyor and draftsman with the Bureau of Lands, Surveys, and Cartography in the Ministry of Mines, Lands and Energy, and is currently producing community base maps using satellite imagery and GIS software for UN Habitat. He will join the PROSPER team in mid-November.

In late August, PROSPER hired five agricultural extension experts (former-AGRHA employees) to short-term service contracts to ensure the completion of the current farmer field school cycle in Northern Nimba (3) and Grand Bassa (2).

No other staffing changes were made during the quarter.

As of September 2013, PROSPER has a total of 55 full-time employees or subcontractors supporting work plan implementation. A breakout by location, functional category and employer is provided in table below.

Location	Tetra Tech ARD			Subcontractors (Technical Staff)			Total
				ACDI/VOCA	CJPS	NAEAL	
	Technical	Admin/Fin	Driver/Support				
Monrovia	8	5	5	2	1	1	22
Buchanan	1	1	1		3	3	9
Sanniquellie	1	1	1		4	4	11
Tappita	1	1	1		5	5	13
TOTAL	11	8	8	2	13	13	55

On August 20, USAID/Liberia approved Tetra Tech ARD's designation of Jesse Buff as new Senior Technical Advisor and Manager of PROSPER. Mr. Buff replaced Matt Sommerville who has been named Chief of Party of the USAID Tenure and Global Climate Change Project.

Subcontract Administration:

National subcontractors:

In July, Tetra Tech ARD's Home Office Contracts Manager, Paul Harris, and COP Steve Reid held individual work sessions with PROSPER subcontractors, NAEAL and CJPS, to walk through the terms of their subcontract agreements and respond to any questions or concerns arising from the first year of implementation. Both organizations participated in training sessions on procurement and preparation of scopes of work delivered by Mr. Harris in August. The procurement training included a review of Tetra Tech's standard operating procedures to ensure compliance with USAID regulations.

In August, Tetra Tech ARD terminated its subcontract with AGRHA. AGRHA had been subcontracted since May 2012 to support the implementation of PROSPER's agricultural livelihood activities, notably the Farmer Field Schools.

In September PROSPER approved the hiring of Mr. Marcus Gomah as Community Mobilizer in northern Nimba, replacing Milton Paye (Seyhi Community), who resigned to pursue university studies

International subcontractors:

Actions taken during the reporting period with regard to PROSPER's international subcontractors included the following:

- ACDI/VOCA: Contract modification signed (#2) increasing current obligation by \$100,000 to cover ACDI/VOCA's support to PROSPER through October 2013 pending development and approval of a revised scope of work and budget corresponding to planned reorientations in Component 3.
- ASNAPP and Rutgers University: The Subcontractors notified by the COP in September that PROSPER had made a decision to refocus PROSPER's NTFP activities in FY14 *away from* a high-volume Griffonia mobilization campaign, and *toward* the more modest objective of placing this trade on a more sustainable long-term footing by: assisting interested entrepreneurs to critically analyze Griffonia market opportunities, position themselves to qualify for loans from Liberia-based credit sources, and establish direct contacts and dialogue with potential Griffonia buyers/exporters. As a consequence of this reorientation, the level of effort of both subcontractors will be reduced for FY14.

Other subcontracts:

In July, Tetra Tech ARD awarded a firm fixed-price subcontract to the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) to provide a legal analysis of the community forestry and related property rights framework outlining the inconsistencies within the existing legal framework (including the land rights policy); the challenges to implementation; and recommendations for legal reform. The field work was completed in August. The final report is currently under review and will be submitted to USAID in the next quarter.

Procurement:

Contracts for services:

In July PROSPER awarded a firm fixed-price subcontract to the God Favor construction team to build a bamboo fence around the Buchanan field office.

PROSPER prepared requests for quotations in September to obtain comprehensive insurance for its 8 four-wheel drive vehicles and 39 motorcycles, along with accidental injury and death coverage for motorcycle operators and riders. PROSPER's RFQs were designed to elicit details often buried in fine print in insurers' brochures and policies with regard to vehicle valuation, deductible and depreciation rates applied, etc. that can substantially reduce actual coverage provided. A provider will be selected in October.

Non-expendable equipment purchases:

In July, to ready the program's four-wheel drive vehicles for operation during the rainy/muddy season, PROSPER bought and installed five winches at a cost of \$1,750 each.

The other important non-expendable equipment purchase during the reporting period was three laptop computers ordered from the U.S.

In September, PROSPER reissued a request for quotations for a double-cabin pick-up truck to replace the project vehicle that was totaled in an accident in April 2013. The reissued RFQ contains a requirement that interested vendors provide the names, addresses, and contact information of at least three Monrovia-based businesses that stock and sell manufacturer-approved spare parts for the vehicle and model proposed. As vehicles are restricted commodities, Tetra Tech will request USAID Contracting Officer approval to purchase the pick-up, and will seek a waiver if the vehicle selected is not of U.S. manufacture.

Expendable equipment purchases:

Major expendable equipment purchases during the reporting period included a six-month supply of motorcycle and field office generator spare parts, and office supplies.

Approval was obtained from USAID to purchase restricted agricultural commodities including tree seedlings (improved varieties of oil palm, cocoa) and some agricultural planting materials for Farmer Field Schools (cassava cuttings, nerica-14 rice, groundnuts and cowpeas).

Field Offices:

Major infrastructural enhancements made to the PROSPER field offices during the quarter included construction of a cement room in Buchanan to house the generator and the erection of a bamboo perimeter fence in Buchanan. The construction of the fence was accelerated in July following several attempted break-ins during the night hours.

Final outfitting of the Tappita guest house facility was slowed in July and August by difficulties the local administrator had in identifying qualified local furniture makers willing to fill orders without full payment in advance. Furniture has been procured, however, as well as curtains and bedding materials.

Two security/infrastructure enhancements to PROSPER field offices are under review: the installation of metal security bars on the windows of the Tappita compound buildings, and; the construction of a hangar at the Buchanan office to park project motorcycles. A decision to whether/how to pursue these enhancements will depend in part on the reasonableness of cost estimates obtained.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Performance Monitoring:

The fourth quarter of FY13 was marked by three major achievements in performance monitoring:

- 1) On July 25, L-MEP presented to USAID the results of the first data quality assessment (DQA) conducted of PROSPER's performance management system in June, declaring itself very satisfied with quality of the systems in place and the data generated.
- 2) From September 23-27, Tetra Tech M&E Specialist Robynne Locke, working closely with PROSPER M&E and technical staff, was able to develop practical draft methodologies and tools to aid the program in tackling three of its most challenging performance monitoring tasks.
- 3) PROSPER's M&E Unit was able to assemble, verify and analyze the data needed to report to PROSPER management and to USAID on the achievement of fourth quarter and fiscal year targets as established in PROSPER's Performance Management Plan (PMP).

PROSPER had targets to meet on 15 indicators in FY13 – three in Component 1, seven in Component 2, and five in Component 3. As of the date of this report (mid-October) PROSPER's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit had compiled and analyzed data on all 15 indicators. The Performance Indicator Tracking Table (Appendix 3) reveals that for the fiscal year, targets were met (6) or exceeded (4) for 10 of the 15 indicators (1.2.1, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 2.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 3.2.1, and 3.2.2). Annual targets were *not* achieved for five indicators (2.1.1, 2.4.1, 3.1, (80%), 3.1.1 (50%), and 3.3.1).

The reason for the non-attainment of target 2.1.1 (*Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance*) is well-known (FDA moratorium on new community forests), and is external to PROSPER. A detailed analysis on PMP results, including reasons for the non-attainment of the four other deliverables, will be provided as part of PROSPER's annual report.

In addition to the activities and achievements listed above, PROSPER's Monitoring and Evaluation staff carried out the following special activities in the fourth quarter:

- Organization of two-day training sessions with PROSPER and implementing partner staff in Sanniquellie, Tappita, and Buchanan to ensure that team members understand the PROSPER results framework and indicators, know their respective roles in data collection, and master the various data collection instruments. This action was a direct application of a recommendation emerging from the DQA review. As a result of the training, the data collection tool for result 2.1.3 (application of conflict management skills) was revised and improved.
- Visit to Peace Committees in Kempea and Graie in Tappita District to spot check reports of conflict mitigated by individuals who were trained by PROSPER in conflict management skills. At the end of these meetings, the conflicts mitigated in Kempea and Graie were documented separately for PROSPER's M&E files.

- Visit to Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to gather information about the level of adoption of improved farming techniques and meeting with cassava processing groups (CPG) to assess level of activity. Draft success stories were prepared on Korjuah FFS (Grand Bassa) and Gba community CPG (Upper Nimba).
- Participation in a one-day training session on geographic information systems (GIS) organized by L-MEP aimed at increasing USAID implementing partner staff understanding of the basic concepts of GIS and how it can be used to support and enhance program management and monitoring.

While the quarter was an extremely productive one overall for the M&E Unit, PROSPER will need to significantly improve the efficiency of data collection and transmission from the field in order to meet the increased monitoring and reporting workload in Year 2. Currently the two-man M&E Unit invests considerable energy in tracking down data that hasn't been collected or transmitted on time. In Year 2, that won't be possible. The M&E team will be challenged to deal with several additional indicators which had no Year-1 targets. Some of the monitoring tasks anticipated in Year 2 (for example the collection of pre- and post-outreach campaign data to assess the effectiveness of outreach activities) are both methodologically and logistically-complex. In addition to requesting the guidance of Tetra Tech ARD's home office M&E specialist on some of the most complicated performance monitoring tasks, PROSPER Management will endeavor to cultivate a sense of shared responsibility among all staff for monitoring and reporting on program activities, and more importantly – on actual results and impacts achieved. In particular, technical staff will be given specific success story-writing assignments and encouraged to see the M&E staff as resource persons for such reporting – not as the principal authors.

Gender Integration:

PROSPER continues to implement the Gender Integration Plan under the leadership of the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) with support from dTS Gender Consultant, Smita Malpani. This quarter, an assessment was conducted in Grand Bassa to determine if there were any existing women-based institutions within the PROSPER communities that could be built upon to support community forestry. Unfortunately, no such organizations were identified. Through this process, however, several dynamic women leaders were identified, and the GIO worked closely with them to help them understand the CF development process and to encourage their future involvement. During quarter, the GIO also worked closely with the ODGA to support the formation of Community Forestry Organizing Committees (CFOG) to ensure that women and youth were well represented.



Figure 1: NAEAL Coordinator in Grand Bassa works with women leaders on their CF process presentation

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COMPONENT WORK PLANS

Component 1 activities focused on two major activities: preparation and implementation of the “Make Community Forestry Rights Real” campaign; and the development of primary school lesson plans. Both of these activities were undertaken in close collaboration with civil society organizations (CSO) and government partners. These activities were characterized by their intensity which included accelerated schedules, weekend workshops and meetings in order to overcome delays resulting from the change of key personnel earlier in the year, and the need to conduct activities before the onset of the rainy season and close of the school year.

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

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

72 lesson plans pre-tested and refined

Posters/ charts and flash cards accompanying lesson plans are identified and described for development and production by Rutgers University

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

Key Accomplishments:

Following pre-tests of 72 illustrative lesson plans with teachers, MoE curriculum specialists, and MoE county administrators in PROSPER sites, the L/EDOA, and the Education Advisor revised the lesson plans to incorporate feedback from the pre-testing sessions. Most notably, more detailed instructions were for teachers were provided in the lesson plans in order to respond to the generally low capacity of teachers that has been observed to date. PROSPER also identified and described teaching and learning aids (posters, charts, flashcards, etc.) that will be developed in partnership with subcontractor, Rutgers University (see below).

PROSPER contracted a Curriculum Development Specialist familiar with the primary schools in rural Liberia to review and revise the updated 72 lesson plans developed by the PROSPER team for both content consistency and readability. Mr. Richard Nottingham, a teacher at the American International School of Monrovia, conducted a two-day small-scale second phase pre-test of the lesson plans, in preparation for finalization by Rutgers University. The second phase pre-test workshop was conducted with nine teachers and principals at the Barcoline Primary School in Grand Bassa County. Participants were drawn from three primary schools that took part in the large-scale, first phase pre-testing workshop.

PROSPER capitalized on the presence of the Component 1 Lead on vacation in the United States in August to meet with the Rutgers team to develop a scope of work that will be implemented in the next quarter. This work will involve finalization of the lesson plans and development of accompanying teaching and learning materials.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Radio drama design workshop conducted to enable PCI Media Impact develop a KABs document specific to natural resource management issues in Liberia

Roll-out of first annual outreach campaign concluded

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Plan for education and outreach to community forestry applicant communities, in support of FDA, in place/ developed

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

Key Accomplishments:

In conjunction with PCI Media Impact, the communication partner for the STEWARD program, PROSPER conducted a three-day 'Radio Drama Design' workshop. Participants included PROSPER technical staff from Monrovia and field offices, community members (both men and women) from PROSPER sites and Numopoh (LRFCP site), representatives of community radio stations in PROSPER work areas, representatives of theatre and cultural performance service providers, and a media specialist. Cause and effects of threats to natural resources were identified and described for eventual inclusion in a reference document that will be used to develop 52-episode radio drama serial. Potential characters to feature in the radio drama series were identified along with the roles that they play in natural resource management. These characters are expected to be further developed to tell and/or animate the stories of natural resource issues in Liberia.

The communications and outreach team concluded the roll-out of the first annual outreach campaign in Grand Bassa county. Local theatre and cultural troupes identified by the communities in Barcoline and District 4 were trained in drama and cultural performances, to enhance local capacity to participate in outreach activities. The trainers, Liberia Crusaders for Peace, and local troupes presented joint evening performances at central locations to facilitate the attendance of residents of neighboring communities. The CFWG used the evening gatherings to raise awareness on the CRL and the CRL Regulations.

Following the request by the FDA for PROSPER to support the screening of CF applications that they have received and to provide subsequent education and awareness-raising to applicant communities on the entire process of becoming an 'Authorized Forest Community', the communications and outreach team organized a planning workshop in August. A small-scale outreach plan was put in place, to be piloted in November (see Activity 2.2 for detail).

Activity 1.3: Develop a CF curriculum and support capacity development of FTI staff to implement

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Community forestry curriculum for FTI finalized

Teacher training guide produced for use at FTI

FTI website and database with over 250 articles designed for use by FTI and other partners

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

Key Accomplishments:

Community Forestry Education consultant, Dr. Ken Bauer, returned to Liberia in August to pursue his support to FTI in developing a community forestry curriculum. During the same period, Rutgers University provided inputs on non-timber forest products and FFI provided inputs on conservation topics for integration into FTI's community forestry curriculum. Dr. Bauer worked closely with the PROSPER team, FFI and FTI to revise and finalize the community forestry curriculum.

In addition, PROSPER organized two workshops at FTI, facilitated by Dr. Bauer with the assistance of FFI, the Senior Community Forestry Advisor and the L/EDOA. The first workshop responded to recommendations from the December 2012 FTI capacity assessment that had identified weak teaching techniques in the FTI faculty. The entire FTI staff participated in the two-day, workshop which provided instruction on interactive teaching techniques and learner-centered pedagogy, with specific examples drawn from the revised CF curriculum. Faculty members had an opportunity to practice the teaching techniques and methodologies. A set of participatory teaching guidelines for use by FTI was produced.

A second workshop targeted eight potential community forestry curriculum instructors over a three-day period. The workshop focused on skills for lesson planning and content development for community forestry courses, and matched appropriate teaching techniques with prepared lessons. The team worked with FTI to develop a model to design, implement and evaluate internships. The training also focused on how to use the community forestry curriculum and syllabi effectively, with particular emphasis on linking lesson materials with available database of texts and research articles.

During the quarter, PROSPER set up an FTI website (<http://liberiafti.wordpress.com/>) to enhance access to teaching and learning materials for both instructors and students. Initial training was provided to the FTI Information Technology Specialist and instructors on the use of the website and textbooks/articles database. A comprehensive report on the STTA was produced by Dr. Bauer.



Figure 2: Staff and Faculty trained at FTI

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

Key Accomplishments:

See 2.2 and 2.3 for details.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

There were no results to report during the quarter

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

No activities to report during the period.

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

Despite the advent of the rainy season, Component 2 field activities continued at all field sites. Highlights included the resolution of the boundary demarcation issue in the Gba Community Forest in northern Nimba and the development of Forest Management Organizing Committees in the new PROSPER sites. At the national level, PROSPER continued to work closely with the CFWG and the FDA to develop a process to support the development of community forestry outside of the PROSPER areas with particular emphasis on the more than 40 communities that have submitted community forestry applications to the FDA. An analysis of the legal framework was also conducted in order to prioritize issues for PROSPER attention.

Activity 2.1: Build community capacity for forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Gba Community Forest boundaries resolved and new management zones established

Several forest boundary conflicts identified for future management

CFG received training in patrolling and data collection and conducted first month of activities

CFMB participated in county-level, local government meetings

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period. The Community Forest Management Handbook (Deliverable 12) deliverable date was extended from May 2013 to September 2013 through the approval of the First Annual Work Plan.

Key Accomplishments:

Northern Nimba: With the assistance of community members, geospatial data on the location of farms and settlements within the boundaries of the Gba Community Forest was collected in order to generate a map depicting this information. This map was used by Gba Community stakeholders at a meeting in August to facilitate discussions and gain consensus on the boundaries and management of these areas within the Gba Forest. Following lengthy discussions, the leaders of the community decided to maintain the current boundaries of the community forest. In addition, four management zones were created within the forest that will be managed by the Gba community. Three of the four zones include settlements and farms that will be identified and mapped for management purposes. These settlements will be maintained within the boundaries of the forest, as will the farms. However, no additional farms may be created. These zones will be managed for multiple uses and the community will ensure that expansion is limited to existing sites. This will require a revision of the CF management plan which is still in draft. This activity will be prioritized in the upcoming months.



Figure 3: A young woman explains the voting symbols for the FMOC election

The Community Forest Guards (CFG) responsible for the Zor, Gba and Bleih community forests received refresher training in data collection and community outreach in early August. Patrol schedules were developed and the CFG conducted their first month of activities. Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML), through an MOU with the CFMB, began the payment of a monthly stipend to the CFG beginning in September.

A meeting of the ENNR Biodiversity Stakeholders Group was called in Monrovia and attended by the FDA, CI, AML and PROSPER at which partners updated one another on upcoming activities. The FDA informed other partners that the GoL had signed a framework agreement with the governments of Guinea and Ivory Coast to

support the development of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere for the Nimba Mountain Area. A planning meeting of the parties will be held in December 2013. Participation of community members is being encouraged through PROSPER with assistance from the USAID COR.

Members of the CFMB and JCFMB in northern Nimba, along with PROSPER staff, remained active as participants in the Nimba County Development Pillar meeting, and the County Development Steering Committee meeting. Both are organized by Nimba County Administration and provide opportunities to share information with local policy makers and leaders.

Other PROSPER sites: In all of the new PROSPER sites, the ODGA worked closely with field staff to support the selection and appointment of Forest Management Organizing Committees (CFOC). These CFOC will be responsible for leading the community through the multiple steps to attain authorized community forest status in the upcoming months. An important step in this process will be the demarcation of community forest boundaries. To that end, community mobilizers with FDA support have been collecting waypoints associated with existing farms and settlements within the proposed CF forest areas. This information will be used by the community to better understand the current use of the forest and allocate boundaries accordingly.

In the Tappita zone, the conflict between the Kparblee and Gblor-Gbear clans in the proposed community forest area was addressed in August through an agreement signed by the District Commissioners and town chiefs of the affected area. This process was facilitated through an *ad hoc* committee set up for this purpose and led by the County Inspector. The Carter Center and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are represented on this committee along with PROSPER. Unfortunately, the boundary demarcation process that would have formalized the agreement between the clans was halted by the communities who were not happy with the boundaries agreed to by their representatives. To date, PROSPER has played a limited role in this conflict management process, but following this most recent breakdown, PROSPER proposed to all parties that a conflict management process be initiated and facilitated using the process established and piloted in northern Nimba. This process involves conflict analysis, stakeholder engagement at the community level with those most affected by the conflict (as opposed to the county and community leadership level), mapping, negotiations, training in GPS and surveying, and joint demarcation. All parties agreed to support this process and a budget is currently under development for the process that will be supported by all parties including the Carter Center, NRC and the County.

In the Barcoline Community, the Peace Committee resolved a dispute between two ethnic groups concerning the use of a forest for traditional purposes.

Other Community Forest Sites: Outside of the PROSPER sites the program supported the Numopoh Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) in Sinoe County to present their land use issues to the CFWG. The Numopoh community falls within the Golden Veroleum (GVL) concession area, and GVL is looking for 8,000 hectares of secondary forest to convert to oil palm plantation and nursery areas. The community is concerned that this will force them to clear additional primary forest areas that will then be further converted to oil palm by GVL, leaving the community with fewer intact forest areas. They also requested assistance from the FDA and CFWG partners to better understand Social Agreements and what could be negotiated within these contracts. The original Social Agreement signed between the Numopoh Community and GVL was negotiated by the Development Superintendent without consultation with the community. This agreement has been cancelled and a new agreement will be negotiated in the upcoming months. To support the communities in this process, the CFMB was put in touch with three NGOs working in Sinoe County on these issues: SDI, SAMFU and Green Advocates.

The CFWG also was approached by representatives from the Bloquia and Neezonie clan groups in Grand Gedeh County regarding their FDA-approved CFMA and an agreement they had signed in 2011 with a logging company. According to the community representatives, logging activities will begin later this year. However, the community now opposes the operations because the access roads for logging have been relocated so that

they do not provide community access to Zwedru. As a result of this, the community would like to cancel their agreement and were seeking advice on how to do so. In addition, the communities are not aware that the process by which the CFMA was signed does not comply with the CRL or its regulation. They have concerns that the agreement may later be found illegitimate, thus compromising any other social agreements or benefit sharing schemes that are negotiated with the logging company. The community representatives were advised to write directly to FDA explaining the issues. PROSPER will continue to follow these issues and will support members of the CFWG to do so as well.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

CSO partner staff increased their practical understanding of the CRL and its regulation through development of outreach campaign targeting CF applicant communities

FDA, EPA and CSO partners participated in PROSPER planning and reflection workshops

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

Key Accomplishments:

The CFWG sub-committee formed to vet applications for CF received additional applications during the quarter bringing the total to 47 (inclusive of the 7 applications from the PROSPER sites). The sub-committee has developed a two-day program to introduce the steps to the applicant communities that will explain the legal requirements and procedures, and provide clarity on the process. Two teams representing FDA, civil society and PROSPER have been formed to conduct this outreach which will commence in the next quarter.

PROSPER continued to work closely in the field with NGO, FDA cadre and EPA staff in northern Nimba. A retreat organized in August to reflect on the implementing experiences during Year 1 was attended by the FDA cadre staff and CSO partners. These same participants also contributed to the annual work planning sessions along with the technical manager of the CF Department at FDA, and the EPA head of Office in Sanniquellie.

In August, following discussions with the Technical Manager of the CF Department of FDA, the FDA cadre member previously assigned in Sanniquellie (Gertrude Wilson) was replaced by Joseph Zezay. Ms. Wilson was physically incapable of supporting the field work involved in the PROSPER program.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Comments provided to the Land Commission on the National Land Rights Policy through the NGO statement

Assessment of legal framework and identification of issues and needed reform

Contract deliverables due during the quarter:

A Legal Analysis of the community forestry framework was due during the period (Deliverable 15). The assessment was conducted during the period and the final report will be submitted in the next quarter.

Three Policy Briefs were due during the period but will be submitted in the next quarter (Deliverable 29)

Key Accomplishments:

In support of the National Land Rights Policy, PROSPER provided comments through the NGO statement on the policy, based on the experience of identifying community forest areas. Of particular concern is how community lands under existing concessions will be treated at the end of the concession agreement term.

The ODGA participated in a meeting of the Customary Land Implementation Task Force at the Land Commission and presented PROSPER mapping methodologies to the members. This process could be adapted by the Land Commission to support the identification of community lands as part of the implementation of the new land policy.

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) submitted a successful proposal to Tetra Tech ARD in response to a request for proposals to conduct an assessment of the community forestry legal framework. In performance of the contract, ELI conducted interviews with forestry stakeholders including representatives from civil society, government, private industry, and authorized community forests in Nimba and Sinoe counties (Zor, Gba, Numopoh and Nitrian). Following the interviews, ELI legal expert, Sandra Nichols and the ODGA held a workshop to validate their main findings and present recommendations for comment. The final report, inclusive of an annotated bibliography and recommendations for legal framework reform, will be finalized in next quarter. A summary of the main issues and recommendations is presented in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of Legal Framework Reform Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations	Responsibility for Implementation	Timeframe	Degree of difficulty
Community rights are under threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support completion of ongoing reform processes • Specify mechanisms for acting on rights • Outreach and awareness for vulnerable communities • Legal extension and outreach • Increase role of international community 	Presidency, Legislature; FDA; Local and international partners	Short-term and ongoing	High
Decisions are being made without sufficient information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate decision-making • Create decision-making sequence • Cease issuing new concessions • Allocate community forestry powers and responsibilities • Establish conduits between community and national institutions • Improve within- and between-agency communication • Improve record-keeping 	All national-level institutions (FDA, MLME, Land, Governance, and Law Reform Commissions) and community groups (CFMB and Community Assemblies)	Medium- long-term	Medium
Laws are not an end in themselves but a means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate NGOs into forestry sector • Apply transparency and accountability mechanisms • Improve compliance in the forestry sector 	NGOs, FDA, community groups	Medium-term	High
Missed opportunities to learn from experience and reform comprehensively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete holistic, cross-sector reforms • Simplify, harmonize, and clarify requirements and processes • Use past experiences to determine the way forward 	Land, Governance, and Law Reform Commissions	Long-term	Medium
Some institutions are undermined by ineffective distribution of authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate goals of partner and donor institutions • Identify and utilize technical advisors to the FDA 	Presidency, legislature, FDA	Short- long-term	High
Confusion regarding procedures and roles in community forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish standard operating procedures • Revise the CRL regulations to clarify each step of the community forest management process 	FDA, forest communities, partner organizations	Short-term	Low
The structure of the community forestry governance institutions is ineffective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align community governance institutions with other applicable laws • Simplify community institutions • Harmonize definitions of community governance institutions • Establish joint FDA-Land Commission Committee to address land ownership issues 	Community groups (CFMBs, Community Assemblies); FDA; Land Commission	Medium-term	Medium
Laws are not harmonized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address redundant terms ("communal forest") • Clarify fee and tax requirements • Clarify inconsistencies with size for forests managed by communities • Clarify percentage of revenues that is guaranteed to communities • Update VPA Act and associated documents • Revise community governance structure to be in accordance with the Associations Law • Ensure that community forestry procedures and standards reflect the LEITI Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and other transparency and accountability requirements 	NGOs; Land, Governance, and Law Reform Commissions	Short- Long-term	Low - High

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Draft of Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook developed by subcontractor FFI

Contract deliverables due during the quarter:

The Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook (Deliverable 13) was submitted to the COR for approval during the period.

The Biodiversity Assessments (Deliverable 24) were submitted for approval during previous quarter and are pending approval from USAID

Key Accomplishments:

The draft of the biomonitoring handbook prepared by FFI was reviewed and submitted to USAID. Revisions will be undertaken following discussions with the COR in the upcoming months and following implementation experiences at the field level.

Following feedback and discussions received from the COR in May, minor revisions were made to FFI's biodiversity assessment report and resubmitted to USAID for approval. Material from the assessment is being used to develop outreach and awareness materials. Three fact sheets have been developed and were reviewed by the Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholder Group and the Wild Chimp Foundation. These fact sheets will be finalized in the next quarter and piloted at the PROSPER sites.

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

Principal Component 3 activities during the fourth quarter of FY13 included ongoing delivery of farmer field school sessions to 275 participants at 11 sites in Northern Nimba (9) and Grand Bassa (2). With the assistance of subcontractor, ASNAPP, Griffonia monitoring plots were established in two sites in Northern Nimba and will be continually monitored throughout FY14 to understand the environmental impact of Griffonia collection. The PROSPER-supported cassava and oil palm processing groups (CPGs and CPOPs) in Northern Nimba all completed the signing of MOUs with CFMBs; all processing equipment has now been installed, and key members were trained on the use of the equipment. While the assessment of the viability of rehabilitating rubber farms in the Grand Bassa area was put on hold at the request of USAID, sector assessments for cocoa and oil palm as well as charcoal and bushmeat were all designed and conducted near the end of the quarter. An organizational self-assessment of BOTPAL was conducted in late August by ASNAPP. During the quarter, significant discussions within the PROSPER team and between PROSPER and USAID were held concerning the overall strategy for this component, the relevance of current activities, and proposed reorientations for FY14. The results of those discussions and reflections are reflected in the recently-submitted Annual Work Plan.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Cocoa and oil palm sector surveys designed and implemented; results to be reported in Q1 of FY14
24 Griffonia monitoring plots successfully established in two sites in Northern Nimba
Organizational self-assessment of BOTPAL conducted
All CPOPs and CPGs equipped, trained in the use of their equipment and ready for business operations to begin
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period.

Key Accomplishments:

Tree Crop Activities:

PROSPER commissioned a rubber rehabilitation assessment earlier this year in Tappita by AgroStewards to identify rubber plantations that could be rehabilitated as part of PROSPER's livelihoods strategy. Given USAID and PROSPER reserves, however, concerning the time required to realize returns, potential land tenure issues, etc., rubber rehabilitation was dropped as a potential livelihood intervention. As part of a strategy to increase support for tree crop-based enterprise development in Year 2, the PROSPER team designed surveys on cocoa and oil palm production within the program areas and began data collection. These reports will be available in the next quarter. Discussions between PROSPER and the USAID-funded Smallholder Oil Palm Support (SHOPS) program and the USDA-funded Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises (LIFE) III program were held for the coordination of activities in the oil palm and cocoa sections respectively for Year 2. Key outcomes of these discussions have been incorporated in the FY14 work plan.

NTFP Activities:

To offset potential impacts from over-harvesting of wild Griffonia and as part of the program's environmental monitoring and mitigation plan (EMMP), PROSPER established Griffonia nurseries on all farmer field school sites and provided training to FFS participants on planting, seedling maintenance and transplanting. During the quarter, beneficiaries of the Griffonia seedlings were selected and beginning in Q1 of Year 2, the seedlings will be distributed to the target beneficiaries.

In order to assess the impact of wild Griffonia collection on the sustainability of this NTFP, PROSPER subcontractor, ASNAPP, established 24 monitoring plots in two sites (12 plots per site) in Northern Nimba. One site is located in Zortapa around the Bleih Community Forest and the other is located in Lepula around the Zor Community Forest. The team members from ASNAPP successfully supervised the establishment of each site and negotiated all agreements with the land owners about the use of their space for monitoring. Throughout FY14, the PROSPER team will monitor of each plot to analyze the impact of Griffonia collection.

A report submitted by ASNAPP following its May 2013 mission to evaluate the effectiveness of training on Griffonia collection revealed that BOTPAL members no longer appeared to have a coherent understanding of the organization's role in the NTFP sector and how to fulfill it. To better understand the problem, PROSPER asked ASNAPP in August to facilitate an organizational self-assessment of BOTPAL. Through participatory and face-to-face discussions, BOTPAL members and two ASNAPP staff reviewed the organization's systems and processes, identified issues and technical support needs, and rated their organizational capacity. While the final report on this assessment is still pending, preliminary results show that BOTPAL members maintain a strong relationship among themselves and are able to handle internal conflicts, but they acknowledged serious deficiencies in planning and management.

Concerns about BOTPAL's capacity to support an expanded Griffonia mobilization campaign in FY14 and the need to fundamentally revise the relationship between BOTPAL and PROSPER (in which BOTPAL currently views itself as supporting PROSPER's NTFP marketing objectives), was the object of a series of exchanges between ASNAPP and PROSPER in the fourth quarter, and contributed to PROSPER's decision not to try to backstop a major Griffonia collection effort in FY14.

Agricultural Activities:

PROSPER support to transform the Cassava Processing Groups (CPGs) and Commercial Palm Oil Producers (CPOPs) from "groups" to "cooperatives" continued throughout Q4. All fifteen groups have signed the transition MoU with the respective Community Forestry Management Boards (CFMBs) in Northern Nimba. The MOUs outline the roles and responsibilities along with the process that will be undertaken to transform the CPOPs and CPGs into associations. During this quarter, all groups completed the construction of their equipment shelters, and all new or repaired equipment was installed to allow the groups to begin processing. Training was conducted for CPOP and CPG managers and operators by technicians from the equipment manufacturer, Moonlight Garage in Gbarnga. PROSPER provided training to all CPOPs and CPGs in the use of various management tools including forms to document production income and expenditures.

In September, the PROSPER L/LEDA, utilizing other ACDI/VOCA training material and experiences in Liberia and throughout Africa, developed two training modules: one on "Operating Cassava Processing as a Business" and the other on "Analyzing Profit and Loss". In late September, both modules were piloted with a CPG in Northern Nimba. While the training took place, two PROSPER observers made notes on how the trainees were processing and understanding the topics presented in the two modules. The findings will be analyzed and used to adjust the material to the appropriate learning level and language of the target beneficiaries before it will be used for further business training in Q1 of Year 2.

Activity 3.2: Reduce threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Sector surveys and analyses for charcoal and bushmeat designed and conducted; results to be reported in Q1 of FY 14

FFS sessions continued in northern Nimba and Grand Bassa communities

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

Farmer Field Schools:

Throughout the fourth quarter, PROSPER agricultural extension staff organized weekly sessions with participants of nine farmer field schools in Northern Nimba and two in Grand Bassa, with emphasis on observations and discussions among the participants concerning the impact of the applied good agricultural practices (GAPs) on crop development. The participants' own observations are very important and serve as starting point for the discussions. The discussions provide feedback on how likely it will be that farmers will replicate on their own fields what they have learned/seen in the FFS. Throughout the quarter, the FFS in Grand Bassa continued to perform exceptionally well in laying out the demo plots. Though some of the FFS in Northern Nimba were slow to get started, many of them have well-established fields with good-looking crops. PROSPER staff will continue ongoing monitoring of these groups as scheduled through November 2013.

Discussions continued between PROSPER and FED regarding the establishment of FED-supported FFS in PROSPER sites. In September, three new sites were proposed to FED for FY14 in Grand Bassa including Benzohn (District 4), Keiyah (District 4) and Barcoline. In Southern Nimba, PROSPER proposed one new site be established in Voelay for FY14 focusing on cassava and for FED to continue support of the existing FFS in Dialah. This would allow for the continued support of FFS in the PROSPER communities around the Big Gio forest. In Northern Nimba, PROSPER proposed that FED continue support of existing FFS in Lugbeyee (lowland rice) and in Zorganaglay (upland rice).

Discussions will continue in October with the hope of signing an MOU between these two programs in October at the latest in order to ensure FED begins engagement within the cassava and rice crop cycles.

Charcoal and Bushmeat:

Surveys were developed to gather information on charcoal production and bushmeat in all PROSPER sites. It is generally believed that firewood is currently the major energy source used in the towns and villages of the PROSPER areas. However, some areas do produce charcoal for local, larger towns like Sanniquellie and Tappita, or on a larger scale in Grand Bassa the Barcoline community that is heavily involved in charcoal production to serve the Buchanan urban area. The objectives of the charcoal studies are to find out to what extent charcoal is "exported" out of the community and provides a commercial income-generating activity and what the arrangements exist between the land/tree owner, the charcoal maker and the trader/transporter. The insights PROSPER will acquire through this brief study, carried out by the field-based implementing partners, might provide basis for future interventions, e.g. woodlots in Barcoline managed by the CFMB. The bushmeat focuses on the rate and trend of bush meat consumption in the PROSPER communities and to find out what community people consider as possible alternatives if the availability of bushmeat declines as a result of a dwindling animal population and/or hunting restrictions, for example in community forest areas. The bushmeat survey started in late September and will be concluded in October 2013. It is being administered to the 175 participants in the farmer field schools of Northern Nimba by the FFS field staff. The finalized surveys will be delivered to the PROSPER office in Monrovia in early October and the analysis and presentation of the findings will be conducted in early November.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Participated in Agriculture Coordination Committee Meetings on a monthly basis

Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Throughout the quarter PROSPER Component 3 staff participated in meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture. This forum provides useful and interesting insights and contacts with other projects and organizations that are active in the field of agricultural development. At the August 1 meeting, the L/LEDA presented an overview of the PROSPER livelihood activities in the context of biodiversity conservation, lessons learned and best practices from PROSPER's experiences. He also made a

Powerpoint presentation of two extension publications developed by PROSPER on composting and the production and use of liquid manure.

During the quarter, consultations with various actors and potential partners in the tree crop sector allowed the Livelihoods team to clarify its strategy for supporting tree crop-based enterprise development in FY14, mainly through rehabilitation of existing cocoa farms.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
No results to report for the quarter
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No contract deliverables due during the quarter

No activities to report on during this quarter.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROSPER STAFF LIST

Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
Technical					
1	Reid	Stephen	Chief of Party		14 May 2012
2	Litz	Vaneska	Deputy COP/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights		01 June 2012
3	Cole	Eugene	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities		21 Jan 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Communications and Outreach Advisor		01 June 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 June 2012
6	Koffa	Samuel	Senior Community Forestry Advisor		12 July 2012
7	Kweme	Dominic	Organizational Development Advisor	CJPS	01 June 2012
8	de Waard	Peter	Leader, Livelihoods & Enterprise Development Activities	ACDI/VOCA	18 June 2012
9	Bedell	Hodo	Livelihoods Advisor	ACDI/VOCA	01 June 2012
10	Nyepan	Josephus	Livelihoods Program Officer	AGRHA	01 June 2012
11	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 June 2012
12	Vangehn	Darlington	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		01 June 2012
13	Roberts	Edward	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		
Financial and Administrative					
14	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 June 2012
15	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 June 2012
16	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 June 2012
17	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 July 2012
18	Bestman	Arthur	Administrative Operations Officer		17 Dec 2012

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

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Vesselee	Martin	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		08 Oct 2012
2	Ville	James	Field Office Administrator		28 August 2012
3	Kollie	Henry	Driver		02 Jan 2013

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Biah	D. Nuah	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		01 June 2012
2	Kikeh	Joseph	Field Office Administrator		19 Nov 2012
3	Gant	Garretson	Driver		05 Nov 2012

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Gibson	Eugene	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		20 May 2013
2	Dugbeh	Sam	Field Office Administrator		03 Dec 2012
3	Manobah	Folley	Driver		16 Oct 2012

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

	Title	Date Submitted (2013)	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
1	Monthly Progress Report, June 2013	July 4	RR-4	
2	Biodiversity Assessment Report	July 22	D-24	Second revision
3	Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook	July	D-13	
4	Update of Third Quarterly Report (Jan-Mar 13)	July 31	RR-5	Contained updates to success stories
5	Quarterly Financial Report (Q3 FY 2013)	August 1	RR-6	Revised version submitted 8/28
6	Monthly Progress Report, July 2013	August 8	RR-4	
7	Fourth Quarterly Report (Apr-Jun 2013)	August 9	RR-5	
8	Monthly Progress Report, August 2013	September 9	RR-4	

APPENDIX 3 - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - QUARTER 3, FY13

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2013 Target	2013 Q4 Target	2013 Q4 Actual	2013 Q4 % Actual vs Target	FY 2013 % Actual vs Target
Intermediate Result 1: Increased educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance								
1.1 Number of institutions with increased capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Sub Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved capacity of MOE to deliver formal and non-formal primary and adult education curricula on natural resource management and governance								
1.1.1: Percentage of MOE primary school students in targeted areas receiving education on environment and natural resources based on strengthened curriculum – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
1.1.2: Percentage of MOE adult literacy centers in targeted areas using the environmental curriculum materials in their instruction – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Sub Intermediate Result 1.2: Improved capacity of CSOs to design and conduct outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues								
1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	2012	0	15	0	0	-	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.3: Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum								
1.3.1: Number of technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
1.3.2: Number of individuals supported by program to conduct applied research at one or more of the program's pilot sites – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	2012	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development								

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2013 Target	2013 Q4 Target	2013 Q4 Actual	2013 Q4 % Actual vs Target	FY 2013 % Actual vs Target
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	1	1	100%	100%
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	0	0	-	100%
Sub Intermediate Result: 1.5 : Increased capacity of Community Forestry Development Committees to develop effective, environmentally-sound development programs to use Forest Management Committee social agreement funds								
1.5.1: Number of community projects approved and funded by CFDC and NBST using the modified criteria to screen applications for environmental impacts – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities								
2.1: Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	13.5 K	13,500	13,500	100%	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management								
2.1.1: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	24 K	24,000	0	0%	0%
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	100	0	133	+133	233%
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	15	10	15	150%	133%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management								
2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	25	0	9	+9	136%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.3: : Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations								
2.3.1: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	2	0	0	-	100%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.4: Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs								

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2013 Target	2013 Q4 Target	2013 Q4 Actual	2013 Q4 % Actual vs Target	FY 2013 % Actual vs Target
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	5	5	0	0%	0%
Intermediate Result 3: Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas								
3.1: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	620	0	0	-	80%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.1: Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises								
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	#	0	0	2	0	1	+1	50%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.2: Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities								
3.2.1: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output</i>	#	0	0	275	15	15	100%	100%
3.2.2: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	80	20	85	325%	181%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.3: Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.								
3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	2	0	0	-	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 3.4: Improved data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) present in forest areas under different management regimes								
3.4.1: Number of test plots generating data on greenhouse gas content (especially carbon) to inform decision-makers regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies to minimize climate change – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2013

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
1	July 9	Rollout (village-to-village outreach) of the 1st Annual Outreach Campaign	To familiarize community members with requirements and procedures for demarcating proposed Community Forest area per the Community Rights Law (Chap. 2, Section 8)	Bold Dollar	District # 4	1			The number of community participants attending the roll-out events varied, with an estimated average attendance of 150.	
2	July 10			Benzohn	District # 4	1				
3	July 11			Korjuah	District # 4	1				
4	July 12			Kaykay	Barcoline	1			The estimated <i>total</i> attendance was, therefore, 750 persons	
5	July 13			Bleewien	Barcoline	1				
6	July 1-3	Radio drama design workshop	Develop elements for education-entertainment radio program in collaboration with the STEWARD. Identify main threats to natural resource management in Liberia, target audiences, desired changes in KAB, key messages for the campaign, and broadcast plan: sites, radios, language, etc.	Provident Hotel Monrovia	Monrovia	3	2	20	15	37
7	July 1	Human settlement and boundary demarcation (reconnaissance meeting)	To identify community forest boundary and enumerate human settlement within identified forest	Sehzueplay	Doe District	1	0	11	3	14
8	July 2-9	Human settlement and boundary demarcation (ground truthing)	To identify community forest boundary and enumerate human settlements within identified forest	Sehzueplay	Doe District	8	0	11	3	14

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
9	July 11-12	Forest governance training	To ensure clear community understanding of CF governance: roles and responsibilities, qualifications and elections of CA, EC and CFMBs	Dialah	Gbear-Gblor District	2	11	15	5	31
10	July 15-16			Zuolay	Doe District	2	15	13	5	33
11	July 17-18			Toweh's town	Boe-Quilla	2	4	27	5	36
12	July 19			Old Yourpea	Kparblee	2	6	21	5	32
13	July 16	Review of CPG & CPOP management guide	To facilitate setting of CPG and CPOP mill rental fees and salaries of operational manager and maintenance supervisor	Zualay	Gba	1	4	11	1	16
				Larpula	Gba	1	6	17	1	24
14	July 22			Zolowee	Gba	1	5	13	1	19
15	July 16	Awareness-building on community forestry	To deepen forest residents' understanding of the purpose, opportunities, obligations, and benefits, and of community forestry, and the steps required to establish an authorized community forest	Sehyigeh	Gba	1	5	38	3	46
				Markinto 1	Gba	1	10	25	3	38
16	July 17			Vanyanpa	Gba	1	21	26	3	50
				Gborpa	Gba	1	12	35	3	50
17	July 18			Bleemein	Gba	1	11	19	3	33
				Boapea	Gba	1	29	29	3	61
18	July 19			Dolopa	Gba	1	26	19	3	48
19	July 19			Dahnlorpa	Gba	1	13	24	3	40
20	July 20			Markinto 2	Gba	1	13	10	3	26
21	July 22			Neipa	Gba	1	22	7	3	32
22	July 23			Sehyikimpa	Gba	1	15	12	3	30
				Zolowee	Gba	1	8	30	3	41
23	July 31			Suakazue	Gba	1	12	17	3	32
				Zeahsoner	Gba	1	20	50	3	73

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
24	July 17-19	Conflict management and leadership training	To build skills and knowledge of community members to effectively mitigate conflict at the community level	Lepula	Zor	3	19	33	3	55
25	July 24	Human settlement and boundary demarcation (reconnaissance meeting)	To identify community forest boundaries and enumerate human settlements within identified forest	Doewheon	Grand Bassa	1	1	16	0	17
26	July 30			Korjuah	Grand Bassa	1	6	16	0	22
27	July 31			Bold Dollar,	District # 4	1	4	21	0	25
28	August 1-3			Depay	Barcoline	3	0	6	3	6
29	August 1-2	Community forest guards refresher training	Reinforce skills of community forest guards in data collection and community outreach	Zorgowee	Sanniquellie	2	6	31	5	42
30	August 2	Awareness-building on community forestry	To deepen forest residents' understanding of the purpose, opportunities, obligations, and benefits, and of community forestry, and the steps required to establish an authorized community forest	Gblinezehyso nnor	Gba	1	8	14	3	25
				Sopea	Gba	1	19	38	3	60
31	August 5-7	Human settlement and boundary demarcation (ground truthing)	To identify community forest boundaries and enumerate human settlements within identified forest	Bold Dollar	District # 4	3	0	6	3	9
32	August 8-10			Korjuah	District # 4	3	0	6	3	9
33	August 9	Gba CFMB and CA stakeholders meeting	To enable the CFMBs and CAs of the Gba and Sehyi communities to select an acting chairman for the management of their community forest area.	Lugbeyee	Sanniquellie	1	6	37	3	46
34	August 10	Meeting with CFMBs of Gba, Bleih and Zor communities and with BOTPAL.	To enable the leadership of the CFMBs and BOTPAL to understand the intent and importance of establishing griffonia monitoring/ experimental site in their respective communities aimed at providing information on	Sanniquellie	Sanniquellie	1	0	9	1	10

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
			sustainability of griffonia under different harvesting regimes							
35	August 10-11	Orientation and coaching for Community Forestry Organizing Committees (CFOC)	Develop and adopt a common approach among PROSPER field staff for supporting the establishment of interim forest governance committees in new sites	Buchanan	Grand Bassa	2	0	0	18	18
36	August 12	Community Rights Law and legislation review	To conduct fact-findings and review of the CRL/ CRL regulation with communities stakeholders and gather their inputs in the legal policy review process.	Sanniquellie	Sanniquellie	1	5	17	5	22
37	August 15	Forest sector stakeholders review validation of legal policy findings	To enable stakeholder validate the policy review findings and provide further recommendations that advance community forestry in Liberia	Monrovia	N / A	1	2	21	1	24
38	August 15	Operational training of CPG mills	To train community member on the basic maintenance procedures of the mills	Suakazue	Gba	1	2	17	1	20
39	August 16			Kialay	Zor	1	0	9	1	10
40	August 22-23	Capacity building for teachers at FTI	To reinforce FTI faculty skills in the use of student-centered, participatory teaching techniques to support the implementation of the CF Curriculum.	Tubmanburg	N / A	2	3	17	2	22
41	August 26-28	Lesson planning and content developments	To train teachers in how to use the community forestry curriculum and syllabi effectively, with particular emphasis on linking lesson	Tubmanburg	N / A	3	3	7	3	13

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
			materials with available database of texts and research							
42	August 27	Stakeholder meeting on Gba boundary demarcation	To facilitate stakeholders' efforts to resolve outstanding Gba CF boundary issues	Gbapa	Gba	1	10	72	6	88
43	Sept 12-13	Formation of Community Forestry Organizing Committee (CFOC)	To form an interim body that will lead CF matters until the establishment of the Community Assembly	Keiyah	District # 4	2	10	36	7	53
44	Sept 17-20	Gender assessment follow-up and coaching	Identify potential community-based women's organizational partners for PROSPER & encourage women's involvement in PROSPER programming through outreach and coaching on CF processes to selected women leaders.	Bold Dollar	District # 4	2	21	0	2	23
45	Sept 1			Massah Town	District # 4	2	15	0	2	17
46	Sept 20	Stakeholder consultation meeting	To assist stakeholders to reach a consensus on the number of persons who will represent constituent/towns in Zor's restructured CA	Zorgowee	Zor	1	10	53	2	65
47	Sept 24	CFWG orientation meeting for the CF validation	Build consensus on the procedures and guidelines for the conduct of validation	Monrovia	N / A	1	1	10	2	13
48	Sept 25-26	CFOC formation workshop	To form an interim body that will lead CF matters until the establishment of the Community Assembly	Dialah	Gbear – Gblor	2	11	28	4	43
49	Sept 25-27	Business management training	To pilot test two business management training modules for CPGs and CPOPs	Sehyi – Geh	Gba	2	5	7	1	13

N	Dates	Title	Objective	Location	CF Site	Days	No. Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER	Total
50	Sept 25	Gbear-Gblor and Kparblee dispute resolution stakeholders meeting	To create a platform for stakeholders to share experiences on boundary dispute resolution approaches; and build consensus on an approach for effectively mitigating the longstanding dispute between the people of Gbear-Gblor and Kparblee	Tappita	Tappita	1	5	14	3	22
51	Sept 26-27	Gba and Sehyi stakeholders meeting	To enable the stakeholders to reach consensus on the proposed merger of the Gba and Sehyi communities under a single community assembly and agree on a person to represent the various towns on the community assembly	Gba and Sehyi	Gba	2	17	67	2	86
52	Sept 30-Oct 1	CFOC formation workshop	To form an interim body that will lead CF matters until the establishment of the Community Assembly	Kparblee	Kparblee	2	10	22	4	36
							469	1130	179	1770 + 750 for outreach rollout

APPENDIX 5: SUCCESS STORIES



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SNAPSHOT

Community forestry links communities and private sector

Community Forest Guards monitor community forest biodiversity with assistance from mining concessionaire



PROSPER's Head of Office in northern Nimba, Martin Vessellee assists CF Guards to check their GPS units before entering the community forest on a practice patrol.

"The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen the protection of the remaining forests of West Nimba and to empower the Gba CFMB by implementing strategies that ensure that illegal hunting, farming, encroachment, unsustainable resource use and damaging land practices are monitored..."

-MOU between Gba CFMB and AML

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

In 2005, Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) entered into an agreement with the Government of Liberia to develop the mineral resources of northern Nimba. The AML concession area includes community forests that are managed by the Gba, Zor and Sehji communities through three Community Forest Management Agreements that were facilitated with USAID support in 2011. The three community forests cover almost 13,000 hectares and represent some of the most important biodiversity in Liberia. Recognizing the biodiversity of the community forests, and the strong governance therein, AML has targeted the three community forest areas for implementation of their Biodiversity Conservation Program in northern Nimba; a program aimed to offset the impact of mining in their concession area through protection and conservation of biodiversity within the concession.

As part of the management of these forests, the PROSPER program has assisted the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMB) to organize Community Forest Guards to monitor activities in the community forests and to provide community outreach and education on the rules governing the use of the forests. Recognizing the outreach and data collection services that Community Forest Guards could contribute to their Biodiversity Conservation Program, AML approached the three CFMB and proposed an information sharing scheme. The three CFMB were able to negotiate with AML for these services and entered into memoranda of understanding (MOU) whereby AML provides support to the Community Forest Guards and CFMB through the provision of uniforms and monthly stipends in exchange for *inter alia*, data collected by the Community Forest Guards on biodiversity and community activities within the community forest. These MOU were finalized in 2012 and since that time, AML and PROSPER have collaborated to provide a series of trainings to the 36 Community Forest Guards in patrol techniques, outreach and awareness methods, biodiversity and other data collection, and the use of GPS for both navigation and data collection.

In August 2013, the Community Forest Guards from the three community forests received a final training in data collection techniques and outreach methods from the PROSPER staff. AML and PROSPER distributed a total of four GPS units to each of the CFMB for use by the Community Forest Guards, and patrol schedules were organized for the 36 Guards. Following the training, the Community Forest Guards began their monthly patrols. Data collected from the patrols was recorded on data sheets and is shared with AML's Biodiversity Conservation Program.

As a result of USAID's community forestry programming in northern Nimba, community members are actively engaged in biodiversity conservation and forest management and are able to interact and seek support from private sector actors operating in their area.



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SNAPSHOT

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) techniques assist local farmers.

Farmer Field School techniques reduce labor and increase productivity of the soil



Mr. Tueway at his farm in Koujua town where he is trying some of the techniques introduced by the PROSPER FFS. Like many farmers, he was a quick adopter of labor-saving technologies.

"I have cultivated 1/2 acre of land and it is planted with a variety of vegetable (beans); applying the advance methods acquired from the FFS."

-Eric Tueway, FFS participant

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
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In an effort to support food production, increase income generation, and reduce the pressure on the forest, USAID supported several livelihood activities through the People, Rules, and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources program (PROSPER). In Year 1, the focus of these activities was to identify and determine what livelihood activities would result in the greatest gains in these areas. One of these interventions included a low-input Farmer Field School (FFS) model in which farmers are taught natural soil enrichment techniques to increase the productivity of the soil for higher yields, more years of continuous cultivation, and ultimately, longer fallow periods for farmers with multiple plots. It is theorized that the resulting increase in productivity will reduce the need to clear forestlands since existing farm productivity will be enhanced. The low-input techniques that were piloted did not include chemical fertilizers but concentrated on composting and the introduction of nitrogen-fixing crops through a crop-rotation process. Labor saving techniques were also taught such as planting in rows in order to facilitate weeding, a job that is often left to women and children.

Korjuah Town is located in District 4 of Grand Bassa County, approximately 2 hours from the port city and markets of Buchanan. PROSPER established a Farmer Field School in District # 4 and involved 9 female and 16 male farmers. These farmers were taught natural soil enrichment through composting and crop rotation, basic farm management, planting techniques to reduce labor, and harvest and post-harvest techniques that aim to minimize loss.

Mr. Eric Tueway is one of the District 4 FFS participants. Eight months ago, Mr Tueway was very enthusiastic about the farming techniques that he was being introduced to through the FFS. Today, he has not only applied some of these techniques in the FFS, but has applied these techniques on his own farm. Although he is not composting, Mr. Tueway did plant a local variety of bean promoted by the FFS to fix nitrogen, and he planted them in rows to facilitate weeding. When asked what he thought of these techniques, he said "the crop do not stumble for nutrients from the soil, and they are giving me more beans. This and plenty other skills I have learned from the PROSPER-sponsored Farmer Field School"

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