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# PEOPLE, RULES, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES (PROSPER) EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2014



JULY 2014

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**Front Cover Photo:** Dominic Kweme, CJPS staff and Organizational Development and Governance Advisor for PROSPER. 29 January 2014

**Front Cover photo credit:** Jesse Buff, PROSPER STAM

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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



# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Building on previous investments in the forestry and agricultural sectors (Land Rights and Community Forestry Program [2007-2011] and the Liberia Forestry Support Program [2011-2012]), USAID contracted Tetra Tech 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 eighth quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the third quarter of fiscal year 2014 (FY14) which covers April 1–June 30, 2014. Individual monthly progress reports were also prepared for USAID.

The April–June 2014 period included the arrival of the new Chief of Party (COP), Paul Cowles, who focused on getting to know the project team, key partners, and the technical scope of USAID/PROSPER. This report summarizes the accomplishments for the period measured against the Annual Work Plan.

## 1.1 SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Component 1 activities focused on the roll out of the second Annual Outreach Campaign, beginning with the launch of the campaign in Monrovia in early April. Significantly more community-to-community outreach was facilitated to support outreach and education on community forestry. Assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) continued and the second draft of the Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) was reviewed. Support to Forestry Training Institute (FTI) continued with the handover of the curriculum and participatory techniques teaching guide as well as through support from Dr. Ken Bauer. His support led to the improvement and relaunch of the FTI community forestry teaching website with all materials available online.

Component 2 focused on supporting FDA in moving forward with community forestry after the lifting of the Moratorium in early April. The project began collaborating closely with the FDA team to identify how best to begin moving new Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) forward, and how to address issues with established CFMAs. Facilitation of an agreement between Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) and the Gba Community Forest also continued to be a major activity with continued support to conduct inventories and look for wood buyers for timber from the Tailings Management Facility area. Reaching final agreement has been difficult, however, and negotiations continue. Another conflict arose in District 4 near Buchanan, with a separate faction of communities attempting to start a second community forest in the same area. FDA and PROSPER are working together to manage the conflict. The land dispute between the Gblor and Kparlee communities nearly reached resolution but flared up again during demarcation activities, once again demonstrating the complexity and difficulty of helping communities to resolve long-standing conflicts. Scopes of work for more detailed threat assessments and biomonitoring were also developed.

## 1.2 DELIVERABLES SUMMARY

One deliverable was submitted during the reporting period. This information is similarly presented in the appendices.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Original Due Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Geospatial Report (Nick Thomas, Tetra Tech)	n/a	Submitted to USAID

# 2.0 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 2.1 STAFFING

Dr. Sam Koffa, long time consultant to PROSPER, finished his contract with Tetra Tech during the quarter. Dr. Koffa was a great asset to the project and did much to shape the direction of Components 1 and 2. As mentioned above, the new COP settled into temporary housing and worked to orient himself technically through participation in quarterly planning and field visits to all three PROSPER sites.

No other staffing changes were made during the quarter.

## 2.2 SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

### 2.2.1 NATIONAL SUBCONTRACTORS

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

### 2.2.2 INTERNATIONAL SUBCONTRACTORS

Following the development of the FY14 work plan, scopes of work were revised for international subcontractors in the first quarter of FY14. There were no significant changes in Q3.

- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes.
- Agribusiness in Sustainable African Plant Products (ASNAPP) – No significant administrative changes.
- ACDI/VOCA – No significant administrative changes.
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI) – No significant administrative changes.

# 3.0 CROSSCUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

## 3.1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) was updated using data collected in the field and confirmed using the Performance Indicators Reference Sheet (PIRS) requirements outlined for each indicator. A summary of the PMP and FY14 Q3 status is found in the appendices.

## 3.2 GENDER INTEGRATION

As part of the overarching goal of the program (to integrate gender into PROSPER activities and to motivate women to play a more significant role in the forestry sector), the head of the Forest Development Authority's (FDA) Community Forestry Department, Gertrude Korvayan Nyaley, delivered a lecture at the FTI, on the "Role of FDA in Gender and Social Inclusion in Community Forests." A total of 79 participants, including 20 females and school administrators as well as FTI instructors, took part in the interactive forum. Ms. Nyaley spotlighted the following in her presentation:

- The significant gains made in the forestry (particularly community forestry) sector by FDA partners,
- Recognition and appreciation of efforts by PROSPER to ensure community forestry becomes a success story in Liberia,
- The difference between gender and sex,
- Other countries' experiences on women and community forestry, and
- What women can do to become more involved in community forestry activities.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period that included a lively discussion of employment opportunities; in particular, opportunities for women in the forestry sector.

Additionally, the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) led facilitation of four education and outreach workshops held for community forest governance bodies, awareness teams, and the Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG) including FDA and civil society organizations (CSOsO in Bassa and Tappita, respectively). The facilitation role of the GIO during these exercises aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Mentor female FDA staff and female members of the CFWG to lead presentations of the Community Rights Law (CRL) and stimulate their participation in capacity-building activities designed for local community governance structures.
- Reassure woman leaders of their capacity to rise up to the challenge and lead discussions in the governance institutions in which they serve.



**Participants at the 9-steps outreach education workshop in western Liberia.**

- Increase women's participation in forest management decisions which are often dominated by their male counterparts.
- Provide a platform for women to make their voices heard about issues they encounter in community forest management.

Bringing men and women together to read and discuss the CRL gave them the opportunity for an in-depth exploration of these two legal instruments for the first time. Presentations at the community level give female participants the chance to understand fully the nine steps leading to authorized forest community status.

# 4.0 COMPONENT WORK PLANS

## 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

Assisted the MoE to engage the EPA on the incorporation of environmental education materials within their proposed development of environmental education curriculum for primary schools

Reviewed second draft of TLMs to accompany primary school environmental lesson plans developed by Rutgers University

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter:** Deliverable 27 – Education Review Workshop

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Assisted the MoE to engage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the incorporation of environmental education materials within their proposed development of environmental education curriculum for primary schools.*

PROSPER continued to work with MoE officials in support of tasks under this activity. The Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities (L/EDOA) and officials from MoE's Curriculum Development Bureau held meetings with EPA officials responsible for development of a new environment curriculum for primary schools in Liberia. PROSPER shared TLM samples under development by Rutgers University as well as biodiversity factsheets developed by PROSPER and peer-reviewed by conservation institutions. Though the MoE continued to encourage the participation of the EPA in the review of TLMs, they have not been able to sort out their representation in this process.

*Reviewed second draft of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) to accompany primary school environmental lesson plans developed by Rutgers University.*

Following the feedback received from the joint MoE and PROSPER TLM review team, a team of experts was set up to reflect on the feedback. Rutgers then proceeded to hire the services of a professional animation and design company to support them for delivery of high-quality products. Generally, the initial TLMs developed did not satisfy the review criteria, as there were clear inconsistencies between the materials' environmental education concepts described in the respective lesson plans.

The second drafts of TLMs were submitted from the end of April through May. Posters were divided into graphic designs and artists' illustrations. Several review sessions were organized through May and June, in which MoE curriculum specialists and subject matter specialists participated. The reviews were generally positive and provided guidance to Rutgers for refinement and finalization of

the materials. The Education Advisor, the Education and Communication Assistant, and the L/EDOA compiled and presented feedback to Rutgers.

As the poster design and development draws to a close, PROSPER requested “brand marking standards” from the MoE. However, the MoE does not have a brand marking standard and is satisfied to have the MoE stamp on the products. (PROSPER will communicate a proposed brand marking to USAID for approval).

The next step will be to conduct a final edit on the lesson plans to ensure the final versions of the TLMs are properly referenced in both the materials and procedures sections.

Due to the delays in getting the TLMs designed and developed by Rutgers, it has affected the timeline for the remaining planned activities significantly. It also has an implication on the submission of **deliverable 27**, which is a product of the last event.

## **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**

Second Annual Outreach Campaign launched in collaboration with FDA and the CFWG

Refresher training provided for the Zor Theater Troupe to enable their participation in the site-level rollout of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign

Education and outreach training on the CRL and CRL Regulations for CFMBs, ECs, CAs, CFOCs, CATs, and Peace Committees

Community-driven rollout of Second Annual Outreach Campaign implemented in collaboration with forest governance bodies

Subcontract with Liberia Broadcasting System established with PCI Media Impact

Media support provided to EPA on World Environment Day celebrations

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

### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### *Launch of the Second Annual Outreach Campaign in collaboration with FDA and the CFWG*

The launching ceremony to mark the formal commencement of the Second Annual Outreach Campaign was held at the Bella Casa Event Center in Monrovia on Friday, April 4, 2014. The event was attended by a wide range of high-level stakeholders. These included legislators; the FDA board; embassies; development partners; international and national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); Government of Liberia (GoL) ministries, agencies, and commissions; academic institutions; Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) and Executive Committees (EC) from PROSPER sites and other counties with Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs); Community Forest Organizing Committees (CFOCs); Community Awareness Teams (CATs); District Commissioners; and Paramount Chiefs, and other local authorities from PROSPER sites in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties, respectively. Community participants arrived in Monrovia on the evening of Wednesday, April 2 to participate in a rehearsal on April 3, the eve of the launch.

The Managing Director of the FDA, Hon. Harrison S. Karnwea Sr., gave the keynote address and formally launched the campaign. The Master of Ceremony was Mr. Anthony Vanwen, FDA’s Communications Manager. The event was characterized by “infotainment” activities provided by various stakeholders through several media.

Representatives from the PROSPER project communities made statements, highlighting their experiences with fellow community members, political representatives, and national government authorities regarding their access, use, ownership, and benefits derived from their forest resources. They pointed out changes in their paradigm since their receipt of education and technical support from FDA and PROSPER in implementing the CRL and the CRL Regulations. Older sites in northern Nimba pointed out that they have been experiencing an alarming drain in human resource capacity as AML continues to recruit outstanding individuals trained by the community forestry projects

(LRCFP/PROSPER). Policy statements were provided by the USAID/Liberia Mission Director, John Mark Winfield; the Board Chairperson of the FDA, Sis. Mary Laurene Browne; the Chairperson from the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Hon. Frederick Cherue; and the Head of Delegation of the European Union in Liberia, Ambassador Attilio Pacifici.

Special presentations were given by the FDA Technical Manager of the Community Forestry Unit, Ms. Gertrude Nyalay (“Standing up to the Emerging Challenges in Community Forestry”); Dr. Sam Koffa, PROSPER’s Community Forestry Advisor (“Winning Ways to Effective Community Forestry in Liberia”); and the PROSPER L/EDOA on the Overview of the Second Annual Outreach Campaign.

The Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) led the entertainment aspects of the program. They provided cultural performances, live band music including a rendition of the campaign theme song, and a drama on the Nine Steps to Attain Authorized Forest Community Status. Feedback from participants indicated they were outstanding in all their performances.

Campaign messages were printed on T-shirts and distributed to participants at the event. Multimedia presentations of the 10 key messages were placed noticeably on the walls of the hall. Posters and flyers on the Nine Steps, the CRL, and CRL Regulations booklets were also distributed to each participant.

*Refresher training provided for the Zor Theater Troupe to enable their participation in the site-level rollout of the Second Annual Outreach Campaign*

The Zor Troupe is one of six trained in FY13 by the LCP under a subcontract with PROSPER. As PROSPER had not programmed resources to mobilize all six local troupes, focus was placed only on the Zor Theater Troupe. This troupe has benefited from prior training through LRCFP and has demonstrated capacity to conduct effective drama and cultural performances on various topics in northern Nimba communities.

In April during this quarter, PROSPER subcontracted LCP to conduct refresher training and provide other technical support to the Zor Theater Troupe. The Communication and Outreach Advisor (COA) accompanied a five-member LCP team of trainers to northern Nimba on April 13, 2014. Trainers included:

- One drumming trainer/instrumentalist,
- One male dance training/choreographer,
- One dramatist/script writer, and
- Two female dance teachers/trainers for playing traditional female instruments.

The LCP designed its cultural training packages with consideration of the similarity of culture and range of possible audiences to which the troupe might reach out. These included cultural dance repertoires such as Dan male dance, the Bassa female dance, the Kpelle farming dance, the Krahn Dance, the Vai dance, and the corresponding drum patterns and songs accompanying these dances. Individual performers auditioned before entering into the training program to assess the scope of training that needed to be delivered. Training was conducted through direct instruction, observation of professional performers, learning-by-doing, and performances for live audiences in public gatherings in the evenings and market places during the day.

The drama segment of the training considered the often low-literacy levels among local performers. A limited level of scripting was highly emphasized. Members of the CFMB and CA represented in the drama troupe were specifically targeted for this role. Emphasis for the rest of the group was on transforming a given idea into contextual role-plays. The theater troupe also performed in front of live audiences in the communities and market places during the training. Rehearsal schedules were drawn to get the troupe ready for the rollout activity.

LCP provided an assessment of costumes and equipment was done by the LCP to enable PROSPER to target its support to the Zor Theater Troupe to enable them to perform at community level during rollout of the campaign. PROSPER has acted upon those recommendations.

*Education and outreach training on the CRL and CRL Regulations for CFMBs, ECs, CAs, CFOCs, CATs, and Peace Committees*

In the previous quarter, a baseline Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) survey was carried out by PROSPER in collaboration with the CFWG and the FDA in all PROSPER project sites in Northern and Southern Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties. Targeted respondents included members of CAs, the ECs, and CFMBs in mature sites. In the new sites, members of the CFOCs, Peace Committees, and the CATs were targeted.

As a result of the survey, it was realized that even in the more mature sites in northern Nimba, governance body leaders were weak in their knowledge of the CRL and its Regulations. A training was therefore put together to address this problem. At least 15 members of the leadership in each of the eight sites were trained on the content of the CRL and CRL Regulations. The training focused on reading the laws in small groups, using simple models to explain the laws to other community members, and using incentives to get them to participate. Members of the CFWG were also trained, which included four FDA Monrovia-based staff and three CSO partners. After the first set of trainings were delivered by the L/EDOA, other PROSPER staff, FDA, and CSO personnel of the CFWG were encouraged to co-facilitate the training sessions. Though challenging at the beginning, the personnel gradually mastered their facilitation skills and understanding of the content of the CRL and CRL Regulations. PROSPER staff, including NAEAL and CJPS Coordinators/Mobilizers and FDA Cadre staff, participated in the training workshops. Gender consideration in attending these forums was strong and well implemented.

Another highlight of these training sessions was the translation of the 10 key campaign messages into the Bassa, Gio, Mano, and Krahn languages predominant in the respective PROSPER sites. Small groups worked on the translation of a specific message and presented it to the audience in plenary. Spontaneously, linguists in these local languages emerged and helped with getting the best rendition of the message in the respective language before they were recorded.

Finally, PROSPER worked with participants to develop a plan through which they will reach out to their communities with the law and the key campaign messages. NAEAL Coordinators and mobilizers then followed up with the communities and helped them provide further details of the plans, including budgets for community-level rollout of the campaign.

*Community-driven rollout of Second Annual Outreach Campaign implemented in collaboration with forest governance bodies*

Following up from the education and outreach training workshop, community-driven outreach plans were submitted to the PROSPER field offices and subsequently submitted to the Monrovia office, vetted, and approved. PROSPER Monrovia and field teams worked closely with the outreach campaign task forces set up by the communities to develop agendas, follow up with communities in specific clusters before the events, determine outreach materials distribution plans, and move items and equipment to strategic locations.

Meanwhile, the messages in local languages were taken to a studio and mixed with traditional music complementing the respective languages. They were then loaded into memory cards to be used at local radio stations and on high-quality megaphones, and distributed to all sites by PROSPER. The theme song, “Make Community Forestry Rights Real” was also loaded onto each chip.

The individual programs in the communities were mostly carried in the local languages. Based on their knowledge gained from the training, the task force discussed key issues from the CRL and its regulations and responded to questions from the audience. At the close of the discussions, a quiz competition is featured where various prizes were given, mainly outreach material—CRL, CRL Regulations, T-shirts, and posters. The key messages and campaign song were also played. In a few sites, community-level activities will culminate with a radio talk show. In Bacconine, it ended with football matches with messages being played from a hired PA system.

### Subcontract with Liberia Broadcasting System signed by PCI Media Impact

PROSPER continued to work with PCI Media Impact to develop radio drama serials in collaboration with the CFWG. There was increased momentum from their part through this quarter as they have been able to develop and sign a broadcasting subcontract with the Liberia Broadcasting System with the possibility of using an external host for the program to ensure effectiveness.

Due to the huge time lapse since the preparation of the draft subcontract agreement with PCI Media Impact to develop and air 52 episodes of radio drama serials, there is need to review and revise the draft. The revision process is underway.

The PROSPER team and FDA worked with PCI Media Impact to develop the first two introductory radio broadcasts, which will focus on setting the foundation for broadcast of the radio drama serials. The first and second introductory broadcasts are scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, July 3 and 10, 2014, respectively. The first drama comes on the air on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 4:00 pm. Each program will feature the drama, a studio guest, call-in and text-in, and will last for one hour.

### Provided media support to EPA on the World Environment Day celebrations

Upon the request of USAID/Liberia, PROSPER provided technical support to EPA in the development of their media component for the World Environment Day celebrations. PROSPER supported the design and printing of banners and stickers, the development of radio and TV programs, and procurement of airtime.

In the absence of information and education materials to the public for the day, PROSPER supported EPA with factsheets on mangroves, chimpanzees, and hornbills. These materials were distributed to schools, guests, and other institutions in attendance at the June 5 event in Buchanan. The event was attended by the COP, USAID/COR, and A/COR.

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

### **RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER**

Curriculum and participatory techniques teaching guide handed over and in use at FTI

Internship framework for FTI developed

STTA support to the pilot of the community forestry curriculum at FTI

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

### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### Curriculum and participatory techniques teaching guide handed over and in use at FTI

Printing of the community forestry curriculum and participatory teaching techniques guide was concluded in April. The materials were delivered to FTI and are now in use.

#### Internship framework for FTI developed

Further consultations were held between PROSPER and the FTI faculty on the draft internship framework developed for FTI. This document provides a broad range of considerations in the identification of internship objectives, stakeholder participation and reporting. The document will be validated and finalized by the FTI faculty, through consultative sessions with PROSPER.

#### STTA support to the pilot of the CF curriculum at FTI

Dr. Ken Bauer was hired in April by Tetra Tech to support the pilot of the community forestry curriculum at FTI.

As per the Scope of Work, he wrote and compiled a comprehensive set of curricular materials on community forestry including lectures, learning activities, and readings for FTI. For faculty and students, Dr. Bauer created an Internet-based course hosted on a digital learning management system (Canvas) that allows free mobile downloads. This helps to surmount some of the considerable material and financial obstacles that FTI faculty and students face when accessing learning materials on community forestry. Another major task Dr. Bauer undertook on his assignment was to provide

support and training for the FTI faculty in integrating student-centered teaching techniques into their classroom.

Dr. Bauer migrated the community forestry curriculum from Wordpress ([www.liberiafti.wordpress.org](http://www.liberiafti.wordpress.org)) to Canvas (<https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/851452>). This digital platform provides FTI faculty and students with permanent and free Internet access to lectures, learning activities, and a digital library with more than 250 references including peer-reviewed journal articles and books for FTI faculty and students. Dr. Bauer updated and added articles to the digital library in advance of traveling to Liberia. The website also includes links to NGOs and government agencies relevant to community forestry. During the teacher-training workshop, Dr. Bauer trained FTI faculty in the features and the uses of this site.

Dr. Bauer conducted a three-day refresher training for FTI in participatory teaching techniques to improve the delivery of the community forestry curriculum and to support FTI faculty as they review and revise their syllabi to reflect interactive teaching techniques and learner-centered principles. He reviewed syllabi, lesson plans, and assignments used by FTI faculty who are teaching the community forestry curriculum and suggested interactive learning activities, specific readings, and illustrative examples that would augment the faculty's teaching.

Dr. Bauer drafted more than 30 lectures for the community forestry curriculum. These lectures were uploaded to the digital learning management system built for FTI.

**Please note that Activities 1.4 and 1.5 have no tasks for Year 2.**

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

### ACTIVITY 2.1: BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

#### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Continue support to FDA and the Gba community forest management body to negotiate with AML for rights to forest resources

Rethinking the Sehyi and Gba Community Forest merger

Community Forest Guard updates in northern Nimba

Support to CFOC ,CAT teams, and peace committees to conduct awareness on the CRL

Managing conflict over creation of a community forest in District 4

Community representative presentation at the CDSC meetings in Buchanan

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter** No deliverables due this quarter.

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

##### Rethinking the Sehyi and Gba Community Forest merger

PROSPER has decided to alter its approach to dealing with the need to establish the Sehyi Community Forest. Originally, the project was to support the merger of the Gba and Sehyi under a single Community Assembly. However, the implementation of this approach has proved to be too complicated and open to criticism as simply a means to get around the established CF application process. Therefore PROSPER will support Sehyi to become an independent community forest.

##### Community Forest Guard (CFG) updates in Northern Nimba

As part of the regular support to the CFMB to ensure the monitoring of threats to biodiversity in the three community forests in northern Nimba, the CFG conducted 12 days of monitoring patrols in the forest during the report period. The assessment found that there is an increase in the population of some wildlife species, especially chimpanzee; however, there are still signs of encroachment, especially in the Gba Community Forest as well as an increase in human-made trails in the forest. During the period, y the Zor CFMB reported that three persons from the Ivorian side of the Zor community applied and have received permits to extract non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in the Zor Community Forest.

##### Support to CFOC, CAT teams, and Peace Committees to conduct awareness on the CRL

Community Mobilizers continued to support CFOC, CAT teams, and Peace Committees to conduct awareness activities in communities about applying for community forest status of their respective communities, the CRL, and sustainable forest management through a peer-to-peer exchange process. While communication materials were sometimes lacking to forward this (an issue that is being dealt with) using a peer-to-peer process has proved popular and should give improved results for awareness raising.

##### Managing conflict over creation of a community forest in District 4, Grand Bassa

Since PROSPER identified the Kpogblean Clan-District 4 area as one of the communities to support in achieving authorized community forest status, there have been issues of discontent by some towns especially around the Kortro forest area. During the community profiling exercise, two parcels of forest (Martro and Kortro) on both sides of the main road that runs through the Clan, were identified to be set aside as a proposed community forest. The disgruntlement of the towns was clear when some of the towns refused to contribute to the application fee for the CFMA. It later became clear that the concerns of these towns revolved around concerns that creating a CFMA through USAID/PROSPER would eliminate the possibility of entering into agreements with commercial logging firms. This has

led to competing CFMA applications being submitted to FDA. Progress was made during the quarter to resolve the issue.

FDA pushed the community to come together to discuss the CFMA applications and to reach a common understanding. Additional meetings with high-level stakeholders were held in Monrovia to deal with concerns about engaging in commercial forestry through a CFMA. PROSPER made it clear that any and all legal forest management activities are possible in any community forest regardless of who supports the process. A further stakeholder meeting has been planned for next month to resolve remaining issues and move the process forward. The key point on which all stakeholders agree is that we are looking for the solutions that will maximize the benefit to local communities.

#### Community representative presentation at the CDSC meetings in Buchanan

After lengthy inactivity, CDSC meetings resumed in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County on May 1, 2014. Chairing the meeting was the Assistant Superintendent for Development, Adonie Greaves, who coordinates development activities in the county. The meeting—which brought together the county superintendent office, line ministries and agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, concessionaries, and companies operating in the county—created the platform for those development partners to share information on their development interventions. In keeping with PROSPER’s commitment, the CFOCs were supported to participate and present on community forest activities in their respective communities. The presentation provided a clear insight to partners about the role of PROSPER and the specific support being provided by USAID to support FDA and empower communities.

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

#### **RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER**

Provide training to CFWG committees on community forest steps and other outreach strategies

Roll out of education and outreach on the 9-Steps to Authorized Forest Communities outside of PROSPER project sites

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

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### Provide training to CFWG committees on CF steps and other outreach strategies

The CFWG continued to partner with PROSPER in implementing the CRL and its Regulations. The FDA and EPA remain the only government institutions within the CFWG, while an array of CSOs brings strong voices to the table on behalf of communities. As PROSPER designed the training for communities on the CRL, a training of trainers (ToT) component was integrated, targeting CFWG. Another set of CFWG members was trained last quarter to target community forestry applicant communities outside of PROSPER areas. This particular training of CFWG was specific to areas that have some type of CFOCs or have established legal bodies such as a CA, EC, or CFMB.

Members of the CFWG who were trained included four Monrovia-based staff and three CSO partners. After the first set of trainings was delivered by the L/EDOA, other PROSPER staff, FDA and CSO personnel of the CFWG were encouraged to co-facilitate the training sessions. Though challenging at the beginning, the personnel gradually mastered their facilitation skills and understanding of the content of the CRL and CRL Regulations. The CFWG was further challenged when they realized how quickly some of the community members grasped the concepts of the law and articulated it in their local languages. Members of the CFWG worked closely with small groups to translate messages into local languages, which were later recorded for use in the outreach campaign.

##### Roll out of education and outreach on the 9-Steps to Authorized Forest Communities outside of PROSPER project sites

PROSPER supported the FDA through the CFWG to finalize plans and conduct education and outreach on the steps required by the CRL and its Regulations for forest communities to attain Authorized Forest Community status. The activity was carried out as a response to the flurry of

applications for Authorized Forest Community status received by the FDA, mainly from communities outside PROSPER operational areas.

As a follow-up to the recommendations provided by the pilot of this education and outreach activity in Cape Mount and Gbarpoulu Counties, the rollout was planned, integrating lessons learned from the pilot. The rollout was conducted between May 16 and June 2, and June 8 and 15, respectively.

Community mobilization was led by FDA, and supported by USAID/Liberia PROSPER. This included:

- Written communication to the regional foresters and FDA field staff,
- Phone calls and emails to regional Extension Officers,
- Engagement with local community leaders and community forest organizing groups,
- Pre-meeting visits to communities along with FDA extension staff, and
- Live radio discussions and public notices.

Meeting participants included, but were not limited to:

- Representatives of the youth either at district, clan, or township levels;
- Representatives of women's groups;
- Representatives of the community forest organizing group; and
- Representatives of the local leadership/elders.

Observers were welcomed, and when possible, they received education materials.

The outreach team that worked in southeastern Liberia included one representative of the CFWG through the Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL), two central-level staff of FDA, and one representative of USAID/Liberia PROSPER. In parts of Central Liberia, the composition of the team was the same except that the CFWG was represented through the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI). Notwithstanding, the team was briefly joined by the Technical Manager (TM) of the Department of Community Forestry at FDA in River Gee County.

Excluding the pilot phase, the team held 19 meetings in southeastern Liberia and parts of Central Liberia. Each community meeting was conducted in line with a planned program agenda.

Some basic facts about community forestry were provided for communities. For example, most of the communities needed to understand that community forestry is not concession forestry or purely conservation forestry. The facilitator used storytelling as a strategy to communicate the importance of sustainable forest management, citing the provision of products and goods, biodiversity, and services as the three key reasons for sustainable forest management.

Presentations on the 9-steps were done with a mix of lectures, use of visual aid materials, and questions and answers. Responses to questions were coordinated among members of the outreach team. A template for drafting community forest applications, developed by PROSPER for use by FDA, was presented to the communities to enable the resubmission of their applications. At the end of the presentations, the FDA Community Forest Unit representative on the team asked a series of probing questions to verify if the applications actually originated from the applicant community or from other proxies. It turned out that a significant number of the applications actually originated from Monrovia without the free, prior, informed consent of the respective community residents.

At the start of the process, there were some levels of apprehension from the FDA field staff as they were not quite knowledgeable of the CRL or its Regulations. They eventually became excited to learn about these instruments and were even volunteering to present. Due to their level of knowledge at this stage, they were encouraged to observe and help provide practical insight to issues on the ground.

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

### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Continue support to FDA and the Gba community forest management body to negotiate with AML for rights to forest resources

Managing the land dispute between Gblor and Kparblee communities

Barconnie communities (Blewein and Garwein) boundary dispute resolution process update

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter:** No deliverable scheduled for this quarter

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Continue support to FDA and the Gba community forest management body to negotiate with AML for rights to forest resources

Since the proposal by AML to use a portion of the Gba Community Forest for the construction of a Tailings Management Facility, PROSPER has continued to provide technical support to the FDA and the CFMB to negotiate and benefit from a fair deal. During this quarter, an agreement was reached in a follow-up meeting that AML support the resumption of the inventory exercise that was suspended earlier, due to slow progress and lack of clarity on roles. PROSPER also provided financial and logistical support to ensure the inventory of the remaining portions of block 34 and 35 were completed. The inventory of the two blocks has identified 1,277 merchantable trees with 80% identified as class “A and B” species. PROSPER initially worked directly with SGS and FDA to figure out the best approach to commercialize the merchantable timber from the salvage area. From this the project made contacts with local wood buyers that might have an interest in exporting whole logs from the area. It was later decided that this process would be better led by FDA with support from PROSPER and based on the written request of the Gba CFMB. This request has since been submitted and PROSPER is following up with the FDA on next steps for identifying a reputable buyer and moving the process forward.

To address these and other concerns, the Gba CFMB organized and hosted, with support from PROSPER, a one day stakeholder meeting on June 25, 2014. One of the topics of the meeting was the encroachment of the Gba community forest which is prompted by AML resettlement support. Even though the permit system was established and awareness on enforcement has been ongoing, the recent wave of encroachment has overwhelmed the CFMB. It seems the perceived financial benefits of having a plot in the AML TMF area are significant and are motivating people to encroach even though AML has been clear that they will not compensate anyone with new claims in the area.

#### Managing the land dispute between Gblor and Kparblee communities

In Tappita, work resolving the land dispute between the Gblor and Kparblee communities ran into difficulties when members became confused about where the boundary line was going to fall. This led to community members blocking roads in the area and stopping all demarcation activities. PROSPER let the communities and local leaders discuss and resolve the issues and they came together to request that PROSPER return to the process. The team did so once guarantees of solid community contributions to completing the process were agreed. This experience underlines the complexity of helping communities to resolve land issues and the need for patience and being insistent on real community contributions.

#### Barconnie communities’ (Blewein and Garwein) boundary dispute resolution process update

In the first quarter of the Annual Work Plan, PROSPER began a series of activities to understand an outstanding boundary dispute between two sections in the Barconnie Community Forest sites (the Blewein and the Garwein sections) between the Gee and Kennedy families. Despite the many engagements and other efforts which found that the deeds mentioned by each party were not authentic, each party insisted that the other produce their deeds to transfer legal title over the land they claimed. To further reduce the tension, another meeting was held with stakeholders that included the

Statutory Superintendent, the Commissioner, the County Superintendent Representative, and key members of the two families.

During this quarter, the parties were again invited to a stakeholder meeting to conduct the verification of the land deeds that were being referenced. At the meeting, presentations were made to educate participants on the characteristics of a land deed and what constitutes a legal deed. Highlights of the category of land rights as enshrined in the land rights policy were also explained to assure the participants of a pending process to convert customary ownership to legal title. Interestingly, the parties dropped their claims after these presentations. The parties realized that it was only a customary right that they possessed. On that note, a committee was constituted to facilitate the link between the parties and the Land Commission with a technical support from PROSPER. The committee—comprising representatives of the CFOC, the Office of the Commissioner, the two disputing parties, and women and youth representatives—is expected to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will be signed and submitted to the Land Commission as a basis for future interventions. The parties also agreed that the MOU forbids the sale of land henceforth to prevent reoccurrence of the dispute until the customary ownership is converted to legal ownership through the pending land rights law.

#### **OTHER NATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS**

At the national level, PROSPER attended and contributed to the Land Commission draft land dispute resolution policy statement of intent. The document, when finalized, is expected to be used as a guide to handling land disputes in the entire country. The Land Commission is also expected to recommend the passage of the policy into law. The purpose is to have a coordinated and common approach in handling land disputes that is economical and encourages peaceful coexistence among disputants. In the past two years—with support from UN-HABITAT and the Land Conflict Resolution Program (LCRP)—the Land Commission has piloted the Tetra Tech mechanism to resolve land disputes through the land coordination centers established in five counties.

Additionally, PROSPER organized a series of meetings with the FDA management team to discuss and reach consensus on moving forward with community forest development following the moratorium. Key among the discussion with the FDA TM on community forestry were a strategy for moving forward with community forestry activities (next steps) in PROSPER sites, development of a draft checklist that FDA can use as a starting point for verifying and approving community forest applicants, and information about how to resolve issues around perceived missteps in the establishment of the existing community forests.

To move forward with the seven CFMA applicants with which PROSPER is working, it was agreed that the review conducted by a subcommittee of the CFWG (in December) would be used as a starting point to provide FDA with an unbiased source on which to base the approval. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a clear set of minutes from that meeting so it was decided to reconvene the subcommittee to confirm the same in July.

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

##### **RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER**

Developed scope of work for FFI's Education Specialist

Developed scope of work for threat assessments and bio-monitoring

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

##### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

###### *Developed scope of work for FFI's Education Specialist*

The L/EDOA worked with FFI's Education Specialist to develop her scope of work to support tasks under this activity. Work was put on hold until the administrative issues surrounding the subcontract were made clearer and responsible personnel from FFI deliver the final scope of work.

### Developed scope of work for threat assessments and bio-monitoring at PROSPER sites

There is a need to improve our knowledge of the threats facing community forests in the PROSPER sites. The initial threat assessment provided good information at the startup of project activities, but as the project has matured, the need for better information about and better *integration* of biodiversity into PROSPER activities has become evident. The COP worked with FFI to develop a scope of work for a more detailed threat assessment process as well as a scope to begin setting up bio-monitoring protocols (based on FFI's biomonitoring handbook produced last year) for all the PROSPER sites. The bio-monitoring consultancy will essentially lay out our action plans for operationalizing simple bio-monitoring systems for the PROSPER community forests. It is expected that these consultancies will be completed during the last quarter of the fiscal year.

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

### **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**

Meeting held with Griffonia entrepreneurs

Final data collected for Year 1 on Griffonia monitoring plots by ASNAAP

Monitoring of CPOPs and CPGs

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter:** No Deliverables due during the quarter.

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### Meeting held with Griffonia entrepreneurs

Following the interviews held with three Griffonia entrepreneurs during last quarter, PROSPER invited four lead Griffonia entrepreneurs to a meeting to judge interest in collaborating more closely and strengthening business relationships within the Griffonia supply chain in Liberia. This has been identified as a critical step in improving the value of Griffonia to collectors in PROSPER project sites.

Only two of the entrepreneurs actually attended the meeting with the other two bowing out at the last moment. During the meeting, it was clear that the major obstacle hindering the progress of the Griffonia value chain in Liberia is the lack of transparency in the price offered to collectors and agents. It is in light of this that the Ivoirians have dominated the Griffonia trade by paying US \$3.25/kg or LD \$275 to agents, and the agents in turn buy from the collectors at LD \$125-150/kg in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. Similarly, it was revealed that the exporter in Monrovia promised agents to pay US \$3.25/kg and wants the agents to transport the Griffonia to Monrovia without transportation compensation, and at the same time take it to the Freeport of Monrovia which did not go well with agents. As a result, agents and entrepreneurs in both Nimba and Grand Gedeh preferred to sell the Griffonia and other NTFPs to the Ivoirian buyers who collect it in the counties.

At the end of the meeting, the two entrepreneurs suggested that they would meet with Mr. Logan, the major exporter in Liberia, to further discuss the way forward, especially on the issue of pricing. Meanwhile, PROSPER was later informed that Mr. Logan did not show interest in meeting with Mr. Kaba and Mr. Gonkate. In view of this, PROSPER is reorienting its approach to supporting NTFP development to focus more on the needs of the CFMBs in identifying and managing NTFPs that may be more relevant to conserving biodiversity.

### Final data collected for year one on Griffonia monitoring plots by ASNAAP

As part of the PROSPER Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP), PROSPER has established Griffonia monitoring plots in Zortapa and Zor-Lepula (upper Nimba). These plots were monitored on a weekly basis by four trained caretakers. The purpose of the monitoring plots is to estimate the total volume of Griffonia produced annually within a subsection of a forest; assess how much of that “production” can be harvested without causing the plant population and future harvests to decline; and to understand their impact on natural regeneration. PROSPER hopes to determine from this study what the seed yields would be in defined locations over time, and whether intense collection of seeds each year in each location would lead to a loss of Griffonia populations.

During the quarter, ASNAAP representatives visited Liberia to conclude the final data collection of the monitoring plots in Zor-Lepula and Zortapa, which were monitored by four caretakers under the supervision of ACDI/VOCA staff.

The objectives of the visit were as follows:

- Collect data on Griffonia plants regeneration status from all monitoring plots in the two selected sites in northern Nimba. All 24 measuring plots will have to be examined and counted (all the 24 plots within the smaller quadrant, 3m x 3m (T1 no exploitation, T2 collection of all seeds, T3 normal exploitation levels).
- Supervise the construction of a fence around the plots using hardwood poles.
- Hold meetings with all PROSPER field staff based in northern Nimba (NAEAL, CJPS and ACDI/VOCA, PROSPER) to explain the purpose of the Griffonia monitoring plots in relation to community forest management plans to be implemented by the respective CFMBs (Zor, Gba and Bleih).

The report from this visit indicates that although there may have been some loss of mature plants in plots where exploitation took place, it is likely this is due to inappropriate harvesting techniques and that there was still adequate regeneration when normal harvesting techniques are followed.

### Monitoring of CPOPs and CPGs

**Commercial Palm Oil Processing (CPOPs).** Following the training conducted last quarter by the senior SHOPS Freedom Mill technician and a representative of one of the Freedom Mill manufacturers with the CPOP groups in northern Nimba, there was a tremendous increase in the processing of both Dura and Tenera palm fruits leading to the substantial production of palm oil. This was largely the result of improved efficiency of the repaired machines, and the proper operation and maintenance of the machines due to the “skills refresher” CPOP members received.

During the quarter, 796 gallons (April-199; May-423; and June-174, respectively) were processed with a value of US\$2,786 as compared to 223 gallons that was reported last quarter. Smallholder oil palm farmers in these communities have expressed satisfaction with the support given to them by the project as they can now process their palm fruits using the Freedom Mill. Additionally, Tenera farmers in four communities (Behwallay, Old Yorpea, Toweh Town and Gbeletuo) around the Big Gio forest have expressed interest in PROSPER’s support to purchase Freedom Mills to enable them to process their palm fruits. Also, they have shown interest in the establishment of oil palm nurseries in their respective communities. The establishment of the nurseries will enable them to replace old palm trees that were planted during the 1980s. In both cases, the farmers are willing and have agreed to pay 25-30 percent of the cost of the Freedom Mill and about 10 percent of the cost of the establishment of the nurseries as well as provide labor towards the management of the nurseries.

As a result of the need to establish nurseries around the Big Gio, PROSPER met with Kwakedoe, a farmer cooperative in Tappita that was trained and supported by the USAID SHOPS program and has the expertise in the establishment and management of oil palm nurseries. During the meeting, the cooperative leadership expressed willingness to work with PROSPER in order to reach out to oil palm farmers around the Big Gio forest to establish satellite nurseries. However, they expressed concern that the organization is quite young, and does not have the capacity to effectively operate outside of

Tappita especially in communities around the Big Gio Forest. In view of this, they would appreciate PROSPER's support to establish nurseries in the four communities identified by PROSPER (above). In moving forward, the arrangement with Kwekedoe for the establishment of the nurseries in the four communities and the purchase of the Freedom Mills will be concluded in next quarter.

**Cassava Production Groups (CPGs).** In collaboration with Moonlight (manufacturer of the cassava processing mill) an assessment of the 10 cassava processing mills (CPMs) managed by CPGs in the Zor and Gba communities was carried out. The assessment revealed that some of the machines have been damaged due to a lack of proper management. This seems to be due to the loss of members who were initially trained on the maintenance and use of the machines but later moved from the area. Some of the communities have also been lacking shelter for the machines. This negatively affected the operations of the CPGs in some of the communities. Therefore, during the assessment two of the machines that were damaged were repaired by the Moonlight technician. Two shelters were also built in two communities, the community CPG members provided labor and local materials to construct the shelters while PROSPER provided roofing sheets and other non-local materials to complete the two shelters to house the machines in each community.

The assessment underlined the need to do refresher training for all those that are involved with the operation and management of the mills. The training should also ensure that the CPGs have all required tools for the operation of the mill. Meanwhile, CPG members started harvesting their cassava tubers to be processed into gari. A total of 415 kilograms of mill cassava was processed so far.

### **ACTIVITY 3.2: REDUCE THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY LINKED TO LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES**

#### **RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER**

Recruitment of cocoa farmers by Wienco

Draft crop diversification training materials developed

Crop diversification small group training conducted

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

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### *Recruitment of cocoa farmers by Wienco*

As part of the implementation of the contract signed by Wienco to work with farmers on cocoa rehabilitation activities, Wienco began the process and carried out sensitization meetings and recruitment of farmers in both Zor and around the Big Gio communities. Eighteen communities were reached with sensitization in the Zor community and the number of communities reached around the Big Gio will be communicated later. In the Zor community, a total of 500 farmers were reached during sensitization, out of which 200 farmers showed interest to form part of the Wienco inputs loan scheme for the rehabilitation of their cocoa farms. Thirty-eight farms were inspected, and 41 acres were demarcated using the GPS.

Meanwhile, 19 farmers formed themselves in two groups with each farmer having one acre that have met the criteria to receive a package of inputs on loan by opening their group bank account with a nearby commercial bank. It is expected that the prescribed inputs will be given to the farmers upon the approval of PERSUAP that was submitted to USAID during last quarter. In the meantime, as PROSPER is awaiting the PERSUAP approval of the list of chemicals, Wienco will work with the farmers to carry out agronomical practices such as weeding, pruning, de-shading, etc. The verification of the farmers reached will be conducted by PROSPER Monitoring and Evaluation team.

##### *Draft crop diversification training material developed*

Draft crop diversification training materials were developed as a guide to carry out training for the small groups of farmers that showed interest and are participating in the crop diversification activities.

The draft manual covers the definition of crop diversification, the importance and the need for crop diversification, crop classification and the rotation guide of different crop families. Also discussed and

emphasized was the reduction of threats to biodiversity. The draft manual was used to do a TOT with eight ACDI/VOCA field staff, and field staff subsequently used it to train small farmers groups in crop diversification.

#### Crop diversification small group training conducted

In relation to the PROSPER FY14 work plan, a crop diversification training was conducted during the quarter with 16 small groups, predominantly made up of women. Out of 377 participants, 56 were male and 321 were female. The purpose of the training was to incorporate best farming practices and crop rotation techniques for soil improvement that would diversify their production activities, especially vegetable production to increase their income and at the same time reduce threats to biodiversity from shifting agriculture. The training was very important to create awareness among farmers against shifting cultivation which is a major farming practice that poses a significant threat to biodiversity. Farmers practice shifting cultivation primarily in search of fertile farming land so as to continue their farming activities season after season.

During the training, the sessions were very interactive and staff pointed out the advantages of effectively managing a small plot of land with best agronomic practices rather than having a large area without proper management. In demonstrating crop rotation, participants were grouped in four-person groups, representing four different crop families for rotation purposes. For example, pepper, beans, cabbage and corn are in different families which can be rotated one after another on a parcel of land without a disease outbreak and nutrient competition to allow families to have a regular income throughout the entire year, relieving financial dependency on one crop. At the end of the training, each group was presented with a starter package of tools which included four cutlasses, four hoes, two watering cans, one knapsack sprayer, one tarpaulin for drying beans or groundnuts, two files for sharpening tools, and a ledger for recordkeeping.

### **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

PROSPER Component 3 staff participated in three meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) held during the quarter, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture. The restructuring of the technical working groups or the subcommittees that report to the ACC was the focus during the quarter. This is because only the cocoa technical working group was consistent in meeting and reporting to the ACC, whereas other technical working groups did not have meetings consistently. PROSPER also participated in the cocoa working group of the ACC. Additionally, PROSPER distributed more than one hundred hard copies of “How to Make Compost and Liquid Manure” as part of PROSPER’s mandate to share information with other stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

### **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

There are no tasks planned for this Activity for FY14.

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1: PROSPER STAFF (30 JUNE 2013)

## Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
<b>Technical</b>					
1	Cowles	Paul	Chief of Party/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights		30 Mar 2014
2	Meadows	Paul	Deputy COP		6 Jan 2014
3	Cole	Eugene	Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities		21 Jan 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Communications and Outreach Advisor		01 Jun 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 Jun 2012
6	Koffa	Samuel	Senior Community Forestry Advisor		12 Jul 2012
7	Kweme	Dominic	Organizational Development Advisor	CJPS	01 Jun 2012
8	de Waard	Peter	Leader, Livelihoods & Enterprise Development Activities	ACDI/VOCA	18 Jun 2012
9	Akoi Forkpa	Laveto	Deputy LEDA	ACDI/VOCA	01 Feb 2014
10	Queejay	Marvelous	Senior Field Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	01 Feb 2014
11	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 Jun 2012
12	Vangehn	Darlington	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		01 Jun 2012
13	Roberts	Edward	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		06 Feb 2013
<b>Financial and Administrative</b>					
14	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 Jun 2012
15	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
16	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
17	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 Jul 2012
18	Sartee	Alvis	Administrative Operations Officer		10 Feb 2014
19	Glaydor	Garnahweh	Administrative /Finance Assistant		07 May 2014

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
<b>Support Staff</b>					
20	Saylee	Moses	Caretaker		01 Jun 2012
21	Johnson	Frederick	Head Driver		01 Jun 2012
22	Dukuly	Abraham	Driver		01 Jun 2012
23	Habah	John	Driver		01 Jun 2012
24	Weltee	Othello	Driver		08 Oct 2012
25	Boykai	Joel	Driver		01 Jun 2012
26	Goflee	Evelyn	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013

**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 Aug 2012
3	Kollie	Henry	Driver		02 Jan 2013
4	Paypay	William	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Mah	Robert	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
6	Gomah	Marcus	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
7	Nyumah	John	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
8	Saye	Ruth	Coordinator	CJPS	
9	Sayekea	Ophelia	Mobilizer	CJPS	
10	Baimie	Chyrrei	Mobilizer	CJPS	
11	Deemie	Michael	Mobilizer	CJPS	
12	Dahn	Julius	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
13	Zonen	Leona	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
14	Kerkula	Thomas	Mobilizer	ACDI/VOCA	
15	Mynen	Joe	Mobilizer	ACDI/VOCA	

**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 Jun 2012
2	Maximore	Gibson	Field Office Administrator		01 May 2014
3	Gant	Garretson	Driver		05 Nov 2012
4	Brisbane	Joseph	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Sherman	Magdelene	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
6	Dweh	Oliver	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
7	Kabakollie	Isaac	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
8	Gayflor	Joseph	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
9	Younquoi	Viola	Coordinator	CJPS	
10	Coleman	Joseph	Mobilizer	CJPS	
11	Seh	Bendu	Mobilizer	CJPS	
12	Yoko	Daniel	Mobilizer	CJPS	
13	Sangai	Martin	Mobilizer	CJPS	
14	Gibson	Sam	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
15	Quaye	Sampson	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
16	Wehyie	Patrick	Mobilizer	ACDI/VOCA	
17	Kamara	Mcdonald		ACDI/VOCA	
18	Dwana	John		FDA	

**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
4	Kenedy	Winifred	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Gorvego	Roland	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
6	Bloh	Eric	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
7	Folley	Isaac	Coordinator – Acting	CJPS	
8	Josiah	Joe Benson	Mobilizer	CJPS	
9	Johnson	Rufus	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
10	Johnson	Nathaniel	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
11	Newman	Kollie	Mobilizer	ACDI/VOCA	
12	Kpainay	Joseph		FDA	
13	Johnson	Boima		FDA	

# APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
-	Geospatial Report		

# APPENDIX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - QUARTER 3, FY14

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q3 Target	2014 Q3 Actual	2014 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % Actual vs Target
<b>Intermediate Result 1:</b> 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	3	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.1:</b> 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%	0%
1.1.2: Percentage of MOE adult literacy centers in targeted areas using the environmental curriculum materials in their instruction – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.2:</b> 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	20	0	6	600%	155%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.3:</b> 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	30	0	0	0%	0%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q3 Target	2014 Q3 Actual	2014 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % Actual vs Target
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	12	6	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.4:</b> 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>	#	0	0	8	2	1	50%	125%
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	16	6	8	133%	75%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result: 1.5 :</b> 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%	0%
<b>Intermediate Result 2:</b> 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	10,823	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management</b>								
2.1.1: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	35k	0	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	230	74	81	109%	107%
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	35	10	16	160%	91%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.2:</b> Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management								

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q3 Target	2014 Q3 Actual	2014 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % Actual vs Target
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	32	0	0	0%	100%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.3:</b> : 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	10	2	0	0%	50%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.4:</b> Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs								
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	8	2	3	150%	37.5%
<b>Intermediate Result 3:</b> 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	416	72	66	91.6%	30.7%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.1:</b> 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	6	0	0	0%	100%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.2:</b> 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	400	0	0	0%	0%
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	380	0	0	0%	0%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q3 Target	2014 Q3 Actual	2014 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % Actual vs Target
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.3:</b> 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	4	2	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.4:</b> 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, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN Q3 FY14

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	NO of participants			
							F	M	PROSPER Staff	Total
1	April 4, 2014	Outreach launching ceremony on community forestry	To provide clarity on making community forestry right	Monrovia	N / A	1	26	141	18	185
2	April 15, 2014	Refresher Teachers training	To refresh and strengthen the capacity of instructors at the Forestry Training Institute FTI Tubmanburg	Bomi county	N / A	1	2	15	0	17
3	April 16 -17, 2014	Review and refinement	To review and refine the Community Forest Curriculum pilot	Bomi county	N / A	2	1	7	0	8
4	April 17, 2014	PROSPER-FTI Gender lecture series	To discuss the importance of gender and social inclusion in community forestry	Bomi county	N / A	1	17	41	0	58
5	April 22, 20154	CFWG Meeting	To plan rollout activities for the second	Monrovia	N / A	1	6	10	3	19

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	N0 of participants			
			outreach campaign and the Education and outreach on the CF applications (9 steps)							
6	April 24, 2014	CF application education and outreach	To support CF applicants communities through education and outreach on the CRL and their application.	Kungbor	Kpogblen	1	6	37	0	43
7	April 25, 2014			Massama Maboima	Kpogblen	1	15	28	0	43
8	May 1 - 2 2014	Education and outreach training for CFOCs	To build the capacity of CFOCs, CAT, PCOM in the CRL/CRL regulation for the second annual outreach campaign roll out	Tappita	N / A	2	14	34	0	48
9	May 6 – 7,2014			Buchanan	N / A	2	11	29	0	40
10	May 19, 2014	Education and outreach on the 9steps	To build the understanding of representatives of forest department communities on the 9 steps to attaining authorized forest	Glofaken	N / A	1	3	20	0	23

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	N0 of participants			
			community status							
11				Karloken	N / A	1	2	27	1	30
12	May 21, 2014			Martuaken	N / A	1	8	55	0	63
13	May 22, 2014			Karnweaken	N / A	1	4	18	0	22
14	May 23, 2014			Ziah Town	N / A	1	2	17	1	20
15	May 24, 2014			Dougee Town	N / A	1	1	32	0	33
16	May 26, 2014			Gbargbo Town	N / A	1	7	24	0	31
17	May 27, 2014			Bolloh	N / A	1	4	20	0	24
18	May 27 - 28, 2014	Rutgers final graphic review	To review the final graphic work of Rutger's teaching and learning materials	Monrovia	N / A	2	0	4	1	5
19	May 28, 2014	Education and outreach on the 9steps	To build the understanding of representatives of forest department communities on the 9 steps to attaining authorized forest community status	Doodwiaken	N / A	1	7	55	1	63
20	May 29, 2014			Diyankpe	N / A	1	6	36	1	43
21	May 30, 2014			Charu Town	N / A	1	4	17	0	21
22	May 31, 2014			Unification Town	N / A	1	4	9	0	13

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	N0 of participants			
23	June 2, 2014			Tarsue	N / A	1	5	24	0	29
24	June 5 - 6, 2014	Rutgers final graphic review	To review the final graphic work of Rutgers's teaching and learning materials	Monrovia	N / A	2	0	4	0	4
				<b>Total</b>			<b>155</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>885</b>

# APPENDIX 5: SNAPSHOTS



## SNAPSHOT

# COMMUNITIES LEAD COMMUNITY RIGHTS LAW EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



*Community members attend a workshop to learn more about the CRL in Nimba County*

*USAID/Liberia's PROSPER Program reaches out to communities to make them aware of their rights to community forests under the CRL and Regulations*

The PROSPER project aims to build capacity of communities, the FDA, CFWG, and other partners in community forest management. From an initial Behavior Change Communication situational analysis conducted by PROSPER and the Community Forest Working Group (CFWG), it was apparent that there was little or no knowledge of the CRL and its Regulations in communities, which is a major hindrance to the establishment of viable community forestry institutions. PROSPER and the CFWG designed an education and awareness approach, which included wide dissemination of copies of the law and regulations.

The first annual outreach campaign was launched at the three PROSPER sites, followed by community-level rollouts. At the close of the first annual outreach campaign, communities provided suggestions on how their concerns can be addressed and in a manner that reaches the most vulnerable people and locations. The second annual outreach campaign was designed based on this feedback.

Communities pointed out that the key influencers of forest resource exploitation are the elites, particularly legislators based in Monrovia. Upon the communities' recommendation, the second annual outreach campaign was launched in Monrovia on April 4, 2014. Through speeches based on consultations with fellow community members back home, representatives from these communities were able to present their concerns to legislators, relevant government ministries, education institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, and representatives of the international community.

Following an education and outreach training provided by PROSPER on the CRL and CRL Regulations, including techniques in facilitating outreach activities, leaders of the community forestry governance groups planned community-level outreach activities. They worked with PROSPER field staff to develop programs and budgets to implement the programs. The communities translated the key outreach messages into local languages dominant in their regions. These were recorded on-site and processed at a studio, and mixed with traditional songs from the area. These messages were played on the radio and megaphones at community meetings, town hall gatherings, and marketplaces. Peers were excited to hear the voices of their neighbors and relatives eloquently delivering messages from the law in their local languages. The recording process also unearthed distinguished linguists in the local languages. Languages recorded were Gio, Mano, Krahn, and Bassa.

The communities developed the agenda and clustered villages where they carried out evening events. They worked out distribution plans for outreach materials, including gifts and prizes from small competitions, such as quizzes. Community events were primarily carried in local languages. Based on knowledge gained from the training, the task force discussed key issues from the CRL and its Regulations and responded to questions from the audience. In most sites, the community-level activities culminated with a radio talk show. In Bacconine, it ended with football matches with messages being played from a hired PA system.

An end result was that communities were empowered that their recommendations made it to the design of the second annual outreach campaign, and that they played a key role in its implementation.

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000

<http://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories>



# USAID | LIBERIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SNAPSHOT

# COMMUNITIES PROMOTE TRANSPARENT COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT



*"We will make sure our community forest area is sustainably managed."*

*"We the chief and elders of Sehzueplay Clan, Doe District, lower Nimba County do 100% agree with you the youth of this community that everybody in the Big Gio Forest, including me, must move out as soon as possible."*

*Thomas Kermah - Chief Elder*

### Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
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"We have agreed to leave the Big Gio (BGF) Forest for sustainable community forest management. Breakdown in the rule of law has led to increased pressure on Liberia's land and forest resources, resulting in intensified competition between rural inhabitants and even conflict in some communities. To survive these challenges, communities are often required to compromise traditional systems and rules of resource management. A case in point is Sehzueplay Clan, Doe District, near Tappita City in lower Nimba, which demonstrates that when local communities in Liberia have knowledge and clear understanding about their community rights and benefits related to sustainable forest management, they can play a positive role in promoting transparent, efficient, and effective management of forest resources.

The Sehzueplay Clan-proposed community forest is a portion of the Big Gio Forest. This proposed area has been known as a "hunters' camp" for the bush meat trade and a source of high-value timber species for illegal pit sawyers. With no strong control systems in place, clan members and visitors from outside Nimba County take advantage of the resources the forest offers.

In November 2012, the FDA—with support from the USAID-funded PROSPER program—engaged the Sehzueplay Clan by carrying out an outreach education and awareness campaign on the importance of sustainable forest management as well as the steps involved in acquiring authorized forest community status as well as the associated roles and responsibilities of the community. They assisted the community in establishing an interim governance structure that would steer community forestry affairs in the wake of the moratorium placed on the sector by the government of Liberia.

As a result of this initiative, the youth of Sehzueplay Clan organized a meeting with their elders to express their concerns and frustration about the unsustainable management practices going on in the proposed community forest area. At the end of that meeting, the elders pledged their support and commitment to the youth and gave them the green light to bring all stakeholders (pit sawyers, hunters, citizens, and farmers) together to discuss and find the way forward.

On May 28, 2014, a well-attended citizens meeting was held in Zoulay, one of the many towns in Sehzueplay clan. At this meeting, the citizens agreed in principle that all farmers and settlers within the proposed community forest area must leave the forest for the greater good of the community and future generations. They also considered the following measures: no settler is to engage in any new development in the proposed community forest; all cash crops planted are to be maintained by the owners until they die out; for non-cash crops, farmers and settlers are to discontinue current activities and leave the forest; absolutely no further farming, hunting, mining, chain-sawing should continue; five percent of every sale from cash crops (rubber, cocoa, coffee, and palm oil) will be given to the community for development purposes; and community elders and local authorities are to support efforts of the newly established governance structure for the sustainable management of the community forest area. This leadership demonstrated by the youth, and supported by the elders, demonstrates how Liberia's supportive laws, coupled with USAID's investment in outreach to communities, is allowing communities to chart their own course while protecting their natural resources.



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