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

SEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT
1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2014



APRIL 2014

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Front Cover Photo: Oil palm processing by the Dulay Commercial Palm Processor (CPOP) group as part of a maintenance and operations training provided by PROSPER. 4 March 2014

Front Cover photo credit: Marvelous S. Queejay, Senior Field Coordinator

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DISCLAIMER

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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 seventh quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the second quarter of fiscal year 2014 (FY14) which covers January 1 through March 31, 2014. Individual monthly progress reports were also prepared for USAID.

The January – March 2014 period was highlighted by major staffing transitions on the part of TTARD and USAID. In January, COP Steve Reid departed from the program after nearly two years developing and refining the administrative component of PROSPER. In preparation for his departure, DCOP Vaneska Litz was approved as the new COP of PROSPER. A new DCOP, Paul Meadows, arrived in country on January 6th to manage the administrative functions that Mr. Reid had performed. There was a brief turnover period with both Mr. Meadows and Mr. Reid on the ground together. At the end of January, COP Vaneska Litz announced her departure from the program in order to take a position in Zambia. Tetra Tech ARD and PROSPER sought to bridge Ms. Litz's departure and mobilization of the new COP by sending Jesse Buff, PROSPER Senior Technical Advisor/Manager, to overlap with Ms. Litz's final weeks with the program. At the end of March 2014, Mr. Buff helped orient the new COP, Mr. Paul Cowles, in Burlington, VT. Mr. Cowles arrived shortly thereafter in Liberia and will be overseeing the technical components of the program that Ms. Litz previously oversaw. This report summarizes the accomplishments for the period measured against the Annual Work Plan.

Summary and Highlights:

Component 1 activities focused heavily on the organization of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign Launch, which is to take place in early April. Work with FTI continued and the Community Forestry Curriculum and Participatory Teaching Techniques Guide received marking and branding approval from USAID, with the first publications being printed at the end of March. The Component 1 lead commenced activities in Western Liberia with a pilot program that will eventually extend to other non-PROSPER counties to assist communities that have already submitted applications to gain Authorized Community Forest status. With the Community Forest Management Agreement moratorium expected to be lifted in April, there is a strong need to educate communities that have already submitted applications on the overall process of nine steps to achieve CF status. The pilot proved successful in Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpoulu counties and the project is expected to reach out to other counties in May 2014.

Component 2 moved forward with planned field activities despite the many staffing transitions and the moratorium on CFMAs. Highlights in northern Nimba included: supporting the negotiations between Arcelor Mittal (AML) and the CFMB resulting in the recognition of the community ownership rights to forest resources; continuation of Community Assembly (CA) restructuring activities coupled with capacity

building which included rules revision and system development; and, the multi-stakeholder CMC engagement regarding the ENNR and Land Commission support to land tenure issues which clarifies and supports community institutions' rights over their forest resources. In the new sites, forest management organizing committees and Community Awareness Teams continue to promote community awareness on sustainable forestry in the PROSPER target communities.

Major Component 3 activities during the second quarter of FY14 included: completion and submission of the Agricultural Value Chain Assessment report; implementation of the Value Chain Assessment of Wood Based Products; completion of the sector assessment for, the identification of established entrepreneurs who are interested in leading the mobilization and trade of Griffonia as a business activity; starting the selection of cocoa farmers for the cocoa rehabilitation program in Zor and the Big Gio communities; and the finalization of an operation and maintenance brochure for Freedom Mill operators and managers.

Griffonia monitoring continued using plots established in Q4 of FY13 and was further extended for three weeks into April due to the reported late maturing of the Griffonia. The PROSPER-supported cassava processing groups (CPGs) in Northern Nimba had limited business due to immature (small) tuber size. Training of operators and stakeholders of the Commercial Palm Oil Processors at the start of the palm processing season resulted in a good start of the palm processing season.

During the quarter, ten new staff were hired by ACDI/VOCA to provide support to Component 3 activities.

Deliverables Summary:

Ten deliverables were submitted and either approved or returned to PROSPER for revisions during the reporting period. A list of the deliverables approved during the quarter, or submitted and awaiting approval, or submitted and returned to PROSPER before approval can be given, are provided in the table below (updated as of 31 March, 2014). This information is similarly presented in the Appendices.

Deliverable	Original Due Date	Status
Del. 3 - Report on environmental curriculum materials (revised)	MAY 2013	Submitted to USAID; Returned to PROSPER w/ comments. PROSPER to act.
Del. 2 - Selected Agriculture Value Chain Assessment	NOV 2012	Submitted to USAID;
Del. 25 - Constitution of the Curriculum Development Working Group	JUN 2012	Submitted to USAID; Returned to PROSPER w/ comments. PROSPER to act.
Del. 27 - CDWG Report on Lessons Learned	May 2013	Submitted to USAID. Contract Mod expected.
Del. 28 - Report on First Outreach Campaign	May 2013	Submitted to USAID
Del. 11 - Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed	May 2014	Submitted to USAID
Del. 15 - Legal Analysis of CF Framework	May 2013	Submitted to USAID
Del. 29a - Three Policy Briefs	May 2013	Submitted to USAID
Del. 1 - Summary of reports documenting Del. 1 -Orientation of PROSPER PMP -PROSPER DQA Report Draft -M&E Year 1 Highlights -Joint Field Assessment Report	May 2013	Submitted to USAID
Del. 1 - Memo to COR re. Del. 1, in lieu of actual baseline survey	May 2013	Submitted to USAID

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Staffing:

As noted in the introduction above, there were significant staffing changes during Q2 FY14. COP Steve Reid and DCOP/COP Vaneska Litz both left the program. New DCOP Paul Meadows arrived in early January to transition with both the COP and DCOP. In March, the new COP Paul Cowles arrived.

In February, a new Administrative Operations Officer, Alvis Sartee, was hired to replace the vacancy created in late December 2013. Mr. Sartee has worked in similar capacities with several different organizations in Liberia and has a strong logistics background.

No other staffing changes were made during the quarter.

Subcontract Administration:

National subcontractors:

There was no significant administrative action taken with the two national subcontractors, NAEAL or CJPS. In February, NAEAL did temporarily replace an employee in District 4 due to an accident he had with his motorcycle that involved minor injury to a third party. The employee was found negligent and suspended for a month. He has returned to work and there are no outstanding issues with the accident.

International subcontractors:

Following the development of the FY14 work plan, scopes of work were revised for international subcontractors in Q1 FY14. There were no significant changes in Q2, with the exception of the implementation of some of the ACIDI/VOCA changes.

- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes.
- ASNAPP – No significant administrative changes.
- ACIDI/VOCA's contract and scope of work was revised and approved in January to respond to the changes in the Livelihoods Strategy. This revised scope of work will enable ACIDI/VOCA to assume greater leadership of Component 3 through the direct hire and supervision of eight community mobilizers (3 in Sannequellie, 3 in Tappita, 2 in Buchanan) and two national-level coordinators based in Monrovia with expertise in tree crops and agriculture market development.
- FFI – No significant administrative changes.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

Performance Monitoring:

The performance monitoring plan was updated using data collected in the field and confirmed using the PIRS requirements outlined for each indicator. A summary of the PMP and the status for the quarter is found in the Appendices.

Gender Integration:

Gender integration remains one of the core values of PROSPER's program activities. In fulfilment of the program's Gender Integration Plan, the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) during the period under review, worked with Component staff to ensure that gender specific issues were incorporated for implementation along with technical program activities.

Gender Integration - Component One

As part of efforts to boost the confidence of women to play their part in Community Forestry (CF) activities in Western Liberia, the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) participated in the pre-awareness mobilization activities in all towns and villages targeted for the Education and Outreach Campaign on CF application. As a predominantly Muslim region where it is difficult for women to publicly get involved with issues presided over by men, women's participation in forest management activities in that region is critical to community development. During this phase of the exercise, the GIO highlighted gender and social inclusion in forest management, underscoring the benefits and opportunity offered under the CRL for women to work alongside their male counterparts to sustainably manage their forest and forest resources. Because the pre-awareness mobilization activities were gender sensitive, there was a high turnout of women in all sites in Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbapolu Counties. A total of **44-women** turned out in targeted communities in the three counties and fully participated in all sessions.



Figure 1: A female community leader of Southern Nimba presenting a statement on behalf of forest dependent communities in the Tappita Region

Community profile validation exercises were carried out in Sehyi Community in Northern Nimba as well as Sehzieplay, Gbear-Gblor, Kpablee and Boe-Quilla Communities in Southern Nimba. During the process, the GIO facilitated focus group discussions with women participants, stressing the need for them to see themselves as major stakeholders in community forest management activities in their respective communities. Input to community mobilization for this activity increased the participation of women to a total of **77-women representing 52%** of the 147 total participants who were involved in the exercise.

During the planning and preparatory sessions of the Knowledge Attitude and Behavior (KAB) survey, the GIO recommended to institutional members of the Community Forestry Group (CFWG) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) that female staff participate in the survey. Of the 150 respondents who participated in the KAB survey, 57 were women.

Gender Integration - Component Two

The current restructuring of governance institutions and the establishment of ad hoc committees in Northern Nimba, Southern Nimba and Grand Bassa, has demonstrated gender integration through the inclusion of women in the leadership of the community institutions. At the ToT training in Buchanan (Grand Bassa

County), it was established that of the seven-person interim ad hoc committees, there **must** be at least three women in leadership positions. This is the current reality in southern Nimba and Grand Bassa to date. It was also agreed that the two CA members to be elected from each town should be one male and one female.

As a result of awareness raising, during the last restructuring exercises of the Community Assemblies (CAs), the Executive Committees (ECs) and the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) currently on-going in Gba and Zor Communities, a total of **23 women** were elected to the CA, EC and CFMB in Gba Community while a total of **19 women** were also elected to similar positions in Zor Community. In the Tappita and Buchanan sites, *ad hoc* institutions (CFOC, CAT and PC) have a total of **53 women** serving as members.

Gender Integration - Component Three

As part of the Component 3 activities of PROSPER to support livelihood activities in the communities to reduce threat to biodiversity, PROSPER teams in Buchanan, Sanniquille and Tappita followed-up with previously identified lists of women's groups that might be successful if involved in livelihood activities. Initial assessments by PROSPER have identified 18 informal women groups/associations that are willing to participate in crop diversification and rotation to avoid shifting cultivation and reduce threats to biodiversity. The 18 groups identified are predominantly women with a total of 448 members (387 female: 61 male) from 17 project communities in Northern and Southern Nimba and Grand Bassa County. These crop diversification activities should generate additional income for families while improving sustainable agricultural production.

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 the environmental education materials within their proposed development of environmental education curriculum for primary schools

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

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

Key Accomplishments:

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

PROSPER continued to work with officials of the MoE in support of tasks under this activity. The Education Advisor and officials from the MoE curriculum development bureau held meetings with Environment Protection Agency (EPA) officials responsible for the development of a new environment curriculum for primary schools in Liberia. PROSPER shared experiences with the EPA on the process used, in collaboration with the CDWG, to develop the environmental lesson plans. They were further encouraged to participate in the review of the accompanying teaching and learning materials being developed by Rutgers University.

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

Toward the end of January, the education team of PROSPER received the first draft of electronic files of posters and flash cards developed by Rutgers. The files were compiled by the team and review criteria were developed to check for consistency of materials with respect to how they were described in the respective environmental education lesson plans. Several review sessions were organized through February and March, in which MoE curriculum specialists and subject matter specialists participated. The review sessions provided valuable feedback to Rutgers for refinement and finalization of the materials. Issues regarding suitability for the context of rural Liberian schools, age-appropriateness, social and culture issues, and formatting were addressed with clear recommendations for improvements. The Education Advisor, the Education and Communication Assistant and the L/EDOA compiled and presented the feedback to Rutgers.

Following the submission of the feedback, the Rutgers University assembled a team of experts, including two Liberian graduate students and a graphic/animation specialist, to address the concerns raised by PROSPER and the MoE. A Skype conference was organized by Rutgers, which gave the experts an opportunity to engage the PROSPER team directly to gain deeper understanding of some of the feedbacks on the illustrations.

The timelines for the development of the TLMs by Rutgers were revised. This will have an implication on the rest of the planned activities, which will only happen when the TLMs are finalized.

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

Engaged the CFWG in the Planning and coordination of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign

Campaign Tools and Materials Developed

Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Baseline Survey Conducted

First Ten Episodes of the Radio Drama Serials Drafted by PCI Media Impact

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

Key Accomplishments:

Engaged the CFWG in the Planning and coordination of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign

Following the Behavioral Change communication (BCC) training and consensus workshop held in December, 2013, the CFWG met in January and developed an action plan. Follow-up actions included specific tasks that CFWG member institutions were to perform in the planning and implementation of the second annual outreach campaign. Individual institutions were encouraged to identify specific roles based on their institutional interests and strengths. Delegating tasks to the CFWG was part of the deliberate capacity building strategy of PROSPER to progressively hand over planning and coordination functions to the top performing institutions in the CFWG.

The February edition of the monthly CFWG meeting was held on the 25th. The meeting focused on the launching and roll-out of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign. Through consultations held with stakeholders on the impact of the 1st Annual Outreach Campaign, the forest-dependent communities were identified as the primary targets, while the legislators directly involved in forest management issues were identified as direct influencers to be reached by the campaign this year. Due to the unique mix of audiences, the CFWG planned that the launching ceremony of this year's annual outreach campaign will be held in Monrovia on April 4, 2014. Representatives from the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), Executive Committees (EC), Community Forest Organizing Committees (CFOCs) and Community Awareness Teams (CATs) will be invited to participate in the launch in Monrovia.

The CFWG, through PROSPER, requested the Managing Director of FDA to lead the protocols, essentially taking the lead in inviting dignitaries.

The CFWG held a planning coordination session on March 27, 2014, which focused on the launching and roll-out of the 2nd Annual Outreach Campaign. Status report was presented to the members.

The PROSPER outreach team and CFWG worked closely with FDA to prepare the event agenda, and finalize and distribute invitations to a wide range of high-level stakeholders. These included: legislators; FDA board; embassies; development partners; international and national NGOs; GoL ministries, agencies and commissions; and, academic institutions. Representatives from the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), Executive Committees (EC), Community Forest Organizing Committees (CFOCs) and Community Awareness Teams (CATs) were invited to participate in the launch. They are expected to arrive in Monrovia on the evening of Wednesday, April 2nd to participate in a rehearsal on April 3, the eve of the launch.

Final sets of tasks to be accomplished in the final week to the launching ceremony were identified and delegated to members of the CFWG.

Campaign Tools and Materials Developed

As recommended by USAID/Liberia, all new materials produced for the campaign from this quarter onward will display the FDA and other national logos. In this regard, the community forestry poster was revised and produced for use.

PROSPER and the CFWG worked closely with the drama, music and cultural performance service provider, Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) in the final rehearsals to the launching ceremony of the campaign. Valuable feedback were provided to LCP, which they have incorporated in the final performance being prepared.

Campaign messages, developed through consultations with communities, CFWG and other stakeholders were updated, pretested and finalized. T-shirts were then printed with the messages, which will be distributed throughout the campaign.

A rough cut of the “9-STEPS-VIDEO” was produced. Additional footage is being assembled to finalize the piece.

Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Baseline Survey Conducted

The outreach team worked closely with the CFWG, the PROSPER M&E team and the home office to develop the methodology and tools for assessing the effectiveness of outreach efforts. The drafted materials were screened through various simulations and field-testing before finalization. Extensive training was conducted for the enumerators who were drawn from the outreach and M&E teams of PROSPER and the CFWG, including the FDA and CSOs. There was great emphasis in the participation of women in the enumeration team and among respondents.

The survey was carried out in all PROSPER project sites in Northern and Southern Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties. The respondents targeted were members of the Community Assemblies (CAs), the Executive Committees (ECs) and the Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) in mature sites. In the new sites, members of the Community Forest Organizing Bodies (CFOCs), the Peace Committees (PCs) and the Community Awareness Teams (CATs) were targeted. Following the field enumerations, the data was compiled, analyzed and a preliminary report has been produced.

First Ten Episodes of the Radio Drama Serials Drafted by PCI Media Impact

PROSPER continued to work with PCI Media impact to develop radio drama serials in collaboration with the CFWG. A draft of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors (KABs) document was developed by PCI Media Impact, with inputs from the lessons learned communication consultations results, core issues, objectives and audiences, and key messages identified by the CFWG and PROSPER during the BCC training held in December, 2013. The draft KABs document will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the radio drama development.

The script writers contracted by PCI Media Impact visited District 4 and Baconnine to understand some of the issues stated in the PROSPER Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) ‘Problem Tree’ and ‘Matrix for Change’ developed in December, 2013. This contributed immensely in developing the drafts scripts for the initial episodes, done during the course of the month.

Capital City Forum

PROSPER attended the February and March edition of the PCI Media Impact Capital City Forum hosted in partnership with Foundation for Environmental Services and Sustainable Agriculture (FESSA), in collaboration with FFI Liberia. The forums were held at the S.T. Nagbe United Methodist Conference Hall on February 28 and March 28, respectively. In the first forum, the L/EDOA made a brief statement on behalf of PROSPER.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Monitoring Tools for Curriculum Implementation developed
Curriculum and Participatory Techniques Teaching Guide
Internship Framework for FTI Developed
Consulted with the VPA on Short Courses at FTI
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverable due for the period.

Key Accomplishments:

Monitoring Tools for Curriculum Implementation Developed

The L/EDOA worked closely with the FTI Faculty to develop monitoring tools and schedules to implement the community forestry curriculum effectively. The tools developed will be used to determine and provide feedback on the frequency of in-class observation, visiting lecture support, and effectiveness in the use of

articles and other resource materials on the new FTI website provided by PROSPER for the implementation of the CF curriculum. The FTI faculty will continue to adapt these tools for the effective implementation of other courses within their global curriculum.

Curriculum and Participatory Techniques Teaching Guide

The community forestry curriculum, a PROSPER deliverable, which was approved by USAID within the quarter, was submitted to FTI to apply their institutional brand marking. The deliverable consisted of two components: the community forestry curriculum and the participatory teaching techniques guide to support its effective delivery. FTI management included cover designs, prefaces and the FTI Board of Director's seal to each document. The products were sent back to PROSPER for the inclusion of USAID brand marks and approval. The final approved documents were formatted for printing in A5 booklets and sent to the printers. Copies will be provided for faculty and staff, the FTI library and for FTI partners.

Internship Framework for FTI Developed

A draft internship framework was 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.

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

The L/EDOA and the Senior Community Forestry Consultant engaged the proposed consultant, Dr. Ken Bauer, to support the pilot of the new Community Forestry Curriculum. Preparatory tasks were accomplished through Skype meetings and email exchanges with Dr. Bauer, including the preparation of necessary documents.

Consulted with the VPA on Short Courses at FTI

PROSPER held consultations with John Casey of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) Secretariat. He disclosed plans underway to develop and deliver short courses at FTI. The courses will be developed with expertise from the Center for International Development Training (CIDT). Meanwhile, two faculty members had been identified to participate in a short overseas training course in May 2014. Among other support they intend to provide to the FTI, the VPA will include infrastructural development, materials and equipment support. Courses will be designed to improve capacity for legality and governance, increased transparency and increased job opportunities. There is also the intent to build up the private sector and the ability to reward good practices/compliance and punish bad practices.

Following the meeting with John Casey, the L/EDOA and the Senior Community Forestry Consultant met with the VPA training consultant, Mr. Dez Mahoney. The central discussion was to find ways for collaboration in the development and delivery of short courses that address legality of commercial forest products, while promoting the rights and interests of communities.

Concerns presented to the consultant included the tendency for FTI to be overwhelmed by increased numbers of opportunities without due consideration of its capacity. In this regard, a more strategic approach to administrative and technical capacity enhancement of FTI faculty must be considered. PROSPER has provided significant support to enhance capacity around curriculum development and delivery. A careful approach to address existing capacity gaps will be extremely valuable for FTI.

A joint mission by VPA and PROSPER to FTI was organized, where most of the issues were discussed with a cross-section of the faculty.

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
Supported the Gba community forest management body to negotiate for rights to forest resources with AML
Supported Community Assembly restructuring process in northern Nimba
Provided training to CF Forest Guards in northern Nimba
Provided coaching and support in the establishment of permit system for CFMBs in northern Nimba
Supported Community Awareness Teams (CAT) to provide community-level awareness on CF
Supported Peace Committees to manage conflicts in PROSPER sites
Supported community forest leaders to prepare for presentation on forest related activities at the Nimba County Forest Forum
Support the Organized CF Organizing Committees in the new sites to conduct outreach and awareness activities in and around the proposed forest community.
Contract deliverables due during the quarter Develop informational materials (brochures, radio programs, community theater, video products, etc.) to support community forest management in Liberia (Deliverable 16) runs from quarter one through quarter four of this FY. Deliverable 12 (previously extended to Sept 2014) – Develop and finalize “How to” Manual on forest Management began with significant progress

Key Accomplishments:

Northern Nimba:

The CA restructuring exercise, which commenced in the first quarter of the FY2014 Annual Work Plan (AWP) continued into the second quarter with different capacity building activities. As describe in the AWP, the restructure exercise filled in the gaps that were created as a result of some CFMBs officials’ employment with AML as well as the underrepresentation of many of the affected towns and villages. The entire restructuring process incorporated an additional 10 towns in the Gba CA and the election of many new members on the CA, EC and CFMB of both Gba and Zor during the first phase. A number of capacity building activities for the restructured CAs were achieved in early February as summarized below:

- Facilitated the review and validation of the permit system of the Gba and Zor CFMBs and Blei CJFMB. The permit system was adopted and the permits were distributed to bordering towns and towns close to the three Community Forests. It is expected that the permits will initially be issued at no-cost to only primary users of the forest resources until FDA approval of the Community Forest (CF) rules. Secondary users will be charged minimum fees through negotiation with the CFMBs.
- Reviewed and finalized the CF rules of the CFMBs in Northern Nimba. The rules are expected to be submitted to the FDA by the CFMB for approval and will be enforced by the CFMBs accordingly. The process led to the finalization of rules for three of the Community Forests in Northern Nimba, which achieved the performance indicator set in quarter two for sub-Intermediate result 2.3.1
- Held a record keeping and office management training for the three CFMBs in Northern Nimba to strengthen the capacity of the groups to receive, organize and maintain records in the different offices. The training was followed by the establishment of a record keeping and tracking system that can easily be monitored and could serve as a source for information gathering and data collection on sustainable forest management.

In continuation of the restructuring exercise of the CAs in Northern Nimba, the Sehyi community – in a meeting with opinion leaders and decision makers of the Chiefdom – finally reached a consensus to annex the Delton forest under the Gba community forest management agreement. Previously, the Sehyi community resisted the first attempt to be merged with the Gba Community Assembly on grounds that they had independently applied to FDA for authorized forest community status and that the Delton forest exclusively belong to them. Since the opposition to the proposal, PROSPER had been supporting the community leaders through the Community Mobilizers (CMs) to hold community consultations to decide

the best option for the forest, which serves as a source of livelihood for the people. The decision is expected to help prevent outside interests and influences from destroying one of the last community forest areas in the Sanniquellie area and that is home to some valuable tree and animal species.

Following several meetings, an agreement was reached on 14 March 2014. Encouraging the merger was the fact that Sehyi is already jointly managing the Gba community forest with the Gba community and the Blei community forest under the joint forest management with the Gba and Zor communities. Additionally, the communities, while under different administrative districts, are very close neighbors and share traditional, customary and historical relations. The latest decision to merge the two forests under a single management structure will result in the Gba community forest having two locations, one in the north and one in the south-west of Gba community. Previously, the Gba community was made of 22 towns consisting of 16 towns from Yarmein Administrative District and the six towns from the Sehyi clan. With the current merger, the community is now made of 34 towns including the 12 new towns of the Sehyi Chiefdom of Sanniquellie Mahn Administrative District. This community can now be described as the entire Yerman District comprising 16 towns, and the Sanniquellie Mahn chiefdom of the Sanniquellie Mahn Administrative District that consist of 18 towns. Also, as a result of this merger, PROSPER's new sites will be reduced from seven to six sites within Northern Nimba.

Potentially, it will be required that the Gba CFMB be supported to conduct a demarcation of the Delton forest to develop maps of the forest. The forest will be required to be zoned, and the CFMA and CFMP of Gba community will have to be revised to incorporate the emerging information. Fortunately, the new towns are already represented on the restructured Executive and the CFMB. It will only be required however to conduct election for the CAs representatives in the 12 new towns so as to enable the new towns form part of the existing CA.

Tappita:

During the reporting period, ongoing assessments continue to show the impact of human activities on the Big Gio Forest, which was designated to be managed by the three districts around the forest. A number of efforts have been made to establish the district's customary claims over the forest through community mapping exercises and other community engagements. The settlement mapping exercises conducted in quarter one of the AWP revealed that the portion of the forest area on the Sezueplay and Boe-Quilla side had been heavily encroached upon by farming and human settlement activities which have resulted in serious forest degradation. Also observed during the reporting period was a deeded land from 1949 that conveys ownership rights over 193 acres of land to the Doe district for agriculture and conservation purposes. An assessment in January revealed that the deed overlapped with the Big Gio Forest and other adjacent districts in the parameter of the deed. The need to authenticate the deed became apparent so as to guide the development of management objectives suitable to sustainably manage the remaining portion without tampering with the livelihood of the people who had previously settled in the area. Follow-up with the Land Commission later proved that the deed was not authentic. In spite of the on-going land dispute, the CF Poster campaign has been ongoing to provide more community awareness on the steps to obtain authorized forest community status.

The Tappita site also inherited an outstanding land dispute between the Gblor Clan (Doe District) and the Gayea Clan (Kparblee District). Following the failure of the latest attempt to demarcate the area in dispute, community leaders and members of the Dispute Committee (including NRC and the Carter Center, both ad hoc members of the Committee) agreed to assist PROSPER to undertake a conflict management approach that was piloted with much success in northern Nimba involving the Gba and Zor clans, and the FDA. The process involves multiple stakeholder meetings with community leaders and those most affected by the dispute, mapping, validation exercises, reconciliation processes, GPS familiarization, demarcation, and a final signing of resolution.

Buchanan:

In Buchanan, Community Mobilizers (CM) worked with the CFOC and the Community Awareness Team (CAT) to conduct awareness on the steps to form an authorized forest community in all towns in the sites

(Barconnie and Kpogblen). Additionally, with the support from SACF, the team conducted the validation of the profile report at both sites in Grand Bassa.

Other sites/National Engagements:

PROSPER supported Mulah Kamoh, Secretary of the Numopoh Community Forest Management Body in Sinoe County, members of the CFOCs and peace committees in all new sites, and the CFMBs of Northern Nimba to prepare for the effective participation in the National Launch of the Second Annual Outreach Campaign.

At the national level, PROSPER conducted a wood-based enterprise survey to understand the possibility of deriving benefits from forest based products. PROSPER also provided logistical support to Oregon State University during a mangrove carbon stock sampling exercise and training in Baconnie, Grand Bassa. Participants in the workshop included members of FDA, EPA, FTI and PROSPER. Component 2 also continued working with the Community Forest Working Group, planning for outreach activities in CF applicant communities in Western Liberia, outside of the established PROSPER sites.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Education and Outreach on the Steps to Authorized Forest Communities Piloted in Western Liberia
GIS training provided to FTI and FDA staff
CFWG sub-committee formed to provide outreach and awareness on CF establishment steps for targeted communities
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period.

Key Accomplishments:

Education and Outreach on the Steps to Authorized Forest Communities Piloted in Western Liberia

PROSPER supported the FDA through the CFWG to finalize plans and conduct education and outreach on the steps required by the Community Rights Law 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. The pilot activity was held in Cape Mount and Gbarpoulu Counties, which represented one of four regions of clustered counties and communities.

A team of FDA personnel, including the new Technical Manager for the Community Forestry Unit, and representative CSO members of the CFWG, including SDI, FCI and SAMFU were out in full collaboration, implementing assigned tasks throughout the outreach activities. The Western Liberia Regional Forestry office staff, including the Regional Officer, the Contracts Officer and Extension staff also participated in the outreaches.

The communities were very pleased with this new experience with FDA collaborating with CSOs in the CFWG to educate communities on the law, made possible by support from USAID/Liberia. Traditionally, in the communities’ experience, they viewed FDA as allied with logging companies, working against the interest of communities. After the education and outreach sessions, the communities were very pleased to realize how supportive the CRL is to their course. The communities were willing to revise and re-submit their applications to FDA at no additional costs and comply with the remaining steps to Authorized Forest Community status.

Following the outreach activity, the CFWG organized a feedback session for both reporting purpose and lessons learning. Various recommendations were provided for improving planning and implementation of the outreaches in the other regions.

GIS training provided to FTI and FDA staff

PROSPER continued to strengthen the FDA’s staff capacity in practical community forestry across all the sites. During this quarter, the FDA staff participated in the outreach and awareness activities in support of the Community Awareness Teams (CAT), the CFOCs, and the peace committees in the new sites, as well as the ongoing CA restructuring activities in Northern Nimba.

Additionally, GPS training was conducted for all the IP staff and the CFOCs at all four sites in Tappita. The training covered 10 IP staff and 17 CFOC members in fundamental skills in the use of the GPS.

CFWG Sub-Committee Formed to Provide Outreach and Awareness on CF Establishment Steps for Targeted Communities

PROSPER supported FDA’s Community Forestry Department with assembling all documents required to validate the legal creation of the five CFMAs created under the predecessor LRCFP project. The documents included copies of the letters of applications, community profiles, maps for the demarcation and conflict mitigation and awareness, lists of CA members to serve as an indication that the governance institutions were formed, the CFMA and the CFMP. These documents were used to prove compliance to the nine steps of obtaining the CFMA status. The FDA has stated that the documents are not sufficient and that the CFMAs approved by the FDA with support from USAID did not comply with the 9 steps per the CRL regulations.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Stakeholder workshop held that stimulated discussions on policy issues related to the community forestry legal framework implemented (1 st Quarter)
PROSPER supported the Land Commission to intervene the Gba and Community members claim over portion of the Gba forest requested for use by AML
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverable scheduled for this quarter

Key Accomplishments:

Tappita

The arrival of the Conflict Management Mapping STTA allowed for a resolution of the on-going land conflict in the Kparblee and Gblor communities. During the two-day exercise, which involved all stakeholders in the communities, as well as representatives from the FDA, Land Commission and local Government, the STTA helped resolve the long-standing land dispute between the communities. At the same time the STTA provided GPS training to the stakeholders and provided guidance on resolving and avoiding future conflict. This exercise was observed by the Nimba County Superintendent’s Office, LCRP and NRC. Lessons-learned from this exercise are expected to be shared at a presentation at the Land Rights Policy task force regular meeting.

The planned decision to slow down on activity with Sehzueplay and Boe and Quilla communities due to the overlap of the Doe deed was reversed because the Land Commission found the deed invalid. Against this background, the CAT team with support from the Community Mobilizers (CMs) has had a series of awareness activities on the subject to provide clarity on the current status of the deed and the steps to obtain community forestry in the two communities.

Northern Nimba

In order to track and monitor policy issues that affect the community forest and land, and to create a platform for discussions, PROSPER organized and facilitated two major meetings in January and February. These meetings involved on-going negotiations between the Gba CFMB and AML with respect the use of part of the Gba CF for the construction of a Tailings Management Facility (TMF). PROSPER has been providing support to the CFMB by making sure the members and community are aware of their rights regarding the AML operations and the resources being depleted. Through the CFMB efforts, AML acknowledged that while their Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) predates the CFMA, the CFMB continued to have rights to the forestry resources through the CFMA. It was agreed that 650 acres of the 1,100 acres of the TMF did belong to the Gba CF and that the Gba CF had rights to the resources that AML was clearing. The final resolution states that the harvested trees from the land would be given to the CFMB. Demarcation and inventory dates were agreed upon by the CFMB and AML. PROSPER and AML agreed to collaborative support of the communities for this process.

The second meeting was prompted by a customary claim of a portion of land that fell within the agreed TMF demarcation areas of the Gba CF and AML. A family claimed to have rights to the area of the TMF within the Gba CF. As such, PROSPER stopped the entire process and provided support to local government representatives and the Land Commission in order to travel to the area to resolve the issue. The Land Commission investigated the claims and provided suggestions to the family making the claim. The family withdrew its claim to the land and agreed that the CFMA controlled the land in question.

Following the support of the Gba CFMB regarding the AML land take proposal, numerous activities were undertaken to support the coordination of the effort. During this reporting period an inventory took place of all the harvestable trees in the Tailings Management Facility (TMF) area with AML, PROSPER, FDA, and community members participating in the zoning of the area and marking of the trees.

Other activities to follow include:

- Felling of all merchantable economic tree species above 40cm girth
- Haulage and stocking of harvested logs according to diameter and class and tree species
- Developing a landing area in a preferred location
- Bidding for round log sales, wood processing, timber salesmanship nationally and timber stacking and salesman locally
- Benefit sharing

The activities agreed by the stakeholders were divided into three major categories:

1. Resources inventory, tree finding and enumeration;
2. Felling and stockpiling of trees by species; and
3. Bidding and marketing.

As planned, the forest resource inventory was successfully conducted for 8 days which covered 33.9 hectares of land. The forest resource inventory enumerated approximately 383 economic viable species in 2 blocks of the possible 12 blocks of the proposed TMF. The number of days allotted for the inventory activity expired on 14 March 2014 with 10 blocks remaining to be covered. In light of this, a negotiation with AML is currently underway to secure funding to complete the process. However, a letter from AML dated 29 March 2014 indicated a revised TMF area with a reduction in the proposed TMF acreage from 650 to 510 acres, removing two blocks (#19 and #12) from the original 12 blocks. The impact of the difference in resources to be felled for the Gba CF will be determined next month. However, this does add 140 acres back to the Gba CF that will not be destroyed by the TMF, in theory.

Additionally, the CFMB of northern Nimba received support from PROSPER to deliver a presentation at the Nimba County Forest Forum held in Saclepea, Nimba. The forum, which brought together forest-related partners from across the county, allows for exchange of views on different biodiversity related issues. The CFMB presented the current state of the forest with an emphasis on the AML land take proposal. The presentation also covered the current activities in and around the three demarcated forests, including biodiversity threats.

Grand Bassa Site

In the first quarter of the AWP, PROSPER began a series of activities to understand an outstanding boundary dispute between two sections in the Baconnie sites (the Blewein and the Garwein sections). In addition to field engagements and other efforts, a joint stakeholder's meeting was held in December 2013 to resolve the matter. The two families claiming customary rights to the land were the Kennedy and Gee families. Their claim included portions of the proposed Varyancon Community Forest. The following activities were conducted as a result of the dispute:

- Boundary dispute dialogue meetings with the disputing parties of the two sections. The meetings included the Statutory Superintendent, the Commissioner, the County Superintendent Representative and key members of the two families. It was learned that the deed upon which the parties depended to lay legal claims was not authentic and therefore could not serve as basis for their ownership. Following the meetings it was recognized that the families only had a customary

claim over the land. An agreement was signed to ease the tension between the parties until the Land Rights law is passed that will provide proper procedures to give community rights to customary land.

- As part of the resolution effort, GPS activities were conducted to educate the community about the mapping process. Waypoints were taken and a map was produced to show the communities the boundaries being disputed. This allowed them to understand what was actually in dispute.

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

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Fact sheets developed for northern Nimba pilot

No contract deliverables due during the quarter:

Key Accomplishments:

Through PROSPER's sub-contract with FFI, the Component 1 L/EDOA worked with the Communications Unit of FFI to develop a draft Biodiversity Communications Strategy and initial concepts for the development of outreach materials. The initial biodiversity assessments carried out in the new PROSPER sites and the draft lessons learned report from the 1st Annual Outreach campaign provided guidance to the development of these drafts.

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
Wood-based assessment conducted in PROSPER sites
Potential Griffonia lead entrepreneurs identified
Data collected from Griffonia monitoring plots and field day for CFMB members held.
Re-fresher training for CPOPs conducted in operations and maintenance procedures
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: Value chain analysis of selected agricultural products was submitted to USAID for review and finalization (Deliverable 2b)

Key Accomplishments:

A sector survey of selected agricultural product value chains was submitted to USAID in partial fulfillment of Deliverable 2. The assessment of wood based products value chain was conducted in March by an external consultant. His report is expected in April 2014.

Wood-Based Products

In mid-March, a wood-based enterprise consultant (William Cordero) arrived in Monrovia. With the assistance of the Senior Community Forestry Advisor, Sam Koffa, he conducted an assessment on the possibility of wood-based enterprises (e.g., saw boards, construction stringers, bamboo, rattan) for the CFs in PROSPER locations. The assessment covered the CFs to ascertain the different species in the forest, the accessibility of roads that might link the forest resources to markets, and the terrain/landscape of the forests that could serve as a factor for better enterprising activities. The assessment included a value chain analysis, a mapping component, and a study of the production arrangements and trade of locally-sawn timber in PROSPER communities. This assessment allowed PROSPER to gain insight into this sector and its impact on forest areas in PROSPER communities. The assessment report are expected in May 2014.

NTFP Enterprise Activities

As part of a revised strategy for NTFP activities (as outlined in the approved 2014 Workplan), PROSPER's goal throughout the quarter was to identify established entrepreneurs who are interested in *leading* the mobilization and trade of Griffonia as a *business activity*, with the understanding that PROSPER's role as a collaborator will be focused on building capacity. This model would consist of one lead entrepreneur (with contacts and experience with Griffonia export) and other lead entrepreneurs in Nimba and Grand Bassa. To meet this goal, PROSPER staff first focused on identifying lead entrepreneurs throughout this quarter. The process involved conducting interviews with key entrepreneurs whom PROSPER has known about and collaborated with under previous iterations of support in this sector. PROSPER conducted interviews with three entrepreneurs/traders in Northern Nimba, Tappita and Monrovia. The three lead entrepreneurs were selected because they have a track record of trading and dealing with Griffonia (and other NTFPs). They have in depth understanding of the business and have extensive connections and experience with collectors, sub-agents and buyers abroad.

In the Tappita region, PROSPER interviewed Mr. Ansu Kabbah whose primary business is focused on metals, specifically selling bolts, nuts, scrap metal. A color banner displayed on his building indicated that he was buying Griffonia and Voacanga (*Voacanga Africana*) and upon further questioning, it was revealed that he was buying on behalf of an Ivorian agent/buyer. The banner and some sacks for collection were provided by the Ivorian buyer for whom no name or contact details were shared with PROSPER. Mr. Kabbah claimed that he had only bought and sold a very small amount of Griffonia because the price he could offer to the collectors was about 100 LD, which he admitted, was not an attractive price for the

collectors. While the trade of Griffonia was a small side business from his main metal business, Mr. Kabbah nevertheless expressed that he was satisfied with his current Griffonia business relationship. Mr. Kabbah was unwilling to share any information about the volume he had been buying, the details of his arrangements with the Ivorian buyer, nor whether funds had been disbursed to provide him with buying capital. Weeks later when contacted by phone for more details of his business Mr. Kabbah stated that he had bought and sold 800 kilos of Griffonia to the Ivorian buyer in two batches, although he refused to tell us the final sale amount.

In March an extensive discussion was held with Mr. Chapman Z. Logan who runs an established NTFP export business from his office in Monrovia. Mr. Logan claims that he has traded and exported NTFPs for about ten years. Mr. Logan had bought and exported five tons of Griffonia collected by BOTPAL in the 2011-2012 Griffonia campaign which was supported by the Liberia Forestry Support Program (LFSP). Mr. Logan was eager to engage in the trade of Griffonia and mentioned that he also had a buyer interested in Voacanga. He currently has agents based in Benzohn (District 4, Grand Bassa) and in Nimba (Zor, Kahrnplay) whom he provides funding to buy Griffonia, yet claims to have no control over what his agents pay to the collectors. Like Mr. Kabbah, Mr. Logan was also reluctant to share key details about the way he operates his business. He stated that the buying of Griffonia for the 2013 – 2014 campaign had been very slow in Nimba and that at the end of March his agent in Kahrnplay had only been able to buy 400 Kilos. Logan is paying \$3.20 FOB in Kahrnplay plus a commission he was not willing to disclose. Despite interest from his buyer in France to mobilize 12,000 kilo of Griffonia, Mr. Logan is very doubtful that he can collect even 1,000 kilos this year, stating that there was a lot of competition from buyers from Ivory Coast. Experience from previous Griffonia collection campaigns suggests that when the offering price to collectors is less than approximately \$2/Kg, collectors are reluctant to collect Griffonia in the forest yet when it was suggested that a base collector's price of \$2/Kg be announced to stimulate collection, Mr. Logan fiercely objected to this suggestion, blatantly stating that he was not interested in creating a business model in which the collectors were paid a fair minimum price for Griffonia. He stated clearly that his sole purpose was to maximize his profit and complained that "NGOs like you" are "spoiling the market" by telling people what their Griffonia is worth.

Finally, PROSPER interviewed Frederick Z. Gonkate, chairman of BOTPAL and a private entrepreneur with business locations in Ganta and Kahrnplay. Mr. Gonkate's business includes agro-input supplies, (such as oil palm seeds imported from Ivory Coast), fertilizers, and agro-chemicals (he is a Wienco sales agent). As chairman of BOTPAL, Mr. Gonkate was involved in the sale of 1,900 kilos Griffonia (collected with PROSPER support in the 2012-2013 Griffonia season) to a buyer from Ivory Coast in April 2013. During initial discussions on this model for Griffonia in late 2013, Mr. Gonkate had expressed interest in becoming a lead entrepreneur in 2014 and, with established businesses in Ganta and Kahrnplay, he could be a pivotal entrepreneur who could be linked to an exporter in Monrovia. However, since that initial discussion, Mr. Gonkate's other agro-business activities have grown substantially and his involvement in the Griffonia collection and trade became less important to him in the 2013-2014 collection season. Mr. Gonkate's business interest and connections are primarily based on contacts in Ivory Coast and, based on information provided by Mr. Gonkate, it is clear that well financed buyers from Ivory Coast are using Kahrnplay as an aggregation point for the Griffonia collected Northern Nimba through a number of warehouses in Kahrnplay. Unfortunately, details the relationships with these Ivorian buyers including the type of arrangements with the warehouse owners, who acts as the buying agents within Liberia were not shared with any PROSPER staff despite multiple inquires.

All interviewed entrepreneurs are familiar and active within the Griffonia trade but are not willing to share key information about their business operations or contacts, are not willing to engage in creating a mutual beneficial, long term relationship with collectors and are deeply connected with Ivorian buyers, a relationship they are unwilling to discuss. From other discussions (including those with ASNAPP as recently as March 2014), there is a growing influence of buyers from Ivory Coast in Nimba and Grand Gedeh and most of the Griffonia volume traded in Nimba is being exported to Ivory Coast. Prices paid to collectors ranged between 100-150 LD, while prices paid by aggregating warehouse owners in Kahrnplay hovered around 240 LD (March 2014).

Prior to these interviews, PROSPER hypothesized that there would be interest among entrepreneurs to establish a stronger market and trade of Griffonia in Liberia. Yet, given the feedback from these initial interviews, it is clear that this hypothesis was inaccurate. Early in Quarter 3, PROSPER will facilitate a meeting with the three primary entrepreneurs interviewed to inform them of the benefits of strengthening the Liberian market and creating awareness of the extensive common ground and shared interest that exists among them. If such cooperation can be agreed amongst all parties, PROSPER will assist in the next steps of this Griffonia model (mainly assisting entrepreneurs in securing a line of credit from a financial lender for the 2014-2015 Griffonia collection season).

Griffonia Monitoring Plots

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.

In March, the second set of data was collected at the monitoring sites by the caretakers under supervision of ASNAPP. The ASNAPP team carried out a joint seed collection exercise with the care takers. This exercise gave the ASNAPP team the opportunity to critically observe how the seeds were harvested and how the data was captured for the past twelve (12) weeks by the caretakers.

The data captured included numbers of seeds and the total weight of seeds collected per area. The collection period was extended by three more weeks (ending April 11) because there were still unripe Griffonia pods on the vines. ASNAPP reported that they have observed that, for unknown reasons, Griffonia is maturing later than normal this year.

A field day was organized for members of the CFMBs of the Zor and Bleih community forest at the monitoring site in Zor-Lepula. The exercise explained to them the rationale behind this research work and the progress made so far. In addition, the CFMB members and ASNAPP discussed how findings from this research work could support their primary goal of protecting the forest and how this would help in designing and implementing a permit system to regulate Griffonia collection to ensure the long-term sustainability of a Griffonia population.

Agricultural Enterprise Activities

In cooperation with the Small Holder Oil Palm Support Program (SHOPs), an assessment was carried out on the skills and knowledge of Commercial Oil Palm Processor (CPOP) groups members on the operation and maintenance of Freedom Mills. Between the end of the Land Rights and Community Forestry Program (LRCFP) and the end of FY 2013 under PROSPER, the groups have been reorganized and some members who had been previously trained have left, while new members have joined. As a result of this reorganization, knowledge about operation and maintenance was lost. This assessment highlighted this practical knowledge gap. As a result of the assessment, a one-day hands-on training was held by the senior SHOPS Freedom Mill technician and a representative of one of the Freedom Mill manufacturers, Standard Metal Works, in Ganta. Each CPOP received training in preparation, correct processing and cleaning of the machine. Through the training, personal contacts have been established between the Freedom Mill operators/groups and the manufacturer in Ganta, which will facilitate future service requests or the sourcing of replacement parts. During the assessment and the training, PROSPER learned that the CPOPs are purposely underreporting their oil palm production. The Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) is the legal owner of the Freedom Mill and the CPOPs have to pay a percentage of their processing fees to the CFMB as user fee. To avoid payment, less processing has been documented than actual took place. Throughout the next quarter, PROSPER will facilitate better reporting and collaborations between the CPOPs and the CFMB.

PROSPER developed a draft pictographic brochure that shows the correct assembly and operation of the Freedom Mill and the cleaning and maintenance of the machine. After finalizing the final version, copies will be made available to the manufacturers of the Freedom Mill machines in Ganta (Standard Metal Works) and in Gbarnga (Moonlight Metal Works and Garage) to be distributed with their machines. Printed copies will be made available to other relevant stakeholders including members of the Agricultural Coordination Committee (ACC) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The CPOP groups experienced increased activities during the period as Dura palm processing started in the dry season. Further, Tenera farmers in Gbapa (Gba) and Dulay/Gorguatuo (Zor) have started making use of the press for processing large batches on site. During March the five CPOPs produced 223 gallons of palm oil with an approximate value of \$766. Throughout the upcoming quarter, additional production data will be collected to assess how well these groups do, implementation of their business models, and potential sustainability of their activities.

Very little cassava tubers were processed by the CPGs during the quarter as they reported that cassava tubers are too small for processing. It is expected that processing of cassava tubers into *gari* will increase during next quarter.

Activity 3.2: Reduce threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Rapid cocoa survey finalized results published in draft report
Cocoa rehabilitation contract signed for implementation by Wienco Liberia
Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No contract deliverables due during the quarter

Key Accomplishments:

A contract was signed with Wienco Liberia to carry out the Cocoa rehabilitation extension program. A consultant for a PERSUAP as required by the PROSPER EMMP was contracted. The results of a rapid cocoa survey were released in a short report.

Cocoa Rehabilitation

The findings of the rapid cocoa survey, conducted in November 2013, were finalized and published in a report. The major findings of the survey conducted in Nimba and Grand Bassa revealed that cocoa is a well-established crop in the PROSPER sites, especially those in Nimba close to Ivory Coast border. The rapid assessment showed that cocoa farmers lack knowledge on proper crop management needed to increase their yield. Further, many farmers do not know how to properly process the cocoa beans after harvesting to achieve a high quality cocoa bean which would lead to better pricing during the sale of their beans. The few farmers assessed who did receive previous training on cocoa management claim to apply their knowledge and skills.

This assessment also showed that the vast majority of farmers are not sufficiently informed about cocoa market prices. The assessment results and multiple discussions with those in the sector highlight that rehabilitating cocoa farms will be challenging because farmers are also engaged in farming subsistence crops to secure their food supply. This assessment shows that besides the few respondents who are engaged in regular wage labor, competition for labor for cocoa production is strong, especially when labor has to be distributed to the maintenance of other crops.

Based on this information, it was clear that the cocoa rehabilitation program designed with Wienco Liberia, Ltd. will have to clearly demonstrate that shifting labor resources to cocoa will provide substantially higher returns than the returns from other crops. The availability, training and application of disease control chemicals and fertilizers will be crucial to make a significant increase in yield that will justify to farmers that the shift to more effort in cocoa production on their existing land is a better source of income compared to cash crop production activities based on shifting cultivation.

Wienco Liberia Ltd signed a contract with PROSPER to provide 300 farmers with training and inputs. The inputs (fertilizer and pesticides) will be provided by Wienco on credit to the participating farmers who will repay this investment when their crop is sold at the end of harvest. Recruitment and selection of farmers by Wienco field staff is ongoing and will be finalized by the end of April.

PROSPER also contracted a consultant to produce a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) for the cocoa rehabilitation activities that will have to be approved by USAID before Wienco can start training on fertilizer and crop protection chemical. The PERSUAP will be part of the PROSPER EMMP.

PROSPER developed a baseline questionnaire for farmers participating in the cocoa rehabilitation program which will be executed in May 2014.

Crop Diversification

As highlighted in the PROSPER FY14 work plan, crop diversification activities were designed to complement cocoa rehabilitation activities. Through growing complementary crops, farmers should be able to increase the nutritional content and productivity of their soil which, in turn, would improve the quality of their cocoa. Crop diversification also allows families to have a regular income throughout the entire year and can relieve financial dependency on one crop. Finally, through crop diversification, cocoa farmers should also be able to cultivate additional crops on a small scale using their existing land, thereby reducing the pressure to cut forested land for more agricultural cultivation.

Throughout this quarter, PROSPER has had multiple discussions with cocoa farmers for the survey and with stakeholders including Wienco Liberia, Ltd. and the Liberia LIFE III team in order to better understand the daily reality of cocoa farmers. As stated above, cocoa farmers are already engaged in multiple sources of paid work which places an enormous pressure on labor availability. Smallholders do not have the financial means to hire outside labor and have to primarily rely on family members to help with all agriculture activities, including cocoa management. This combined with the required focus needed for cocoa rehabilitation activities, raised concerns about these farmers ability to learn new techniques for the management of their cocoa while continuing their other income or food security activities *and* implementing crop diversification activities simultaneously.

In order to not overburden the selected cocoa rehabilitation farmers (selected in collaboration with Wienco) with more PROSPER activities than they can manage, the program team began to assess other members in the PROSPER communities that could benefit from crop diversification activities in order to broaden the income base of the communities and reduce threats to biodiversity. The rapid cocoa survey showed that cocoa cultivation is heavily tilted towards male members of the community. As the team assessed other areas for support, focus was primarily given to providing income-generating support to women who have not been specifically targeted throughout the implementation of this Component. Furthermore, by supporting households who are not benefiting from the cocoa rehabilitation activities, more households could benefit from technical training provided by PROSPER to produce selected lucrative commodities while also supporting more sustainable agricultural production practices.

Initial assessments have identified 18 informal farmer groups/associations that would be willing to participate in crop diversification activities, namely vegetable production, with the plan to do crop rotation to limit shifting cultivation and thereby reducing threats to biodiversity. The 18 groups identified are predominantly women-led with a total of 448 (381 female: 61 male) from 17 project communities. The selection of the women's groups builds on an inventory of women-led groups in all PROSPER sites by the PROSPER Gender Officer carried out in the previous quarter.

Bushmeat and Charcoal Surveys

Analysis of the bushmeat and charcoal surveys continued through the reporting period. Final reports will be submitted in the next quarter.

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 the two meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) during the quarter, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture. Due to logistics within the Ministry of Agriculture, no other meetings were arranged. PROSPER also became a participant in the cocoa working group and the oil palm working group of the ACC.

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 LIST (31 MAR 2013)

Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
Technical					
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
Financial and Administrative					
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

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

Full-time Tetra Tech Staff: Sanniuellie 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

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	Eugene	Field Office Administrator (temp)		15 Jan 2014
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	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
-	Sixth Quarterly Progress Report	RR-5	Submitted to USAID
-	Monthly Progress Report, December 2013	RR-4	Submitted to USAID
-	Monthly Progress Report, January 2014	RR-4	Submitted to USAID
-	Monthly Progress Report, February 2013	RR-4	Submitted to USAID
-	Quarterly Financial Report (Q1 FY 2014)	RR-6	Submitted to USAID
-	FY14 Updated PMP	RR-3	Submitted to USAID
-	Report on environmental curriculum materials (revised)	D-3	Submitted to USAID
-	Selected Agriculture Value Chain Assessment	D-2B	Submitted to USAID
-	Constitution of the Curriculum Development Working Group	D-25	Submitted to USAID
-	CDWG Report on Lessons Learned	D-27	Submitted to USAID
-	Report on First Outreach Campaign	D-28	Submitted to USAID
-	Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater and video products developed	D-11A	Submitted to USAID
-	Legal Analysis of CF Framework	D-15A	Submitted to USAID
-	Three Policy Briefs	D-29A	Submitted to USAID

-	Memo to COR re Del. 1, in lieu of actual baseline survey	D-1	Submitted to USAID
-	Summary of reports documenting Del. 1 -Orientation of PROSPER PMP -PROSPER DQA Report Draft -M&E Year 1 Highlights -Joint Field Assessment Report	D-1	Submitted to USAID

APPENDIX 3 - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - QUARTER 2, FY-14

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q2 Target	2014 Q2 Actual	2014 Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % 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	3	0	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.1: Improved capacity of MOE to deliver formal and non-formal primary and adult education curricula on natural resource management and governance								
1.1.1: Percentage of MOE primary school students in targeted areas receiving education on environment and natural resources based on strengthened curriculum – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	%	2012	0	0	0	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%
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	20	20	25	125%	125%
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	30	0	0	0%	0%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q2 Target	2014 Q2 Actual	2014 Q2 % 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	0	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development								
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	2	100%	113%
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	16	2	1	50%	25%
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%	0%
Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities								
2.1: Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	10,823	0	0	0%	0%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management								
2.1.1: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	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	66	73	111%	72%
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	14	140%	46%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.2: 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 Q2 Target	2014 Q2 Actual	2014 Q2 % 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	32	32	100%	100%
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	10	2	0	0%	50%
Sub Intermediate Result 2.4: Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs								
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	8	2	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	416	72	21	29%	15%
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	6	6	6	100%	100%
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	400	0	0	0%	0%

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2014 Target	2014 Q2 Target	2014 Q2 Actual	2014 Q2 % Actual vs Target	FY 2014 % Actual vs Target
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%
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	4	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, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN Q2 FY14

WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD

January to March 2014

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/ Community	CF Site	Days	NO of participants			
							F	M	PROSPER Staff	Total
1	January 13, 2014	CFM and CAs meeting	To present the National Forest forum report to the CFMB and CAs of NITRIAN	Kabada	N / A	1	3	22	0	25
2	January 14, 2014			Barh Town	N / A	1	2	15	2	19
3	January 20, 20 14	The Gba community forest leaders feedback meeting	To enable representatives from Gba community forest leadership who attended a meeting on January 16 &17,14 organized by PROSPE in Monrovia, provide an update regarding Arcelormittal' intent to use part of the Gba community forest for the construction of a tailing management facility (TMF) to members of the community assembly (CA) and local authorities of Gba and Sehyi communities	Gbapa	Gba	1	22	33	3	58
4	January 21-22, 2014	Barconnie boundary Dispute Follow-up dialogue meeting	To facilitate follow-up exercise of the Barconnie boundary dispute between the Gee family and the Kennedy family that drive a mutual interest and option for a satisfactory resolution	Barconnie	Bleewien	2	1	19	3	23
5	January 24, 2014	Outreach and awareness meeting on steps to obtain CFMA status	To increased community understanding through practical demonstration on steps to obtain CFMA status that is anticipated to be adopted as outreach material for applicants community	Barconnie	Bleewien	1	7	8	0	15
6	January 29-30 2014	application for CFMA amendment	To review the CFMA of Gba and amend it to conform to current and emerging reality in forest sector	Gbapa	Gba	2	16	14	8	38
7	January 31 2014	Development of permit system	To reviewed the draft rules and permit system of the friendly permit system of the CFMB and develop a user friendly permit that acceptable and applicable	Gbapa	Gba	1	5	13	6	24
8	February 2, 2014	CFWG: The 9-Steps to Authorized Forest Community Status Education and Outreach	To support the FDA to reach out to, and educate applicant communities for authorized forest community status, on the processes involved in achieving this status, starting from applications to signing of the community forest	Keiyah	Kpogble n	1	5	15	0	20

		Campaign (Pilot)	management agreement (CFMA) To build capacity among the FDA and CSO members of the CFWG in carrying out education and outreach campaigns related to the 9-Steps in attaining the authorized forest community status, as stated in the CRL Regulations of 2011							
9	February 3, 2014	Record Keeping and Office management	To provide an understanding in the method of record keeping and filing systems that enable the CFMBs track its activities	Gbapa	Gba	1	5	6	4	15
10	February 7, 2014	CFWG Meeting	To support the FDA reach out to, and educate applicant communities for authorized forest status, on the process involved in achieving this status, starting from application to signing of community forest management agreement CFMA	PROSPER Head Office 19 street office	N / A	1	1	5	1	7
11	February 11, 2014	Joint stake holder meeting of Gblor and Kparblee dispute	To update stakeholders, review factors that led to the stoppage and reach consensus on common strategy to resume a peaceful settlement of the dispute	Tappita	Tappita	1	14	50	3	67
12	February 10, 2014	CFWG: The 9-Steps to Authorized Forest Community Status Education and Outreach Campaign (Pilot)	To support the FDA to reach out to, and educate applicant communities for authorized forest community status, on the processes involved in achieving this status, starting from applications to signing of the community forest management agreement (CFMA) To build capacity among the FDA and CSO members of the CFWG in carrying out education and outreach campaigns	Tubmanburg	N / A	1	4	11	3	18
13	February 11, 2014			Mabon	N / A	1	9	24	2	35
14	February 12-13, 2014			Mano-gleh,(5) Mafala-region,(5) Gbarma-	N / A	2	15	18	3	36

			related to the 9-Steps in attaining the authorized forest community status, as stated in the CRL Regulations of 2011	Lumeh(5) Tahn-Town(5)							
15	February 13, 2014			Gbarma-Lumeh	N / A	1	7	18	3	28	
16	February 15, 2014			Gungbeta	N / A	1	5	14	3	22	
17	February 22, 2014	Community profile result validation	To validate the community profile result with participants	Toweh Town	Tappita	1	1	18	3	22	
				Dialah	Tappita	1	15	16	1	32	
18	February 24, 2014			Sehyikempa	Sehyi	1	6	13	0	19	
19	February 25, 2014	CFWG meeting	To reflect on the pilot phase of the CF Application Education and outreach exercise held in W/Liberia to support planning for the subsequent campaign and to discuss the second annual outreach campaign	Monrovia	N / A	1	7	9	2	18	
20	Mar. 11-12, 2014	GPS training for CFOC	To help build the capacity of the CFOC members on the usage of GPS device	Bold Dollar	Kpogble n	1	2	5	1	8	
21	Mar. 13-14, 2014			Doe-whein Town	Barconni e	1	2	6	1	9	
22	Mar. 26, 2014	Awareness on chain sawing regulation	To educate community members on the FDA chain sawing regulation governing chain sawing activities; the benefits and effects it has on the community (ies) if not done sustainable.	Kaykay Town	Barconni e Community	1	6	15	3	24	
23	Mar. 27, 2014			Bold Dollar	Kpogble n	1	6	11	3	20	
24	Mar. 28, 2014			Korjuah Town	Kpogble n	1	7	19	3	29	
				Total			173	397	61	631	

APPENDIX 5 – SNAPSHOTS



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SNAPSHOT

PROMOTING FOREST MANAGEMENT THROUGH GENDER AWARENESS

Community forestry outreach and awareness activities with a women's group in Grand Cape Mount



If a woman like us who is working for PROSPER can stand-up and speak publicly among our fathers and husbands on issues affecting the women and children, we are very encouraged by that. We can do the same, too, because we want our voices to be heard for development in this community.

-Satta Kroma, Chairlady of the Women's Group in Benduma Town

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

Population growth, expansion of commercial concessions, and myriad other factors have increased pressure on Liberia's forest resources. As a result, competition and conflict have intensified among rural communities. To help communities navigate these issues, USAID/Liberia has supported the Government of Liberia through the PROSPER program since 2012 with the goal of increasing communities' access to forest areas by identifying appropriate forest governance activities that will result in greater gains for communities and their forests.

In coordination with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), PROSPER has carried out communication and outreach activities concerning the Community Rights Law (CRL) throughout Liberia. The CRL, under the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, outlines the rights and responsibilities communities have in relation to their community forests. In an effort to create awareness of the CRL and to boost the confidence of community members, particular emphasis has been placed on women and their role in community forest activities.

In Benduma Town, Grand Cape Mount County, Esthella W. Miller, PROSPER's Gender Integration Officer, made a presentation at a recent meeting that reviewed the nine-step process for communities to achieve authorized community forest status. She highlighted the importance of women's involvement in the decision-making process and that all groups in a given community – across gender, ages, and religions – must be represented according to the CRL. As a predominantly Muslim region where women are not encouraged to become involved in decision-making processes, but still are primary contributors to their families' income, it is imperative that women have a voice and become active with the management of their own community forests.

That day, community members began a rich discussion, recognizing the important role of both women and youth in forest management governance groups. In fact, community leaders made a specific commitment to ensure that these criteria are met throughout the community forest authorization process. One woman leader stated that the exercise was an eye-opener for women, and called on female participants to take the message back to their respective communities and encourage other women to participate. She also pledged her personal commitment to get more involved with forest issues and not to only leave it to the men.



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SNAPSHOT

HAVE YOUR SAY BY ELECTING YOUR OWN LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS

Community Assembly elections in Gba and Zor communities, Nimba County



Community Assemblies, mandated under the Community Rights Law, and designed to be representative of their communities, are tasked with decision-making on all matters that pertain to community forests.

"Thank God for the PROSPER program that they came to this town and worked with us to organize and conduct such free, fair and transparent elections. If I had my own will, I will recommend that PROSPER program train and work with the National Elections Commission (NEC) to conduct this kind of election for the Presidential, Senatorial and Representative election in this Country because the process is very clear that even the children know it was fair."

**-Mrs. Emma Y. Konnah
Gbapa Town, Nimba County**

As part of the United States Agency for International Development's efforts to support the Government of Liberia's communities to effectively manage their community forests, the People, Rules, and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER) program has worked since its inception to identify appropriate forest governance activities that will result in the greatest gains for communities and their forests. PROSPER has supported numerous forest governance activities, including helping communities organize elections for the Community Assembly (CA) in Zor and Gba Communities in Northern Nimba County. The CA is a local governance body charged with the responsibility of managing and sustaining Community Forest areas.

The Zor and Gba Communities are located in Northern Nimba County, and are adjacent to the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR). The ENNR is considered to have globally significant biodiversity values, including a number of endangered and threatened species.

To facilitate the elections for the Community Assembly's (CA) in Gba and Zor Communities, the PROSPER program, in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), has worked with key community stakeholders to set up elections guidelines and subsequent election commissions to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free, fair and transparent democratic process.

The initiative, and transparency, shown by the CA has created respect for the system and will allow the community to engage in future governance activities that contribute to the sustainable management of the community forest areas.

Telling Our Story

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