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

12<sup>th</sup> QUARTERLY REPORT  
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**Principal contacts:**

Paul Meadows, Chief of Party, Tetra Tech ARD, Monrovia, Liberia, [paul.meadows@tetratech.com](mailto:paul.meadows@tetratech.com)  
Thomas McCann, Project Manager, TetraTech, Burlington, VT [thomas.mccann@tetratech.com](mailto:thomas.mccann@tetratech.com)

**Implemented by:**

Tetra Tech  
P.O. Box 1397  
Burlington, VT 05402  
Tel: 802-658-3890

Tetra Tech PROSPER Program  
19<sup>th</sup> Street & Payne Avenue  
Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

**Front Cover Photo:** Socio-Economic Survey, Gertrude Hines of the FDA conducting interview with a hunter from the Kparblee proposed Community Forest in Northern Nimba

**Front Cover photo credit:** Nobeh Jackson, Deputy Leader, Educational Development & Outreach

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

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# ACRONYMS

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

NAEAL	National Adult Education Association of Liberia
NBST	National Benefit Sharing Trust
NNBSG	Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
ODA	Organizational Development Specialist
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
SER	Socio-Economic Reconnaissance
TMF	Tailings Management Facility
UOF	Universal Outreach Foundation
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 quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the third quarter fiscal year 2015 (FY15Q3) which covers April 1 – June 30, 2015.

During the April - June period, the effects of Ebola were unremarkable as far as carrying out PROSPER activities in the field. In May 2015, Liberia was declared Ebola free. Several STTAs were able to travel to Liberia in order to assist with the completion of PROSPER deliverables. Considerable progress was made during the quarter through the collaborative work with FDA, PROSPER and the CFWG to begin the process for a community to gain Community Forest status with the implementation of tools developed to complete the nine-steps of the process to becoming a Community Forest.

## Summary and Highlights

Component 1 activities for the quarter included: finalizing prototypes of the EE booklets and posters in easy-to-use electronic formats for submission to MoE; designing and conducting Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors (KABs) baseline on threats to Biodiversity; launching of the third annual outreach campaign with the FDA; purchasing mobile public address system unit with portable electricity generator for each of the three PROSPER areas in order to conduct outreach activities; training of the Regional Foresters from the FDA in the CRL and related CF themes; updating the Community Forestry Curriculum at FYI in fulfillment of Deliverable #8a; Supporting the implementation of the Community Forestry Curriculum and use of Digital Learning Platform at FTI

Component 2 activities for the quarter included: supporting the communities to effectively monitor activities in their CFs; supporting the updating of the legal documents of the Blei and Zor CFMBs; supporting the Gba CFMB in the implementation of their MoU with AML; providing specific support to Community Assembly Management Activities; participating in and presenting to the Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders' Forum; conducting a capacity assessment for business development among local institutions, including the CFMBs; consulting with CI on the potential for piloting Conservation Agreements in the Gba and Zor Communities; supporting communities to facilitate the posting of Notice and mobilizing for the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey; posting Notice for demarcation in all CF pilot communities; signing of the Boundary Dispute Resolution between Doe (Gblor) and Kpablee Districts; training for FDA personnel in conducting SER Surveys for Community Forestry; supporting the FDA to update required documentation against the Checklist to acquire CFMAs; supporting STTAs in the development of Policy Briefs; supporting STTA in the Harmonization of the CRL and its regulations; collaborating with stakeholders on REDD initiatives.

Component 3 activities during the quarter included: training of CFMBs in Best Practices of NTFP harvesting; developing local NTFP Market Analysis/Trade Networks in District 4 and Barconnie; support to develop and foster wood-based enterprises in the three PROSPER sites; maintenance and operations training to the Cassava Processing Groups (CPGs) and Community Palm Oil Processors (CPOPs) in Northern Nimba; supporting Oil Palm-Based Enterprises with the continued development of Oil Palm Nurseries and processing support; improving Market Information through the development of SMS pricing availability for local products; creating bushmeat alternatives through beekeeping pilot program.

### Deliverables Summary:

Significant progress was made with the submission and approval of contract deliverables. Much of this progress can be attributed to the return of STTAs to the program following the end Ebola crisis.

Former Del. #	No.	Deliverable	Due Date	Comments
4	4	<b>Environmental curriculum materials developed and copies made available to the MoE for use in Liberian schools.</b>	31 Jan 2015	Submitted to USAID on 2 July 2015 via 1 CD. RFA submitted to USAID on 9 July 2015.
6	6	<b>Public outreach and awareness building manuals developed and provided to relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders</b>	30 Apr 2015	Submitted to USAID on 9 July 2015 via email w/ Outreach Manual attachment
8	8a	<b>Annual Revision of Deliverable 8 - Community Forestry curriculum (with teacher training guide) available for use at FTI, including relevant short courses for communities and their partners in community-based forestry management; land tenure and property rights; biodiversity threats assessments and biomonitoring protocols; and the development of enterprises based on sustainable use of forest resources</b>	30 June 2015	Submitted to USAID on 10 July 2015. Ken Bauer's report
11	11	<b>Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness</b>	15 Feb 2015	CD's submitted to COR on 10 July 2015. RFA submitted to USAID on 10 July 2015.
12&14	12	<b>Community Forest Management Handbook that outlines the development, registration, operations, and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, Private sector actors, and other stakeholders.</b>	31 Jan 2015	This is currently being completed by an STTA. Two other STTAs were in Liberia in February to assist with chapters to this deliverable. Because of the continuing and evolving work with the FDA, PROSPER is still compiling the information and hopes to submit in Q4. Although it is likely this will be pushed back to Q2 or Q3 of FY16 in order to include developed processes.
13	13a	<b>Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (Biodiversity)</b>	15 May 2015	Because of Ebola we

Former Del. #	No.	Deliverable	Due Date	Comments
		<i>Monitoring Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners)</i>		were unable to find a Biodiversity Sub-K. It is anticipated that FFI will perform the work for 13a in FY14Q4.
13	13b	<b>Annual revision of Deliverable 13</b> ( <i>Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners)</i> )	30 Sept 2015	This is no longer feasible this year. The assumption was that we could have done 13a in FY15Q1 through an FFI /STTA and then revise at the end of the year to produce 13b. Because of Ebola we were unable to find a Biodiversity Sub-K. It is anticipated that FFI will perform the work for 13a and 13b in FY16.
15	14a	<b>Deliverable 14 - Regional and National Workshops developed</b> ( <i>Draft of laws, regulations or policies for enactment by necessary GOL legal authorities in support of secure land tenure and property rights for communities in forested areas are developed /revised and disseminated in collaboration with stakeholders)</i> )	31 May 2015	Submitted to USAID on 16 July 2015 Peter Aldinger's Harmonization Report
16	15	<b>Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia</b>	30 Nov 2014	COR approved 30 Jun 2015. Submitted 3 June 2015 via RFA and 2 CD's
16	15a	<b>Annual Revision of 15</b>	6 May 2015	This deliverable is currently being used in the information campaign. It is due for assessment in August 2015
17,18,19	16	<b>Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises.</b>	15 May 2015	This deliverable is nearly complete and is being worked on by ACDI. A draft has already been reviewed and a final draft is expected to be submitted by the end of FY15. PROSPER had hoped for a May submission, but will work to complete this by the September 2015.
20	17	<b>Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia</b>	15 May 2015	Comp 1 & 3 are compiling the information for this deliverable. Materials are complete or nearing completion. Expected beginning of Q4

<b>Former Del. #</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
20	17a	<b>Assessment of 17</b>	30 Sept 2015	
26	23	<b>Report summarizing findings of review of formal primary school curriculum, adult literacy curriculum, and non-formal education materials, and identifying opportunities to integrate environmental themes</b>	15 Feb 2015	A draft is complete and is being reviewed by the team. To be delivered in Q4. Launching of the SER and Demarcation exercises have caused PROSPER a delay in submission of this deliverable.
27	24	<b>Year 1 Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula</b>	15 May 2015	This deliverable follows the completion of Deliverable 4, above.
29	26b	<b>Deliverable 26b - Three Policy Briefs</b>	15 Dec 2014	COR approved 12 Jun 2015. Submitted 7 May 2015
29	26c	<b>Deliverable 26c – Three Policy Briefs</b>	15 May 2015	COR approved 1 July 2015. Submitted 19 June 2015

# MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## **Staffing:**

In Q3, PROSPER continued to search for a suitable candidate to backfill the vacant M&E Specialist position. The current M&E Officer has been covering the position well and PROSPER will hire a new M&E position in FY15Q4, following an STTA M&E Expert visit scheduled for 3 August 2015. In April 2015, a Business Development Specialist was hired to assist with the capacity building of current CFMBs. This individual will also work with Component 3 to help CFMB's identify business opportunities in line with PROSPER goals. No other staffing changes occurred during the quarter.

## **Administrative Activities:**

Due to delays in the launching of the Socio-Economic Reconnaissance Survey, the Q3 technical planning did not occur until early April. The Q4 planning occurred during the last week of June. The Annual Work Plan meeting is scheduled for 31 Aug- 4 Sept 2015. PROSPER is currently working on creating appropriate signage that will identify USAID-PROSPER CFs and Livelihood Programs. The signs have all USAID marking and branding requirements and will be placed on main roads with simple directions to the PROSPER areas.

## **Subcontract Administration:**

### *National subcontractors:*

- CJPS – No significant administrative changes during the quarter.
- NAEAL – No significant administrative changes during the quarter.
- Universal Outreach Foundation – Local Beekeeping Pilot program. No significant administrative changes. The contract value is approximately \$15,000
- KWAKERDOE – This is a local NGO Improved Oil Palm Nursery project. No significant administrative changes. The contract value is approximately \$11,000.

### *International subcontractors:*

- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes. PROSPER is currently discussing how to best use their services for the remainder of FY 2016.
- ASNAPP – No significant administrative changes.
- ACDI/VOCA – During the past two quarters, TTARD has been working with ACDI to submit a revised budget which will include Peter deWaard through the end of 2015, a nine month extension to the current contract. An RFA was submitted to USAID to increase the contract ceiling for the ACDI/VOCA contract by approximately \$106,000. This increase in the contract ceiling was approved by USAID on 15 June 2015.
- FFI – No significant administrative changes. FFI has hired a new Country Manager, Mary Molokwu, who arrived back to Liberia during the quarter. She is familiar with PROSPER and has worked with the program through FFI.
- DTS will be working more closely in the next year with our Gender Integration Officer. dTS produced a Policy Brief (a USAID deliverable) on women's roles in the CFMBs and is expected to participate in the Annual Work Planning for FY2016.



# CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

## **Performance Monitoring:**

PROSPER has not yet filled the position of M&E Specialist. The M&E Officer currently in place has been covering both positions sufficiently and has uploaded all quarterly requirements into PIDS. However, there will be a need to hire the M&E Specialist in Q4. In August, an M&E STTA will be in Liberia working with the M&E team to review data collection procedures and review the records for each PMP indicator for accuracy.

## **Gender Integration:**

During the quarter, two Gender Forums were organized and conducted at FTI by the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) in collaboration with the Education and Outreach team. The forums highlighted the significant roles of women and youth; and social inclusion in general within the forestry sector. The goal of the FTI gender forums is to promote social change and shape career goals within the forestry sector, motivating women and youth to step up to the challenges therein. At least 120-persons participated in each forum.

The GIO supported the field teams to facilitated series of consultative dialogues between and among women and youth representatives from the respective communities. Through consensus building exercises, perceived potential roles in the SER survey and demarcation exercises were identified. These proposed roles were documented and later considered and integrated in the mobilization plan and demarcation approaches.

The GIO also conducted leadership training for five new crop diversification small groups in Grand Bassa (2 groups), and the Sanniquellie (3 groups) Nimba County. The purpose of the training was to equip the five group members with good leadership skills to enable them effectively work together for the smooth management of each group. A total of 113 persons (40 male, 73 female) participated in the training.

## **Geographic Information System Specialist:**

The PROSPER GIS Specialist worked in close collaboration with the FDA Liaison in Monrovia as well as the Component 2 Lead to prepare and train community members in the 8 proposed CFs with use of the GPS units and data collection for the Socio-Economic Reconnaissance and the Demarcation exercises. Community members shadowed PROSPER personnel to gain a better understanding of how the GPS units work and how data is transferred onto maps.

# 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**

### ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)

Finalized prototypes of the EE booklets and posters in easy-to-use electronic formats for submission to MoE; and printed display versions (Result)

#### Contract deliverables due during the quarter:

Environmental curriculum materials developed and copies made available to the MoE for use in Liberian schools. (DELIVERABLE #4)

Report summarizing findings of review of formal primary school curriculum, adult literacy curriculum, and non-formal education materials, and identifying opportunities to integrate environmental themes. (DELIVERABLE #23)

#### Key Accomplishments:

##### Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Environmental curriculum materials developed and copies made available to the MoE for use in Liberian schools. (DELIVERABLE 4): This deliverable was finalized and submitted during this quarter, awaiting approval.
- b) Report summarizing findings of review of formal primary school curriculum, adult literacy curriculum, and non-formal education materials, and identifying opportunities to integrate environmental themes. (DELIVERABLE 23): This deliverable was finalized during this quarter, and will be submitted to USAID early in Quarter-4.

##### Finalized prototypes of the EE booklets and posters in easy-to-use electronic formats for submission to MoE; and printed display versions

During the quarter, the Education and Outreach team finalized the environmental education materials for integration in the national primary school curriculum, in fulfilment of Deliverable #4. Standard display versions of the Environmental Education curriculum materials were printed for use in the orientation of teachers.

Prior to finalizing and printing of the environmental education materials, 10 copies of each of the seven sets of booklets and posters were printed and submitted to the Ministry of Education (MoE) for final comments and inputs, and affixing MoE's branding. In consultation with specialists at the Curriculum Division of the MoE, PROSPER supported the development of the **acknowledgement**, and **preface** pages of the booklets and also developed a section that details the step-by-step procedure on how to use the EE booklets and accompanying teaching and learning materials (TLMs).

Following inclusion of the MoE and USAID branding on the booklets, posters and flash cards, display versions of the environmental education curriculum materials were printed.

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

## ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)

Outreach training for CFWG, Community Leaders and Community Mobilizers designed and conducted (Result)
Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors (KABs) baseline on threats to Biodiversity developed and administered (Result)
Prototypes of print materials, drama and music developed in conjunction with the CFWG and PROSPER technical leads (Result)
Outreach materials and media products pre-tested (Result)
Campaign messages translated into local languages predominant in the respective PROSPER sites (Result)
Outreach materials finalized and produced (Result)
In conjunction with the FDA and CFWG, the third annual outreach campaign was launched (Result)
Thematic Groups Trained to Communicate biodiversity messages during the outreach rollout (Result)
Field teams worked closely with CF leaders and developed site-based outreach activities (Result)
Mobile public address system unit with portable electricity generator procured for each of the three PROSPER areas (Result)
Technical advice on the production of 42 radio drama episodes that integrate themes and messages from PROSPER's outreach campaign provided (Result)
Weekly radio drama on the Liberia Broadcasting System Monitored (Result)
Weekly radio drama on the Liberia Broadcasting System Monitored (Result)
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Public outreach and awareness building manuals developed and provided to relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders (DELIVERABLE #6)
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in the community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness (DELIVERABLE #11)
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia (DELIVERABLE #15)

### Key accomplishments:

#### *Deliverables due during this quarter*

- a) Public outreach and awareness building manuals developed and provided to relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders (DELIVERABLE #6). PROSPER developed and submitted this deliverable to USAID pending approval. Once it is approved, it will be printed and provided to several stakeholders supporting community forestry in Liberia.
- b) Series of brochures, radio programs, community-theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in the community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness (DELIVERABLE #11). PROSPER responded to all questions raised by USAID related to branding of materials and comments on the 'Make Rights Real Video'. The final revised version was submitted to USAID this quarter, pending approval.
- c) Series of brochures, radio programs, community-theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia (DELIVERABLE #15). PROSPER submitted this deliverable to USAID early this quarter. It has been approved.

#### *Outreach training for CFWG, Community Leaders and Community Mobilizers designed and conducted*

During this quarter, the communications and outreach team designed and conducted outreach training for about 12 representatives of the CFWG in Monrovia. A similar training was conducted at the three PROSPER sites for all community mobilizers and 35 community forest leaders. The Monrovia training was designed to enhance skills of CFWG members to effectively support the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign. At the site level, all community mobilizers and a cross section of community forest

leaders were trained on the effective delivery of the communications strategy developed for the third annual outreach campaign. The training also focused on approaches that could be employed to intensify awareness on behavior change toward threats to biodiversity. Finally, the training provided support to CF leaders to effectively communicate biodiversity messages and themes during the community-led rollout of the third annual outreach campaign.

*Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors (KABs) baseline on threats to Biodiversity developed and administered*

The PROSPER communications and outreach team, in collaboration with the M&E Unit, developed and administered the tool for measuring change in Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors (KAB) of communities toward biodiversity threats. The tool captures priority threats that were earlier identified by forest resources users, whose actions inevitably contribute to biodiversity loss. The baseline surveys were carried out in all of FDA pilot communities supported by USAID-PROSPER in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties, respectively. The survey covered a total of 250-respondents representing farmers, hunters, bush meat traders chainsaw operators, timber traders, fishers and miners. As an integral part of the communication strategy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign, the KABs survey also reinforced the designed and development of the outreach materials. Experience gained from the survey helped the FDA and the CFWG to further evaluate and strengthen the campaign messages before final production of the campaign materials.

*Prototypes of print materials, drama and music developed in conjunction with the CFWG and PROSPER technical leads*

Early in Quarter-3, the communications and outreach team, in consultation with technical leads for Components Two and Three, the CFWG and representatives of the FDA, developed prototypes of a variety of print materials, including posters, T-shirts and calendars. The team also developed drama, the outreach theme song and series of radio programs designed to communicate key biodiversity messages in all ten communities across PROSPER sites.

*Outreach materials and media products pre-tested*

Following the production of the draft versions of the outreach print materials to be used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign, they were pretested at various levels to ensure the appropriateness of the messages, graphic designs, illustrations and quality of the media used. They were first pretested among community members at the Barconnie and Harmondsville communities. Secondly, they were tested among partners; including the FDA, representatives of CSOs and ENGOs. Very useful feedback was derived from this process, which largely contributed to the refinement of the concepts of the print materials. In consultation with technical leads of PROSPER Components two and three, some of the print materials were modified and or redesigned for production. Regarding the music and drama, members of the CFWG worked with PROSPER to audition preliminary products, providing suggestions for modification. The client feedback on the team's attention to high quality was very positive, especially the fact that it helped them to introspect on their standard of service rendered generally.

*Campaign messages translated into local languages predominant in the respective PROSPER sites*

Following closely with the PROSPER communications and outreach strategy for the third annual outreach campaign, a compendium of key biodiversity messages, coupled with supplementary messages were translated by CF leaders into local languages predominant in the respective PROSPER sites. The main local languages featured were Bassa, Gio, Krahn and Mano. These messages are already being carried over community radio stations and public address (PA) systems and being listened to by communities across the sites. This is in keeping with lessons learned from the previous two outreach campaigns, that the communities do demonstrate more ownership of the campaigns when messages are carried in their own languages and when their CF leaders assume greater implementation roles in the outreach campaign activities.

### Outreach materials finalized and produced

Following the pretest of outreach campaign materials, the communications team worked closely with component leads and finalized each material, which included reframing messages and working with artists to accurately interpret concepts. The materials included posters, calendars and variety of T-shirts with at least 10 sets of specific messages across materials. The campaign messages covered various threats to biodiversity, including shifting cultivation, hunting, chainsaw logging, artisanal mining, human induced sea turtle mortality and indiscriminate mangrove cutting.

### In conjunction with the FDA and CFWG, the third annual outreach campaign was launched

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015, The FDA in conjunction with the CFWG and with support from USAID-PROSPER, launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign at the Paynesville City Hall under the theme, “**Communities and Forest, The Welfare of All**”. For the second time in a row, the campaign targeted policy makers including partners and stakeholders in the forestry sector. Key features of the campaign were speeches, theater and drama on biodiversity conservation, distribution of outreach materials, live performance of the biodiversity theme song by Flomo Theater Production (FTP) band and statements by community leaders.

The event was attended by representatives from Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) from Gba, Zor and Blei in Northern Nimba; Community Forest Organizing Committees (CFOCs) Peace Committees and Community Outreach Teams (CATs) from Southern Nimba – Sezueplay, Kpablee, Gbear, Gblor and Boe-Quilla – and; Grand Bassa County – Barconnie and District #4. They were accompanied by their local leaders.

High profile guests who attended the launch program included the chairman of Liberia’s Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who also delivered the keynote address; chairman of Liberia’s House Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; legislators from the constituencies of forest dependent communities in PROSPER’s project areas, the chairperson and members of the FDA Board, the Managing Director of FDA and Technical Managers, representatives of USAID-Liberia and the US Embassy, professors from the College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Liberia, Executive Directors of partner institutions, local leaders including Statutory Superintendents, Commissioners, Paramount and Clan Chiefs as well as leaders of CSOs.

### Thematic Groups Trained to Communicate biodiversity messages during the outreach rollout

In late June, PROSPER supported the FDA and the CFWG to work with thematic groups, related to livelihood activities undertaken within or around the community forests, in the roll-out of the third annual outreach campaign. Following up from the training and using learned skills, each community formed an outreach taskforce drawn from the CF leadership, livelihood activity leaders and other community members who performed excellently through previous CF outreach campaigns. The taskforces worked on adapting the outreach messages and fitting complementary messages alongside to promote clarity. The thematic groups that will be targeted within each community will include shifting cultivation, indiscriminate wildlife hunting, unregulated use of chain saw, mangrove cutting and human-induced sea turtle mortality, as relevant.

### Field teams worked closely with CF leaders and developed site-based outreach activities

Prior to the launching the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign in June and initiating its rollout in communities, the field teams worked closely with CF leaders and thematic groups and developed site-based outreach activities for all of the ten PROSPER project communities. These outreach rollout plans were revisited and finalized with communities during the training of thematic groups to ensure that each task force is guided by community mobilizers as they conduct events at their respective communities, clans and district

headquarters. Target audiences for these events include livelihood groups, county authorities, local leaders, students and private sector organizations. These activities will be reinforced through community sensitization on priority threats in clustered towns and villages.

Mobile public address system unit with portable electricity generator procured for each of the three PROSPER areas

As indicated in the PROSPER FY15 annual work plan, and in response to the increasing demand for effective community-led outreach activities, PROSPER procured three (3) sets of mobile public address system. These are comprised of two-piece speakers, one of which is equipped with an in-built amplifier bearing USB and electronic disk drives; and relevant accessories including microphones for use by the community outreach teams. Three (3) portable electricity generators and electrical lighting fixtures were also procured to operate the PA systems and lights. While these equipment were procured for primary use by communities, they will be managed by the respective PROSPER field offices.

Technical advice on the production of 42 radio drama episodes that integrate themes and messages from PROSPER’s outreach campaign provided

During the quarter, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprising PROSPER, FDA and PCI Media Impact, continued to supervise the development of dramatized radio programs. The TAC provided input to scripts developed for episodes 27-30. While the first half of the drama primarily focused on the community rights, the episodes of the second half of the radio dramas now integrate biodiversity themes and threats, which are the main communication focus of the third annual outreach campaign.

Weekly radio drama on the Liberia Broadcasting System Monitored

The TAC continued to monitor weekly radio drama on the Liberia Broadcasting System. As at June 25, a total of 28 radio-dramas were broadcast. Resource persons who served as guest discussants during the period included the Managing Director (MD) of the FDA, the acting Technical Manager of the CF Department and the planning Officer also of the CF Department at the FDA

Regional Foresters trained in the CRL and related CF themes

This activity was initially designed to be held by PROSPER in the regions in collaboration with FDA management, the VPA and the CFWG. However, while discussing strategy to include regional FDA personnel in the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance (SER) Survey training, this activity line provided an opportunity to facilitate this training. The modules prepared for this training was essentially covering the 9-Steps to establish an Authorized Forest Community as stated in the CRL Regulations and the FDA’s checklist for this purpose, with special emphasis on Socio-economic and Reconnaissance survey. A consensus was reached with FDA, VPA and the CFWG to host the training in Monrovia, bringing in relevant FDA personnel from the regions. Of at least 26 FDA personnel that participated in the SER survey training, 18 were from the four FDA forestry regions. Participants were drawn from senior and middle-level officials of all 3C Units of the FDA, i.e. Community, Commercial and Conservation Units; Research and Development, GIS and Public Affairs Units. About 60% of this number participated in follow-up field practical experience, as PROSPER facilitated their participation in SER surveys held in the PROSPER supported sites in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties.

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

<b>ANNUAL RESULTS &amp; DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)</b>
Updated The Community Forestry Curriculum at FYI in fulfilment of Deliverable 8a (Result)
Supported the Implementation of the Community Forestry Curriculum and use of Digital Learning Platform at FTI (Result)
Participation of faculty and students in field activities/ assessments, alongside PROSPER staff (Result)
Gender Forums conducted at FTI (Result)
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Community Forestry curriculum (with teacher training guide) available for use at FTI, including relevant short courses for communities and their partners in community-based forestry management; land tenure and property rights; biodiversity threats assessments and biomonitoring protocols; and the development of

## **Key Accomplishments**

### Updated The Community Forestry Curriculum at FTI in fulfilment of Deliverable #8a

Community Forestry curriculum (with teacher training guide) available for use at FTI, including relevant short courses for communities and their partners in community-based forestry management; land tenure and property rights; biodiversity threats assessments and biomonitoring protocols; and the development of enterprises based on sustainable use of forest resources (Annual Revision – DELIVERABLE #8a). This Deliverable was finalized and submitted to USAID for approval.

1. In preparing this Deliverable, PROSPER updated community forestry curriculum on the Canvas digital learning platform; (<https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/851452>). The digital platform provides FTI faculty and students with permanent and free Internet access to lectures, learning activities, and a digital library with nearly 300 references including peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, and books for FTI faculty and students. The articles on the digital platform were updated and new articles were added with special preference to Liberia-specific resources.

The PROSPER Consultant worked with the FTI faculty and revised the curriculum for all three departments – Rangers, Wood Science and Mechanics. Though this is primarily a task for registrars, it proved invaluable in that it achieved buy-in from the FTI faculty on the inclusion of a **core curriculum** consisting of Communications, Computers, Mathematics, and Introduction to Forestry for all FTI students. Through this core curriculum, all FTI students will at least be introduced to Community Forestry through the Introduction to Forestry course. In addition, all FTI students will emerge from Year 1 core courses with a shared set of skills and vocabulary. The curriculum revision exercise also rationalized the sequencing of courses.

### Supported the Implementation of the Community Forestry Curriculum and use of Digital Learning Platform at FTI

Throughout the quarter, PROSPER continued support to the Forestry Training institute (FTI). The Education and Outreach team provided refresher coaching for Community Forestry instructors and administrators to access the FTI Digital-Learning Platform (CANVAS) locally. Four FTI staff, including 2-instructors and 2-administrators of the institution participated in the exercise. The instructors were still lacking confidence to access the FTI digital learning platform. During the visit of the PROSPER Consultant, Ken Bauer, he had hands-on exercises with the faculty helping them to work directly from the courses, articles and other materials on the website. Furthermore, five USB memory sticks loaded with the CF curriculum were prepared by the PROSPER consultant in order to provide a non-internet based version of the resources on the Canvas platform. Each of the instructors directly teaching the CF curriculum was provided with one of the prepared USB memory sticks.

Refresher training for FTI faculty in participatory teaching techniques was conducted through the quarter to improve the delivery of the Community Forestry curriculum. The Consultant syllabi, lesson plans, and assignments were reviewed with the FTI faculty and specific interactive learning activities, readings, and illustrative examples were suggested for modules within the curriculum.

The monitoring plan developed by PROSPER, in collaboration with and for use by FTI faculty, for curriculum implementation and teacher evaluations was reviewed and revised.

The Consultant inventoried and assessed the status of the computer hardware previously donated by USAID to FTI. Of 12 computers initially provided by USAID to FTI, three are still functional, eight are in disrepair and one could not be accounted for. It is believed that it was taken for repairs during the transition from the old administration and was never returned

The Consultant reviewed the University of Liberia's draft curriculum for the College of Agriculture and Forestry with an eye to synergies with the Community Forestry Curriculum developed for FTI. The hope was to introduce FTI faculty to the University of Liberia faculty and to create opportunities for FTI to demonstrate their leadership in the CF sector.

### Participation of faculty and students in field activities/ assessments, alongside PROSPER staff

During the quarter, FTI faculty and students participated in the non-timber forest products (NTFP) assessments carried out in the Gba, Zor and Blei communities in Northern Nimba. To further interactive learning at FTI, various CF curriculum modules were presented to PROSPER staff for which guest lectures at FTI could be provided. Also, specific practicum for FTI students at PROSPER project sites were outlined. FTI students would continue to participate in a series of upcoming PROSPER activities, including: biodiversity training (Component 1); demarcation training (Component 2); bushmeat and charcoal surveys (Component 3).

*Gender Forums conducted at FTI*

During the quarter, two Gender Forums were organized and conducted at FTI by the Gender Integration Officer (GIO) in collaboration with the Education and Outreach team. The forums highlighted the significant roles of women and youth; and social inclusion in general within the forestry sector. The goal of the FTI gender forums is to promote social change and shape career goals within the forestry sector, motivating women and youth to step up to the challenges therein. At least 120-persons participated in each forum.

**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**

<b>RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER</b>
Supported the communities to effectively monitor activities in their CFs (Result)
Supported the updating of the legal documents of the Blei and Zor CFMB (Result)
Supported the Gba CFMB in the implementation of their MoU with AML (Result)
Provided specific support to Community Assembly management activities (Result)
Participated and made presentation at the Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholder Forum (Result)
Conducted a capacity assessment for business development among local institutions including the CFMBs (Result)
Consulted with CI on the potential for piloting Conservation Agreements in the Gba and Zor Communities (Result)
Supported communities to facilitate the notice posting and mobilization for the conduct of Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey (Result)
Supported the participation of CF pilot communities in the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance survey conducted by FDA (Result)
Posted notices for demarcation in all CF Pilot Communities (Result)
Boundary Dispute Resolution between Doe (Gblor) and Kparlee Districts Signed (Result)
Supported the CF Governance Bodies to participate in County-level Forums (Result)
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Community Forest Management hand book that outlines the development, registration, operations and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, private sector actors and other stakeholders (Deliverable 12)
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia (Deliverable 15)

**Key Accomplishments:**

*Deliverables due during this quarter*

- a) Community Forest Management hand book that outlines the development, registration, operations and management of community forests is developed and made available to communities, FDA, civil society, private sector actors and other stakeholders (Deliverable 12). This deliverable is currently being

completed by an STTA. Two complimentary STTAs already contributed to writing two chapters in the handbook. The other chapters are already in their advanced stages. It is expected to be finalized during the next quarter for submission to USAID.

- b) Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia (Deliverable 15). This deliverable was approved by USAID during the quarter

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

#### **Supported the Communities to effectively monitor activities in their CFs**

The PROSPER team provided support to the Blei JCFMB to re-clean their community forest boundaries. They were provided with refresher training on the use of GPS units, effective data collection and given stipends for food.

The three Community Forest Guard (CFG) units of Blei, Gba and Zor CFs respectively, were supported to conduct regular monitoring patrols in their CF, which lasts for at least four days every month. The AML supplements support to the CFGs through stipends for food, while PROSPER usually provide technical, stationery and other logistical support to the team. The CFGs usually monitor forest encroachment, deforestation and wildlife hunting in keeping with rules and permits system the CFMB drafted. From their findings, cross-border encroachment into the CFs, to carry out hunting, farming, artisanal gold mining, NTFPs extractions, among others, continue to be the key challenge for the CFs.

#### **Supported the updating of the legal documents of the Blei and Zor CFMB**

Following the urgent need that arose when AML intended to compensate the Gba CFMB for the land-take for the establishment of their Tailing Management Facility (TMF), and their documents were found to have expired, it became the accepted fact that all the CFs should have their registration document constantly updated. This will position them to conduct timely financial and contractual transactions without a stampede. In collaboration with the AML, PROSPER started to provide support to the Blei and Zor CFs to update their legal documents.

#### **Supported the Gba CFMB in the implementation of their MoU with AML**

Following the extension of the MoU between the Gba CFMB and Acelor Mittal Liberia (AML), PROSPER continued to support the CFMB with relevant data acquired from the 100% inventory conducted in March, to aid marketing strategy. While the necessary media promotions were being prepared, the Gba CFMB was approached by agents of the Liberia Timber Trading Company (LTTC), an industrial timber enterprise. Since the community was under pressure to extract all the merchantable timber from the remaining 450 acres of the AML proposed TMF within the Gba CF, they were advised to seek guidance from the FDA. It was expected that they will seek clarification on the credentials of LTTC to operate legally in Liberia, the feasibility of the operation itself and technical requirements for contracting and harvesting, especially if the products were meant for the export market. After the intervention of FDA, a draft MoU was developed that the company subsequently signed with the Gba CFMB.

Following this development, AML approached PROSPER with a concern about the institutional integrity of the said timber company. Apparently, it was suspected to be a molt of a formerly blacklisted company that was also implicated in the PUP saga. This and the fact that they were planning to reopen a newly recovered biodiversity corridor to establish a logging route, brought to question FDA's capacity to properly vet and subsequently supervise the operation of this company. However, due to the heavy rains and the expiry of the MoU, AML's Environment Unit has asked the Gba CFMB to discontinue further plans to commence operations to prevent large-scale erosion. This gives all stakeholders some window to closely examine the entire arrangement.

Unfortunately, now that the prospect for financial gain is becoming a reality, some members of the Gba and Zor CFMBs are tending to seek financial opportunities outside their respective Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs) without consulting PROSPER. A case in point is related to an issue wherein this same company (LTTC), earlier approached the Zor community proposing a logging venture. The CFMB by-passed the PROSPER field office in Sanniquellie and came straight to the FDA with an

application to allow timber operations in their community forest. The FDA then informed PROSPER about the development.

PROSPER will work closely with FDA, AML and the CFMBs to resolve these issues, steering the process back to compliance with CFMP, which is the bedrock of community forest management.

*Provided specific support to Community Assembly Management Activities*

The PROSPER Sanniquellie team supported the conduct of the first Annual General Assembly for the Gba Community Assembly (CA), after it was restructured in November 2013. The window for the 2014 Annual General Assembly was missed due to the Ebola health emergency. Among other agenda items presided over by the Chair of the Executive Committee (EC), Mr. Terrance Larkpor, and the Head of Office of PROSPER Sanniquellie facilitated a brief refresher training on relevant provisions in the CRL and CRL Regulations. The presentation was basically preparing the new CA and officials with their roles and responsibilities in governing the CF.

Also, a member of the Zor CA left his position. The PROSPER field office provided resources to the EC to facilitate the by-election for a suitable replacement. This process was conducted smoothly and a female candidate from the same town was duly elected.

*Participated and made presentation at the Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders' Forum*

The quarterly Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Forum was organized by the FDA and hosted by Conservation International (CI) in Monrovia on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. PROSPER facilitated the attendance of five representatives drawn from the Zor, Gba and Blei Communities in Northern Nimba, including two women. Stakeholders presented reports on their specific activities in the Northern Nimba landscape, with specific focus on coordinating activities and support to community initiatives.

*Conducted a capacity assessment for business development among local institutions, including the CFMBs*

The Business Development Advisor designed and administered an assessment tool to gauge the current capacities of the CFMB and other relevant community-based institutions associated with the CF management, to develop basic business plans and identify existing financial policy documents. This assessment was done to form the capacity baseline that will inform future capacity building programming for business development. Based on the outcome of this survey, a financial policy was drafted with accompanying framework for training modules.

*Consulted with CI on the potential for piloting Conservation Agreements in the Gba and Zor Communities*

PROSPER continued to collaborate with Conservation International (CI) to identify the feasibility of incorporating Conservation Agreements in the Community Forest Management Plans. Following the initial presentation of the concept by CI to PROSPER during the Quarter-3 work planning session, the Sanniquellie office initiated consultations with the CI field teams to understand their engagement with communities on the ground. In April this quarter, the PROSPER field team participated in the Conservation Agreement signing ceremony for which six communities signed up for the pilot phase. At the time, PROSPER was not quite convinced of CI's model of engagement with communities leading to the signing of the agreements, as it tended to emphasize a top-bottom approach. Further consultations and clarifications will be sought to adapt this process that free prior informed consent (FPIC) will be evident in any potential future process.

*New CF Pilots in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties*

The new community forest pilots are presented in the table below;

	<b>Field Office</b>	<b>Name of Community</b>
1	Buchanan	Barconnie
2	Buchanan	Kpogblen
3	Tappita	Gbear-Gblor
4	Tappita	Kparblee
5	Tappita	Boe Quilla
6	Tappita	Sehzueplay

7	Tappita	Gblor
8	Sanniquellie	Sehyi

Supported Communities to facilitate the notice posting and mobilize for the conduct of Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey

Following the launch of the posting of the notices for the conduct of Socio-economic and Reconnaissance (SER) survey in each of the eight pilot communities, PROSPER worked with each community leadership to support FDA to rollout the exercise successfully. Town Chiefs, Community Forest Organizing Committees (CFOC), Community Awareness Teams (CAT), youths and women leaders guided the notice-posting teams to identify public/ important buildings and other strategic areas that notices could be posted within the communities. They provided escorts to adjacent communities, where additional notices were also posted.

The FDA Cadre assigned to the PROSPER site, CJPS, NAEAL and ACDI-VOCA Coordinators and Community Mobilizers participated in the exercise, including the follow up awareness forums held with applicant and adjacent communities. In Tappita, notices were posted in over 54 communities, in Barconnie 23, District #4 (Kpoblen) 18 and Sehyi 18. The posters were monitored regularly by this field team to ensure that they were still affixed to areas where they could be easily viewed by the public. Radio announcements on the contents of the notice were also run on community radios three times a day over the 30-day period.

As a result of the intensive awareness, the adjacent community to Barconnie called Harmondsville, approached them and presented the prospect of them merging together, to include the Korpah forest. They traced their roots as being the same community from the same heritage. They disclosed that they started this discussion earlier when they benefited from education and awareness on the CRL and the CRL Regulations. The Barconnie community therefore incorporated an additional six (6) towns from Harmondsville to their initial 17, totaling **23 towns/villages**. They expressed their willingness to retroactively pay their own portion of the \$250 application fee to the CFOC to demonstrate their commitment.

The towns from Harmondsville include:

1. Darvein Town
2. Juludoe Town
3. Zeeyou Town
4. Boyanagar Town
5. Valezohn Town
6. Zordah Town

The Gender Integration Officer (GIO) supported the field teams to facilitated series of consultative dialogues between and among women and youth representatives from the respective communities. Through consensus building exercises, perceived potential roles in the SER survey and demarcation exercises were identified. These proposed roles were documented and later considered and integrated in the mobilization plan and demarcation approaches.

Supported the participation of CF pilot communities in the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance survey conducted by FDA (Result)

The PROSPER field staff mobilized each community to participate in the SER survey. Communities were requested to represent each town and/or village represented within the community that applied for the respective community forest. They were asked to ensure that there was fair balance of youth, at least 30% women and the elderly, as they carry a wealth of knowledge that will be needed.

The SER survey was planned and conducted over a three-day period. During the conduct of the SER survey, community mobilizers supported the facilitators heavily with communications. These ranged from interpretation into the predominant local languages, use of models that were commonly used during outreaches and icebreakers. ;

The community members were extremely responsive to the entire exercise. Even when some of their peers were trying to deliberately hoard some information, they urged each other to freely volunteer information

that could be of future help to them, or enrich their profiles. The teams were able to generate information that would be useful for the establishment and future management of the community forest.

The SER survey forums also provided avenue for public education and awareness. Some community members were able to better understand the concept of community forestry; that they were not putting their efforts into this so that FDA would come and manage their forests for them; rather, they were collecting data to help them to understand and better manage their forest resources for themselves.

Post Notice for demarcation in all CF pilot communities

At the end of the third day of each of the SER survey, the technical team, led by FDA, launched the posting of the CF demarcation notice. Prior to getting to the community for the final day of the SER survey, FDA served the initial notice to the County Superintendent and the District Superintendents. The first of the letters addressed to traditional leaders were delivered toward the end of the process to the leaders that participated in the survey. Furthermore, the contents of the notices were aired three times daily over a period of thirty days.

Boundary Dispute Resolution between Doe (Gblor) and Kparblee Districts Signed

Through April and May this quarter, the PROSPER field team in Tappita continued its engagement with the Doe and Kparblee District Commissioners with respect to the signing of their Clan and District Boundary Resolution. On May 30, 2015, the final signing ceremony of Gblor and Kparblee Boundary Resolution was conducted in Bah Town, Kparblee District. The Resolution was read aloud to participants, who were then asked to indicate their support to its content by giving verbal consent to proceed. The resolution was subsequently signed by the District Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Chief Elders, Youth and Women Representatives. The two Commissioners, the Statutory Superintendent and FDA made speeches, emphasizing the historic nature of the event and that communities should avoid issues that led them to such disputes in the past to secure a brighter future.

After the signing of the Resolution, all participants walked across to the Boundary Resolution Monument situated at the boundary line for viewing and photo opportunities. The ceremony was witnessed by the Statutory Superintendent, FDA, District Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs and Elders, Youth and Women leaders, and the general citizenry of the two Districts. The PROSPER field office in Tappita was also in attendance. The two Districts provided food and drinks for the ceremony.

All Community Forest Sites

Supported the CF Governance bodies to participate in County-level Forums

The County Steering Development Committee (CSDC) meetings, chaired by the respective County Superintendents, were held in both the Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties. The Respective PROSPER field teams in Saniquellie and Tappita in Nimba County; and Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, supported community CF leaders to attend. The field teams worked with them to develop and deliver their respective presentations.

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

<b>RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER</b>
Notice for the conduct of Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey Posted – STEP #2 of 9 (Result)
Training Conducted for FDA Personnel in conducting SER Surveys for Community Forestry (Result)
Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey conducted by FDA with support from PROSPER in all Pilot sites – STEP #3 of 9 (Result)
Supported the development and posting of 30-days Notices for demarcation in proposed forest communities – STEP #4 of 9 (Result)
Supported FDA to update required documentation against the Checklist to acquire CFMA (Result)
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter: No deliverables due for the period.</b>

## **Key Accomplishments:**

Following the lifting of the moratorium imposed by the FDA on moving forward with the 9-Steps to establish Authorized Forest Community, PROSPER made significant progress in support of FDA in moving pilot communities through the steps. This covered posting of notices and conducting socio-economic and reconnaissance surveys.

### *Notice for the conduct of Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey Posted – STEP #2 of 9*

On April 6, 2015, the FDA's Acting Technical Manager of the Community Forestry Unit led a team comprising CSO from the CFWG, EPA and PROSPER to Grand Bassa County and officially launched and posted the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance (SER) survey notices. The team then proceeded to Nimba County and replicated similar launches and the exercise was rolled out.

The model used for the exercise was firstly that FDA, accompanied by the CFWG/CSOs and PROSPER, met with the County Superintendent for Grand Bassa County and Northern Nimba County, while in Tappita, they met with the Statutory Superintendent. In each of these occasions, the FDA Acting Technical Manager for the Community Forestry Unit formally presented the official communication from the FDA management regarding the posting of the SER survey notices to be posted in each of the FDA pilot communities supported by USAID-PROSPER within the respective counties. Copies of the notice were served to all Town Chiefs, District Superintendents, Commissioners and Paramount chiefs within these communities. The posting of notices in the field was led by FDA with support from the CFWG and PROSPER field staff. The team, with support by community members also posted notices in adjacent communities. Finally, the notices were aired three times daily for 30 days on community radio stations within the vicinities of the pilot CFs.

The entire process was carefully documented for reported against the FDA checklist for the establishment of Authorized Forest Communities.

### *Training conducted for FDA personnel in conducting SER Surveys for Community Forestry*

Beginning in Quarter-1, PROSPER worked with the FDA to develop SER Survey tools and methodologies that were customized to the context within which they are to be used, rigorous enough to obtain the level of data that can be useful for setting up and managing a community forest, and cost effective for both FDA and communities. This was initially very tough to convince FDA that they needed a tool that was different from the questionnaires used by the FDA's Commercial Unit to survey 'Affected Communities' around TSCs or FMCs. In the case of the 'Affected Communities' the objective of the SER survey was to identify what those communities could benefit from the operations being carried out in forests around them. In the case of SER surveys conducted in proposed 'Forests Communities', the objective is to inform management of forest resources in the communities. After consensus was reached by the FDA, CFWG and PROSPER, tools and methodologies were developed by PROSPER, which were reviewed by all relevant stakeholders.

According to the CRL Regulation, the SER survey is supposed to be led by FDA. Therefore, the FDA, VPA and PROSPER together agreed on a strategy to include regional FDA personnel in the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance (SER) Survey training. The training modules prepared by PROSPER covered provisions in the CRL and CRL Regulations on the establishment and management of community forests; fulfilling the indicators and documentations required by the FDA Checklist to Establish Authorized Forest Communities; facilitation of community-level surveys; how-to use the SER survey tools – The Easy Notes; understanding and applying PRA tools in SER surveys; and using the step-by-step field guide. A consensus was reached with FDA, VPA and the CFWG to host the training in Monrovia, bringing in relevant FDA personnel from the regions.

The three-day in-class training was conducted by the PROSPER DCOP and Deputy Lead for Forest Management Activities (DL/FMA) at the Corina Hotel from April 22-24, 2015. Of the 26 FDA personnel that participated in the SER survey training, 18 were from the four FDA forestry regions. Participants were drawn from senior and middle-level officials from departments of the 3 C's of the FDA, i.e. Community, Commercial and Conservation Units. The Research and Development, GIS and Public Affairs Units also

participated. Methodologies included presentations, group work, plenary discussions, experience sharing, questions and answers, among others. Handouts and manuals were provided to participants to support with group work and assignments. Participants were asked to rank their level of knowledge in SER surveys on a scale of 0-10. Even though some participants confessed at the end of the training that they exaggerated their initial ratings, the mean was only 3.8. At the end of the training, this rating moved to 5.8. Participants were asked about their practical experience in the conduct of SER surveys. It turned out that less than 20% of the participants had actually been involved with some SER survey or PRA type of work. Most of the participants were extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to receive such training for the first time in their career.

To complete the loop in the SER survey training, 19 of the 26 FDA participants trained from Monrovia and the forestry regions, were immersed in survey teams during the conduct of the actual SER survey exercises in the PROSPER supported communities of Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties.

As a backstop measure, the PROSPER DCOP and DL/FMA conducted another three-day SER survey training for PROSPER field Staff from May 6- 8 at Tappita. All PROSPER Field Coordinators of CJPS, NAEAL and ACDI-VOCA from all sites and all Field Mobilizers working with the Tappita Field Office converged in Tappita for this training. Though the training was primarily organized for PROSPER staff to effectively complement their FDA colleagues in the field, the field staff was also trained in the effective use of participatory skills for stakeholder engagement in the wider PROSPER program. Following the training, the team worked on detailed planning of the community mobilization approach and setting up survey teams to be led by FDA.

*Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey conducted by FDA, with support from PROSPER, in all Pilot sites – STEP #3 of 9*

The FDA's Community Forestry Unit and the Research and Development Unit, in collaboration with CSOs form the CFWG with support from PROSPER, formally commenced the Socio-economic and Reconnaissance (SER) surveys in all PROSPER sites. The exercise commenced in Grand Bassa County on May 19, 2015.

Following the general plan, a five-man FDA Monrovia team, four CSOs, and PROSPER's DL/FMA and GIS Specialist formed the rotating technical team that joined up with field teams and led the process in each community. The PROSPER DCOP provided coaching and supervision of the rotating technical team through the process in the two communities in Grand Bassa County. Following conduct of the SER surveys and field coaching in the two sites in Grand Bassa County, the rotating technical team split into two to cover the field teams in Sehyi in Northern Nimba and Gblor in Southern Nimba, respectively. At the close of the exercises, the two rotating technical team converged in Tappita to compare notes and learn lessons, which were subsequently considered for the rest of the exercise. The team then split into four, to cover the remaining four communities in Tappita – Sezueplay, Boe-Quilla, Gbear-Gblor and Kparblee. The DL/FMA and one FDA staff continued to rotate among the four teams through the rest of the exercise.

The SER survey lasted for three days in each community. The typical day involved community members developing maps, working in groups to discuss questions, building consensus on responses, asking questions they wanted FDA to clarify. Smaller team, comprising CSOs, FDA and community members conduct transect walks to examine or verify information provided in larger sessions. Special groups, such as women, youth and elders, formed buzz groups, paired groups or focus groups to discuss more sensitive and controversial matters and presented to the wider groups. The sessions were highly engaging and animated. The Survey teams spend the evenings consolidating notes, clarifying issues and compiling questions that needed further insight from community members. In most cases, the draft reports were ready at the close of the SER survey. At the end of the third day session, brief summaries of findings were presented and read to the community participants. The community leaders then signed the copies of the notes/ draft report.

Representation by community members ranged between two and three per town or village within the applicant community. The total numbers were kept between 30 and 45 to ensure that the numbers are manageable for facilitation, while making provision for reasonable representation of a wide range of stakeholders. Among categories of people invited were traditional leaders, women leaders, youth leaders,

farmers, hunters, NTFP collectors, chain sawyers and any other stakeholders the communities recognize as opinion leaders. The CFWG mandated Save My Future Foundation (SAMFU) and Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) to participate as the CSO component of the exercise and to represent the CFWG.

**Table showing SER Survey schedule, locations and number of participants**

No.	Period of SER Survey	Pilot Community	SER Survey Location	No. of towns & Representatives	Male	Female	No. of Participants
1	May 19 – 21	Barconnie	Sahnwein	17 Towns x 2 persons = 34 34 persons + 6 Harmondsville + 5 local leaders = 45	32	13	45
2	May 20 – 22	Kpogblen	Benzhon	18 Towns x 2 persons = 36 36 persons + 4 local leaders = 40	30	10	40
3	May 25 – 27	Sehyi	Sehyikempa	18 Towns x 2 persons = 36 36 persons + 4 local leaders = 40	16	24	40
4	May 25 – 27	Gblor	Kwipea	7 Towns x 3 persons = 21 21 persons + 5 local leaders = 26	19	7	26
5	June 01 – 03	Gbear-Gbor	Diallah	11 Towns x 3 persons = 33 33 persons + 5 local leaders = 38	30	8	38
6	June 01 – 03	Sehsueplay	Zuolay	7 Towns x 3 persons = 21 21 persons + 5 local leaders = 26	18	8	26
7	June 01 – 03	Boe-Quilla	Toweh Town	20 Towns x 2 persons = 40 40 persons + 4 local leaders = 44	33	11	44
8	June 01 – 03	Kparblee	Kaylay	16 Towns x 2 persons = 32 32 persons + 5 local leaders = 37	31	6	37
	Total				209	87	296

Supported the development and posting of 30 days notices for demarcation in proposed forest communities – STEP #4 of 9

Following the formal delivery of communication to the County Superintendents of Nimba and Grand Bassa County, and the Statutory Superintendent of Tappita on the conduct of the SER survey, the FDA, accompanied by the CFWG/CSOs and PROSPER, then also formally submitted the communication on the posting of the CF demarcation notice, which was scheduled to follow immediately after the SER surveys. The FDA Community Forestry Unit representative displayed the posters that will accompany the formal notices for the attention of the Superintendents. Some of the notices were also posted at the County Administrative buildings.

On the third and final day of each SER survey in the respective communities, the posting of the CF Demarcation notices was launched. Copies of the notice were served to the local leaders present and the first few posters were posted in nearby public buildings. In the days following, the FDA Cadre staff deployed at the respective PROSPER sites together with Community Mobilizers continued serving notices to the remaining Town Chiefs, District Superintendents, Commissioners and Paramount chiefs within the PROSPER supported pilot communities. The team, with support by community members also posted notices in adjacent communities. The notices were also aired three times daily for 30 days on community radio stations within the vicinities of the pilot CFs.

The entire process was carefully documented in a report against the FDA checklist for the establishment of Authorized Forest Communities.

Supported FDA to update required documentation against the Checklist to acquire CFMA

At the end of the quarter, PROSPER compiled a comprehensive documentation of the steps covered so far of the 9-STEPS to establish an Authorized Forest Community. The documents included activity plans, letters, public notices, receipts, attendance and signature lists, photographs, reports, among others. The FDA Checklist on the establishment of authorized forest communities was strictly followed in compiling the document. The documents saved in four USB sticks and delivered to the FDA for the record of the Technical Manager of the Community Forestry Unit, the Deputy Managing Director for Operations, the Managing Director and the final piece for the files.

A backup of all these documents is kept at the PROSPER office.

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

<b>RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER</b>
Supported STTAs in the development of Policy Briefs (Result)
Supported STTA in the Harmonization of the CRL Regulation to its parent law, the CRL (Result)
<b>Contract deliverable due during the quarter:</b>
Harmonization of the Community Rights Law of Liberia and its implementing Regulations in fulfilment of DELIVERABLE #14a
Develop and present 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs (DELIVERABLE 26b)
Develop and present 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs (DELIVERABLE 26c)

**Key Accomplishments:**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a. Harmonization of the Community Rights Law of Liberia and its implementing Regulations in fulfilment of DELIVERABLE #14a. This Deliverable was developed and submitted to USAID for approval this quarter.
- b. Develop and Present 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs (DELIVERABLE #26b). The following policy briefs that constituted Deliverable #26b were approved by USAID this quarter.
  1. Forest resource rights in an evolving policy environment
  2. Customary land governance: options for community forests
  3. Protected area expansion: a call for restraint
- c. Develop and Present 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs (DELIVERABLE #26c). The following policy briefs that constituted Deliverable #26c were approved by USAID this quarter.
  1. The role of third parties in establishing forest communities
  2. Addressing the shortfalls of the community rights law: to amend or adapt?
  3. Participation of women in community forests

Supported STTAs in the development of Policy Briefs

The PROSPER team identified trending legal and policy issues that have the potential to positively or negatively impact the implementation of community forestry in Liberia. The objective was to develop policy briefs that could stir up conversation around these issues among policy makers and practitioners, providing potential pathways that such debates could be directed to address these issues. The lists of issues were presented to the CFWG and other forest sector stakeholders to solicit their perspectives and experiences regarding the identified issues. Based on the feedbacks received the issues were shortlisted. After discussing the shortlist with the PROSPER COR, PROSPER procured the services of relevant STTAs who further researched the issues and presented their preliminary findings. The PROSPER technical team reviewed and revised the findings in-house and in consultation with the PROSPER COR. The final drafts

were then presented to the CFWG for their final inputs and identification of channels for distribution and opportunities for potential CSOs advocacy.

Supported STTA in the Harmonization of the CRL Regulation to its parent law, the CRL

The consultant, Peter Aldinger, was tasked with identifying inconsistencies between the Community Rights Law (CRL) and its implementing regulations (the “Regulations), and to develop recommendations and specific language to harmonize the Regulations with the CRL. In addition, the consultant was asked to look at a number of other issues. These were to identify inconsistencies between the CRL, the Regulations and other laws; to identify inconsistencies between the CRL, its regulations and the Constitution; and to identify inconsistencies within the CRL itself.

Following the document review, the consultant developed an initial matrix, which identified possible inconsistencies between the CRL and Regulations, and the CRL, Regulations and other legal instruments. These were vetted and further developed through a series of consultations with the members of the Regulations Harmonization Committee (RHC): the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), the Liberian Timber Association (LTA), the NGO Coalition (NGOC), the Forestry Development Agency (FDA), and with the PROSPER technical team. The initial findings of the consultant were then presented to the RHC, after which members submitted further comments and made additional recommendations. These were recorded by the consultant and incorporated into the final report

Throughout the consultation process, the consultant worked closely with an FDA delegated staff, Mr. Yanquoi Dolo.

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

**RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER**

Developed Biodiversity materials in collaboration under Component-1, to address identified Threats to Biodiversity (Result)

Collaborated with Stakeholders on REDD initiatives (Result)

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter:**

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

**Key Accomplishments:**

Deliverables due during this quarter

Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (*Biodiversity Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners*) (DELIVERABLE 13a). There was no progress on this Deliverable this quarter. The PROSPER biodiversity partner, FFI returned to Liberia in late May. They have been busy consolidating their leadership transition in Liberia for which the new Country Director, Mary Molokwu, has been out of the country through June on orientation in the United Kingdom. The scope of work for the development of this Deliverable will be discussed with FFi in Quarter-4.

Developed Biodiversity materials under Component-1, to address identified Threats to Biodiversity

Following the development of the Calendar on Endangered Species of Liberia with support from FFI, the PROSPER Education and Outreach team worked with the rest of the technical team to conduct workshops on biodiversity threats in the CF pilot communities. The outcomes of these workshops were identified threats to biodiversity and drivers of those threats. Posters and messages were developed in consultation with the CFWG, FDA, communities and other biodiversity conservation institutions. These materials, including the biodiversity calendar, were printed and will be used extensively in the third annual outreach campaign under the theme; ‘Communities and Forests: Distribution of materials commenced at the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outreach campaign on June 18, 2015.

Collaborated with stakeholders on REDD initiatives

The FDA senior management organized a day's meeting at the Nimba Community College, to promote the principles enshrined in the Norwegian Letter of Intent and how communities can position themselves to benefit from it. The PROSPER Sanniquellie field office supported the mobilization of community members from Blei, Gba and Zor CFs to participate in the forum. The FDA Managing Director cited the potential for the community forests in Northern Nimba to benefit from this initiative, as they were already under sustainable management. He encouraged them to be consistent with this direction as the negotiations are still in progress.

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

### Activity 3.1: Increased number of sustainable agro/forest-based enterprises.

ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)
Community Forest NTFP's developed ( <b>Result</b> )
Small scale sustainable timber enterprises supported ( <b>Result</b> )
Oil palm based enterprises improved ( <b>Result</b> )
Small scale ecotourism piloted ( <b>Result</b> )
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia (Deliverable 17 and Revision of same 17a)
Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises (Deliverable 16)

#### Key Accomplishments:

##### 3.1.2.1 Training of CFMBs in Best Practices of NTFP harvesting

The training of CFMBs in best practices of NTFP harvesting is a joint activity that is being carried out by multiple PROSPER components. This activity has not started because none of the existing CFMBs have rules in place regarding NTFP harvesting (or a permit system) that are approved by the FDA.

##### 3.1.2.2 Local NTFP Market Analysis/Trade Network in District 4 and Barconnie

PROSPER carried out a survey on the three most marketable NTFPs in existence in the three current CFs and in two future CFs (Barconnie and District #4). A similar survey, on market existence of established NTFP trade networks and what specific NTFPs were currently harvested in the future CFs, had been conducted in March in Barconnie and District #4, and the experience was used to implement the survey in the three established CFs: Zor, Gba and Bleih.

Six PROSPER field-based staff were trained in use of the questionnaire for this northern Nimba survey by the senior field coordinator of PROSPER Component 3. The trained field staff came from implementing partners ACDI/VOCA (3), CJPS (1), and NAEAL (2). Four students from the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in Tubmansburg participated in the survey as part of their fieldwork exposure and training. All staff and students participated in an In-Depth Interview (IDI) training (1-on-1) and learned what information the questionnaire was trying to gather. The students from FTI received more attention during the training because they were new to PROSPER activities and had no prior experience in field surveys.

Because testing of the questionnaire had been done in March in Barconnie and District #4, the survey did not go through additional testing. Mock interviews were the focus of the preparation training for the interviewers so that they could rephrase or explain the questions better in case a non-relevant answer was given, indicating that the respondent had not understood the question.

During the survey execution, 10-12 persons were interviewed in each of the thirteen towns that are near the selected community forests, with a total of 144 persons (M: 86; F: 58) interviewed in the three communities. The breakdown of the three communities was as follows:

- Bleih CF: 48 persons (32 male; 16 female) in four towns (Gbobaye, Suakarzu, Zolowee and Zortapa).

- Gba CF: 61 persons (34 male; 27 female) in six towns ( Bentol, Bonla, Gbapa, Makinto, Sehyi-Geh, and Vanyanpa)
- Zor CF: 35 persons (20 male; 15 female) in three towns (Dulay, Sehtontuo and Yantuo)

The survey showed that the three most common existing NTFPs in the forest areas around the mentioned villages with market demand are bush pepper (*Piper guineense*), country spice (*Xylopiya aethiopicum*), and bitter cola (*Garcinia kola*). The survey shows that a very small portion of the harvested NTFPs is collected from within the boundaries of the CFs. The Zor and Bleih CFs have significantly higher percentages of old growth compared with secondary forest. The Gba CF has a higher percentage of respondents who claim that they are harvesting NTFPs from within the CF borders. This could be because the borders of the Gba CF are not well demarcated and recognized by the various members in the community. It could also be caused by the significant disturbance in the form of farming that is taking place within the Gba forest, which might be driven by the quest for a form of compensation by AML that recently acquired a portion of the Gba CF for their tailing disposal. The final survey findings of this internal survey will be published in August.

### 3.1.3 Support to develop and foster wood-based enterprises

The Business Development Advisor has produced a draft Financial Policies & Procedures Manual to be used to train the CFMBs. The recent development with the Gba CFMB that went into an agreement with the Liberian Timber Trading Company / Thanry (T) LTTC demonstrates a clear lack of basic business skills. The training materials will be tested in July with the CFMB members of the Gba CF. In August revisions, based on the field-testing, will be incorporated into the document. It is anticipated that the business training materials can be adapted for training modules that can be used to introduce basic business skills to members of the Freedom Mill Oil Palm processing groups around the Big Gio (14), the Beekeeping groups (5) and the Crop Diversification groups (25).

### 3.1.4 Maintenance and operations training Cassava Processing Groups (CPGs) and Community Palm Oil Processors (CPOPs) in Northern Nimba

The monitoring of the processing volumes of the CPGs and CPOPs in northern Nimba by PROSPER field staff continued during the month of April and May. The quantity of oil palm processed in April was 186 gallons of oil, compared to 19 gallons produced in the month of March. In May, the CPOPs processed 143 gallons of palm oil. The low processing output in March was a result of the breakdown of one of the Freedom Mills in Kialay, a community that dominates oil palm processing among PROSPER-supported oil palm groups in northern Nimba. However, the farmers collected their own financial resources to repair the Freedom Mill thereby increasing their processing volume in April. The palm oil was processed for 22 customers (14 male, 8 female) during April, and for 19 customers in May (9 male, 10 female). The June palm oil production declined because the Dura palm, the native variety, produces less palm fruits during the rainy season. Further, climbing the wet slippery palm trees to harvest the fruit bunches becomes dangerous. The volume of oil palm produced in June was 69 gallons, 52% lower than the quantity produced in May. The amount was processed by four men and eight women.

For the CPGs, a total of 1,595 Kg was processed in April with an increase of 10% over March. The quantity was processed for 46 customers (11 male, 35 female). In May these production number declined sharply. Only a total of 450 Kg was processed by 20 customers (9 male and 11 female). The decrease in the processing volumes in May of palm oil and cassava is attributed to the engagement of women in up-land rice planting activities. These activities are more important than oil palm and cassava processing activities. Like most other food processing activities, cassava grinding is predominantly carried out by women.

The CPGs produced 1,355 Kg of gari in June. This amount was produced by 5 men and 35 women. June production shows a sharp increase because women have time to process cassava when the rice planting season is over. Furthermore, household stocks of rice are usually dwindling by that time, so household consumption shifts to cassava.

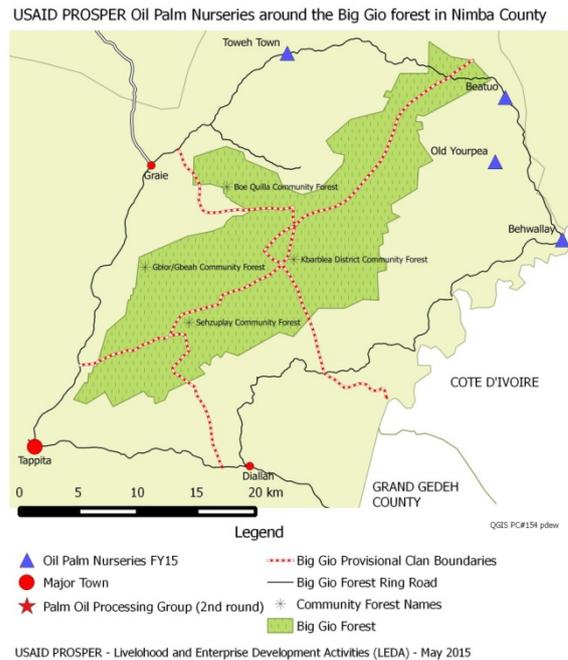
All direct involvement with these 10 CPGs and five CPOPs in northern Nimba has ended. PROSPER only collects production figures and names of clients. Occasionally PROSPER staff will advise group members/operators on repair and/or maintenance issues when requested by the group, but all work and payment is the responsibility of the group.

### 3.1.5.1 Oil Palm-Based Enterprises - Oil Palm Nurseries

In March 2014, PROSPER published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the implementation of the oil palm nursery program. Out of the responding Service Providers, Kwakerdoe Multipurpose Cooperative based in Tappita was selected to provide extension services and organization of oil palm nurseries around the Big Gio forest. Kwakerdoe was trained under the USAID SHOPS I program that ended in March 2014. USAID SHOPS I trained Kwakerdoe in oil palm nursery establishment and management. Kwakerdoe began the oil palm nursery activities in April.

Mobilization and pre-selection of oil palm farmers for nursery establishment and management was carried out by PROSPER field staff late March. Each farmer family around the Big Gio Forest that wanted to participate paid US\$60 for 60 germinated seeds that would cover one acre. The program turned out to be very popular and the number of nurseries was increased from three to four to meet the demand. PROSPER had to cap participation at four groups (51 participants; 42 male; 9 female) because the RFP had to be issued for a fixed price contract. The current active nurseries are located in Behwallay, Beatu, Toweh Town, and Old Yourpea.

In early April, Kwakerdoe was awarded the contract and started immediately with the oil palm nursery site selection in concert with the participants of the nursery program in four towns. The sites selected are near a water body that flows throughout the year to ensure that the palm seedlings can be watered during the nursing period. The sites are about five minutes walking-distance from each of the towns to ensure that security can be provided by the farmers. Poly(thelene) bags were purchased and filled with carefully selected potting soil. All nurseries were fenced off and shade roofing was put in place to protect the seedlings. All labor was provided by the participating group members while supervised, instructed, and coached by Kwakerdoe field staff.



In this quarter, 3,200 germinated oil palm seeds were ordered from Ivory Coast through the commercial company Rainforest Agriculture Enterprise that is based in Kharnplay. Upon delivery, the seeds were distributed to the four nursery sites and immediately planted in the prepared poly bags.

The seed survival rate has been very good (>95%) and the small oil palm trees are growing very well. The nursery group members are responsible for watering when needed, keeping the potting beds free of weeds, and observing any attack by diseases or insects daily.

The training that was conducted in April and May covered ten different topics, including nursery site selection, water sourcing, installing shade, preparation of soil substrate, preparation of compost receptacle, and fencing. The training was interactive, and farmers asked questions seeking clarification on the various topics discussed. Kwakerdoe reported that it purchased and distributed tool packages (wheelbarrow, cutlasses, files, watering cans, etc.) to each of the four nurseries.

At the end of June, a farmer-to-farmer exchange was organized for farmers from two villages in close proximity to the Zor Community Forest. These farmers, from Ceitontou and Dulay, were taken to Toweh Town, north of the Big Gio Forest, to see the oil palm nursery and talk with the members of the nursery group to learn how they organized themselves and how they approached PROSPER for support to their

undertaking. The farmers in Zor had expressed interest in growing improved oil palm trees in order to improve their livelihood. The visit to Toweh Town revealed that the contribution of farmers paying for the improved seeds is a crucial part of this program, and creates a strong sense of ownership amongst the participants. If the group in Ceitontuo-Dulay decides that they would like to start a nursery under a co-payment agreement, it will be incorporated in the FY16 workplan.

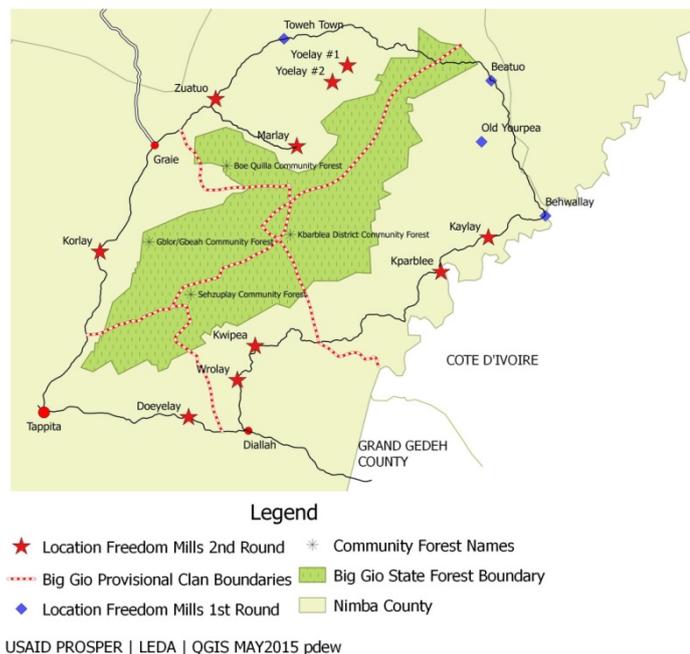
### 3.1.5.2 Oil Palm-Based Enterprises - Processing Support

The introduction of four Freedom Mills around Big Gio CF on a cost-sharing basis was successfully completed in January. Ten more groups paid US\$300 each in the second round of Freedom Mill introductions, after the demonstrations that were conducted in March with the initial four groups that participated in the first round. An RFQ was issued in May and 10 mills were procured from Moonlight Metal Works and Garages in Gbarnga. These 10 new Freedom Mills were manufactured for the new formed groups in Doeyelay, Kaylay, Korlay, Kpablee, Kwipea, Marlay, Yoelay #1, Yoelay #2, Wrolay and Zuatu. All groups paid USD\$300 each for their Freedom Mill.

In late May, an additional round of Operational & Maintenance training for Freedom Mill operators kicked off for the ten additional groups that had applied for co-funding. These groups started receiving Freedom Mills in this second round of this activity in the end of May. PROSPER will complete this training in June<sup>1</sup>. The training is conducted in concert with Moonlight Metal Works and Garages in Gbarnga to establish the link between manufacturer and customer to facilitate future supply of spare parts and repair services.

Mr. Musa S. Kamara, Palm Oil Extraction Specialist and Trainer (former SHOPS I) was contracted by PROSPER to carry out the Operations and Maintenance training. A total of 275 persons (219 male; 56 female) participated in the training. The purpose of the training is to familiarize participants with the operations of the Freedom Mill and help them acquire some basic skills in the maintenance and operation of the machine. The groups were also trained in troubleshooting so that they are able to solve their own problems. They are also encouraged to contact the manufacturer when there is a problem that they do not know how to solve. Each group selected six members to serve as the main trainees and operators, to avoid knowledge gap even though all members participated in the training. The operators assembled and disassembled the various parts of the Freedom Mill and carried out maintenance practices as the trainer gave instructions. This approach of allowing the Freedom Mill owners to assemble, operate and disassemble the mill in the presence of the trainer gave the operators solid confidence in the operation and

Freedom Mill Locations around Big Gio Forest



<sup>1</sup> Customary practice in PROSPER activities includes the provision of a meals during the training exercise. This practice has been debated for many years and the costs have been the major cost for a training exercise, which can amount to US\$5 per day per person. This amount is very high compared with the costs of a meal locally. For some a free meal (and sometimes “breakfast” too) is a main driver to participate in a training session. The practice of paying for “feeding” has been a long established practice to compensate those that otherwise would go to their farm fields to work. However with the Freedom Mill groups and Nursery Groups, in which the group members have invested their own resources, and to whom PROSPER provides technical assistance and subsidizes the Freedom Mill and other nursery materials, it was decided to reduce PROSPER contribution by 50% to US\$2.50 per person.

maintenance of their Freedom Mill. During the training, five main topics were covered which included: Identifying/naming the various parts of the Freedom Mill and their function, assembling the various parts, demonstrating the processing of palm fruit, disassembling the various parts, and demonstrating post processing activities (cleaning & maintenance).

Oil palm farmers in the four communities (Behwallay, Beatuo, Toweh Town and Old Yorpea) around the Big Gio forest continued to process their palm fruits with the four Freedom Mills. During the month of April, a total of 48 persons (27 male and 21 female) processed 300 gallons of palm oil. In May, a total of 38 persons (21 male and 17 female) processed 234 gallons of palm oil. The season for the ripening of palm fruit, typically the drier months, is gradually decreasing thereby affecting the total processing volumes.

In June, the production of palm oil was boosted by the ten new Freedom Mills (manually operated) that started processing in June in addition to the four initial groups in Behwallay, Beatuo, Toweh Town and Old Yorpea. As a result of this, a total of 92 (58 male, 34 female) persons from the fourteen communities processed 482 gallons of palm oil. The introduction of the Freedom Mills by PROSPER in these communities will boost the efficiency of processing palm fruits compared with the traditional pit method, which is very labor intensive.

### 3.1.6 Eco-Tourism pilot

The inventory of beach locations in Barconnie was completed in February. However, a pioneer player in local tourism, Barefoot Safari Liberia, has temporarily suspended its activities in Liberia and has not shown any signs of resuming. The website has not been updated since February 2014. At the end of May, PROSPER received information from Conservation International (CI) that one of the key persons at Barefoot Safari had returned to Liberia. PROSPER attempted to contact Barefoot Safari in June to request an interview to find out the future plans and gauge their interest in organizing eco-tourism tours in the Barconnie CF. No response was received; it seems that the company has closed its operations for the time being in Liberia.

PROSPER has submitted several requests to the FDA for a copy of their (eco)-tourism policy because any ecotourism activity in Barconnie will have to comply with the (eco)-tourism policy and objectives of the Government of Liberia. PROSPER has not yet received a copy of the policy. In Q4 of FY15, a final report assessing possibilities of an eco-Tourism pilot in Barconnie will be published.

## **Activity 3.2: Reduce threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities**

<b>ANNUAL RESULTS &amp; DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)</b>
Outreach to existing development groups associated with other projects (FED, FFS, etc.) <b>(Result)</b>
Farmers rehabilitate Cocoa plots <b>(Result)</b>
Farmers diversifying and rotating crops <b>(Result)</b>
Improved Market information available to project beneficiaries <b>(Result)</b>
Bush meat hunting better managed and alternatives identified <b>(Result)</b>
Alternatives to Mangrove fuel wood and charcoal production explored <b>(Result)</b>
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises (Deliverable 16)
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia (Deliverable 17 and 17a)

### **Key Accomplishments:**

#### 3.2.1 Outreach through groups

PROSPER intends to establish MOU between PROSPER and FED, but an MoU can only be put in place when PROSPER can show FED the content of the extension module that will be used to educate and inform

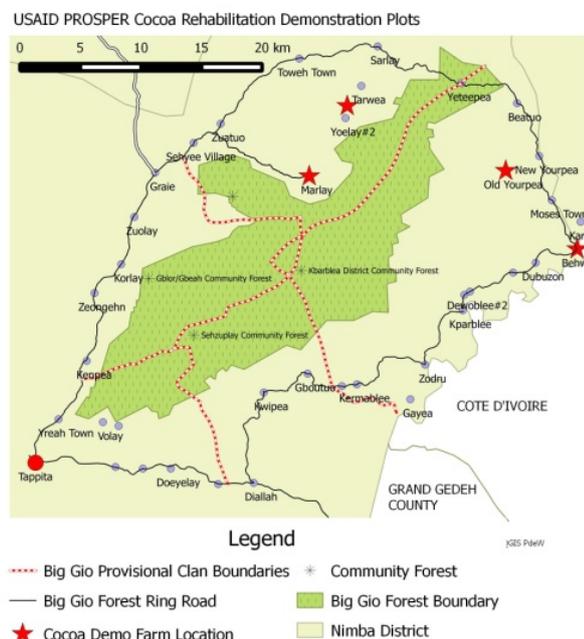
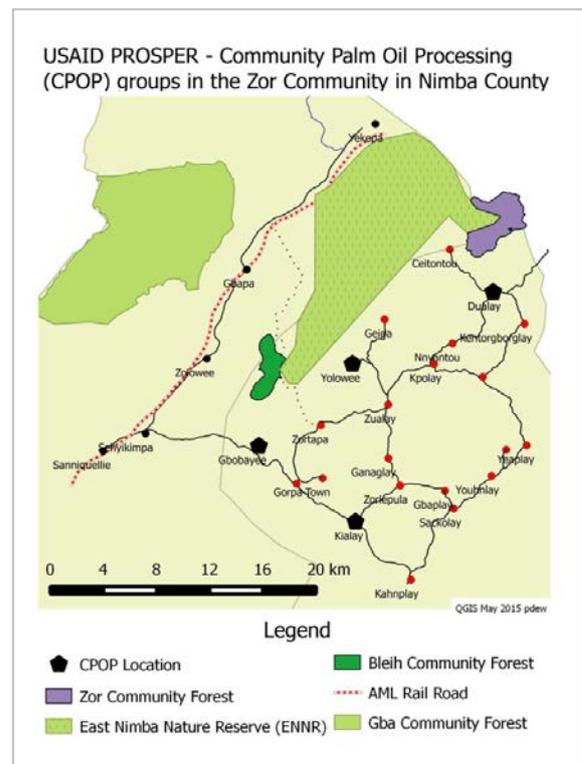
the FED FFS participants about the purpose and advantages of the communities themselves establishing and managing natural resources. PROSPER Component 1 had been assigned the task of developing a short community forestry extension module, because they have developed various outreach campaigns on Community Forestry and have the know-how to formulate a short and effective message that shows the benefits of a CF for the community. The extension module would comprise of materials that can be presented/used in two short sessions of maximum two hours each.

In late June, Component 1 produced a series of six individual posters that function as focal point for the outreach on Community Forestry through groups. The posters show various topics related to threats to biodiversity. In July, training of PROSPER staff in the three PROSPER locations will be conducted. Component 3 will conduct the outreach on Community Forestry for/with the crop diversification groups, the oil palm processing groups, the oil palm nursery groups, the beekeeping groups and external groups like FED farmer field school groups in the PROSPER operational area. In Q4 a MoU with FED will be signed to conduct the outreach that will be conducted by the field staff in Q4 and Q1 of FY16.

### 3.2.2 Cocoa Rehabilitation Activities

In April and May PROSPER reviewed the possible intervention areas for the cocoa rehabilitation demonstration plots. District #4 and Barconnie in Grand Bassa County were not considered for cocoa rehabilitation activities because of the absence, or very low instances, of cocoa cultivation. The immediate area near the Zor CF shows very little cocoa cultivation; most existing cultivation comprises of old cocoa smallholder plantations that were established in the 1970s and 1980s by the World Bank. The same situation of only a few cocoa farms was found near the Gba CF and the Bleih CF. The cocoa area of northern Nimba is concentrated around Kharnplay. Kharnplay lies outside the Zor clan area. The villages and towns that are north of Kharnplay are part of the Zor clan (Kialay, Zor-Lepula, Ganaglay, Gbaplay, Sackolay and Youhnlai), and have a relatively large concentration of old cocoa farms that are relatively far away from the nearest CFs, the Zor (20 Km) and the Bleih CF (10 Km). Map #3 shows the cocoa villages and distance to the Bleih and Zor CFs.

The areas north and west of the Big Gio contain a



relatively high concentration of (old) cocoa farms that were started in the seventies and eighties of the previous century that were initiated by the World Bank. The relative close proximity of these old cocoa farms to the (future) CFs and the high concentration of farms was the determining factor for the selection of this area for the Cocoa Rehabilitation Demonstration Plots. Farmers have been selected in Marlay, Yoelay #2, Old Yourpea and Behwallay.

In June PROSPER reached an agreement with Wienco Liberia Limited and began the cocoa rehabilitation demonstration on old cocoa farms. Wienco agreed to provide four sets of free cocoa inputs package (three bags of cocoa fertilizer, 24 sachets each of Redomil and Nordox fungicides, and insecticide) to cover four demonstration plots with an area of one acre each for four cocoa farmers. As part of the agreement, Wienco

will provide technical and extension supports to the four PROSPER cocoa farmers. The extension services will train them in application of the pest control chemicals, the special cocoa fertilizer, and best cocoa agronomy practices (pruning, weeding, fermentation, drying, etc.). PROSPER will organize and make follow-up visits to the farmers and monitor the activities with Wienco. The four identified cocoa farmers are Daniel Kwyty (Behwallay), Arthur Sayzee (Old Yorpea), Sam Vambo (Marlay), and Roderick Miaaway (Yoelay #1) around the Big Gio Forest. The purpose of the demonstration on the four old farms is to showcase the use of agro-inputs (special fertilizer for cocoa, insecticide and fungicide) that will increase the yield of these cocoa farms. Farmers will provide labor associated with the demonstrations that include weeding, pruning, removal of unwanted trees, and the application of the inputs. Subsequently, as the process continues, other cocoa farmers will be organized by PROSPER and invited to see the effect of the inputs that have been applied on the cocoa trees. It is expected that as a result, these farmers will begin to rehabilitate their old cocoa trees and use agro-inputs to boost the yield of their cocoa trees. The fertilizer application and the use of agrochemicals have been approved in the PROSPER *Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) Covering Cocoa Production* of 2014.

### 3.2.3 Crop Diversification

The development of crop diversification training materials is underway, and the finalization of the FaaB training manual for crop diversification small groups is in progress. The Business Development Advisor that was employed by PROSPER in April is reviewing the materials that was used in training provided to the Crop Diversification Groups in January.

The provision of technical assistance in crop production and marketing to crop diversification small groups continued during the quarter. Assistance was provided to twenty four crop diversification groups, which included crop rotation techniques (previous land cultivated with pepper is now rotated with beans or ground nuts); field layout for the transplantation of pepper and bitter-ball; and application of wood ash to reduce soil acidity for transplanted crops. These techniques are part of the strategy to reduce the need to move to a new plot after 2-3 years because of decline of soil fertility. This shifting cultivation poses a serious threat to biodiversity. It was also reported that some of the groups have harvested and sold their pepper in May and generated incomes for their groups. Prominent among the group is the *Beatuo Beor Kwado* women group (located in the north-west corner of the Big Gio forest) that has generated LD\$15,520 (US\$185) from their pepper sales. The group has initiated a process to lend part of the money to committed members of the group with minimum interest so that the money can grow. The small loan will enable widows who are part of the group to hire labor for the brushing of their pepper gardens so that they can grow and sell more pepper and then repay the loan to the group.

Further provision of technical assistance to the twenty four crop diversification small groups comprised of various integrated pest management (IPM) practices including the use of soap solution against insects that were observed destroying the crops (pepper, bitter-balls and beans), weeding, and the use of wood ash to improve soil condition due to the low soil pH that is associated with Liberia soils. Staff also guided farmers in field layout as they continue the transplantation of pepper, bitter-balls and other vegetables.

The Leadership Training that is provided to crop diversification groups, which predominantly comprise of women, aims to boost their confidence and ability to conduct their business in a professional manner. Very often, women are marginalized and are not in a position to lead, organize, or play an active role in a group that generates income that they can spend or allocate themselves. The PROSPER Gender Specialist has been providing this Leadership Training in FY14 for the first 17 groups.

The PROSPER Gender Officer conducted leadership training for five new crop diversification small groups in Grand Bassa (2 groups), and the Sanniquellie (3 groups) Nimba County. The purpose of the training was to equip the five group members with good leadership skills to enable them effectively work together for the smooth management of each group. A total of 113 persons (40 male, 73 female) participated in the training. The training was not restricted only to the leaders of the various groups, but all group members were allowed to participate in the training to have better understanding of leadership principles. During the training, topics discussed included: “Who is a leader?”, “Why do we need leaders?”, “Who can take up leadership?”, and “Leadership qualities”. The training was conducted in a participatory manner that allowed all participants to express themselves freely and explain their understanding of leadership.

The leadership training for the three new groups in Tappita will be conducted in Q4 of FY15.

Crop diversification training for eight new small groups is ongoing. PROSPER field staff is visiting the groups at least once every 14 days. Groups are busy planting or starting nurseries for vegetable growing since the rains have started.

### 3.2.4 Improve Market Information

The development and establishment of a platform for Improved Market Information has seen great acceleration in May and June. PROSPER, in conjunction with the LIFE III project (cocoa) and USAID SHOPS II has started a small implementation team that is aiming to have a pilot market information system running before the end of July. Meetings were initiated by PROSPER to collect data about the types of information that various stakeholders would like to see disseminated by such platform. These stakeholders include various donor funded projects in Liberia such as the Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (World Bank), Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (IFAD), GROW (SIDA/AdamSmith), USAID FED, and USAID SHOPS II.

The implementation team is working on a platform that comprises of the following elements and principles:

- The platform should be able to disseminate price information on agricultural commodities produced by farmers without external funding. Some startup software funding might be required but that would only be a one-time investment.
- The platform should be hosted by a cellular network provider because it can provide the SMS services 24/7.
- The cellular service provider should be able and willing to provide access to its server to update the pricing information.
- A Liberian institution (e.g. the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), or the Ministry of Commerce (MoC)) should “feed” the collected pricing information into the SMS response server of the cellular network provider.

The platform should provide the service to farmers in the following way: A farmer in Nimba county has harvested, fermented, and dried her cocoa beans and has 750 kilos ready for sale. She has heard that her neighbor sold his cocoa beans two weeks ago for US\$1.25 per kilo. The trader had told her neighbor that the prices were very low this year. To find out for herself, she walks to a hill 10 minutes away from her house and send an SMS with the word “cocoa” to 088 052 6921. Within 15 seconds she receives the following SMS shown below:

Indicative Farm Gate Cocoa Prices per kilo set by LPMC for July 2015: Grade 1 US\$1.93 (164LD) Grade 2 US\$1.78 (151LD) Subgrade US\$1.61 (136LD) (20 June 2015)
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The cocoa farmer will be charged US\$0.05 cents for the request SMS, and US\$0.05 cents for the return SMS with the price information. For US\$0.10 cents she has all the up-to-date information she needs to negotiate a good price for her cocoa beans. The cellular service provider has earned US\$10 cents on this inquiry. The more popular the pricing information service becomes, the more money the provider makes.

The platform will initially provide prices for six commodities: cocoa, palm oil, kernel oil, rice, pepper, and groundnuts. Except for cocoa, all local market prices in various counties will have to be collected, processed, and posted on the server from the cellular service provider by a designated institution in Liberia and should not be done by a (temporary) project, in order to create a solid sustainable platform. When such a platform is up and running well, more commodities can be added to the system with each having their own unique response trigger word like “cocoa” for cocoa prices, “palm” for palm oil prices, “kernel” for palm kernel oil prices, etc.

The implementing group has had discussions with Cellcom and Lonestar about a pilot scheme for an SMS response platform. They have shown interest in investigating the development of a web-based interface that will enable the designated Liberian institution to upload the updated price information onto their server. The

discussions with Lonestar have continued in June after a clear indication from Lonestar that they would like to host the service. Lonestar will make the service accessible on a short code system that will be able to handle a high volume of price requests in a short time. A phone number, as used in the pilot phase, will not be able to sustain high volume traffic, although it can be accessed by mobile phone users from various other providers such as Cellcom and Novafone. The small data base that will host the information for the SMS messages on Liberia market prices must be based in the cloud, which can be easily achieved with a free Dropbox account.

The price dissemination for cocoa will most likely be the easiest because it is directly derived from the (future) prices of cocoa on the world market and calculated by LPMC. However, prices for other commodities like palm oil, palm kernel oil, rice, cowpeas, groundnuts, hot peppers, etc. will have to be collected from key markets in various locations in Liberia. Consultations have been held with the World Food Program (WFP) and USAID FEWSNET. WFP currently provides information on a few commodities on a bi-monthly basis to USAID FEWSNET. However, WFP has contracted the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to collect this information for them. PROSPER will pursue cooperation with LISGIS (and WFP) to establish a cooperation whereby this information will be shared with LPMC, the candidate that will host the Liberia Market Prices platform.

In order to illustrate how an SMS information service for farmers will work, PROSPER has launched a Beta Test SMS Price Information Service that runs currently on a PROSPER server with a Lonestar dongle for receiving and sending SMS messages, which is only active during working hours when power is available. The service provides the indicative price for cocoa beans (information provided by LPMC), and it provides the world market prices for palm oil and palm kernel oil (no local prices available yet).

The software used for this platform Beta Test SMS Price Information Service (send SMS to 088 052 6921 with the word *cocoa*, *kernel*, or *palm* in the body of the text) is an open source software (no licenses fees required) and can also run on an open source operating system that also requires no licensing fees (e.g. Linux, Ubuntu). However, this SMS response system will require small continuous funding because the return SMS to the farmer must be purchased. However, as mentioned earlier, the SMS response system using a fixed phone number to direct the SMS request to will most likely be replaced by a short code response system hosted by Lonestar.

Because not all farmers have cell phones or are in reach of cellular SMS services, a system of radio messages broadcast by contracted radio stations is also planned. However the implementation of radio messages can only start when PROSPER is able to identify a reliable Liberian institution that is able and willing to process market information from the counties to be fed into the SMS response server. Broadcasting messages can be by email to the contracted radio stations to be broadcast a few times per week at fixed time slots. The contracts with radio stations will have to be funded by a sponsor (e.g. Wienco Liberia) that can advertise their agricultural inputs supply business to farmers.

Once the SMS response system is functioning, the platform of agricultural price information will expand into Twitter accounts with feeds for the different crops that can be followed by people who have smart phones. Other easy to maintain web-based applications like Facebook and a low graphic, fast loading commodity pricing web site will be set up to provide up-to-date pricing information to anybody that seeks that information. As a start, a beta test version of a web based pricing information system has been launched under the URL *liberiamarketprices.wordpress.com*. This website will provide information on commodity prices and will describe the quality standards set for the various commodities.

In June, various other organizations expressed interest in participating in the dissemination of commodity prices, and Welt Hunger Hilfe has expressed interest in dissemination of vegetable prices for their peri-urban vegetable production program. The Universal Outreach Foundation is currently investigating the use of this platform to inform beekeepers about the pricing of honey.

When platform is up and running, evaluation of farmer response will be carried out. The use of the SMS response system is easy to measure by counting the number of SMS requests. The number of listeners will have to be measured through a survey. Twitter feeds can be measured by the number of followers and other

means that measure the number of people that actually read the tweets. For other platforms like Facebook and the website (number of hits), more precise measuring methods will have to be developed.

### 3.2.5 Bushmeat Alternative

The findings of the investigation into cane rates domestication and livestock/protein options based on the lessons learned from FED and Land-O-Lakes goat programs will be incorporated in a report that is being written by ArcelorMital’s Bio Diversity Offset Program and PROSPER. The (draft) of this paper will be published in September.

PROSPER published a RFP in March to request interested service providers to submit proposals for its beekeeping pilot program. In April Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) won the selection with its proposal.

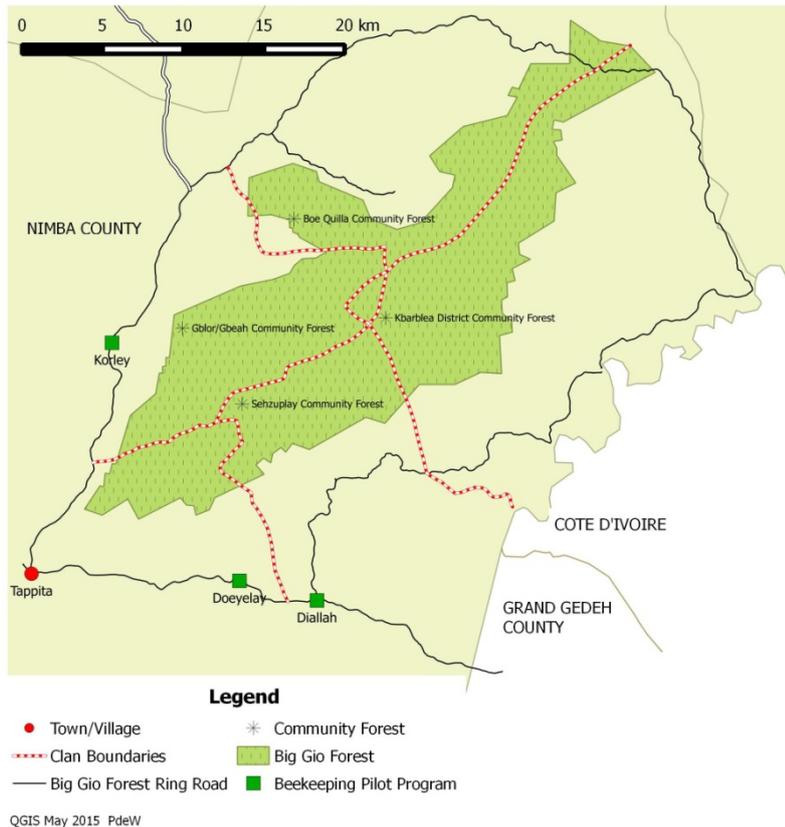
The beekeeping activities were originally designed to provide an alternative income for hunters that would be directly affected by the restrictions imposed by the CFMBs on hunting in order to manage their natural resources in the CF. However, none of the existing CFMBs have put rules in place that regulate hunting. Further, the ZOR community has a taboo on honey and the Gba does not have an approved management plan in place. Other sites are in the nascent stage and do not have a CFMB nor management plan yet. Therefore, the original plan to link this activity to disenfranchised hunters has been dropped. In order to test the viability of beekeeping as a potential livelihood for hunters in the future, PROSPER decided to proceed with testing the beekeeping activity as a pilot in five locations that are close to the CF.



May 2015: Beekeeping group training in Ben Town (Barconie)

### USAID PROSPER Beekeeping Pilot Sites

Livelihood and Enterprise Development Activities



The beekeeping pilot will be carried out in three locations near the Big Gio forest (Korlay, Dialah and Doeyelay), one in District #4 (Bold Dollar), and one in Barconie (Ben’s Town). Bold Dollar and Ben’s Town are close to the proposed CFs in Barconie and District #4. In late April UOF began accessing the communities and surveyed people who are willing to be part of the activities. This activity is targeting women and youth as participants. For a single group, initially about 30 persons are solicited for an orientation meeting to discuss the idea of a beekeeping enterprise. In subsequent “group” meetings the number of interested participants will stabilize to about half of the original number. These 15-20 persons will form the group, elect a group governance structure and

choose a name for the group (e.g. the group in Dialah has called themselves *Zor-Tor-Nah* which means Honey is Money in the local Gio language). A total of 103 persons are currently participating in five groups. UOF reported a male/female participation of 80%/23% which means that the targeted women are not participating. There is not yet data on the age distribution of the group members. PROSPER will contact UOF to find out what the reason is for the missed female participation target and if any steps can be taken to correct the situation.

The training covered several topics including the life of the bee, site selection, safety practices, the stands methods, bee hive construction, and baiting. At the end of the training, the trainers accompanied the participants in the field and installed ten hives in each community. UOF recommended that participants receive training in small scale business management as soon as possible so that they can manage the beekeeping activity as a business. This makes it more likely that when they begin to harvest and sell the honey, they will re-invest the income generated to ensure sustainability of the program.

In June about 10-20% of the beehives were populated with bees. To attract the bees, the hives are smeared with bee wax and in some instances hives are “baited” with chunks of pineapple to attract the bees. The non-populated hives will be moved around to find the appropriate spot to populate the hives.

**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.**

<b>ANNUAL RESULTS &amp; DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)</b>
Lessons learned and best practices identified ( <b>Result</b> )
Best practices and other project findings shared with the ACC ( <b>Result</b> )
Meetings and workshops to share best practice / lessons learned ( <b>Result</b> )
<b>Contract deliverables due during the quarter:</b>
Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises (Deliverable 16)
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia (Deliverable 17 and 17a)

PROSPER did not participate in the April Cocoa Sector Technical working Group meeting and the April Agriculture Coordinating Council (ACC) meetings during the month of April due to travel engagements of all senior staff. However, the ACC reported that the primary topic of discussion was the distribution of seeds (rice, cowpea, and maize) that some West African countries provided to support the Liberian Government through the Ministry of Agriculture for food security recovery due to the Ebola outbreak.

PROSPER participated in the Agriculture Coordinating Council (ACC) meeting during the month of May at the Ministry of Agriculture. During the meeting, Kingdom Ventures Capital Fund, a coca buying company and exporter that operates in Nimba County made a presentation on their activities. They explained that they are working with cocoa farmers in quality cocoa production to meet the international standards for cocoa export.

In FY15 one extension publication was produced (Q2) on cassava processing. No publications were finalized during April and May. There are two publications that are currently under development; the topics are oil palm nurseries and how to set up a small scale oil palm plantation. These publications are expected to be ready and printed before the end of FY15.

PROSPER presented a PowerPoint presentation that contained an update on USAID PROSPER livelihood activities at the ACC meeting in June. The presentation was well received and generated a lot of interest for further information.

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1: STAFF LIST (31 JUNE 2015)

## Full-time PROSPER Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
<b>Technical</b>					
1	Meadows	Paul	Chief of Party		6 Jan 2014
2	Cole	Eugene	Deputy Chief of Party		21 Jan 2013
3	Kweme	Dominic	Deputy Lead, Component 2		21 Jan 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Deputy Lead, Component 1		01 Jun 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 Jun 2012
6	Dorwison	Melvin	Education Consultant	NAEAL	April 2013
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	Dennis	Koko	Liaison Officer/Coordinator Cadre Staff	FDA	07 July 2012
12	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 Jun 2012
13	Van Ross	Rechline	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	CJPS	1 Feb 2015
14	Thompson	Daniel	Business Development Specialist		1 Apr 2015
15	OPEN		Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		TBD
<b>Financial and Administrative</b>					
16	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 Jun 2012
17	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
18	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
19	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 Jul 2012

20	Sartee	Alvis	Administrative Operations Officer		10 Feb 2014
21	Glaydor	Garnahweh	Administrative /Finance Assistant		07 May 2014
<b>Support Staff</b>					
22	Saylee	Moses	Caretaker		01 Jun 2012
23	Johnson	Frederick	Head Driver		01 Jun 2012
24	Dukuly	Abraham	Driver		01 Jun 2012
25	Habah	John	Driver		01 Jun 2012
26	Weltee	Othello	Driver		08 Oct 2012
27	Boykai	Joel	Driver		01 Jun 2012
28	Goflee	Evelyn	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Vesselee	Martin	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		08 Oct 2012
2	Ville	James	Field Office Administrator		28 Aug 2012
3	Kollie	Henry	Driver		02 Jan 2013
4	Paypay	William	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Mahn	Robert	Mobilizer – Zor	NAEAL	
6	Gomah	Marcus	Mobilizer - Sehyi	NAEAL	
7	Nyumah	John	Mobilizer - Gba	NAEAL	
8	Saye	Ruth	Coordinator	CJPS	
9	Sayekea	Ophelia	Mobilizer - Gba	CJPS	
10	Baimie	Chyrrei	Mobilizer - Sehyi	CJPS	
11	Deemie	Michael	Mobilizer - Zor	CJPS	
12	Dahn	Julius	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
13	Zonen	Leona	Field Facilitator - Sehi	ACDI/VOCA	
14	Kerkula	Thomas	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
15	Mynen	Joe	Field Facilitator - Zor	ACDI/VOCA	
16	Zayzay	Joseph	Extension Officer - Sanniquellie	FDA	

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Biah	D. Nuah	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		01 Jun 2012
2	Maximore	Gibson	Field Office Administrator		01 May 2014
3	Gant	Garretson	Driver		05 Nov 2012
4	Brisbane	Joseph	Coordinator – Tappita	NAEAL	
5	Sherman	Magdelene	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	NAEAL	
6	Dweh	Oliver	Mobilizer - Boe-Quilla	NAEAL	
7	Kabakollie	Isaac	Mobilizer - Kparblee	NAEAL	
8	Gayflor	Joseph	Mobilizer - Sehzueplay	NAEAL	
9	Younquoi	Viola	Coordinator -	CJPS	
10	Coleman	Joseph	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	CJPS	
11	Seh	Bendu	Mobilizer - Sehzueplay	CJPS	
12	Yoko	Daniel	Mobilizer - - Boe-Quilla	CJPS	
13	Sangar	Martin	Mobilizer - Kparblee	CJPS	
14	Gibson	Sam	Caretake	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
15	Quaye	Sampson	Coordinator Tappita	ACDI/VOCA	
16	Wehyie	Patrick	Field Facilitator - Boe-Quilla	ACDI/VOCA	
17	Kamara	Mcdonald	Field Facilitator - Kparblee	ACDI/VOCA	
18	Dwana	John	Argo Forestry Ranger - Tappita	FDA	

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Gibson	Eugene	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		20 May 2013
2	Dugbeh	Sam	Field Office Administrator		03 Dec 2012
3	Manobah	Folley	Driver		16 Oct 2012
4	Kenedy	Winifred	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Gorvego	Roland	Mobilizer District 4	NAEAL	
6	Bloh	Eric	Mobilizer Barconnie	NAEAL	
7	Folley	Isaac	Coordinator	CJPS	
8	Josiah	Joe Benson	Mobilizer - District # 4	CJPS	
9	Robertston	Davids	Mobilizer - Barconnie		
10	Johnson	Rufus	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
11	Johnson	Nathaniel	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
12	Newman	Kollie	Field Facilitator District #4	ACDI/VOCA	
13	Kpainay	Joseph	Regional Extension Officer, Grand Bassa County	FDA	
14	Johnson	Boima	Agro Forestry Ranger District # 4	FDA	

# APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

## REPORTS SUBMITTED FY15Q3

Title	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
FY15Q2 Quarterly Report	RR-5	-Submitted 6 MAY 2015 -Approved 15 JULY 2015
FY15/Q2 Quarterly Financial Report	RR-6	-Submitted 6 MAY 2015
FY15/Q3 Quarterly Accruals Report	RR-7	-Submitted 18 JUN 2015
Environmental Curriculum Materials for MoE	D-4	Submitted 9 July 2015 -PENDING USAID REVIEW
Public Outreach and Awareness Manuals	D-6	Submitted 10 July 2015 -PENDING USAID REVIEW
Annual Revision of FTI Curriculum, K. Bauer	D-8a	Submitted 10 July 2015 -PENDING USAID REVIEW
Three Policy Briefs - V. Litz	D-26b	-Submitted 7 MAY 2015 -COR APPROVED, 12 JUNE 2015
Three Policy Briefs - P. Aldinger, S. Malpani	D-26c	-Submitted 19 JUNE 2015 -COR APPROVED, 1 JULY 2015
CRL Harmonization Report; Draft of Suggested Regulations; & Debrief PPT to USAID - P. Aldinger	STTA - USAID Debrief Presentation & Report	-Delivered to USAID on 10 JUNE 2015
Annual Revision of FTI Curriculum - Ken Bauer	STTA - USAID Debrief Presentation & Report	-Submitted 10 JULY 2015

# APPENDIX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - FY15Q3

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q3 Target	2015 Q3 Actual	2015 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % Actual vs Target
<b>Intermediate Result 1:</b> Increased educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance						
1.1 Number of institutions with increased capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	Annual Target. Nothing to report in Q3	3	0	0	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.2:</b> Improved capacity of CSOs to design and conduct outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues						
1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	The planning for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Outreach Campaign and to discuss topics on the policy brief was had a larger turn than expected by CSO members.	25	5	11	220%	<b>55%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.3:</b> Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum						
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>	Annual Target. Nothing to report in Q3	5	0	0	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.4:</b> Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development						
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	There were 3 Policy Briefs presentations made by an STTA this quarter. However, the	6	0	3	0%	<b>83.3%</b>

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q3 Target	2015 Q3 Actual	2015 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % Actual vs Target
	remaining 3Policy Briefs are complete and expected to be presented to stakeholders by the end of Q4					
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	CFMBs around the three project site provided 5presentations with PROSPER support at the CDC mtgs more than the targets. The remaining 5 meetings are expected in Q4.	10	4	5	125%	<b>70%</b>
<b>Intermediate Result 2:</b> Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities						
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management</b>						
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – <i>Custom/Output</i>	Site Level leadership training was done at each field office for CDSG to understand the functions and level participation among the various groupings. Participation was much higher than expected	40	20	30	150%	<b>247.5%</b>
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	This target was anticipated based on moving forward with the 9-step process. PROSPER was not allowed to proceed based on an FDA directive. This issue appears to be resolved and the process is moving again, however, LMEP suggest that we report this as annual indicator based on the definition.	35	15	0	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.2:</b> Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management						

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q3 Target	2015 Q3 Actual	2015 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % 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>	Over Target. Interest in the Social Economic Survey and the 30days notice posting saw a large turnout	28	10	26	260%	<b>225%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.3:</b> Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations						
4.8.1-7: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance – <i>Custom/Outcome(PROSPER 2.3.1)</i>	On Target.	12	3	3	100%	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.4:</b> Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs						
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	Annual Target. Brochures, drama, posters, video and biodiversity messages produced.	10	7	5	0%	<b>50%</b>
<b>Intermediate Result 3:</b> Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas						
4.8.1- 6: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>FiF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.1)</i>	Annual Target. New users from CPOPs and CPGs in Q3	320	0	49	0%	<b>53.75%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.1:</b> Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises						
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	Over Target. More interest from the BGF on agribusiness	8	3	4	133%	<b>%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.2:</b> Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities						
4.5.2-7: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output (PROSPER 3.2.1)</i>	Annual Target. Nothing to report in Q3	400	0	0	0%	<b>0%</b>
4.5.2-5: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FiF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.2.2)</i>	86.6% achieved this quarter, there are lot of ongoing activities to reach our target in Q4	120	60	52	86.6%	<b>0%</b>

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q3 Target	2015 Q3 Actual	2015 Q3 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % Actual vs Target
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.3:</b> Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.						
3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	Achieved its Yearly Target	2	0	0	0%	<b>100%</b>

# APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN FY15Q3

**WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD January to April 2015**

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/Community	CF Site	Days	NO of participants			
							F	M	PROSPER Staff	Total
1	April 22-24, 2015	Training in the use of the Socio Economic Survey tools	To train participants in the use of the socio economic tools (Indicator: 2.2.1)	Corina Hotel, Monrovia	Monrovia	3	3	23	7	33
2	April 24, 2015	FTI/PROSPER Gender Forum	To Motivate Students (especially females and faculty to remain in the Forestry profession/sector amid challenges (Indicator 1.3.1)	FTI Campus	Tubmanburg	1	17	43	1	61
3	April 17, 2015	CFWG Meeting to present results of the posting of the Socio-Economic Survey notices in PROSPER supported communities and share lessons learned from the exercise	To present results of the posting of the Socio-Economic Survey results to the CFWG and FDA	USAID PROSPER HQ 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, Payne Avenue, Monrovia	Monrovia	1	4	7	5	16
4	May 7-15, 2015	Women and Youth Roles in Demarcation determination meeting	To create a gender balance of women and youth participation in CF Demarcation	Buchanan, Tappita and Sanniquellie Project Office	Field Activities	8	75	44	7	126
5	April 7 – 30, 2015	CPOP and CPG Tracking Sheet	To collect information on Component Three Activities (Indicator 4.8.1-6)	Across the three project sites	Field Activities	23	21	28	0	49
6	May 28, 2015	CFWG Meeting to plan the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Outreach & Discuss Policy	To Plan the Third Annual Outreach Campaign and Discuss topics on the policy brief (Indicator 1.2.1)	USAID PROSPER HQ 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, Payne Avenue, Monrovia	Planning	1	6	5	7	18

		Brief Topics								
7	June 16, 2015	CFWG Meeting to finalize the upcoming 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Campaign	To finalize preparations for the third Annual Outreach Campaign and Discuss draft policy briefs (Indicator 1.2.1)	USAID PROSPER HQ 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor, Payne Avenue, Monrovia	Planning	1	2	6	6	14
8	June 5-8, 2015	Leadership Structuring and Training CDSG	For CDSG to understand the function of various positions in leadership and understand the quality/characteristics of Good/Bad leadership (Indicator 2.1.2)	Sanniquellie Field Office	Site Level Structuring	1	19	11	0	30
9	May 7, 2015	Oil Palm Nursery Establishment and Training Program Activities	Establishment of Four (4) new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed. (Indicator 3.1.1)	Tappita Field Office	Contract					
10	May 7-11, 2015	Farmers Groups Participating in Nursery Establishment	Farmer's Group Participating in Nursery Establishment around the BGF (Indicator 4.5.2-5)	Tappita Field Office	Toweh's Town, Beatuo, Old Yourpea, Behwallay	4	8	44	0	52
11	May 28, 2015	Presentation by Communities at CDSC in Grand Bassa	Presentations by Communities at County Development Steering Committee Meeting (Indicator 1.4.2)	Buchanan Field Office	Hammonville/Baconie and Kpogblen Clan, District#4 B	2				
12	May 6, 2015	Presentation by Communities in Northern Nimba	Presentation by Communities at County							

# APPENDIX 5: SNAPSHOTS



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## SNAPSHOT

### Harmonization of the Community Rights Law and its Regulations

**Forestry Development Authority**  
Implementing the Community Rights Law  
of 2009 with Respect to Forest Lands

**Republic of Liberia**



**Regulations to the Community  
Rights Law of 2009  
with Respect to Forest Lands**

August 30, 2011

**Republic of Liberia**

**An Act to Establish the  
Community Rights Law  
of 2009 with  
Respect to Forest Lands**



Approved October 16, 2009

With assistance from the international community and USAID-PROSPER (People, Rules, and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources), Liberia has developed a strong legal framework to support community forestry. An important goal of PROSPER is to “improve and simplify the legal framework for community forestry, land tenure and property rights on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations” through the implementation of the Community Rights Law and its Regulations. In April 2014, following the lifting of the moratorium on the establishment of new Community Forest Management Agreements, the FDA realized the urgent need to harmonize the discrepancies in the Community Rights Law (CRL) of 2009 and the CRL Regulations. It tasked the NGO Coalition of Liberia to organize this harmonization effort in close collaboration with PROSPER.

In May 2015, PROSPER sought the assistance of an international legal expert in an effort to bring together members of the Harmonization Committee, led by the NGO Coalition, to identify discrepancies between the CRL and its implementing regulations, and to develop recommendations and specific language that could be used to amend the Regulations. To ensure recommendations were considered from all relevant stakeholders, consultations included Civil Society Organizations, the Liberia Timber Association, various logging companies, Forestry Development Authority (FDA) personnel and other Government of Liberia entities. An analysis revealed that some of the provisions within the Regulations directly contradict what is written in the CRL, and are therefore unenforceable. Additionally, while some of these regulatory provisions were likely intended to protect communities from being exploited by those with commercial interests in the forestry sector, the current Regulations were unclear or at odds with the CRL and subjected communities to undue influence by competing interests.

A couple examples of recommendations to correct these inconsistencies include: redefining the possibilities of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Assistance to proposed Community Forests (CF) in order to increase the FDA’s ability to process and create more CFs and to keep up with the demands of communities applying for CF status; and, devolving authority implied in the Regulations from the FDA to communities, as was the intent of the CRL. These recommendations, along with several others, were reviewed by the NGO Coalition with concurrence. The language of the Regulations was revised accordingly and has been submitted to the FDA for review and approval.

PROSPER’s continued support and dedication to the FDA with the review of current and pending legislation and regulations continues to be an essential element to improving and simplifying the legal framework for community forestry in Liberia through the implementation of the Community Rights Law of Liberia.

#### Telling Our Story

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## SNAPSHOT

Socio-economic and Reconnaissance Survey – Getting it Right!



SER Survey in Barconnie Community - Community members, FDA, CSOs and PROSPER staff



Community members expertly drew their own community forest maps, showing relative positions of their communities



SER Survey - The group facilitators from FDA, PROSPER and CSOs

The Socio-Economic and Reconnaissance (SER) survey is a requirement of the of the Community Rights Law (CRL) Regulations for the establishment of an Authorized Forest Community. Since the adoption of the CRL Regulations in 2011, this was the first opportunity for FDA to conduct the process, which called for the development of a customized tool to conduct SER surveys in community forests, the development of the methodologies and appropriate training of FDA personnel to carry out the exercise. Traditionally, FDA had done SER Surveys only for ‘affected’ communities that would potentially benefit from industrial logging ventures and not for communities that would manage their own forest resources.

USAID-Liberia, through the People, Rules, and Organizations, Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER) program, supported the FDA in designing, testing and finalizing an SER Survey tool and methodologies that were customized to community forestry. At least 26 FDA personnel from throughout Liberia were trained in the effective use of the tools. Based on pre-training and post-training questionnaires, the participants’ level of knowledge and familiarity with the SER survey increased significantly, with all trainees stating they felt comfortable to administer it in the communities. Prior to the training, less than 20% of the participants had actually been involved with SER survey or Participatory Research Analysis (PRA) type of work. In the words of a senior FDA staff, *“this is the first opportunity I have ever had to receive such a comprehensive training. I am happy to be among the first to receive training in conducting SER surveys in proposed community forests.”* Nineteen of the FDA trainees who participated in the SER survey training subsequently conducted an actual SER survey in the USAID-PROSPER supported communities of Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties. They were supported in the field by staff of the USAID-PROSPER program who received similar training.

Traditional leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, farmers, hunters, NTFP collectors, and chain sawyers, were among community stakeholders that participated. The 3-day SER survey conducted in each community, utilized a wide range of PRA tools that enhanced community participation and insight. As education and awareness was gained through the process, community leaders remarked that, *“Through this exercise, you have helped us to understand each other and our forest resources better. We took it for granted. Now that we know that this community forest is for us, we will not hesitate to provide all the information you will need.”*

After presentation of the preliminary findings of the SER survey, the community leaders signed the draft report.

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**U.S. Agency for International Development**  
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502 Benson Street  
Monrovia, Liberia