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

TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT  
1 October – 31 December 2014



January 2015

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**Front Cover Photo:** Community Forest Working Group with FDA Acting Community Forest Technical Manager, Weedor Gray (far right), vetting Liberian communities' new applications for Authorized Community Forest Status – December 2014

**Front Cover photo credit:** Nobeh Jackson, PROSPER Community Outreach Advisor

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

TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT (FY15Q1)  
01 October – 31 December 2014

JANUARY 2015

## **DISCLAIMER**

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# ACRONYMS

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

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



# INTRODUCTION

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

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

This quarterly report presents the activities undertaken and results obtained during the first quarter fiscal year 2015 (FY15Q1) which covers October 1 – December 31, 2014.

During the October – December 2014 period, Liberia continued to feel the full effects of the Ebola crisis, with optimism and skepticism working interchangeably throughout the quarter. Fortunately, PROSPER had anticipated the continued difficulties of interacting with local counterparts and had developed its AWP accordingly. For the most part, work continued as usual as none of the PROSPER sites had any direct contact with Ebola. However, as part of the need to ensure we continued work in our communities, several Ebola training sessions were worked into our normal outreach activities and a revised Ebola Contingency Plan was submitted to USAID.

The end of the first quarter also brought with it the departure of the COP, Paul Cowles, requiring the shifting and promoting of different staff. This will be explained in more detail under Management Activities, below.

In addition to the PROSPER staff changes, the program also welcomed Alexander Kingston as the new ACOR for USAID. He replaces the vacant position that was previously held by Darlington Tuagben earlier in the year. Shawna Hirsch became the COR in December while Jennifer Talbot takes a leave of absence in the US. The rest of this report summarizes the accomplishments for the period measured against the Year 3 Annual Work Plan.

## **Summary and Highlights**

Component 1 activities for the quarter included: Developed and shared strategy with FTI on the engagement of faculty and students in field activities alongside PROSPER staff; Supervision and technical advice to PCI Media Impact on the production and broadcast of 52 Episodes of radio-drama serials; Consultations with project implementers in support of the situational analysis of the threats being addressed; Criteria for engaging school clubs or establishing new ones developed and schools' assessment tool developed and administered; and, seventy-two environmental education lesson plans reviewed and revised and matched with their respective Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs), in collaboration with the MoE.

Component 2 activities for the quarter included: Supported the Gba CFMB to implement the MOU signed between the Gba CFMB and AML; Provided updates to the Nimba County Superintendent on the status of the existing and proposed CFs in Nimba County; Provided training for Community Forest Guards and Gba

CFMB in Northern Nimba; Collaborated closely with VPA to coordinate capacity building efforts for FDA, through the CFWG; Collaborated with VPA-SU and FDA, through the CFWG to finalize CRL Harmonization Checklist; Developed topics for 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs; Engaged stakeholders involved in REDD+ initiatives; and, developed Draft “Threatened Species of Liberia” calendar with FFI.

Component 3 activities during the quarter included: Completed the maintenance and operational training of the Cassava Processing Groups (CPGs), which was delayed in Q4 of FY14 because of the Ebola epidemic; Four oil palm farmers groups were identified for starting their own oil palm nurseries with improved F1 high yielding dwarf varieties of oil palm that were developed in Ivory Coast. The self-raised funds (US\$300 per group) contributed towards the purchase of processing equipment (Freedom Mills). A field assessment carried out in December that created an inventory of the current touristic and entertainment establishments along the beaches of the Barconnie shore line. The findings will be presented in a report that will be published in Q2 of FY15; Commenced development of the extension module that can be used in a variety of PROSPER groups, e.g. PROSPER crop diversification groups and FED FFSs. Field testing and validation in Q2 FY15 will shape the modules into their final, site specific version; A field visit to the cane rat production site in Zortapa; Visits to goat development activities of the USAID FED program are scheduled for January 2015. PROSPER was not able to receive any information from Land-O-Lakes since their operations had been halted due to the Ebola crisis; and, there were no ACC meetings in Q1 FY15 due to the Ebola epidemic though meetings will reconvene in January 2015.

**Deliverables Summary:**

There were several deliverables approved during the quarter, however, they were accounted for in the Annual Report, which was officially submitted to USAID in November, after a thorough review by both USAID and PROSPER. As such, the deliverables chart below only gives a snapshot of the status of the deliverables that were due for the first quarter of FY 2015 per the 2015 AWP.

Former Del. #	No.	Deliverable	Due Date	Comments
13	13a	<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-Nov-14	This deliverable is almost complete and should be submitted during FY15Q2
16	15	<b>Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia</b>	30-Nov-14	This deliverable is complete and is currently being reviewed by the home office before submission to USAID. Submission will be in January 2015
29	26b	<b>Deliverable 26b - Three Policy Briefs</b>	15-Dec-14	This deliverable is complete and is currently being reviewed by the home office before submission to USAID. Submission will be in January 2015

# MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## **Staffing:**

As noted above, the first quarter of FY 2015 brought several significant staffing changes for PROSPER. In December, COP Paul Cowles announced that he would be departing the program. While there was a ripple effect with the shuffling and re-designation of staff assignments, there were no significant setbacks to the progress of the program. Below describes the staffing changes:

- COP is now Paul Meadows (Former DCOP)
- DCOP is now Eugene Cole (Former Lead for Component 1) – Eugene will now be overseeing all technical components of the program with more of an emphasis on Components 1 & 2. Additionally, some staff were promoted in order to cover the more specific Component 1 and Component 2 details that were previously overseen by Eugene and Mr. Cowles.
- Deputy Lead for Component 1 – Nobeh Jackson – This is a new position created to assist the new DCOP with Component 1 implementation. Nobeh has been with the program for several years as the Community Outreach Advisor (COA). His new position will include the COA responsibilities, as well as all other Component 1 activities. RFA pending.
- Deputy Lead for Component 2 – Dominic Kweme – This is a new position created to assist the DCOP with Component 2 implementation. Dominic was formerly the Organization Development and Governance Advisor employed with CJPS and working directly with PROSPER. His new responsibilities will include managing Component 2 with the supervision of the COP and DCOP. He will be a direct hire with TtARD/PROSPER. RFA pending.
- Lead for Component 3 – Peter Dewaard was scheduled to depart the program in March 2015, per the original PROSPER contract. However, given Peter's vast institutional knowledge of the program and the predecessor projects, coupled with the other changes in PROSPER staffing, it was decided that he will continue with the program through December 2015.
- M&E Officer – In December, our new M&E Officer, Anthony Kollie, advised that he was departing the program. A new M&E Officer has been identified, Rechline Van Ross. He will be hired by CJPS and seconded to PROSPER. CJPS welcomed this addition as they do not have any M&E personnel within their organization. Mr. Van Ross will be starting full-time in February.
- Business Development Officer (BDA) – This is new position that will begin in March 2015. The Statement of Work was developed for this position and recruiting commenced at the beginning of January 2015. The BDA will provide direct support to forest and agriculture based enterprises being supported by PROSPER. In addition the BDA will also support program activities by ensuring that CFMB's also have basic business development skills support.

## **Activities:**

- The week of December 8-12 was spent at the Tappita Field Office for an intense week of work planning for FY15Q2. In addition to the direct PROSPER staff, the USAID ACOR (Alexander Kingston) and the Acting FDA CF Technical Manager (Weedor Gray). Following the work planning session, a team building exercise with the entire PROSPER team was held.

## **Subcontract Administration:**

### *National subcontractors:*

- CJPS – While there were no significant changes to their contract during the quarter, discussions commenced with having them replace their Organization Development and Governance Advisor with an M&E Officer. This will allow them to develop capacity with M&E while PROSPER would continue to guide and mentor the CJPS mobilizers in the field.

- NAEAL – No significant administrative changes during the quarter.
- Biodiversity Partner – As part of the Annual Work Plan, PROSPER will be sourcing a local partner to work with the program to increase its emphasis on supporting community forests to generate benefits from the sustainable management of timber and non-timber forest resources and for the CFMBs to have better knowledge of biodiversity collected through systems that can be implemented by local communities. Each of the three field offices will have one Biodiversity Field Technician (BFT) who will be supervised by one Forest Management and Biodiversity Coordinator (FMBC) who will be based in the Monrovia office. This contract is expected to commence by March 2015.

***International subcontractors:***

- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes. Although PROSPER is currently discussing how best use their services for the remainder of FY 2015.
- ASNAPP – No significant administrative changes.
- ACDI/VOCA – With the departure of the COP in December, there were several key personnel transitions. As previously planned, the L/EDA, Peter de Waard (an ACDI/VOCA position) would have departed the program at the end of March 2015. However, with Component 3's heavy work load in FY 2015, and the numerous management transitions, it was decided to keep the L/EDA through December 31, 2015. This change was anticipated in the budget realignment that was recently approved.
- FFI – No significant administrative changes, but it is anticipated that the services they are providing to PROSPER will be reduced to Component 1 outreach materials development.

# CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

## **Performance Monitoring:**

The M&E team worked with LMEP to provide them with information to complete the DQA. The DQA was approved by the COR in December. However, a follow-up meeting was requested by the COR with the M&E team to address some of the issues in the DQA. This meeting will occur until the second quarter. The “Performance Indicator Tracking Table” and the “Workshops, Meetings, and Other Events organized in FY15Q1” is found in the Appendices.

## **Gender Integration:**

During the first quarter FY 2015, the Gender Integration Officer, in conjunction with Component 3’s Crop Diversification Training, conducted a women’s leadership training for 16 different women’s groups. The training was designed to formally structure the leadership positions of the various women’s groups and teach them leadership skills as well as get them to understand the roles and responsibilities of each position of the members of their respective groups. Approximately 420 participants took part in the leadership training. The class was translated into the local language.

## **Geographic Information System Specialist:**

The PROSPER GIS Specialist, in close collaboration with the FDA, conducted several site assessments and mapping exercises in Barconnie and Sanniquellie.

### Barconnie

A ground truthing exercise was conducted in the proposed Barconnie Community Forest. This was the most thorough mapping exercise that PROSPER has conducted in the area in the past year. As more information is gleaned from the communities, it has been noticed that the actual proposed area has shifted since the beginning of PROSPER. The new estimated land area of Barconnie CF is 2,165 ha./5,350 ac. More defined boundary lines were also identified.

### Sanniquellie

Following the MOU between AML and the Gba CF, work to determine merchantable trees commenced in the AML Tailings Management Facility (TMF). The MOU states that AML will provide the CF with a cash settlement of \$150,000 USD for the clearing of the first 60 acres of 510 acres in the TMF. The intention of the MOU is for the Gba CF to use the funds to harvest merchantable trees in the remaining 450 acres of the TMF. Mapping and identification of the trees was conducted with the Gba CF members and potential routes for access roads were mapped. This information has been passed on to AML and they will now commence with constructing the access roads so that the Gba CF can harvest the timber.

# COMPONENT WORK PLANS

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

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

### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Seventy-two environmental education lesson plans reviewed and revised and matched with their respective Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs), in collaboration with the MoE, **(Result)**

Criteria for engaging school clubs or establishing new ones developed and schools' assessment tool developed and administered

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

### Key Accomplishments:

Seventy-two environmental education lesson plans reviewed and revised and matched with their respective Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs), in collaboration with the MoE,

In October 2014, the PROSPER Education Team initiated the final revision of 70 environmental education lesson plans developed in FY14, in collaboration with the MoE. During the process of developing the TLMs, some modifications were unavoidable. The PROSPER Education Team organized work sessions together with four Curriculum Specialists from the Bureau of Curriculum Development of the MoE, in which they developed and implemented a process they used to match the curriculum materials. Lesson plans were matched with their respective TLMs, including modification of their respective "developmental activities" sections.

The lesson plans and TLMs were then compiled and made ready for printing. This exercise involved standardizing how materials were saved, while ensuring that description of how a particular lesson can be traced back to the specific subject, grade, marking-period, topic and sub-topic within the national core curriculum. All discrepancies were addressed.

Criteria for engaging school clubs or establishing new ones developed and schools' assessment tool developed and administered

The Education Advisor, with support from the L-EDOA and Communication and Education Assistant, worked with Education and Outreach Field Coordinators from the three PROSPER field offices to establish criteria for engaging school clubs or establish new ones. Following the establishment of the criteria, an assessment tool was developed, which was administered by the PROSPER community mobilizers. Selection or establishment of school clubs will be concluded within the second quarter.

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

### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Consultations with project implementers in support of the situational analysis of the threats being addressed **(Result)**

Supervision and technical advice to PCI Media Impact on the production and broadcast of 52 Episodes of radio-drama serials **(Result)**

## RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

**Contract deliverables due during the quarter:** Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia **Deliverable 15**

### Key Accomplishments:

In fulfillment of Contract Deliverable #15, *Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia*, PROSPER compiled and series of communications products that were developed and used in the second annual outreach campaign and dispatched to the Tetra Tech home office for review and submission. Unfortunately, because of the large size of files concerned, these documents were saved in external drive and hand-carried to the US and posted to the home office. Internal review of the deliverable is at its final stages for submission, early in the second quarter.

### Consultations with project implementers in support of the situational analysis of the threats being addressed

The communications team worked closely with other PROSPER technical leads, in collaboration with the CFWG, conducted an in-depth situational analysis of threats to forest biodiversity identified by PROSPER. The consultations were directed at similar USAID projects potentially addressing at least one of the threats; national/ international conservation or natural resource management (NRM) institutions, GoL line ministry, and private sector institutions addressing threats to biodiversity. These institutions were consulted with a view towards understanding how they are addressing identified threats within their context of operations. This will help PROSPER to identify knowledge gaps, design appropriate outreach and awareness activities and identify potential partners and their perceived roles in the third annual outreach campaign.

Institutions consulted included:

- USAID-Liberia/FED
- ACDI/VOCA LAUNCH
- Conservation International (CI)
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
- Arcelor Mittal Liberia(AML)

### Supervision and technical advice to PCI Media Impact on the production and broadcast of 52 Episodes of radio-drama serials

PROSPER continued to provide supervision and technical advice on the production of the 52 episodes of radio-dram serials, incorporating themes and messages from PROSPER's outreach campaign. A total of 13 episodes of the drama were produced and broadcasted on the Liberia Broadcasting Systems (LBS) radio, in the first quarter. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes FDA, the CFWG, PCI Media Impact and PROSPER, convened twice in the quarter to review dramatized episodes prior to their broadcast. Among the key areas the TAC team highlighted to ensure effectiveness of the impact of the radio dramas, included:

- Reflection on previous episodes broadcasted, including public feedback and accuracy of technical contents;
- Consistency of key messages and logical sequencing of scenes to capture accurate messages and context of the drama;
- Improvement in quality of dramatization with special emphasis on colloquial Liberian simple English; and
- Enhancement of moderation skills of radio producers to engage the public more effectively.

The radio-drama will be broadcast in PROSPER sites next quarter. This will be preceded by the training of presenters in the local radio stations.

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

#### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Developed and shared strategy with FTI on the engagement of faculty and students in field activities alongside PROSPER staff (**Result**)

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

#### Key Accomplishments:

*Developed and shared strategy with FTI on the engagement of faculty and students in field activities alongside PROSPER staff*

The Forestry Training Institute (FTI) remained closed throughout the quarter. However, the PROSPER Education Team reached out to the Director of FTI. He was consulted during the development of the annual work plan on the design of strategies to engage his institution in FY15 once they reopen. An interim arrangement was worked out with him and the Deputy Director, responsible for instruction, on the engagement of students and the lead instructor for community forestry, to participate alongside PROSPER staff, FDA and the CFWG during the consultations of communities on the threats analysis exercise to be conducted in January 2015.

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

### Activity 2.1: Build community capacity for forest management

RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER
Supported the Gba CFMB to implement the MOU signed between the Gba CFMB and AML ( <b>Result</b> )
Provided updates to the Nimba County Superintendent on the status of the existing and proposed CFs in Nimba County ( <b>Result</b> )
Provided training to Community Forest Guards and Gba CFMB in Northern Nimba ( <b>Result</b> )
Provided coaching and regular support for CFMBs ( <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 forest management in Liberia ( <i>Reported under Component 1.2</i> ) <b>Deliverable 15</b>

#### Key Accomplishments:

Supported the Gba CFMB to implement the MOU signed between the Gba CFMB and AML

Following the signing of the MOU between the Gba CFMB and Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) on September 29, 2014, PROSPER has been providing support to the CFMB to ensure that the Gba community meets their part of the obligations and fully benefit from the proposed compensation for the land take in their community forest. The signed MOU, which is proposed to span six months, is the culmination of almost two years of negotiation between the parties for the use of 510 acres of land within the Gba CF for the construction of AML's Tailing Management Facility (TMF).

The PROSPER Organization Development and Governance Advisor and the Northern Nimba field team facilitated a one-day meeting with the Gba CFMB, where the details of the provisions within the MoU were thoroughly discussed. That meeting helped to foster understanding of the agreed roles and responsibilities within the MoU and led to the development of a clear action plan for effective implementation. PROSPER supported the Gba CFMB to implement the action plan, which commenced with the conduct of mass awareness within the 22 towns comprising the Gba Clan/ community on the details of the MOU.

Further to the granting of a financial compensation to the Gba community for the land take of 60 acres of forest land and facilitating the clearance of the remaining 450 acres, AML reaffirmed its commitment to provide fair compensation for crops and resettle community members located within the Community Forest in accordance with a prior agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Liberia. However, there were serious disagreements as to the eligibility of beneficiaries for this crop compensation, leading to violent confrontations in some instances. There was widespread transplanting of rubber seedlings into parts of the Gba community forest recently, as some community members sought to exploit the compensation system.

To support coordination between the Gba CFMB and AML on the implementation of the MoU without being derailed by the crop compensation issue, PROSPER organized a meeting between the CFMB and the AML Resettlement Department, where the CFMB shared their action plan for AML's input. AML endorsed the CFMB's work plan and reaffirmed its commitment to the process, including sharing costs with PROSPER in support of implementation of the MOU. Two AML resettlement experts worked together with the CFMB, the FDA Region-3 Office in Sanniquellie and PROSPER to conduct a walk-through on the 450 acres of forest land, to determine the feasibility of establishing access routes for the extraction of merchantable timber. A map of proposed access routes was developed. Regarding the resolution of compensation for settlements and crop owners within the 510 acres in the Gba community forest, PROSPER supported Saye Thompson, Chairman of the Joint CFMB, to lead the identification of eligible farmers and settlers over a three week period. As a result, 665 people were enumerated, including the

collection of GPS way point for the location of mature tree crops such as rubber, oil palm, kola nut, mango trees, avocados, cocoa and piassava. The next steps will include verification of eligible claims consistent with the compensation criteria set forth by the GOL and subsequent payments.

*Provided updates to the Nimba County Superintendent on the status of the existing and proposed CFs in Nimba County*

During the first quarter, PROSPER provided updates to the Nimba County Superintendent on the status of community forests in Nimba County. The updates included the MoU between the Gba community and AML and challenges surrounding compensation to settlers and farmers within the Gba community forest. In response, the superintendent lauded PROSPER's support to the communities and made commitments to work with all partners to ensure that the rule of law takes precedence in the county. He condemned dishonest practices by some community members and revealed that measures had been put in place to address such behaviors. As a result of this meeting, radio programs were aired by the Superintendent's office prohibiting the continued out-planting of crops within the Gba CF and other forested areas affected by the AML mining concession, warning that violators will be prosecuted. In addition, PROSPER provided support to community awareness in the Northern Nimba communities in accordance with the CFMB action plan. As a result of this meeting a committee to monitor the smooth implementation of the MoU was set up comprising the office of the Superintendent, AML, FDA regional office, the CFMB and chaired by PROSPER.

The status of the applications of the proposed CFs in Southern Nimba (Tappita) was reported to the County Superintendent. The land dispute resolution between the Kparblee and Gblor Clans was also presented. With respect to the land dispute resolution, the County Superintendent commended PROSPER for the intervention as the situation had plagued the county for many decades. This action sent a message of hope to other communities with chronic land disputes in the region that they could be resolved once they are determined to let it happen.

*Provided training for Community Forest Guards and Gba CFMB in Northern Nimba*

Series of refresher trainings were carried out in Sanniquellie for the Gba CFMB and the Community Forest Guards (CFGs) in the use of GPS, data collection, monitoring, treatment and presentation of data, and reporting. The refresher trainings prepared the Gba CFMB and the CFGs to participate in the conduct of the walk-through within the 490 acres to identify access routes and to identify farmers and settlers within the entire 510 acres of forest land identified for establishment of AML's TMF. Though the practical exercise was led by PROSPER and FDA technical staff, the CFMB and CFG participants did most of the data collection using GPS and provided preliminary reports.

*Provided coaching and regular support for CFMBs*

Coaching of the CFMBs in Northern Nimba continued throughout the quarter to improve their skills in the performances of their roles and responsibilities. The exercise addressed acquisition and/ or renewal of official documents needed to fulfil the legal requirements as an entity that can engage in business. This support helped the Gba CFMB to renew their certificate of accreditation, their business registration and their Tax Clearance Certificate. This was also a requirement for the Gba CFMB to qualify to receive the agreed compensation of US\$150,000.00 for the AML land take. In this regard, the Gba CFMB is now a legally qualified institution to transact business with any other entity in Liberia.

PROSPER also provided support to the Zor and Blehi CFMBs to compile their required legal documents in order for them to provide justification demanded by FDA to resolve perceived "missteps" identified during the review of the ten CFMAs by the FDA Board last year. PROSPER worked with the three CFMBs to review the Board demand contained in a checklist. All required documents to exonerate the three CFMBs of the missteps were compiled and shared with FDA. These documents authenticated that the USAID supported CFMBs that were scrutinized had complied with the law.

PROSPER continued to foster linkages of the CFMBs with other stakeholders to seek complementary support and ensure sustainability. To this end, PROSPER consulted with the AML supported Biodiversity Conservation Program (BCP) to coordinate efforts in the Northern Nimba communities. Through the development of a MoU, the BCP supported the CFMBs to construct a modern office, furnished with office equipment, supported office running costs, and provided basic stipend for CFGs. As a result of the continued collaboration with AML, the BCP encouraged the CFMBs to apply to AML as vendors. This puts them in the position to receive contracts from AML/ BCP to implement a range of activities in the forest and emphasizes the earlier point about updating the legal status of the remaining CFMBs.

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

### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Collaborated closely with VPA to coordinate capacity building efforts for FDA, through the CFWG **(Result)**

Collaborated with VPA-SU and FDA, through the CFWG to finalize checklist **(Result)**

Continued to support FDA, through the CFWG to define and document CF steps including the use of relevant decision making tools (Notices for social economic and reconnaissance survey and demarcation, tools to conduct social economic and reconnaissance survey) **(Result)**

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

### Key Accomplishments:

#### Collaborated closely with VPA to coordinate capacity building efforts for FDA, through the CFWG

Throughout the first quarter, PROSPER continued collaboration with the VPA-SU to coordinate capacity building efforts for the FDA, while PROSPER continued to extend capacity building activities through the CFWG. In this regard, PROSPER consistently made provision for the attendance of the VPA-SU Forestry Advisor in CFWG meetings and other PROSPER supported stakeholder forums. These engagements strengthened collaboration between the two programs and helped to identify capacity building needs that will inform the development of a comprehensive participatory capacity development plan FDA, beyond the capacity for implementation of community forestry.

The activities in which the VPA-SU and PROSPER collaborated include: six community forestry applications screening sessions with the CFWG; the development of a template for notices for the conduction of Social Economic and Reconnaissance Surveys and informational posters for non-literate community members, informational posters for forest demarcation, and the tools for the conduction of Social Economic and Reconnaissance Survey. Additionally, there was collaboration in supporting the NGO coalition to reignite and define a process for the harmonization of the Community Rights Law (CRL) Regulations with the CRL.

It is expected that the programs will jointly implement the identified training for FDA in PRA techniques needed for the conduction of Social Economic and Reconnaissance Surveys and use of the tools developed. Since VPA-SU has a nationwide reach in training FDA staff, PROSPER intends to lead the effort in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties, while VPA will replicate in the other counties.

#### Collaborated with VPA-SU and FDA, through the CFWG to finalize checklist

A critical output needed by the FDA for the commencement of the work through the 9-Steps to Authorized Forest Community Status was the checklist covering each step. The development of the checklist was led by PROSPER with support from VPA-SU. After review of the draft prepared by PROSPER at a CFWG meeting, a task force was set up to revise and finalize the document. The final version was sent to FDA through the Community Forestry Department. It was subsequently approved by the FDA Board of Directors and adopted as the benchmark for the 9-steps process against which all CFMAs will be vetted in the future.

#### Continued to support FDA, through the CFWG to define and document CF steps

Through the first quarter, PROSPER continued to work with FDA, through the CFWG to define each of the 9-steps and to support the FDA through the pilots to build capacity to implement each step. The greatest challenge is to make the process comprehensive enough to ensure free prior informed consent (FPIC), transparency, simplicity, efficiency, and sustainability. As such, FDA is requiring each of the 9 steps be approved by the FDA Board of Directors to ensure that we achieve a consensus and legally recognized process, including documentation.

In FY-14, PROSPER supported the process of developing a CF application screening tool for use by FDA. PROSPER has been supporting FDA to screen applications while providing training for personnel in the CF Department to fully take over the process. About six screening sessions were held within the quarter, upon request from FDA.

The template for social, economic and reconnaissance survey notice was developed by PROSPER, reviewed and finalized by the CFWG and adopted by the FDA Board of Directors. Prior to its finalization, a team comprising the FDA and CFWG members, pilot tested the posting of the notice based on the template in Worhn Community, Gibi District, Margibi County. Informational posters were developed for non-literate community members for the Social, Economic and Reconnaissance Survey and for forest boundary demarcation. After approval by FDA, these A2-sized posters were printed in large quantities for use by FDA to be used wherever such notices are posted. They will be formally handed to FDA early next quarter.

In preparation for Step-3 of the nine steps, PROSPER worked with the FDA, through the CFWG to develop the social, economic and reconnaissance survey tool. The process included the review of the FDA survey tool used for affected communities in the award of FMCs. It was compared to that used by PROSPER in conducting community profiling. A committee, chaired by PROSPER, with VPA-SU and FDA as members, was constituted to harmonize the tools. The committee presented the harmonized social economic and reconnaissance survey tools in a stakeholder workshop that included the three departments of the FDA (Community, Commercial and Conservation), CFWG, and EPA for final inputs. Feedback from participants was incorporated and finalized. FDA field staff in both Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties will be trained in the second quarter on the use of the tool.

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

#### RESULTS AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE QUARTER

Supported the FDA through the process of Harmonization of the CRL Regulations with the CRL **(Result)**

PROSPER supported the Land Commission to intervene the Gba and Community members claim over portion of the Gba forest requested for use by AML **(Result)**

**Contract deliverable due during the quarter:** Develop and present 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs **(Deliverable 26b)**

#### Key Accomplishments:

##### *Developed topics for 3 policy briefs in partnership with CSOs*

Through an STTA, PROSPER developed three policy briefs in fulfilment of Deliverable #26b, “Three Policy Briefs”. The topics are, (i) Forest resource rights in an evolving policy environment, (ii) Customary land governance: options for community forests, and (iii) Protected area expansion: a call for restraint. These topics for the policy briefs were brought to the CFWG for their inputs. Feedback was sent to the STTA for incorporation into the final policy briefs which are currently being edited for submission to USAID.

##### *Supported the FDA through the CRL and CRL regulation harmonization*

Toward the close of FY-14, the harmonization effort was given traction by PROSPER’s intervention. Momentum was lost during the height of the Ebola crisis. Once again, after PROSPER’s persistent engagement with the Chairman of the NGO Coalition, the first meeting for FY-15 was convened on October

22, 2014 at the VPA FLEGT office in Monrovia. After two successful meetings, the committee developed a matrix in which stakeholders stated perceived inconsistencies of the CFL Regulations with the CRL.

It was resolved that an independent legal expert be hired to review the CRL and its regulation. The legal expert will also be tasked to review relevant laws, policies, and regulations that will support any recommended amendments of the CRL Regulations. The draft will be submitted to FDA for further consideration by the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) for subsequent approval by the FDA's Board of Directors.

PROSPER and VPA-SU facilitated the development of the scope of work for the legal expert.

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

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

Developed Draft "Threatened Species of Liberia" calendar with FFI (**Result**)

Engaged stakeholders involved in 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:**

##### Developed Draft "Threatened Species of Liberia" calendar with FFI

Through the quarter, PROSPER worked with FFI to develop a calendar to reflect "The Threatened Species of Liberia". There was a lot of exchange of various versions in an effort to arrive at one suitable for the multiple audiences that PROSPER serves. The calendar will be finalized and published in FY15, Q2.

##### Engaged stakeholders involved in REDD+ initiatives

PROSPER participated in the National Forest and Landscape Forum, Inter-sectorial Policy Dialogue first Expert Panel Discourse on November 21, 2014. The forum brought together a cross section of environmentalists, natural resources specialists, forestry specialists, agriculturists and other forestry related practitioners to foster dialogue under the topic "Is an integrated natural resource management approach an appropriate mechanism in reducing deforestation and forest degradation in Liberia?" During the one day meeting, Mr. Saah David, the National REDD+ Coordinator of FDA, Professor Moses Massah of the UNDP-Liberia and Mr. Jens Lund Hansen, Country Director of Fauna and Flora International (FFI-Liberia) presented their experiences and perspectives on the topic. During the meeting, the three panelists agreed in principle on the need for an appropriate mechanism with varied approaches. So far, Liberia is said to have taken the following measures:

- The initiation of the development of a baseline map to be completed by March 2015 and incorporated into the USAID GEMS program cadastral map upon completion;
- Liberia's establishment of contacts with the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) for membership status to gain further international mandate to enforce compliance in the sector;
- An established strong procurement system set up to access the REDD+ strategy fund;
- The establishment of a Land Use lab; and
- The validation of SESA baseline report.

The UNDP-Liberia representative proposed the development of guidelines for building an integrated natural resource management approach at the landscape level:

- Focus on multi-skills analysis and intervention;
- Develop partnerships and engage in action research;
- Facilitate change rather than dictating it;

- Promote visioning and the development of scenarios;
- Recognize the importance of local knowledge;
- Foster social learning and adaptive management;
- Concentrate on both people and their natural resources, including biodiversity; and
- Embrace complexity.

The FFI representative attributed the cause of deforestation and forest degradation to the lack of alternative livelihoods to fully replace shifting cultivation. Projects' focus should be directed at general capacity building of the community rather than targeting just poor people.

## 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> )
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia ( <b>Deliverable 17 and Revision of same 17a</b> ) ( <b>These deliverables are also listed under 1.2</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>Deliverable 16</b> )

#### Key Accomplishments:

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

In Northern Nimba, the established CFMBs of Zor and Bleih have not updated their management plans yet. A permitting system for harvesting NTFPs, including Dura Palm, is expected to be part of the management plan. When the NTFPs to be regulated have been identified in the management plans, PROSPER will develop Best Harvesting Practices that support sustainable natural resources management of those NTFPs.

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

For District 4 and Barconnie, the development of a questionnaire for the market analysis regarding the identification of established NTFP trade networks and training of field staff in using the questionnaire has been postponed until it has become clear what areas will be designated as Community Forest. Various plans have been proposed for sites in Barconnie, and the situation in District 4 is still unclear. It is expected that this activity will be carried out in FY15Q2.

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

The support to develop and foster wood based enterprises has mainly focused on the Gba CF forest. The Gba CF is losing 510 acres of its southeastern part to the expansion of the ArcelorMittal (AML) mining operations. The area must be cleared by March 31, 2015. The Gba CFMB has been given the opportunity to clear the entire area and sell off all the marketable timber from the area. AML will also put in a few access roads to facilitate the removal of timber. Component 3 has conducted a small study to determine the best options for the Gba CFMB to derive an income from the 510 acres clearing.

The initial results of the study suggest that the easiest and most profitable solution may be to parcel the area up in a number of blocks, and 'auction' these blocks off to timber dealers/buyers that have their own contracted chain saw operators. Although the Gba CFMB received \$150,000 from AML to clear the area, investment in equipment and employing (un-trained) local villagers to do the clearing and transporting of timber to landing areas will be expensive and will most likely result in an operational loss. Harvesting timber on such a relatively small scale does not justify large investment in machinery or transport equipment. Selling the standing timber off to somebody who has that equipment and skilled manpower to carry out the work is preferable. If this is the selected solution, the potential contracts would stipulate that unskilled labor (for carrying the planks out of the forest to a landing site and other small tasks) has to be recruited locally for a price set in the contract.

PROSPER will recruit a Business Development Advisor (BDA), who will train and coach the CFMBs (starting with the CFMBs in Northern Nimba) to make sound business decisions on sustainable forest management. The BDA is expected to start in FY15Q2.

#### 3.1.4 Maintenance and operations training CPGs in Northern Nimba

To strengthen the capacity of the 10 CPGs to effectively manage the cassava processing mills, maintenance and operations training was conducted during the quarter with seven of the groups in the Zor and Gba Communities in Northern Nimba. The CPGs training was as a result of a technical/mechanical assessment conducted in June 2014 on the 10 Cassava Processing Mills as well as the operational knowledge/skill of the 10 Mills operators. The training was aimed to bridge the technical knowledge/skill gap of CPGs members and operators which was lost as a result of the restructuring of the groups. It also aimed to establish the link between Moonlight Metal Works and CPGs for future training and repair services. Some of the topics covered during the training included the identification and naming of the various parts of the cassava processing mill, pre-operation and operation steps of processing, etc. The training was interactive and included pre- and post-training questions which were asked to ascertain the understanding of the training. A total of 48 (23 female, 25 male) participated in the training including some members of the Community Forest Management Board (CFMB) and Community Assembly (CA).

As part of the training package to ensure that the groups' members carry out some repair and maintenance work on the machines in the event of minor problems, PROSPER provided each group with a toolkit that included five wrenches of different sizes, a screw driver and a pair of pliers. The training was conducted in concert with a mechanic of the manufacturer of the machines. Exchange of phone numbers and contact information between the manufacturer and the CPG management will ensure that future repair issues can be easily solved by the groups themselves.

PROSPER provided to each of the 10 CPGs with a second grinding drum, which produces a finer grade of product. PROSPER also provided all CPGs with a gari processing (drying) pot and a tarpaulin to complete the cassava processing package. The fine grinders will ensure that the groups will produce smooth/fine gari which is mostly requested by consumers. The coarse grinder will be used to produce fufu, and gari for achekeye (a local food prepared from cassava). With each of the group having both the fine and coarse grinders, they can now rotate the two grinders depending on the purpose or end product of the cassava to be processed. The tarpaulin and the gari processing pot will ensure open air drying and parching of large quantity of cassava pulps respectively.

The processing of cassava continued during the quarter with remarkable increased volumes. A total of 2,101 Kg was processed as compared to 1,337 Kg in the previous quarter (Oct. 155 Kg, Nov. 855 Kg, and Dec. 1,091 Kg). The sharp 57 percent increase of cassava processed during the quarter was due to the decreased availability of rice for consumption. Therefore, farmers will harvest cassava to replace the rice. The new rice harvest starts in late December. Farmers also took advantage of the training skills acquired and the installation of the fine/smooth grinders on their cassava processing machines to test the efficiency of the new grinders. Cassava is considered the second food crop in the PROSPER communities and plays an important role in food security.

Further support to the CPGs will not be continued after FY15Q1, with exception of the new CPG in Lugbeyee. The Gba CFMB reallocated the cassava grinder from the dysfunctional CPG in Zolowee to Lugbeyee. The new CPG in Lugbeyee will receive management will receive further support in strengthening the group structure, operational management and bookkeeping.

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

During the quarter, four groups were identified for starting their own oil palm nurseries with improved F1 high yielding dwarf varieties of oil palm that were developed in Ivory Coast. These four groups are located in Nimba between the Big Gio forest and the border with Ivory Coast. The "palm farmers" of these groups all have small oil palm plantations that need to be rejuvenated. Three of the four groups had raised US\$300 each to start the nurseries. However, due to the Ebola crisis, the border with Ivory Coast has been closed which makes it difficult to import the sprouted seeds from Ivory Coast. The groups decided to postpone the

nursery project and requested that PROSPER assist them to start the oil palm processing businesses first. At the end of November, three groups deposited US\$300 each at the PROSPER office in Tappita, and PROSPER has started the procurement process to purchase Freedom Mills for these groups. It is expected that the Freedom Mills will be delivered in January 2015.

In December PROSPER had a meeting with Kwakerdoe Cooperative<sup>1</sup> in Tappita to discuss the time frame for the establishment of oil palm nurseries. Kwakerdoe management assured PROSPER that they are able to obtain F1 certified oil palm seeds, so the PROSPER field staff will contact the oil palm groups to see if they can raise additional funds for the nursery establishment in FY15Q2. To ease the burden, it was decided to make the nurseries smaller: 630 trees per nursery instead of 2,000. A smaller nursery will be easier to manage (less potting, soil preparation, out-planting, watering, etc.). The learning and training aspects will be very important in the first year. Performance and results will be the determining factors for continuation in following years.

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

As discussed under 3.1.5.1 (Oil Palm Nurseries), the establishment of oil palm processing machinery was given priority due to Ebola crisis and border closure, which made it impossible to import hybrid F1 seeds from Ivory Coast. As part of the process to support the oil palm sector around the Big Gio Forest, oil palm farmers in four communities (Behwallay, Gbenetuo, Old Yorpea and Toweh Town) agreed to PROSPER's proposal of cost sharing, through which PROSPER would provide 70 percent and the groups would provide 30 percent of the costs of each Freedom Mill. Presently, three of the four oil palm farmer groups have paid an amount of US\$300 each for their portion towards the purchase of the Freedom Mills. The contribution by the farmers towards the purchase of the Freedom Mills is to ensure sustainability of the enterprise development activities. This new policy whereby the entrepreneurial farmer groups must contribute their own money and take on some risk is a major development in shifting the minds and attitudes of farmers in post war Liberia, where farmers have always expected handouts from international development partners, as was done under programs preceding PROSPER. PROSPER has begun the procurement process to purchase the three Freedom Mills. PROSPER is encouraging other palm farmers to form groups to follow suit and raise their 30 percent contribution.

The activities of the CPOPs in Northern Nimba continued during the quarter despite the low quantity of palm fruits available. Though it was not the season for the harvest of palm fruit, the amount processed was a result of the efficiency of the Freedom Mills in processing the palm fruits, and the lower labor demand in comparison to the traditional processing pit method.

The volume of palm oil produced amounted to 104 gallons (34, 42 & 28 in October, November and December respectively). This is 17.5 percent lower than the previous quarter. This is consistent with the production season that peaks in April/May and reaches its lowest point in January. Tenera farmers and those harvesting Dura palm from the wild continue to appreciate PROSPER's support for the provision of the Freedom Mills in their communities. The value of the oil palm processed is estimated at US\$ 364, but it was reported that the palm oil was mainly for household consumption.

#### 3.1.6 Eco-Tourism pilot

A field assessment was carried out in December that made an inventory of the current touristic and entertainment establishments along the beaches of the Barconnie shore line. These locations could possibly be starting points for (day) tourists, or provide overnight facilities. The findings will be presented in a report that will be published in February 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Kwakerdoe is the cooperative that operates a palm oil nursery in Tappita and was initiated and set up under the USAID funded SHOPS project

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

ANNUAL RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (YEAR 3)
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>
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>(Deliverable 16)</b>
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia <b>(Deliverable 17 and 17a)</b>

### Key Accomplishments:

#### 3.2.1 CF Outreach through groups

Component 1 has taken the lead in the development of the extension module that can be used in a variety of PROSPER groups, e.g. PROSPER crop diversification groups and FED FFSs. These modules will be tailored to the specific threats of the various communities as perceived by the community members themselves. By doing this the module becomes more “real” and recognizable. Field consultations with local stakeholders will be carried out in January. The final module is expected to be ready in Q2 of FY15.

#### 3.2.2 Cocoa Rehabilitation Activities

The contractor for the Cocoa Rehabilitation Activities, WIENCO Liberia, did not return in FY15, Q1 after they evacuated their staff from Liberia to Ghana. WIENO is expected to resume activities in FY15, Q2.

#### 3.2.3 Crop Diversification

The provision of technical assistance by ACIDI/VOCA staff continued during the quarter to strengthen the technical and production capacity of the 16 women groups. The groups have started seeing themselves as business groups and not merely as social groups, as they continue to generate income from their farming activities. Technical assistance provided during the quarter focused on providing grain and pulses storage management practices, especially for beans that were harvested during the tail end of the rainy season and are stored as seed for the next planting. Site selection was also carried out for the dry season production activities and nursery preparation to start pepper and bitter ball cultivation. Pepper and bitter-balls are in demand during the dry season, so these products are targeted to be sold on the local market. The groups have stated that this is the first time that they have generated real surplus income from their agriculture activities as a group.

Additionally, these 16 women’s groups participated in leadership training during the quarter. The training was facilitated by the PROSPER Gender Officer. Key topics covered during the training included team building skills, effective listening skills, effective communication skills, good quality of a leader, and group members’ involvement in decision making. These skills were practically demonstrated by the facilitator using group leaders and members to demonstrate the skills for the understanding of other group members. All 377 members (male 56, female 321) participated in the training including some members of the communities that participated as observers. The training focused on all the members of the group instead of the leaders so that those who are not in leadership will understand the principles of leadership in order to give meaningful support to those in leadership.

#### 3.2.4 Improve Market Information

No progress to be reported.

#### 3.2.5 Bushmeat Alternatives

A field visit was conducted to the cane rat production site in Zortapa. The facility has no cane rats anymore. Visits to goat development activities of the USAID FED program are scheduled for January 2015. PROSPER was not able to receive any information from Land-O-Lakes since their operations were halted due to the Ebola crisis. It is expected that this program will be restarted in FY15, Q2. A full report on viable bushmeat alternative options will be released in FY15, Q2.

### 3.2.6 Charcoal Production

No progress to be reported.

**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> )
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>Deliverable 16</b> )
Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia ( <b>Deliverable 17 and 17a</b> )

During the quarter, the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) did not convene because the Government of Liberia had suspended all such gatherings as a mitigation measure to reduce the spread of Ebola in the country. Meanwhile, the ACC secretariat has officially communicated to all partners within the agriculture sector that the monthly ACC meeting will reconvene on January 29, 2015.

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1: STAFF LIST (31 DEC 2014)

## Full-time Staff: Monrovia

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
<b>Technical</b>					
1	<i>Cowles</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Chief of Party/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights</i>		<i>DEPARTED PROGRAM 23 DEC 2014</i>
2	Meadows	Paul	Chief of Party/Leader, Community Forestry/Land Tenure and Property Rights		6 Jan 2014
3	Cole	Eugene	Deputy Chief of Party, Leader, Educational Development and Outreach Activities		21 Jan 2013
4	Jackson	Nobeh	Communications and Outreach Advisor		01 Jun 2012
5	Johnson	T. Doe	Education Advisor	NAEAL	18 Jun 2012
7	Kweme	Dominic	Organizational Development Advisor	CJPS	01 Jun 2012
8	de Waard	Peter	Leader, Livelihoods & Enterprise Development Activities	ACDI/VOCA	18 Jun 2012
9	Akoi Forkpa	Laveto	Deputy LEDA	ACDI/VOCA	01 Feb 2014
10	Queejay	Marvelous	Senior Field Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	01 Feb 2014
11	Miller	Esthella	Gender Integration Officer		01 Jun 2012
12	Vangehn	Darlington	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		01 Jun 2012
13	<i>Kollie</i>	<i>Anthony</i>	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation Officer</i>		<i>DEPARTED PROGRAM 31 DEC 2014</i>
<b>Financial and Administrative</b>					
14	Tarr	Vera	Office Manager		01 Jun 2012
15	Williams	Joshua	Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
16	Mulbah	Henry	Assistant Finance Officer		01 Jun 2012
17	Wheigar	Sando	Procurement/Contracts Officer		02 Jul 2012
18	Sartee	Alvis	Administrative Operations Officer		10 Feb 2014
19	Glaydor	Garnahweh	Administrative /Finance Assistant		07 May 2014
<b>Support Staff</b>					

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Last Name	First Name	Function	Subcontract Organization	Start Date
1	Gibson	Eugene	Forestry Officer/Head of Office		20 May 2013
2	Dugbeh	Sam	Field Office Administrator		03 Dec 2012
3	Manobah	Folley	Driver		16 Oct 2012
4	Kenedy	Winifred	Coordinator	NAEAL	
5	Gorvego	Roland	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
6	Bloh	Eric	Mobilizer	NAEAL	
7	Folley	Isaac	Coordinator – Acting	CJPS	
8	Josiah	Joe Benson	Mobilizer	CJPS	
9	Johnson	Rufus	Caretaker	CJPS	01 Oct 2013
10	Johnson	Nathaniel	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA	
11	Newman	Kollie	Mobilizer	ACDI/VOCA	
12	Kpainay	Joseph		FDA	
13	Johnson	Boima		FDA	

# APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

	Title	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Notes
-	Year 3 Annual Work Plan	RR-1	-Submitted 12 NOV 2014 -Approved 19 NOV 2014
-	Agricultural Value Chain Assessment	Deliverable 2b	-Submitted 14 OCT 2014 -Approved 8 NOV 2014
-	Wood-based Enterprise Development Opportunities at PROSPER Pilot Sites	Technical Report	-Submitted 16 OCT 2014
-	Year 2 Annual Report	RR-8	-Submitted 31 OCT 2014
-	FY15/Q1 Quarterly Accruals Report	RR-7	-Submitted 15 DEC 2014
-	FY14/Q4 Quarterly Financial Report	RR-6	-Submitted 31 OCT 2014

# APPENDIX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE - FY15Q1

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q1 Target	2015 Q1 Actual	2015 Q1 % 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>	#	2012	0	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>	#	2012	0	25	10	30	300%	<b>120%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.3:</b> Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum								
1.3.1: Number of technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements – <i>Custom /Output</i>	#	2012	0	40	0	0	0%	<b>0%</b>
1.3.2: Number of individuals supported by program to conduct applied research at one or more of the program’s pilot sites – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	2012	0	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								

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q1 Target	2015 Q1 Actual	2015 Q1 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % Actual vs Target
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	6	0	0	0%	0%
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	10	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Intermediate Result 2:</b> Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities								
4.8.1-2: Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome(PROSPER 2.1)</i>	#	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management</b>								
4.8.1- 4: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome (PROSPER 2.1)</i>	#	0	0	25k	0	0	0%	0%
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	40	0	0	0%	0%
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	#	0	0	35	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.2:</b> Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management								
2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	28	0	0	0%	0%
<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								

Performance indicators and types	Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	FY 2015 Target	2015 Q1 Target	2015 Q1 Actual	2015 Q1 % Actual vs Target	FY 2015 % Actual vs Target
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>	#	0	0	12	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.4:</b> Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs								
2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	10	0	0	0%	0%
<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>FtF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.1)</i>	#	0	0	320	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.1:</b> Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises								
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	#	0	0	8	0	0	0%	0%
<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>	#	0	0	400	0	0	0%	0%
4.5.2-5: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.2.2)</i>	#	0	0	120	0	0	0%	0%
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.3:</b> Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.								

<b>Performance indicators and types</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Baseline Year</b>	<b>Baseline Value</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>	<b>2015 Q1 Target</b>	<b>2015 Q1 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Q1 % Actual vs Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 % Actual vs Target</b>
3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	#	0	0	2	0	0	0%	<b>0%</b>

# APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN FY15Q1

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/ Community	CF Site	Days	No. of Participants			
							F	M	PROSPE R Staff	Total
1	October 2,2014	EBOLA Awareness	For community members to know the facts about the EBOLA virus spread, symptoms and preventions	Gbarpaly	Zor	1	4	5	1	10
2	October 3,2014			Gayeplay	Zor	1	1	8	1	10
3	October 6,2014			Yeaplay	Zor	1	1	6	1	8
4	October 8,2014			Mankinto	Sehyi	1	4	9	1	14
5	October 8,2014			Snakazzue	Bleih	1	6	4	1	11
6	October 8,2014			Blolehwee	Gba	1	0	7	1	8
7	October 8,2014			Baintonwin	Gba	1	2	11	1	14
8	October 8, 2014			Blolehwee	Gba	1	0	7	1	8
9	October 9,2014			Kpolay	Zor	1	0	9	1	10
10	October 9,2014			Vayanpa	Gba	1	7	6	1	14
11	October 9,2014			Gbeleyee	Gba	1	8	29	1	38
12	October 13,2014			Lugbeyee	Gba	1	3	8	1	12
13	October 14,2014			Barpa	Gba	1	3	7	1	11
14	October 15,2014			Cassava Village	Gba	1	3	6	1	10
15	October 16,2014			Baintonwin	Gba	1	2	8	1	11
16	October 6, 2014	Awareness on wildlife and National Park Act	To inform community members on the importance of wildlife and national parks Act and the danger of eating bush meat.	Cassava Village	Gba	1	3	7	1	11
17	October 6, 2014			Leagbala	Gba	1	1	4	1	6
18	October 6, 2014	Follow-up on CRL/Reg	To let the forest governance institution of Suakazue know the importance of the CRL/Reg. with respect to forest land	Suakazue	Gba	1	5	5	1	11
19	November 28,2014	Leadership Training	Women group leadership training for crop diversification	Lugbeyee	Gba	1	25	9	2	36
20	November 29, 2014	Leadership Training	Women group leadership training for crop diversification	Sehyigeh	Gba	1	14	4	3	21
21	November 30, 2014	Leadership Training	Women group leadership training for crop diversification	Zorgowee	Gba	1	18	12	1	31

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/ Community	CF Site	Days	No. of Participants			
							F	M	PROSPE R Staff	Total
22	Sept. 15, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Gboutou	Gblor-Gbear	1	13	15	1	29
23	Sept. 16, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Kwipea	Gblor-Gbear	1	17	24	1	42
24	Sept. 17, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Wrolay	Gblor-Gbear	1	19	17	1	37
25	Sept. 18, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Dialah	Gblor-Gbear	1	7	17	1	25
26	Sept. 18, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yeayinbopea	Gblor-Gbear	1	20	19	1	40
27	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Doeyelay	Gblor-Gbear	1	10	14	1	25
28	Sept. 23, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Bitter-Ball Camp	Gblor-Gbear	1	14	10	1	25
29	Sept. 24, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yarmie	Gblor-Gbear	1	11	11	1	23
30	Sept. 25, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yelekor	Gblor-Gbear	1	8	15	1	24
31	Sept. 16, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Bah-town	Kparblee	1	8	18	1	27
32	Sept. 19, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Kparblee	Kparblee	1	18	6	1	25
33	Sept. 20, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Dewoblee 2	Kparblee	1	8	22	1	31
34	Sept. 21, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Kaylay	Kparblee	1	1	14	1	16
35	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Dubuzon	Kparblee	1	25	26	1	52
36	Sept. 23, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Moses Town	Kparblee	1	14	10	1	25
37	Sept. 24, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	New Yourpea	Kparblee	1	3	29	1	33
38	Sept. 25, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Old Yourpea	Kparblee	1	10	20	1	31
39	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Volay	Sehzuepla y	1	12	12	1	25
40	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Zeongehn	Sehzuepla y	1	5	10	1	16
41	Sept. 24, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of	Korlay	Sehzuepla	1	9	9	1	19

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/ Community	CF Site	Days	No. of Participants			
							F	M	PROSPER Staff	Total
			Ebola disease and preventive measures		y					
42	Sept. 25, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Kanpea	Sehzuelpa y	1	2	13	1	16
43	Sept. 26, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Sehyie Village	Kparblee	1	7	7	1	15
44	Sept. 26, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yreah Town	Gblor-Gbear	1	5	31	1	37
45	Sept. 26, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Toweh Town	Boe and Quilla	1	1	23	1	25
46	Sept. 27, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Gbenetuo	Boe and Quilla	1	13	11	1	25
47	Sept. 28, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Lorplay	Boe and Quilla	1	2	21	1	24
48	Sept. 29, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Sargarplay	Boe and Quilla	1	1	22	1	24
49	Sept. 16, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Tarwea	Boe and Quilla	1	7	36	1	44
50	Sept. 17, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Tuowea	Boe and Quilla	1	10	26	1	37
51	Sept. 18, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Bongay	Boe and Quilla	1	4	20	1	25
52	Sept. 19, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Payeplay	Boe and Quilla	1	12	24	1	37
53	Sept. 20, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yitepea	Boe and Quilla	1	6	6	1	13
54	Sept. 21, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Sarley	Boe and Quilla	1	28	15	1	44
55	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yoeley 1	Boe and Quilla	1	9	15	1	25
56	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Yoelay 2	Boe and Quilla	1	11	13	1	25
57	Sept. 22, 2014	Ebola awareness	Sensitization community on existence of Ebola disease and preventive measures	Zuatuo	Boe and Quilla	1	57	36	1	94
58	Dec.10 – 13, 2014	Quarter 2 work plan	Quarterly work plan and staff retreat in Tapita	Tapita	Tapita	4	8	37	1	46
59	Oct. 28, 2014	Community Stakeholders meeting	Develop rules for forest users in communities	Benzhon	Dist. 4	1	13	3	1	17
60	Nov. 3, 2014	Comm. Awareness	Community awareness on the 9 steps	Keyah	Dist. 4	1	13	17	1	31
61	Nov. 25, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Bay town	Dist. 4	1	22	9	1	32

N	Date	Title	Objective	Location/ Community	CF Site	Days	No. of Participants			
							F	M	PROSPE R Staff	Total
62	Nov. 26,2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Gueh town	Dist. 4	1	18	5	1	24
63	Nov. 27, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Doe-Wheon - town	Dist. 4	1	17	5	1	23
64	Nov. 11, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Gblor-Diallah	Gbor	1	21	3	1	25
65	Nov. 12, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Sarlay	Gbor	1	30	2	1	33
66	Nov. 23, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Doeleyea	Kpablee	1	23	5	1	29
67	Nov. 14, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Zeogehn	Kpablee	1	17	6	1	24
68	Nov. 15, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Zuatu	Kpablee	1	20	0	1	21
69	Nov. 16, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Zuatu	Kpablee	1	20	0	1	21
70	Nov. 17, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Beatuo	Boe & Quilla	1	40	10	1	51
71	Nov. 18, 2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Old yopea	Kpablee	1	21	11	1	33
72	Nov. 19,2014	Leadership training	Leadership training for CDSG	Moses town	Kpalee	1	29	1	1	31
						75	<b>829</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1826</b>

# APPENDIX 5: SNAPSHOTS



## SNAPSHOT

# Adding Value to Cassava Production and Building Enterprises



*"It will take me almost the whole day using my hands to grind this cassava." [Ma Yor B. Gono]*



*"Using my cooking pot to make gari that takes another whole day's work."*



*Ma Yor (yellow shirt) takes her cassava for grinding to the established CPG.*



*Using a specialized gari pot, Ma Yor processes her cassava pulp into gari.*

One of the challenges faced by Liberia's farmers is the lack of equipment which allows them to add value to their crops. This has historically kept production at a low level. PROSPER's livelihood activities have been designed to transition farming activities from not just as "a way of life" but as a sustainable, economically viable business enterprise. This is done through the provision of technical assistance to increase productivity and the introduction of technology for value addition. If farmers can derive more income from their land through value-added processing, it will reduce their need to clear more forest, thereby reducing a key threat to biodiversity.

Lugbeyee is one of PROSPER's communities in Northern Nimba with many cassava farmers. Due to the lack of processing equipment, their cassava production is primarily targeted for household consumption, while also attempting to supply a small amount to meet the demands of the community market.

As part of PROSPER support for livelihood activities, Lugbeyee is one of the project's communities that benefited from the provision of a motorized cassava grinding mill, a cassava pulp compressor, and a specialized *gari* processing pot. This equipment helped the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB) establish a cassava processing enterprise, and is managed by the Cassava Processing Group (CPG).

Ma Yor B. Gono is one of the many cassava farmers in Lugbeyee who appreciate the establishment of the processing enterprise. She said that "it was not a mistake for such enterprise to be in her town because Lugbeyee is known for its cassava production". She continued, saying, "it is a great help to the town especially for us, the women, whose work is mainly associated with cassava production and processing, manual grinding is not only hard but also time consuming." Because of the processing equipment, Ma Yor and her fellow farmers have begun receiving regular *gari* customers from the nearby communities.

The CPG sets the processing fee at L \$50.00 (US \$0.60) for every 25 kg of ground cassava. This will cover the operation and maintenance costs of the equipment to ensure the sustainability of the enterprise. According to the CPG chairman, Mr. Peter Gono, the presence of the cassava grinding machine in the town serves as a motivation for cassava farmers. Most of the cassava farms that were once abandoned have been reestablished and are preparing for harvesting. They expect to start receiving customers from nearby villages and communities as the news about the PROSPER motorized grinder in Lugbeyee spreads through the communities. If farmers earn more income from these activities, they will not only need to clear less forest, they will be more likely to continue to work with PROSPER and be amenable to conservation messages.

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## SNAPSHOT

### USAID/Liberia PROSPER Building Lasting Relationships between Community Forestry Partners



*The CFWG, with FDA and CSO members vetting Community Forest applications*

Until recently, Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) were at odds over issues they considered critical to the viability of the forestry sector. For years, Liberia's forestry sector was at the center of the conflict that destroyed the social, political, and economic fabric of the country. At the height of the Public Use Permit (PUP) saga, for instance, CSOs and campaigners in the forestry sector accused the FDA of doing little to effect reform. In September 2011, differences between key stakeholders and the FDA continued to grow over the issuance of PUPs. In the intervening years, it was questionable whether a productive relationship could be restored between the FDA and many of the CSOs. Today, the situation is markedly different. With the support of USAID/Liberia PROSPER, the relationship between the FDA and CSOs has reached a new level of cooperation. Through the Community Forestry Working Group (CFWG), the FDA and CSOs are holding roundtable discussions seeking durable solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing the forestry sector.

The CFWG was established by the FDA in 2007 to facilitate input from communities and other key stakeholders, such as the CSOs, into the development and eventual implementation of laws and policies relevant to community forestry, including the National Forestry Reform Law, the Community Rights Law, and regulations guiding their implementation. As a result of PROSPER's support with capacity building and creating enabling environments for the FDA and the group to meet, the role of the CFWG has now evolved to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement to build strong ties between the FDA and forest communities. More recently, USAID/Liberia PROSPER supported efforts which brought together representatives of the CSOs and Liberia's NGO Coalition on the validation exercise of community forestry (CF) applications. Through this collaboration, the FDA and CSOs have screened over 100 CF applications to ensure they met the minimum standards prescribed by the Community Rights Law (CRL) regulation to gain Authorized Community Forest Status. Through similar USAID-funded support, the FDA and CSOs conducted an intensive education and outreach campaign in over 85 forest-dependent communities who applied to the FDA for Authorized Community Forest status. Stakeholders are now working together and taking advantage of the CFWG platform to consult on issues of common interest in the forestry sector. Currently, CSOs are working with the FDA to provide technical input for finalization of a Socioeconomic and Reconnaissance Survey tool for use by the FDA.

USAID/Liberia PROSPER remains dedicated to supporting the FDA and will continue to build upon and strengthen the relationship between the FDA, CSOs, and other stakeholders that are vital to the process of developing sustainable community forests throughout Liberia.

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