



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Annual Report on Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation: Phase IV Activities



Prepared for  
COASTAL SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT

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## 1.0 Introduction

Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation Project is a collaborative effort between HM and CSLP which aims at establishing a formal co-management process and improving management planning for the Amanzule wetlands in the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts. The project contributes to the achievement of the overarching goals of improved natural resources management and increased capacity for low greenhouse gas emissions development.

Under the fourth phase of the small grant (October 2017 – September 2018) from the CSLP, Hen Mpoano undertook five (5) broad actions that resulted in the strengthening of governance in the GAW. These were based on management actions formulated in consultation with Community Conservation Committees and the Wildlife Division at the regional level under the second phase of the small grant (October 2015 – September 2016) provided by the CSLP. This report summarizes progress made on these activities, drawing on the lessons learnt during the 3-year implementation period and stakeholders' input into the process. The report also suggests strategies and activities required for the sustainability of initiatives as the project phases out. The actions carried out in the fourth phase are;

- ✦ Strengthening Governance within GAW communities
- ✦ Mapping of wetland attributes
- ✦ Restoration of degraded areas
- ✦ Piloting VSLAs in GAW communities
- ✦ Livelihood Enhancement and diversification

### **Act 1.0: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE WITHIN GAW COMMUNITIES**

Wetlands are among the most robust and diverse habitats on earth and form an important part of Western Region's landscape. From the swamps of Ebonloa and Alloakpoke to the vast mangroves in Ankobra to Effasu, wetlands play a vital role in supporting Amanzule's rich biodiversity and providing essential ecosystem services on which local communities depend for livelihood and wellbeing.

Building on the three-year experience of co-managing the Greater Amanzule Wetland, series of activities were implemented to improve planning and ensure that decisions and practices at the district and community levels supported GAW conservation. The activities included monitoring and training the various CCCs; frequent stakeholder engagements; sensitization and awareness creation for GAW communities on wetland benefit and conservation; logistical support to community conservation committees; exchange visits for community conservation committees and formulating community rules for the conservation of GAW.

These activities have led to improved community level practices for wetland management. For instance, community conservation committees (Anyanzinli, Sawoma, Kamgbunli and Metika) are successfully engaging the entire community to replant degraded mangrove sites. CCCs are exercising the right of exclusion on behalf of the various communities through their frequent monitoring of the wetland areas and ensuring that people do not destroy the wetland and its resources. Others (Azuleloanu and Benyin) have successfully engaged private developers with license to modify planned development to reduce potential impacts on wetland ecosystems. Stakeholders have come together to develop community rules and regulations resulting in better empowered communities effectively managing their wetlands. The local rules

and regulations propose sanctions for destructive activities in the wetlands. In addition, assembly members are actively involved in the conservation activities in GAW and serve as the link between communities and the districts. District conservation committees are ensuring that GAW conservation reflected in the assemblies' Medium-Term Development Plans.

Figure 1: Meeting with Traditional authority



### **Act 1.1 Support for community wetland management actions (Ref, Draft management plan)**

HM supported GAW communities to undertake some of the activities outlined in the GAW management plan. These activities included raising mangrove seedlings for restoration of degraded areas, replanting of degraded areas, supporting the process to develop formal community rules for the management of GAW and wetland mapping.

#### **1.1.1 Scaling-up tree nursery**

A total of 12,000 mangrove seedlings were raised in the year under review at the Metika and Anyanzinli nursery sites. The activity was carried out by the CCCs with the support of community members. The nursery activities served as hands-on training on mangrove nursery management for 192 (88M+104F) community conservation committee and community members. In the near future, it is expected that communities will undertake this activity with little or no supervision. This activity contributed towards the

restoration of degraded areas within GAW. A healthy mangrove forest will be able to provide all the ecosystem services associated with it.

### 1.1.2 Transplanting of seedlings

As part of efforts by CSLP/HM to restore degraded mangrove areas within the Greater Amanzule Wetland (GAW) area, a mangrove nursery was established at Anyanzinli and Metika to raise Twelve thousand (12,000) healthy mangrove seedlings to be used during replanting exercise at areas identified and mapped as degraded areas. Following up on this, a total of 8,050 healthy mangrove seedlings were transplanted at Anyanzinli and Metika. Weeding within the nursery and thinning of nursed mangrove seedlings was also done to keep nursery from diseases and pests. Dead seedlings were also replaced during seedling inspection. Watering of seedlings at the nursery was also done to keep nursed propagules healthy and fresh.

### 1.1.3 Training on sustainable mangrove management

Management strategies like ban on mangrove harvest and prohibitions on use of mangrove wood without providing alternative sources of fuel wood are unsustainable. During the year under review, identified mangrove harvesters from Sanwoma and Azuleloanu were engaged and subsequently trained on sustainable mangrove harvesting. The training sought to educate harvesters on best harvesting techniques, while effort is made to diversify their livelihood. The training brought together 56 (10F+46M) mangrove harvesters. A major challenge encountered with the organization of this particular training was convincing the harvesters to participate. The reluctance of some harvesters to join the training could be attributed to the heightened community awareness on the negative impacts of mangrove degradation. This shows that harvesters are very much aware of the negative impact of their activities. However, the significant contribution of mangrove to household livelihood makes it unrealistic to completely halt harvesting.

## 1.2 Trainer of Trainers Meeting on Wetland Management

Providing conservation education to CCCs has been coordinated and led by Hen Mpoano. This has yielded positive results in building the volunteer groups to a level where they are actively managing their resources. In order to sustain this type of training, 45 selected CCC members (37 males, 8 females) were trained to take up the task of training community members on sustainable wetland management. The training focused on topics such as sustainable harvesting, sustaining conservation effort, and community-

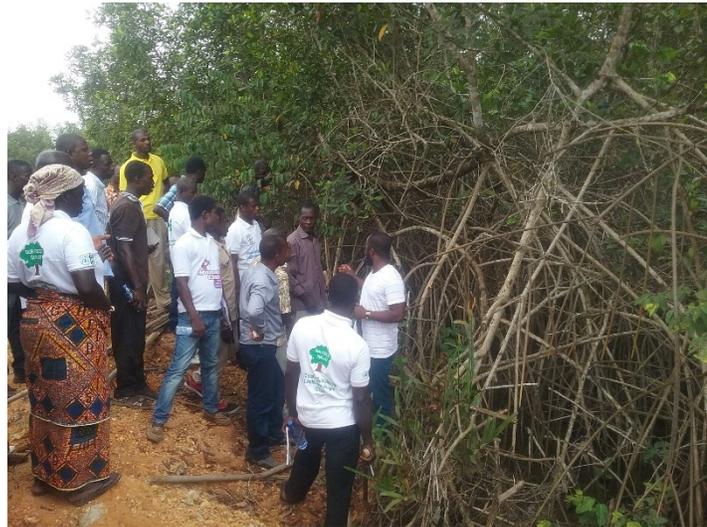


Figure 2 Cross section of CCC members at NRM Training

initiated rules for the management of the GAW. The CCC members were given the opportunity to bring out some of the experiences and challenges gathered from their work over the years. The way forward in terms of conserving the wetland were also discussed.

### Comments from some CCC members

- *“We have realized that we get more shrimps and fishes nowadays, this shows that our conservation effort is yielding positive result”*
- *“The prop root of the mangrove is dragging silt into the wetland and this is making it more compact closing up the river. There is the need for a management action to curb this challenge”*
- *“Some of us rely on the mangrove for our livelihood, thanks to this training we are going to practice sustainable harvesting and replanting of the degraded wetland”*
- *“Some of these training are beneficial to us because it is helping us build capacity and we promise to teach our community people about all we have learnt here”*



**Figure 3** CCC members during group discussions



**Figure 4 Kwame Owusu (CSLP) facilitating one of the training modules**

### **1.3 Meetings to draft community-initiated rules for the management of wetlands**

The Greater Amanzule Wetland has no formal rules that govern its use and management. Existing community rules for protecting the GAW at the local level has not been documented and endorsed by a higher authority to make it binding. The situation poses a major management challenge since it opens the wetland up for destruction. During the year under review, series of stakeholder engagements were carried out to solicit the input of stakeholders into developing local rules for the management of the GAW. Twenty-four (24) traditional authorities, representatives of the Western Regional wildlife division of forestry commission, district assemblies and twelve (12) communities were consulted in the process: Sawoma, Egbazo, Mangyea, Alloakpoke, Apataim, Bobrama, Azuleloanu, Kamgbunli, Effasu, Old Kblesuazo, Ampain and Anyanzinli.

Below is a highlight from the community meetings.

## Highlights

- **Ban on mangrove harvesting by all communities except in Sanwoma and Azuleloanu**
- CCCs to be inaugurated again by the chiefs to reaffirm their key role of ensuring GAW conservation initiative. (Some of the communities think this is very necessary as they are skeptical about their chiefs working with the CCCs to ensure conservation).
- **CCCs to provide conservation education to communities and harvesters.**
- Mangrove harvesting done on commercial scale should be done on the advice of the CCCs and the permission of the chiefs
- Mangroves harvested for commercial purpose without permission will be seized and the culprit will be liable to a fine based on the degree of degradation. Sanction is to be imposed by chiefs. CCC to ensure compliance.
- Everybody can access wetland and its resources once it is not in commercial quantities on the advice of the CCCs
- Communities are permitted to harvest dead mangrove but not live ones. CCCs to occasionally harvest dead mangroves and use the proceeds to run the committee
- CCCs to patrol the wetland from time to time to assess its status. They are expected to report to the traditional authority their findings
- DCCs will push for districts assemblies to incorporate wetland issues in the district plans
- Protected areas and areas of usability within wetland is defined as;
  - A) Protected Areas: Mangrove forest and critical sites as identified by WD and CCCs.
  - B) Areas of usability: Areas within wetlands which are not mangroves nor harbors the presence of critically endangered species

### Highlight

- No development is allowed within areas demarcated as protected areas
- Migrants cannot harvest forest tree without informing the traditional authority. Violators are summoned to the palace and fined as deemed fit by the traditional authority (Perculiar to Alloakpoke).
- The traditional authority is to be informed prior to the transportation of forest trees through the community, irrespective of where the tree or wood is coming from (Perculiar to Alloakpoke). Violators get their wood or trees seized and summoned to the palace.
- Conservation fund (proceeds from the activities of boat, canoe, violators of local rules, benevolence of prominent people and organizations) will be created to support the activities of CCCs.
- CCCs to lead monitoring and restoration programmes
- Zonation of mangrove forest and critical biological sites as protected areas
- Respecting buffer rules: violators will be liable to a fine deemed appropriate by TA and the CCCs

These engagements had led to communities proposing rules that if endorsed and enforced will contribute to effective management of the GAW. For example, some of the communities proposed that the wetland should be zoned and areas of usability and protection clearly defined. This they explained will ensure that future development and wetland conservation can co-exist. Communities that solely relied on the mangroves for their livelihood proposed that there should be a close season and open season for the mangrove harvesters to ensure replanting and sustainable harvesting. Violators of these rules, they proposed, would be fined. To motivate community members to report bad wetland management practices, the communities proposed that whistle blowers or reporters should be rewarded 50% of the fine.

#### 1.4 CCC Exchange Visit

Exchange visits or study tours seek to improve the knowledge and practice of the visiting CCCs, and to integrate the experience gained from the visit into their activities. During the year, a total of 66 CCC members (44M+22F) selected from 12 CCCs visited Old Kablesuazo and Metika to learn about how the CCCs there are managing their wetlands.

The two sites presented the CCCs there with unique management actions. While the Metika group was doing mangrove restoration due to degradations in their mangrove forest, Old Kablesuazo was engaged in protecting their already pristine mangrove forest.



**Figure 5: CCC members at Metika during exchange visit**

**Act 2.0: GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION AND PRODUCT**

One major necessity for wetland/mangrove conservation is the determination of the extent, status and potential threats of the resource(s) of interest. As part of the ongoing effort to put the Greater Amanzule wetland under some conservation status, Hen Mpoano mapped the wetland resources of all 8 GAW communities using a participatory approach and ground truthing. This means that all the 25 GAW community wetlands are mapped. The eight wetlands mapped in the year are located in Benyin, Asanta, Half-Assin, Bobrama, Ezinlibo, Adelekezo, Ellonyi and Apataim.

**2.1 Participatory mapping**

This is basically local knowledge mapping of resources and their attributes. The participatory mapping process involved the use of printed orthophotos (on flexy material) as visual aid for the facilitation of discussions and the identification of features. Members of the CCC provided information about the ownership of the land; extent of wetland resources; potential threats; and resource use patterns, among others. The output of the mapping provided a baseline data for initial mapping and subsequent ground truthing.

## 2.2 Wetland mapping and Ground truthing

Guided by the results of the participatory mapping, an initial delineation of the resources was conducted within the GIS environment. A GPS survey of the 8 wetlands was also conducted to ground truth and ascertain the validity of the participatory mapping. The Ground truthing involved community members who relied mostly on the mangrove ecosystem for their livelihood. Community assistants and Data collectors surveyed specific areas within the wetland with Garmin GPSMAP64 handheld GPS units and mobile devices running the Geo Tracker app.

## 2.3 Production of Wetland maps

A total of 651 ha of land area was mapped in Ellonyi. Mangroves and fresh water swamp constituted 0.29% (1.22 ha) and 32.03 (208.67) of the mapped area respectively. The mangroves in Ellonyi have seen some appreciable level of exploitation over the years. About 0.22 ha of mangroves (mostly along the beach) have been lost though road construction activities and other human and natural causes.

The total area mapped in Bobrama wetland is 203.29 ha. About 10% (20.66 ha) of the area is covered by fresh water swamp while mangroves cover 3.59% (7.29 %). The mangroves in Bobrama has been intact, despite the pressure on the wetlands from infrastructural developments including residential facilities, gas pipeline and road construction. Some swamp forest, however, have been destroyed. The community has lost 0.33 ha of their fresh water swamp forest to the gas pipeline and the recent road expansion.

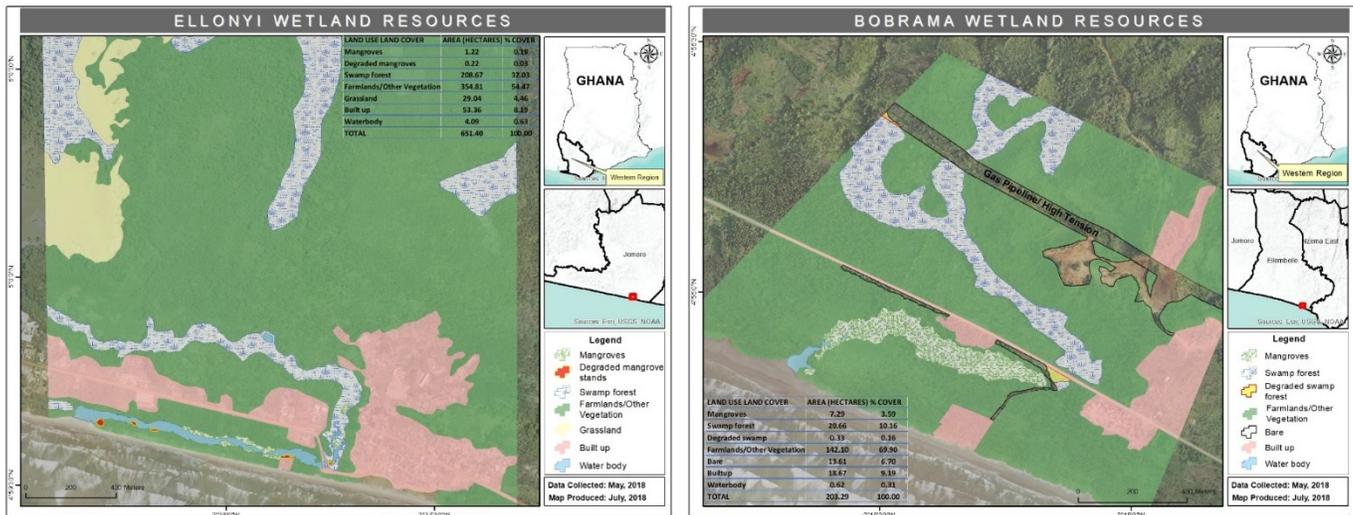


Figure 6: Wetland maps of Ellonyi and Bobrama

The result of the mapping at Ezinlibo revealed that Ezinlibo has 123 hectares of wetland comprised of 2 major wetland resources- mangroves (0.52 ha) and fresh water swamp forest (119 ha). Degraded mangrove constituted 0.05 ha of the wetland (Fig 4 details the attribute of the Ezinlibo wetland). The fresh water swamp is dominated by bamboos, raffia and some forest trees. The GIS mapping will inform restoration exercise within the wetland and help in management decision making.

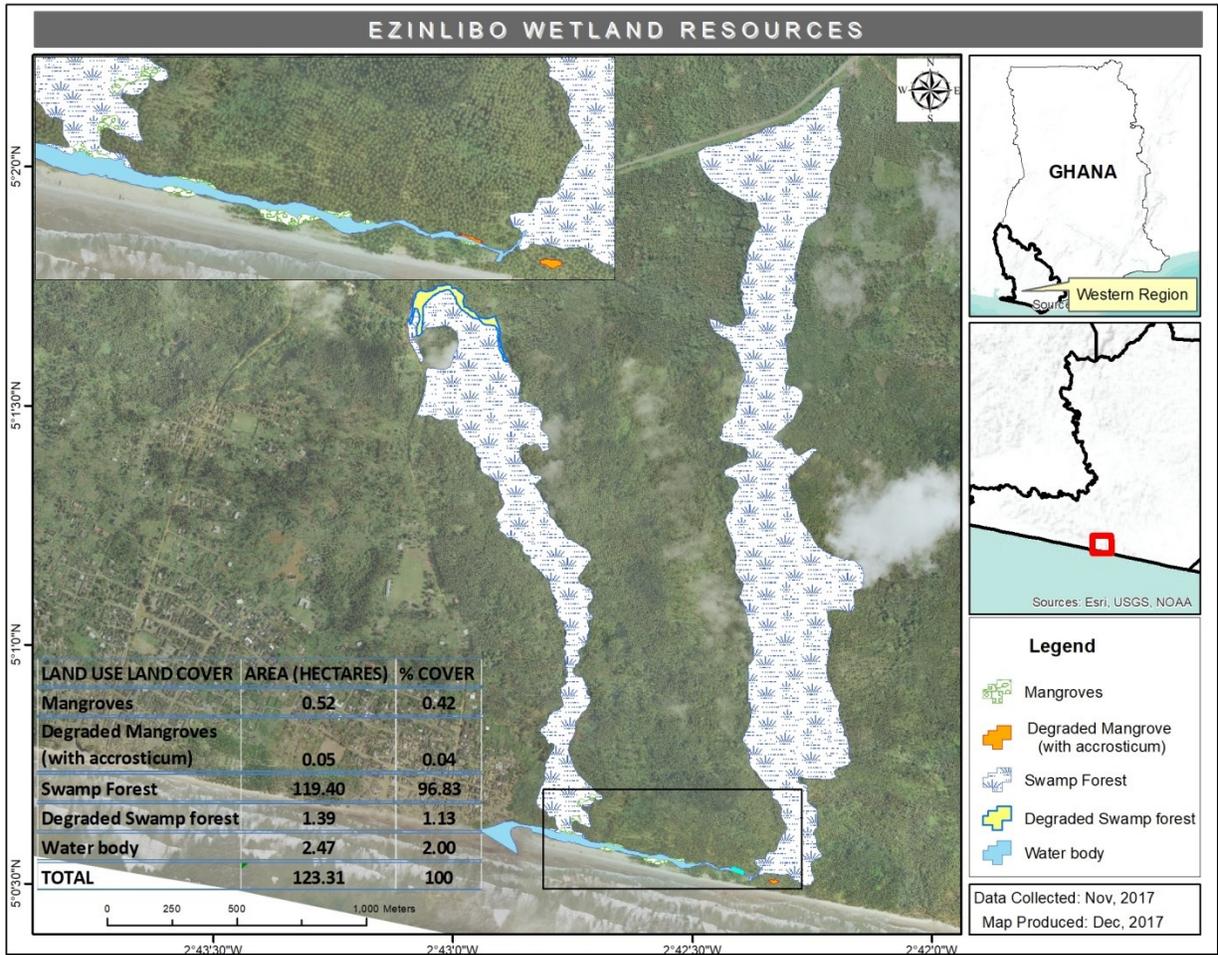


Figure 7 Map of the Ezinlibo wetland resources

Apataim and Adelekazo are endowed with vast area of pristine mangroves, swamp forest (with rattan, raffia and bamboo) and terrestrial forest. The distribution of these resources is determined largely by the terrain and hydrology of the area. The mangrove forest in the 2 communities is undisturbed and healthy. These pristine mangroves are located along the Ahema river tributary which runs to the west of the Ankobra river and covers a total area of 528 hectares (Apataim- 242.27 ha; Adelekazo- 286.2 ha). Exploitation of mangroves is very minimal and only restricted to the southern section of the Ahema river in Apataim. A total of 1.3 hectares of mangroves in Apataim had been lost through natural processes and cutting (by mangrove harvesters from other communities)

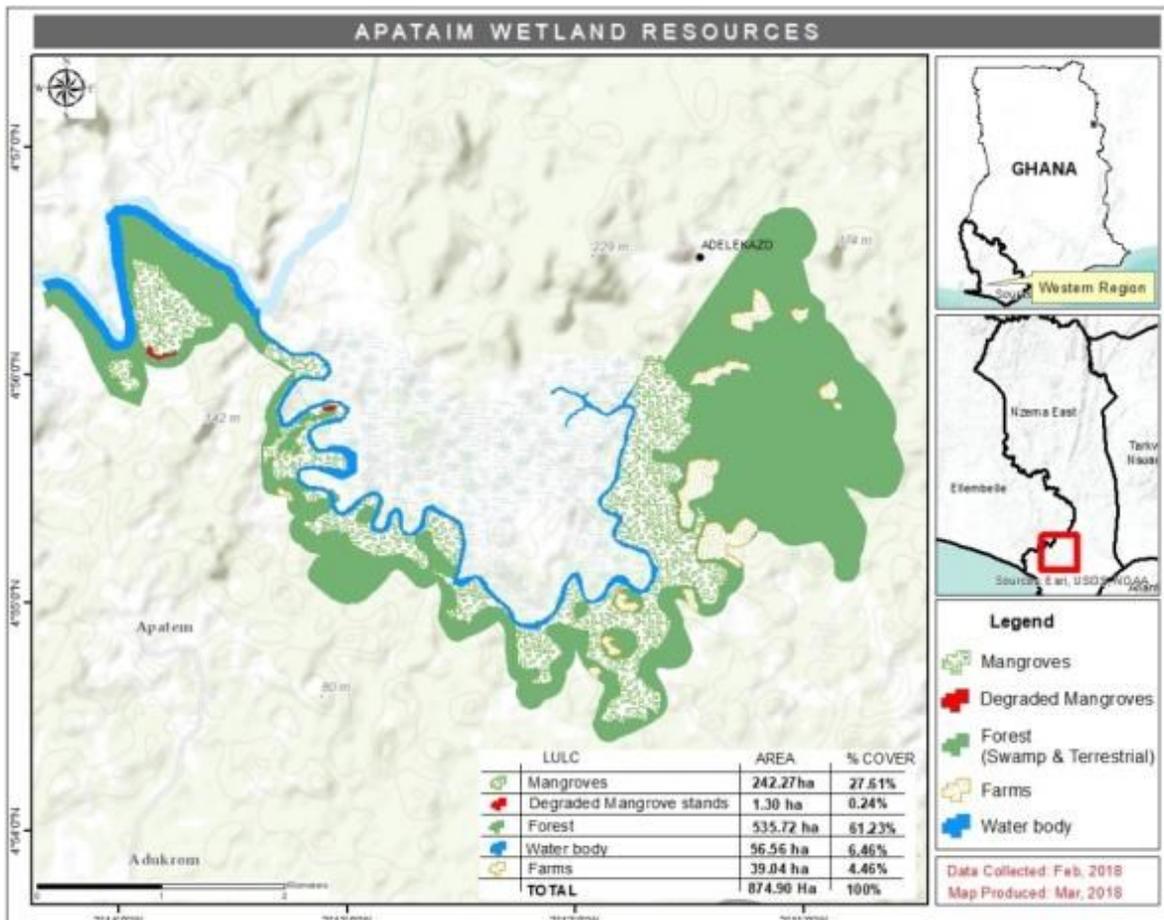


Figure 8 Map of the Apataim wetland resources

Adjacent to the mangrove ecosystems are forests comprising both terrestrial and fresh water swamp, predominantly palm dominated. Characteristic of the water swamp forest is the mix of raffia, palm trees, rattan and other economically important timber species. On the surrounding hills are primary terrestrial forests which are gradually giving way to cocoa farms, rubber plantations, etc. See Annex III for the remaining wetland maps.

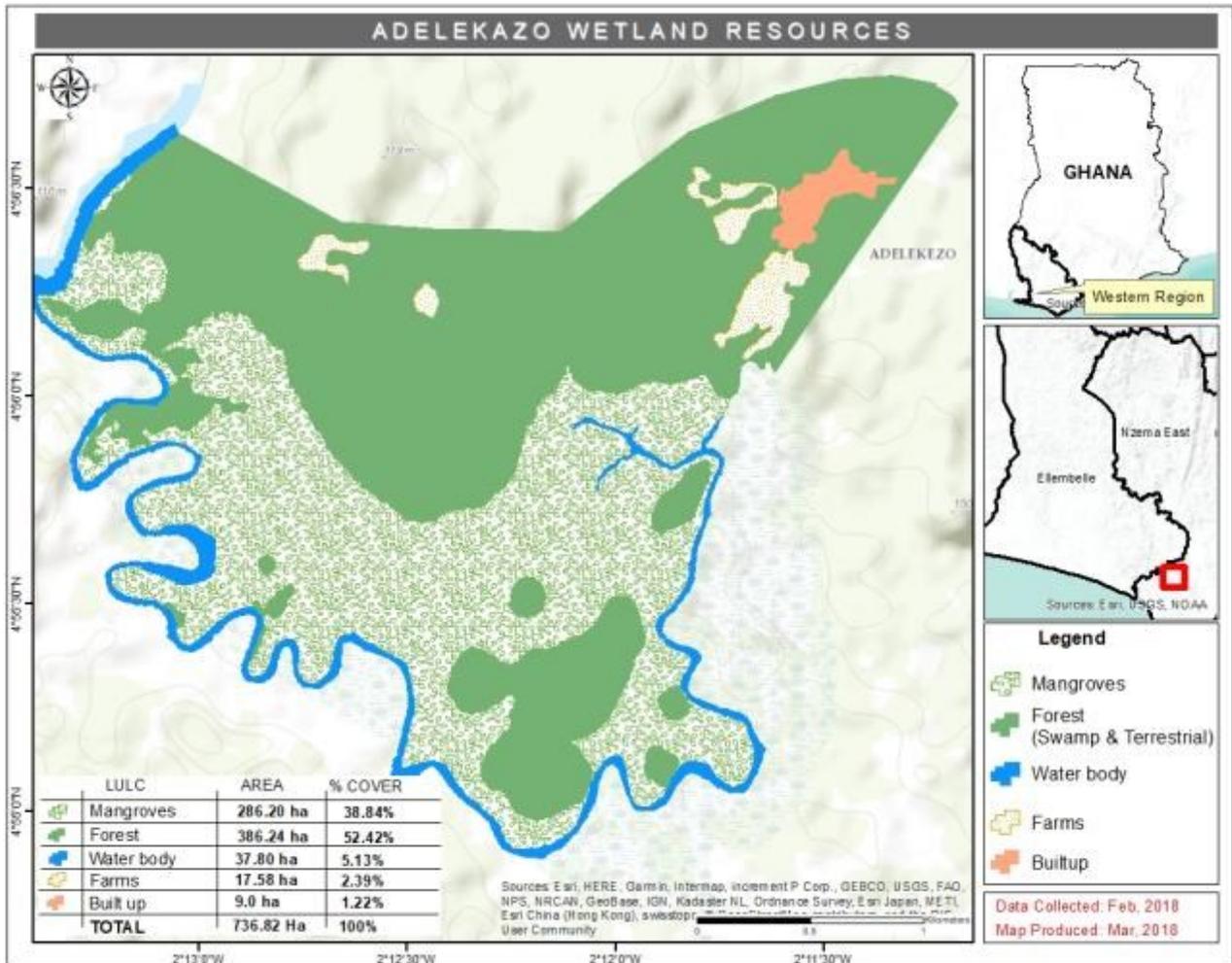


Figure 9 Map of the Adelekezo wetland resources

Other wetland maps produced during the year under review are Benyin, Asanta and Half Assini maps. Refer to Annex 3 for maps.

### Act 3.0 FORMATION OF 6 ADDITIONAL VSLAS AND MONITORING OF ALREADY ESTABLISHED VSLAS IN GAW COMMUNITIES

#### 3.1 Formation and Training of new Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

The Village Savings and loan concept has been applied under the CSLP to mobilize community members to develop the habit of saving whiles managing their natural resources. The VSLA has been very instrumental and have altered the development equation in marginalized communities in the GAW, providing members with means to cope with emergencies, build capital and re-create social dynamics that support genuine self-reliance.

During this project year, six new VSLA groups were formed at Asanta (Yesu mo), Egbazo (Nyame Nsa Wom), New Bakanta (Enza Nyamele ye), Bobrama (Konyele), Effasu (Konyele) and Azuleleonu (boyele) making a total of eleven (11) VSLAs formed by Hen Mpoano under the CSLP. The six groups comprised 123 females and 36 males. The VSLA under the supervision of Hen Mpoano have a membership of 297

with 94M and 203F. The groups have been introduced into training modules on “*Group naming and Election, Policy formulation, Development of constitution and first share purchase*”, loan disbursement and repayment, conflict management and group dynamics in order to strengthen the group and help them in their various activities.



**Figure 10 Training of the Asanta group on VSLA procedures**

### **3.2 Monitoring of old and newly formed VSLAs**

Five VSLA groups were able to share out their contributions successfully within the quarter. Thus, Alloakpoke Elole, Sanwoma Nkabom, Apataim Koyele, Metika Koyele and Egbazo Moaleku with a total amount of 30,990.00 Ghana Cedis. Members had the opportunity to contribute their savings for 52 weeks

The share out presented a very exciting moment for the members who were committed and a reflective time for the inactive members. The highest contributor within the four groups saved an amount of GHS 280.00 and received GHC 367.00 which included interest accrued on the savings.

After the share-out an introductory meeting was organized with the communities to sensitize them again on the VSLA concept and to review their constitution as well as the election of new leaders to induce some changes in the management of the VSLA. This was done to refresh the old members and educated the new

members to boost the interest of other community members. After the introductory meeting, membership increased in the various groups which were less than thirty members.



**Figure 11 VSLA share-out at Metika**

During the year, there were follow-up monitoring and training of the eleven VSLA groups from ten communities, namely, Asanta, Ankobra, Apateim, Alloakpoke, Egbazo, Metika, Anyanzinli and Bobrama, New Bakanta, Azuleloanu. These trainings were incorporated in the monitoring exercise to ensure the right procedures were followed and the account correctly written. Also, matters arising in the various groups were resolved.

Various VSLA groups encountered a number of challenges during the cycle and others are also skeptical with the VSLA concept due to past experiences with micro financial institutions. It was observed from the monitoring that groups were gradually building capacity and introducing the VSLA modules to other communities due to the benefit the members are deriving from it.

### Issues arising from the monitoring in the quarter

- *Groups were doing well with their savings and social fund aside a few*
- *Most members really appreciated the VSLA at the end of their share out due to their past experience*
- *Improvement in their livelihood: two VSLA groups have been able to secure a farm for the group*
- *Many group had the issues of members not turning up for meeting but rather giving their contributions to be paid for them*
- *Over sight of the calculation*
- *Meetings on Sundays affecting monitoring activities*

### Key Facts

- *The VSLA has a membership of 297 comprising of 68% women and 32% men*
- *100% of the groups continue to operate after their first share out*
- *More members want to join the group after the first share out*
- *About 90% of the groups loan fund are circulated as loans*
- *Loan repayment rates are high*
- *Low interest rate (5%-10%)*
- *Four groups have been able to share out within this quarter with an amount of GHS 29337 and social fund of GHS 4606*
- *The four groups had a profit margin of GHS5399*
- *Sanwoma Nkabom VSLA yielded an interest of 17%, Apataim Koyele had 15%, Metika Koyele had 31% and Egbazo Moaleku had 22%*

### SUCCESS STORY OF THE VSLA

- *Various groups have been able to secure some asset for their group from their social fund: tables, chairs, canopy, t-shirts, vegetable farm.*
- *Another group has been able to use part of their social fund to purchase treasury bill for the group*
- *Two members within a VSLA group came together to access loan to buy a cassava grinding machine*
- *Some members have also been able to purchase a canoe*

### COMMENTS FROM SOME VSLA MEMBERS

- ‘The VSLA is our world bank where we have the opportunity to access loans in times of difficulties’ VSLA member Sanwoma
- ‘The VSLA has given us some form of insurance that is the social fund. We are able to access emergency loan whenever there is emergency’ Bobrama
- ‘The susu group has helped me pay my son’s school fees’ Alloakpoke
- ‘This group has been very good to me, when I was down with illness and could not pay back my loan the group came together to clear my debt for me’ Metika
- ‘Two of us have been able to purchase a canoe and we making good money from it’ Ankobra
- ‘The susu has helped me boost my business, now I can access loan with less interest’ Egbazo.

### 3.3 Peer learning among VSLA pilots

As part of efforts to build the capacity of the 4 newly formed VSLA groups to manage their groups, a *one-day peer learning trip was organized for the groups (Bobrama Elole, Anyanzinli Onza Nyamele Ye, Egbazo Nyame Nsa Womu and Efaso Konyele) to visit their counterparts in Mangyea and Egbazo*. In addition to these newly formed groups were participant from two other communities namely Azulenuano and Ebonloa. In all 96 (male-36, female-62) members participated in the peer learning activity.

These groups witnessed the VSLA procedures of the two groups and interacted with them. VSLA experts from CSLP and Hen Mpoano led the discussions. Some of the questions asked included their constitution, loans disbursement and repayment, social fund benefits among many others

The participants appreciated the efforts of Hen Mpoano to organize the peer learning trips.

Lessons learnt by participants from the peer-learning event have reflected in the various groups. Most of the challenges some of the groups were facing have been resolved after the peer learning.



Figure 12 Interaction with the Ebonlwa VSLA group



Figure 13 Interaction with the Egbazo group

### 3.4 VSLA Financial Numeracy Training

The training took place in four communities within Ellembelle and Jomoro districts in the western region. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of the participants in the following aspects;

1. Record keeping of their daily business activities.
2. How to analyze total project cost.
3. Cost categories in businesses
4. Calculation of interest rate on loans (using the reducing and straight-line balance).
5. Calculation of depreciation on their fixed assets.

The participants were selected from all the ten VSLA groups within the Ellembelle and Jomoro districts under Hen Mpoano supervision. In all, 176 members participated in the training. The trainees were enlightened on simple record keeping books such as purchase, cash, credit, production, sales and inventory that could enable them track all cash flows within their businesses. Participants were also taught on the

various ways interest is calculated on loans, thus the reduce balance and straight-line balance. This training aimed at equipping VSLA members to be able to calculate interest expected to accumulate on the loans they take from the association.

Participants were trained on how to start a business with an authentic business plan and how to categorize the cost involved in the business. Trainees were given exercises which reflect on everything that was taught.



Figure 14 Maria facilitating VSLA Numeracy Training at Egbazo

## Act 4.0: LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT

### 4.1 Procurement and distribution improved Cassava planting materials

While the GAW conservation project is primarily focused on wetland planning and management, livelihood initiatives are introduced to incentivize conservation actions and create diversified household incomes while improving household food security. During this period, seventy-four (74) farmers, comprising 36 males and 38 females were supported with improved cassava planting materials (*Essam* and *Bankyehema*). The improved varieties (*Essam bankye*, *sika bankye*, *bankye hema*) are high yielding with shorter maturity period (6 month) and thus provide farmers the opportunity to plant two cycles within a given year.



Figure 15 : Beneficiary cassava farmer

#### 4.2 Cassava farm mapping

In order to provide ongoing extension support to beneficiaries of cassava livelihood program, information on beneficiaries and farms was collated. Farms planted with improved cassava varieties were mapped as a first step to facilitate yield estimation. In all, a total of 173 farms constituting 27.23 hectares were mapped with an average farm size of 0.20 hectares. Figure 16 shows the distribution of the cassava farms mapped and their corresponding hectares per communities. To ensure sustainable supply of planting materials, farmers are selecting high quality planting materials after harvesting for subsequent planting cycles.

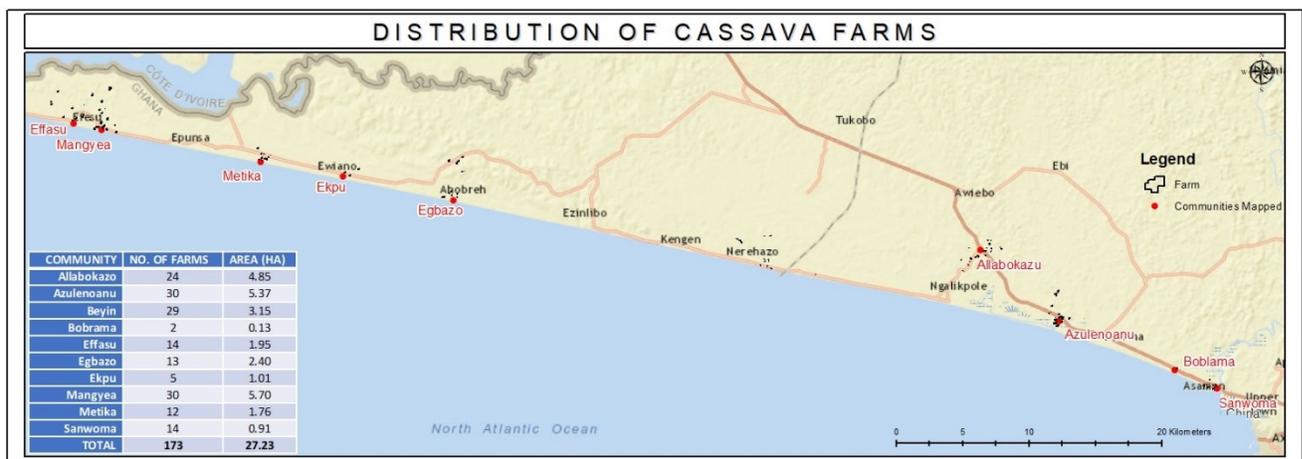


Figure 16 Distribution of cassava farms in the GAW area

### 4.3 CSA Training for beneficiary farmers

One hundred and sixteen (116) farmers comprising 35 males and 81 females from Benyin, Alloakpoke, Mangyea and Ampain were taken through Climate Smart Agriculture training during the reporting period. The essence of the training was to improve the knowledge of farmers in organic farming so as to improve yield and minimize the cost of farming as well as maintaining the fertility of soils for longer periods.

#### Comments from some farmers

- *“The new variety of cassava gave us much yield”*
- *“It took a shorter time to mature”*
- *“I am currently expanding my cassava farm with the harvested stems”*
- *“Some one bought my cassava for akyeke and according to her it was very good. She has placed a demand for me to cultivate the same variety for her”*



Figure 17 Kwame Ohene facilitating a CSA module with farmers of Mangyea

#### **4.4 Market access and linkages**

Millions of smallholder farmers in developing countries face incredible challenges marketing their farm produce. During the year under review, two stakeholder engagements were organized with the aim of linking enterprise group members and farmers who have benefitted from CSLP/HM's livelihood interventions to service providers and market. The expected outcome of this activity was for enterprise group members and farmers to have knowledge on where they could access products/ services related to vegetable, periwinkle and cassava and have market linkages with potential buyers. The engagement brought together stakeholders such as ATS, Na weh catering services, watampa hotel, De Germ Hotel, Spoons, Aya community centre, Hot Ernesto, Takoradi Market Queens, District MoFA officials, NBSSI, Ankobra Beach and Farms, farmers, enterprise groups, Green Gro Ltd, East-West seeds, etc.

The potential buyers highlighted some of the challenges they encounter with their transactions with farmers and why they prefer to deal with some farmers and not others. The manager of ATS highlighted the fact that their organization purchase vegetable and cassava dough in large volumes on weekly basis. He stressed that considering the small-scale production currently being done by farmers in the project catchment, their company prefers to travel to Brong Ahafo region to be able to satisfy their demands. This is therefore a call to farmers in the project catchment to scale up effort to be able to meet the market demand. He bemoaned how farms are scattered in the Ellembelle and Jomoro districts. This he says makes it difficult to buy produce because you have to travel long distances to be able to buy farm produce. He called on investors and middle men to work with such farmers to aggregate the produce for more marketing opportunities. Farmers were also encouraged to form associations to be able to address some of the challenges highlighted. The manager of Naweh catering services also called on the farmers to process their cassava into dough since most of the hotels buy the dough and not the raw cassava. The manager for Watampa told farmers to produce organic product under hygienic conditions because they are very particular with that and prefer visiting farms for inspection before they deal with farmers. All the presenters gave out their contact details to the for farmers. This networking opportunity if encouraged will lead to increased access to market for farmers in the project catchment.

#### **4.5 Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Intervention**

Wetland ecosystem-based livelihood intervention was rolled out in the year under review as a follow up activity to an initial assessment undertaken in FY17. The pilot intervention currently being undertaken at Old Kablesuazo is premised on the assumption that if local communities receive sufficient benefit from enterprises that depend on biodiversity, then they will act to counter internal (caused by stakeholders living in the area) and external (caused by outsiders) threats to that biodiversity.

A total of 25 community members selected from Old Kablesuazo and Egbazo who already are into periwinkle harvesting were put together to form Periwinkle harvesters' association at Old Kablesuazo. The association wants to be known as "Azule Dumnli di Adane". This is translated as "River Dumnli ensures that its children are well catered for". The association is made up of 4 men and 21 women. Hen Mpoano will provide follow-up training and business management support to this group.

#### **5.1 Identification for GAWCCC members (Polo-shirt)**

A total of six hundred Polo shirts have been designed, produced and distributed to GAWCCC members in the twenty-five participating communities. These Polo-shirts are being used as an effective means for educational campaigns and sensitization to create awareness on the vital role played by wetlands and hence

the need to promote their health to protect and conserve them. The behavioral communication messages were used as the basis for designing and printing of Polo-Shirts for CCC members and patrons.

Community members keep asking questions on the messages printed on the Polo-Shirts and this present an opportunity to explain the purpose of the project and also the importance of wetlands to the community including the goods and services these wetlands provide.



Figure 18 Picture of CCC polo shirt

## 5.2 Identification of sites under management (Sign post)

Ten sign posts have been mounted at Sanzule, Egbazo, Azuleloanu, Sawoma, Ampain, Old Kablesuazo, Kamgbunli, Apataim, Adelekezo and Old Bakanta for sensitization and educational purposes. It is expected that, these sign post serve as awareness creation to indigenes of these communities, visitors and passers-by. Educational messages on these posts will promote conservation of wetlands and their resources. It is also a means of socializing wetlands maps with communities.



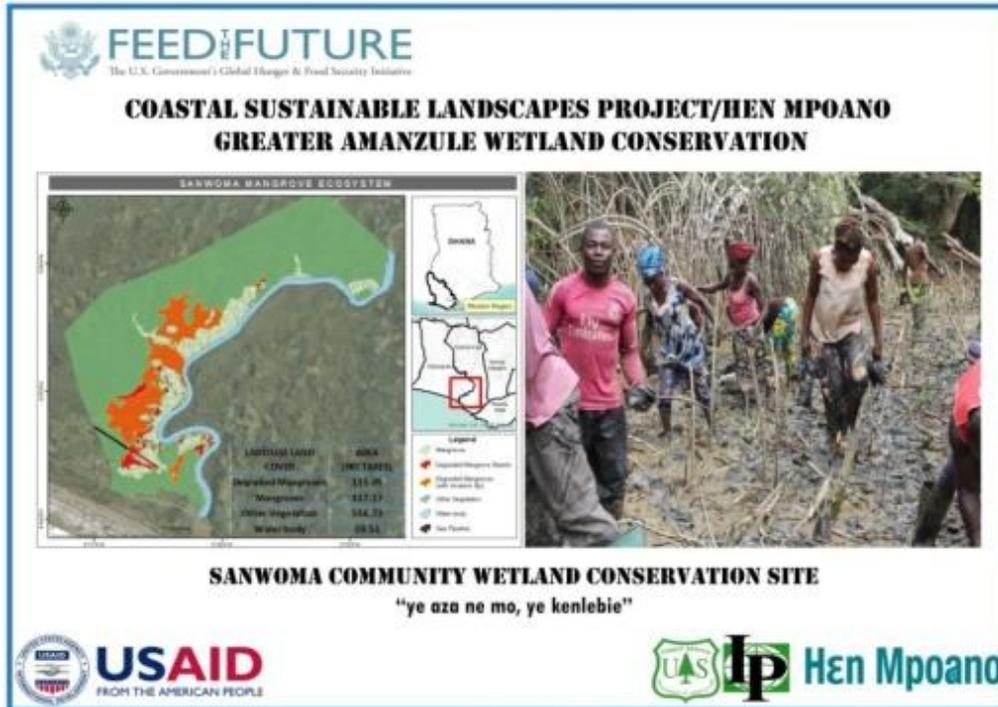


Figure 19: Some examples of the sign post

### 5.3 World Wetland day celebration

In line with this year's theme for the World Wetland Day celebration – Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future – this event sought to create national level awareness on the urgency for official designation of the GAW as a conservation area in the face of rapidly urbanizing coastal areas in Ghana's western region. The theme for the occasion was "Wetlands for A Sustainable Future: Conserving the Greater Amanzule Wetlands in the Western Region of Ghana". The event was used to showcase stakeholder initiatives at the community, district and regional levels for sustainable management of the GAW resources, create national awareness on the socio-economic and ecological importance of the GAW, and finally to foster public support for actions aimed at attaining a conservation status for the GAW.

The event was celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February in conjunction with CSLP, WD-FC, and SFMP, with the immense support of USAID. Key note speaker for the event was the Western Regional Minister. In a speech which was read on his behalf, the regional minister underscored the local and global economic benefits of wetlands hence the need to formalise the wetland conservations of the Greater Amanzule to make it a viable source of livelihood to communities in Ellembele, Jomoro and the Nzema-East Districts.



Figure 20 Pictures from 2018 WWD in Ghana

#### 5.4 World Environment day celebration

In line with this year’s theme for the World Environment Day celebration – “Beating Plastic Pollution” – this event sought to create regional level awareness on how to minimize plastic pollution in the country. The event was celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at Nkontompo in conjunction with CSLP, FoN, Zoomlion waste management company, and WD-FC, with the immense support of USAID. Key note speaker for the event was the STMA coordinating director. In a speech which was read on his behalf, the STMA coordinating director underscored the negative effect of plastic pollution on the livelihood of local communities, especially coastal communities hence the need to stop plastic pollution. He said, annually, it is believed that

about 13 million plastic materials enter the ocean whereby the fishes swallow them and about 100,000 live animals which have suffered from the effects of plastics are being counted every year.



Figure 21 Pictures from 2018 WED in Western Region

## 6.0 Summary of activities for FY 18

The table below summarizes the activities carried out during the year under review

Dates in October	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
4,5	Procurement of mangrove nursery materials (Polypots, hand trowel, gloves, etc.)		HM	Cassava planting materials supplied to 73 Farmers (41M+32F)	C-3	
17	Distribution of Cassava planting materials to self-selected farmers		HM	54 (25M+29F) VSLA members trained on loan repayment	C-1	Egbazo Metika Apataim
18,19	VSLA Training		HM	VSLA Introductory meetings in Bobrama, Effasu, Anyanzinli	C-2	The 3 communities are ready to start the VSLAs in November
24,25,26	VSLA Introductory		HM	53 farms were mapped at Bobrama Sanwoma Azuleloanu Mangyea Effasu Alabokazo	EG 3.2-18	GPS survey is yet to be analysed to determine the acreage of land under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance
24,25,26	Farm Mapping		HM			

Dates in November	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
31,1,2	Farm Mapping			73 cassava farms mapped at Egbazo, Ekpu, Beyin, Sawoma, Azuleloanu, Mangyea, Effassu, Alabokazo,	EG 3.2-18	Map produced for 122 farms. The size of the mapped farm is 19.62 ha
7,8,9	Meeting to draft community –agreed rules for the conservation of wetlands			Committee members of Apataim, Old Kablesuazo, Adelekezo)	4.8.1-26	33M+17F
1,2, 21, 22, 23,28,29,30	VSLA Training and Monitoring			VSLA Groups of Effasu, New Bakanta, Bobrama  *Introductory meeting to Ezinlibo and Asanta	C-1	55M+135F  **(380-person hours) **
21,22,23	Wetland Mapping			Ezinlibo	4.8.1-26	Served as hand-on GPS Training for 7 CCC members  (5M+2F)

21,22,23,24	Bee-keeping (Monitoring)			Mangyea Old Kablesuazo Kamgbuli Ezinlibo Old Bakanta Ampain		Tagged along CSLP (C.K)	
28,29	Scaling-Up mangrove nursery			Metika and Anyanzinli		Mangrove nursery sites prepared and polypots filled for scaling up of mangrove replanting	
6,7,8	VSLA Monitoring			VSLA Groups of Effasu, New Bakanta, Bobrama, Apataim, Metika, Egbazo, Alloakpoke	C-1		
12,13	USFS Technical Assistant (Nicole Comier) Visit			Sanwoma, Anyanzinli, Old Kabenlasuazo			
6,7	Scaling-Up mangrove nursery			3800 polypot filled with sand and 600 propagules nursed. <b><i>**This brings to total 6800 polypots filled with sand and</i></b>		Anyanzinli nursery	

				<p><i>ready to receive the propagules</i></p> <p>Hands-on training on nursery management for 80=26M+54F</p>		
19	<p>Chiefs &amp; Queen mothers Meetings:</p> <p>Issues of community initiated rules for the management of wetlands and its endorsement are discussed</p>			<p>Chiefs and Queen mothers of all the 24 Amanzule communities gathered at Yabah hotel to deliberate on instituting a workable norm for conserving the Greater Amanzule Wetland</p>	4.8.1-26	

Dates in December	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
6,7,8	VSLA Monitoring			VSLA Groups of Effasu, New Bakanta, Bobrama, Apataim, Metika, Egbazo, Alloakpoke	C-1	
12,13	USFS Technical Assistant (Nicole Comier) Visit			Sanwoma, Anyanzinli, Old Kabenlasuazo		
6,7	Scaling-Up mangrove nursery			3800 polypot filled with sand and 600 propagules nursed. <b><i>**This brings to total 6800 polypots filled with sand and ready to receive the propagules</i></b>  Hands-on training on		Anyanzinli nursery

				nursery management for 80=26M+54F		
19	<p>Chiefs &amp; Queen mothers Meetings:</p> <p>Issues of community initiated rules for the management of wetlands and its endorsement are discussed</p>			<p>Chiefs and Queen mothers of all the 24 Amanzule communities gathered at Yabah hotel to deliberate on instituting a workable norm for conserving the Greater Amanzule Wetland</p>	4.8.1-26	

Dates in January	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
3, 12,19	WWD planning committee meetings	2.4.12	HM	HM, CSLP and WD-FC	C-2	
15,18,23,24,26	<b>Community Sensitization</b>  Meetings to draft community initiated rules for the management of GAW	2.4.5	HM	5 Communities (Sawoma, Egbazo, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke, Mangyea)	4.8.1-29	
10,23,24,25,26	Participatory Wetland mapping @ Apataim and Adelekezo  GPS Ground truthing at Apataim	2.2.1	HM	CCC members of Adelekezo (14M+8F)  6HM staff + 4 CCC members	4.8.1-29	
25	<b>ToT for CCCs</b>  <b>Topics Covered;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining conservation effort</li> <li>• Sustainable Mangrove Harvesting</li> <li>• Community Initiated Rules for wetland mgt</li> </ul>	2.4	HM	Committee members from 24 communities  45(37M+ 8F)	4.8.1-29	

16,17	CSA Training for cassava planting material beneficiaries	1.1.2	HM	Ampain and Mangyea 78(18M+60F)	4.8.1-29	
11,12,16,17,18,19,23,24,25,26	VSLA Formation, Training and Monitoring	1.3.1	HM	New VSLA formed and trained in Egbazo (5M+25F) Old VSLAs are monitored 8 communities	C-1	

## February

Dates in February	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
1, 2	World Wetland Day Preparation and Celebration	2.4.12	HM, CSLP & WD	National and Regional WD-FC, WR minister, Ellembelle and Jomoro district assemblies, Reps from 24 GAW CCCs, Traditional authorities within GAW, media houses	4.8.2-14, C-2	The celebration was attended by over 200 people  Available records (209=149M+60F)
7,8,14,15,21,22	Community Sensitization: Issues of community Initiated Rules are	2.4.5	HM	6 Communities: Apataim, Bobrama,	4.8.1-29	

	discussed with 8 communities			Azuleloanu, Kamgbunli, Metika, Old Kablesuazo		
13,14,15,16	Wetland Mapping @ Adelekezo	2.2.1	HM	3 HM Staff and 4 CCC members	4.8.1-29	
6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,22,23	VSLA Monitoring and Training	1.3.1	HM	9 VSLA groups	C-1	<p>Alloakpoke VSLA group was dissolved and reorganized: Membership has increased from 14 to 26 members (17F+9M)</p> <p><b>Training(39 M+ 107F)</b>  *leadership, elections and group name @ Alloakpoke &amp; Egbazo (15M+34F)</p> <p>*First Loan Disbursement and Record Keeping @ Effasu (12M+25F)</p> <p>*Development of policies and rules for social fund &amp; savings @ Egbazo(24F+6M)</p> <p>*First Share Purchase and savings meeting @ Egbazo (6M+24F)</p>
27	Peer-Learning among VSLA groups	1.3.1	HM	VSLA groups	C-1	96 Participants (male-36, female-62)

**March**

Dates in March	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
1,2,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,20,21,22	VSLA Formation, Monitoring and MIS data collection	1.3.1	HM	10 VSLA groups	C-1	<p>Introductory meeting to start a new VSLA group at Azuleloanu was held. The group is yet to go through training and subsequently savings</p> <p>27 (20F+7M)</p> <p><b>Challenges Identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership of Egabzo has been taken interest free loans (social fund)</li> <li>• Though the cycle for Sawoma has ended, some people still own hence the inability of the group to 'share-out'</li> <li>• Somebody at Apataim has not paid loan 6 month after taking the loan</li> <li>• There is the need to clearly explain when the social</li> </ul>

						fund can be accessed
13,14	Scaling up of tree nursery		HM	<p>CCCs and community (Anyanzinli and Metika)</p> <p>Hands-On-Training on mangrove nursery establishment 68 (33M+35F)</p>		3500 propagules nursed at Anyanzinli and Metika
22	Semi-annual Review meeting with GAWDCC @ Yaba Hotel		HM	<p>DCC members (Ellembelle and Jomoro District)</p> <p>32 (30M+2F)</p>		<p>DCC's updated the house on some of the actions being undertaken at the community level to ensure the sustainability of project initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAW conservation has been captured in the MTDPs of the two districts. The plan has budgetary allocation to follow up</li> <li>Jomoro plans to develop a bye law in the second quarter</li> </ul>

						<p>which will include wetland conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change committee inaugurated in Ellembelle District (GAW and climate smart agriculture)</li> </ul>
23	NRM Training on sustainable mangrove harvesting for selected CCC members	2.4	HM	<p>Mangrove harvesters and selected CCC members</p> <p>56 (46M+10F)</p>	4.8.1-29	<p>Harvesters were trained on respecting buffer rules and practicing sustainable Harvesting for the conservation of water bodies and mangroves</p>
29	Stakeholder Engagement: Providing Market access linkages		HM, CSLP	<p>Farmers, Enterprise groups, Input dealers, Hoteliers and Catering services, MoFA, District Assemblies</p> <p>55 (35M+20F)</p>		<p><b>List of Organizations and Institutions that participated</b></p> <p>Aya Community Centre  Watampa Hotel  De Germ Hotel  Na weh Catering services  ATS Catering services  Planting for Food and Jobs secretariat  MoFA  Green Gro Ltd  PWG Citronella Farms  East-West Seeds  Ankobra Farms</p>

						Ankobra Beach Nvellenu Farms Sawoma Poultry Farm WRCF Famer and Enterprise Groups
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Dates in April	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,20,21, 22,23,27,28,29,30	VSLA Training and Monitoring (10 VSLA Groups)	1.3.1	HM	VSLA Groups of Egbazo, Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke	C-1	Training @ Azuleloanu on Modules 1,2,3  Module 1: 7M+21F Module 2: 6M+14F Module 3: 6M+16F
17,18,19	Scaling-up mangrove nursery @ Anyanzinli and Metika		HM	CCC (Anyanzinli and metika)		3500 mangrove seedlings are monitored and watered by CCCs at the nursery
10,11,12	Cassava Farm monitoring		HM	Kamgbunli Ampain Ekpu Sawoma		***Issues of fall army worm affecting some farms were addressed with the support of the District MoFA @ Ekpu
16,20,23,24,25,26,27	CCC Monitoring		HM	CCC (Azuleloanu, Adelekezo, Sanzule, Bakanta,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues of wetland degradation at Azuleloanu</li> <li>• Chainsaw operations at Ebonloa</li> </ul>

Dates in April	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
				Anyanzinli, Benyin, Ezinlibo, Ellonyi, Ebonloa, Half-Assin)		

Dates in May	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
8,9,10,16,17,23,24	VSLA Monitoring (10 VSLA Groups)	1.3.1	HM	VSLA Groups of Egbazo, Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke	C-1	
29,30,31	Cassava Farm Mapping (Ekpu, Egbazo, Alabokazo)		HM	Kamgbunli Ampain Ekpu Sawoma	4.8.1-26, EG 3.2-18, 4.8-7	
2,3,4	CCC Monitoring (9 Communities)		HM	CCC (Benyin, Adelekezo, Sanzule, Metika, Old Kablesuazo, Anyanzinli, Benyin, Ezinlibo, Ellonyi)	4.8.1-29	

Dates in May	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
8,9,10,16,17,18	Participatory wetland Mapping and ground-truthing	2.2.1	HM	Bobrama, Ellonyi and Asanta	4.8.1-29	Asanta is uncompleted  <b>Participatory Mapping</b> Ellonyi:5M+5F Asanta: 17M+7F Bobrama: 7M+6F  <b>GPS Mapping</b> Bobrama: 3M+1F Ellonyi: 4M+1F
29,30,31	VSLA Numeracy Training	1.3.1	HM	Egbazo (2 groups), Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke	C-1	Formation of a new VSLA at Asanta is discussed
24	CCC Exchange Visit		HM	Visited Old Kablesuazo and Metika	4.8.1-29	66 Members (44M+22F)
23	Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Intervention: Introductory Meeting		HM	Old Kablesuazo	E.G.3.2-4	

Dates in June	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
7,8,12,13,19	VSLA Formation, Training and Monitoring (11 VSLA Groups)	1.3.1	HM	VSLA members 144 (40M+104F)	C-1	VSLAs in Egbazo, Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke  New VSLA formed at Asanta  Module 1: (3M+32F) Module 2: (3M+15F) Module 7: (26M+21F) Constitution Review: (5M+11F) Loan Repayment: (3M+25F)
5	World Environment Day Celebrations	2.4.12	CSLP, HM		C-2	
1,11,18	CCC Monitoring (9 Communities)	2.4.5	HM	GAW Community conservation committee (CCC)	C-2	Asanta, Effasu, Mangyea, Half-Assin, Ellonyi, Benyin, Metika, Old Kablesuazo, Egbazo
5,6,7,25,26,27	Mangrove replanting		HM	GAW CCC and communities  Hands on training on mangrove nursery management 192 (88M+104F)		5000 mangrove seedlings planted at Anyanzinli and 5000 seedlings nursed at Metika

Dates in June	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
14	Semi-Annual Chiefs Meeting: Review of Community Norms		HM	Chiefs from 24 GAW communities 41 (11F+30M)		Issues of community-initiated rules for managing GAW was discussed and timeline for finalization and adoption agreed on.
14,21,28	Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Intervention: Training	1.3	HM	Farmers 31 (10M+21F)	E.G.3.2-4	Old Kablesuazo  Ecosystem based Livelihood: Introduction (9M+7F)  Group Formation (1M+14F)
8,22	CSA Training	1.1.2	HM	Farmers 38 (17M+21F)	E.G.3.2-1	Benyin and Alloakpoke

Dates in July	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
3,4,5,6,17,18,19	VSLA Monitoring (11 VSLA Groups)	1.3.1	HM	VSLA members	C-1	VSLAs in Egbazo, Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke  New VSLA formed at Asanta
17,18,19,20	Wetland Mapping: Participatory and GPS Ground Truthing @ Half-Assin and Benyin	2.2.1	HM	HM staff and GAWCC members of Benyin and Half-Assin	4.8.1-29	
17,18,19,20	Cassava Farm Mapping at Benyin	2.2.1	HM	Farmers	EG 3.2-18	Benyin
26	Market Linkage Workshop: Cassava, Periwinkle and Vegetable	1.2.3	CSLP, HM	Enterprise groups		
5,12	Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Intervention: Enterprise Group Formation and Registration	1.3	HM	Azule Dumnli Periwinkle Harvesters Association	EG 3.2-4	Old Kablesuazo

Dates in August	Event/Activity	Activity #	Lead & Support staff	Participants	Indicator	Comments & Notes
3,4,5,6,17,18,19	VSLA Monitoring (11 VSLA Groups)	1.3.1	HM	VSLA members	C-1	VSLAs in Egbazo, Effasu, Metika, Sawoma, Bobrama, Apataim, Azuleloanu, Anyanzinli, Alloakpoke, Asanta
7,8,9,10	Wetland Mapping: Participatory and GPS Ground Truthing Asanta	2.2.1	HM	HM staff and GAWCC members of Benyin and Half-Assin	4.8.1-29	
7,8,9,10	Cassava Farm Mapping at Alabokazo	2.2.1	HM	Farmers	EG 3.2-18	Benyin
23,30	Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Intervention: Enterprise Group Formation and Registration	1.3	HM	Azule Dumnli Periwinkle Harvesters Association	EG 3.2-4	Old Kablesuazo

### **3.0 Challenges**

Deployment of district assemblies' technical services is critical for successful conservation of the GAW, yet frequent transfers of key district personnel stifle provision and continuity of support for wetland management by enthusiastic district officials. This hampers the ability of the district conservation committees (DCCs) to function as the coordinating institution for wetland management. Hen Mpoano seeks to address this challenge by investing more effort in empowering communities and conservation committees to be able to demand services from the district, especially on the need to take into account the importance of wetland ecosystems in district planning and decision making.

Another challenge that confronts GAW conservation is the issue of scaling-up livelihood opportunities, especially in wetland communities that have begun adopting strict protection measures for their wetland resources such as mangroves. Livelihood opportunities should cover more beneficiaries in such communities since many inhabitants in such areas depend on wetland resources for survival.

The importance of VSLAs to the livelihood and economic well-being of GAW community members cannot be overlooked. It is therefore not surprising that VSLA happens to be the most in demand livelihood activity in the GAW enclave. Establishing VSLAs in all GAW communities will contribute to the sustainable management of the GAW. This calls for innovative means to help sustain and scale up the VSLA interventions even beyond the project phase. Sustainability of the current interventions means the need to roll out the Village assistant model to cover all the GAW VSLA groups. The model will ensure that selected VSLA members are mentored to take up training and monitoring roles. There is also the need to roll out a model that ensures that interested members contribute to pay for the logistics needed to start VSLA activities.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

The Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation Project aims at establishing a formal co-management process and improving management planning for the Amanzule wetlands in the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts. HM's approach is three-pronged, with consideration given to governance, management, and livelihood, and with each prong having a strong community engagement component. During the year under review, traditional authorities were engaged for their input into what will become local rules and regulations for the conservation of GAW if completed and endorsed. CCCs were trained on wetland management through exchange visit. The aim of the exchange visit is to improve the knowledge and practice of the visiting CCCs, and to integrate the experience gained from the visit into their activities. On improved management, a total of 8050 mangrove seedlings were replanted at Anyanzinli and Metika. 12000 propagules nursed at Metika and Anyanzinli to help in the restoration of various degraded mangroves sites within the GAW landscape. Seven (7) wetland complexes were also mapped with in the year to inform decision making.

Greater Amanzule wetland is a unique and important wetland resource that deserves all the attention it needs. Effort to get the wetland complex an official conservation status is crucial considering the upsurge of oil and gas activities in the district and the rapid rate of mangrove degradation in the Ellembelle and Jomoro districts. Though traditional authorities and the various CCCs are doing their best to conserve the wetland, their effort needs to be ingrained in law for the sustainability of their actions.

## Annex 1: Summary of Community Norms as proposed by the CCCs

### Structure

- **Sustainable harvesting**
  - ✚ Mangroves along the river banks should not be cut, but 50m away can be cut.
  - ✚ In areas where mangrove is a major livelihood, an area should be zoned for its harvesting and replanting.
  - ✚ No one is allowed to cut any standing tree (Adelekezo and Apataim)
  - ✚ Bamboos harvesting along the bank of the river would not be encouraged.
  - ✚ Chain saw operators would be regulated
  
- **Management plan**
  - ✚ Restored areas should be identified with a sign post and prohibited from harvesting until the 6<sup>th</sup> year when it can be harvested and replanted
  - ✚ No one would be allowed to re-channel the river for any purpose
  - ✚ There should be patrolling from time to time to know the state of the mangrove
  - ✚ Buffer zones will be established to protect the river body
  
- **Use Rights**
  - ✚ There should be **Mangrove Harvesters Association** to regulate the activities of harvesters and ensure restoration of degraded areas  
*The association will take dues from its members and occasionally organize training and workshop for its members on sustainable harvesting and mangrove restoration. They will also pay royalties as determined by the traditional council to the stool*
  - ✚ Indigenes should be allowed to cut the mangrove whenever they need it for minor works but outsiders who are caught cutting the mangroves should be fined?
  - ✚ Stop people from encroaching the wetland
  - ✚ No one should be permitted to cut the mangrove under any circumstance (Adelekezo and Apataim)
  - ✚ Galamsey on the river body will be reported to the police.
  
- **Community Wetland Conservation committee**
  - ✚ CCCs will facilitate training and awareness creation programmes every two months to educate the community people on the importance of wetland and mangroves and how to protect it.
  - ✚ CCCs will monitor the activities of **Mangrove Harvesters Association** and assist them with technical advice regarding restoration
  - ✚ CCC members patrol wetlands from time to time to ensure effective conservation of mangrove
  - ✚ Chiefs would empower CCCs to act as wetland monitoring agents in the community

- **Development**

- ✚ The water would not be allowed to be rechanneled

- **Sanctions and Enforcement**

- ✚ Anyone caught harvesting mangroves within the buffer zone should be fined.
- ✚ Anyone who cuts within the 50m buffer zone should be brought to the CCCs and the Chief and culprit must be asked to replant. Anyone who fails to replant would be reported to the traditional authority and the CCCs would ensure that the person replant.
- ✚ Anyone caught hunting crocodile and primate will be fined.

**All fines would be determined by the chiefs of the various communities**

- **Funding**

- ✚ Conservation Fund
- ✚ Law enforcement and fines
- ✚ Livelihood initiatives

## **Annex 2: Summary of Meeting with GAW Traditional authorities**

Forty chiefs and queen mothers from the GAW area met to deliberate on community-agreed rules for wetland conservation. The meeting was held at the Yabah Hotel in Azulenoanu on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017. The objectives of the meeting were to;

1. Report on progress made towards improving conservation of the wetland and consequently provide updates on accomplishments made and ongoing activities
2. Solicit inputs and buy-in from the Traditional authorities on the community-agreed rules for conservation of the Greater Amanzule Wetlands.

Representatives from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry commission were in attendance to brief the house on governments' responsibilities and commitments in the conservation of wetlands. A total of forty six (46) participants attended the program. The traditional authorities gave insights into what should be done going forward. These included, meeting with the larger community members to decide on rules that should govern the use of GAW resources particularly mangroves and provide the necessary support needed by GAWCCCs to perform effectively. The traditional council then formed smaller groups to deliberate more on the proposed rules.

### **Outcome of the breakout section**

Participants were grouped to brainstorm on possible modification to norms that will guarantee effective implementation. Below are some of the issues raised;

#### **Sustainable harvesting**

- ❖ Harvesters will only harvest the dried ones or any other as will be directed by the CCC members
- ❖ Dead mangroves are not to be harvested within buffer
- ❖ Communal labor for harvesting where proceed can support committees
- ❖ No chainsaw activities will be entertained or allowed

#### **Management plan and Use Right**

- ❖ Legal framework for committees to work (Traditional authorities can provide the power)
- ❖ Traditional authorities to make general by law that prohibit water diversion
- ❖ No cutting of mangroves (general law)
- ❖ Buffer zone of 50m to be enforced
- ❖ Chiefs will inaugurate CCCs to communities
- ❖ Traditional authorities to give power and backing to committees
- ❖ Apprehended mangroves will be sold and proceeds used to support CCCs
- ❖ Public forums in communities to educate people on the law
- ❖ Printout of the law
- ❖ Harmonize law endorsed by the traditional council

#### **Community Wetland Conservation committee**

- ❖ The CCCs should facilitate training and awareness creation every two months

- ❖ Formation of association will not be encouraged among members
- ❖ Quarterly monitoring of wetlands during which harvesting can be made
- ❖ Replanting of mangroves every quarter by the harvesters
- ❖ Means of motivation of the CCCs should be made from the amount/proceeds accrued from harvesters
- ❖ CCCs to patrol wetlands.
- ❖ Fines from corporate bodies to be used to motivate CCCs

### Sanctions and Enforcement

- ❖ The fine should also be uniform throughout the traditional area.
- ❖ Anyone arrested should be sent to the traditional authorities.
- ❖ The fines should be based on the offense committed.
- ❖ Harvesters who refuse to participate in the mangrove replanting will be ceased from harvesting.

### Annex 3: Wetland Maps

