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PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES (PROLAND)

SECOND BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT
(APRIL 1, 2015–SEPTEMBER 30, 2015)



October 15, 2015

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Cover Photo: Traditional hive in the Uyui District, Tabora, Tanzania. Courtesy of David Miller.

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

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAAS	American Academy for the Advancement of Science
BFS	Bureau for Food Security
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
E3	Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and the Environment
GCC	Office of Global Climate Change
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity
LTRM	Office of Land Tenure and Resource Management
NWP	USAID’s Nature, Wealth, and Power Framework
ProLand	Productive Landscapes
REPLACE	Restoring the Environment through Prosperity, Livelihoods and Conserving Ecosystems
SIw/oExt	Sustainable Intensification without Extensification
TO	Task Order
TOCOR	Task Order Contracting Officer’s Representative
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WRI	World Resources Institute

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Productive Landscapes (ProLand) Project, awarded on September 30, 2014, is a 60-month task order under the Restoring the Environment through Prosperity, Livelihoods, and Conserving Ecosystems (REPLACE) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract (IDIQ). It is implemented by Tetra Tech in association with two subcontractors, World Resources Institute (WRI) and ACDI/VOCA. ProLand is currently managed by the Office of Land Tenure and Resource Management (LTRM) in the Bureau of Economic Growth, Education, and the Environment (E3).

The purpose of the ProLand project is to provide assistance to USAID to catalyze change in land management systems so that people and institutions in developing countries can make informed, actionable, and effective development decisions. The goal of this task order is to develop tools and evidence to demonstrate that by sustainably intensifying land uses with best management practices, it is possible to achieve multiple gains simultaneously including increased food production, reduced biodiversity loss, reduced greenhouse gas emissions (mitigating climate change), enhanced adaptation to climate changes (variability), and increased inclusive broad-based economic growth. The specific objectives of the project are to demonstrate by the end of the contract that multiple benefits from sustainable intensification have been achieved using best management approaches that:

1. Increase agricultural production while also increasing carbon sequestration above and/or below ground on farming and grazing lands;
2. Increase biodiversity, for instance by reducing deforestation rates, increasing natural forests and rangelands, providing ecologically sustainable benefits to local communities, and enhancing ecosystem services; and
3. Increase resilience of rural household livelihoods to climate change (i.e., increased variability of temperature and precipitation patterns) via increased rainwater capture/groundwater infiltration, diversification and integration of farm production systems, enhanced ecosystem service provision, and greater adoption of community-based natural resource management governance structures.

The specific tasks to be undertaken in support of these objectives include:

1. **Improving the evidence from existing successes** by documenting and disseminating data and success stories relevant to integrated climate change, biodiversity, food security, and natural resources management programs for increased landscape productivity and resilience;
2. **Developing a Nature, Wealth, and Power (NWP) toolbox** of methodologies and best practices for increasing landscape productivity and resilience;
3. **Preparing the future evidence base** for new success stories in productive landscapes management in programs under design in sites selected collaboratively with one to three key USAID Missions; and
4. **Implementing a program of work to support the uptake of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) best practices.**

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

This Biannual Report is to provide a brief summary of progress for April 2015 to September 2015 compared to the project's annual work plan, focusing on significant accomplishments as well as implementation challenges and approaches being taken to address the challenges.

During the reporting period ProLand received the unfortunate news that the Bureau for Food Security (BFS) was unable to take on the project, and that consequently the project would be terminated early. After receiving approval from ProLand TOCOR, ProLand submitted a work plan for activities through March 2015. Although the work plan has not been officially approved in its totality, this report describes progress in comparison to the specific activities that have been approved in the draft work plan.

2.1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.1.1 Work Planning

On August 6, 2015 ProLand submitted a draft work plan covering the eight month period from August 2015 to March 2016. ProLand received feedback from TOCOR Megan Hill on August 13, and resubmitted the work plan incorporating USAID comments on August 19, 2015. As of the writing of this report, ProLand had not received approval for the entire work plan, but did receive approval to continue working on the sustainable intensification paper and NWP decision support tool, as well begin activities supporting the USAID Tanzania and potentially the DRC Missions. Subsequent to work plan submission, TOCOR informed ProLand that the planned Wildlife Management Area (WMA) activity in Tanzania would not be supported by ProLand. Several additional work plan activities are on hold.

2.1.2 Task 1, Improving the Evidence from Existing Successes

Activity 1.1 Finalize a draft for circulation of the sustainable intensification without extensification working paper

The ProLand team met with USAID to discuss the first draft of the paper on sustainable intensification without extensification (SIw/oExt) on June 24. Verbal feedback provided in that meeting was complemented with in-text notes USAID provided the team on July 2. Annual leave and other team member commitments delayed the ability of the team to convene and produce of a draft in response to USAID input. The most challenging element of the paper has proven to be the production of a summary graphic, summarizing how key factors, which support sustainable intensification without extensification, relate to aspects of governance (aka power) that help to better assure SIw/oExt. After a team review of the draft document in late September it was decided that due to the challenge of clearly presenting the complex set of issues involved the team would meet for a full day workshop on October 13 to finalize outstanding issues before final drafting and editing of the paper. ProLand currently plans to produce a version of the document for review by USAID by 4 November.

Activity 1.2 Conduct a desk review of honey value chains (VCs) in Tanzania (and other Africa countries if relevant) to identify lessons learned and best practices.

The ProLand team began a desk review of honey value chains (VCs) in Tanzania, and concluded that available documents and studies clearly and consistently articulate the challenges faced by the Tanzania beekeeping sector and include numerous general recommendations for addressing them. However, although available documents identify several ongoing beekeeping projects, they provide incomplete information on project approaches and insufficient information to assess the success of these projects or the viability of proposed recommendations. With this in mind, the ProLand team, in coordination with USAID Tanzania, travelled to Tanzania in September 2015 to carry out research to complement the desk review. The objectives of the visit were to 1) confirm study objectives with Mission staff, 2) fill gaps in understanding USAID beekeeping initiatives not addressed in available literature, 3) gain national level perspective of Tanzania's honey industry, 4) identify alternative approaches to strengthening honey production/marketing for study during the second field visit, and 5) prepare groundwork for the workshop during the second field visit.

2.1.3 Task 2, Developing an NWP Toolbox

Activity 2.1 Development of NWP Decision Support Tool

Literature review has continued on governance indicators that helps the SIw/oExt paper to better link with the NWP decision support tool. Software programs with greater capabilities and use-ability of MS Excel have been explored.

Activity 2.2 Develop guidance tool for designing agricultural intensification activities to reduce extensification

The Working Paper on SIw/oExt is currently being revised to provide input to the production of a guidance tool for designing agricultural intensification activities. Given the expected finalization date of the Working Paper in early November, ProLand now plans to conduct consultations with USAID and partners in the DRC and elsewhere in the month of November and December and finalize the document in January.

Following a visit to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in July-August 2015 by USAID/GCC Sustainable Landscapes team member Juliann Aukema, the ProLand COP joined a call on August 27 with Juliann and key staff from USAID/Kinshasa to discuss possible assistance by ProLand on sustainable agricultural intensification with reduced risk of extensification in DRC. The USAID Mission staff expressed their support for mobilizing ProLand assistance to CARPE partners. They suggested that the ProLand team work with CARPE partners at the landscape level to examine what smallholders are doing in terms of improved practices that could be scaled up, and opportunities to recover and restore degraded land through partnerships with the private sector and others. Mission staff noted that there are large expanses of abandoned agro-industrial plantations (rubber, palm oil, cocoa, coffee), which could be made more productive in principle if issues of tenure security, access to investment and other constraints were addressed.

In early September, the ProLand team circulated a summary description of ProLand to provide some context for follow up conversations with the three CARPE COPs. The ProLand COP then contacted Hugues Akpona (African Wildlife Foundation), Jordan Kimball (World Wildlife Foundation), and Alastair McNeilage and Michelle Wieland (WCS) to discuss their specific needs and areas of interest in relation to sustainable agricultural intensification and reducing emissions from agricultural extensification. Each partner agreed to submit additional documentation to guide the development of terms of reference (TOR) for proposed assistance by ProLand to the CARPE partners in DRC.

The ProLand COP also spoke with Diane Russell (USAID Forest and Biodiversity team member with extensive experience in DRC and knowledge of CARPE) to gain her insights and suggestions on the proposed TOR for ProLand assistance in DRC. TOR are now being drafted for review by USAID/Washington, the Mission and CARPE partners. The TOR will also support the implementation of Task 3.

2.1.4 Task 3, Assist Missions with Preparation of Evidence Baseline for New Integrated Productive Landscapes Programs

Activity 3.3 Analysis of bee honey value chains supported by USAID

ProLand team members David Miller and Mark Donahue travelled to Tanzania in September 2015 to carry out research to complement the desk study, and also begin learning more about USAID's beekeeping portfolio. During the in-country discussion with USAID, USAID suggested the team focus on its beekeeping activities implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in the southern highlands of the Mbeya region. Accordingly, the team spent several days in the Mbeya region with WCS staff, and visited two beekeeping groups, a local retail shop that buys honey from WCS groups, and the Conservator and Assistant Conservator/Beekeeping expert at the Mt. Rungwe Reserve. The team also visited the Tabora, a region where much of Tanzania's honey is produced to learn from experiences there, in addition to meeting with other key national and private sector stakeholders.

After the visit, the team drafted a set of preliminary findings for how to improve beekeeper income in WCS supported villages, and actions that would strengthen government institutional, policy, and marketing efforts that USAID could invest in. After the findings are shared and discussed with USAID and next steps agreed upon, the team plans to return to Tanzania in November to complete the field work, and share and discuss the results with USAID and partners.

Activity 3.4. Climate Change and Resiliency Analysis

Terms of reference were developed to conduct an analysis of Climate Change and Resiliency. Work is to include an overview and strategic review at how USAID Tanzania activities are addressing both direct and indirect climate change adaptation and resiliency with respect to the Mission and particularly in the EG Office. The team has collected some publically-available documentation. The acquisition of additional materials from the Mission was discussed during the September visit. Findings are to guide the work plan of an upcoming national hire on climate change.

2.1.5 Task 4, Implementing a Program of Work to Support the Uptake of CBNRM Best Practices

Activities under Task 4 are still under discussion with USAID.

2.2 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND APPROACHES TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM

Since the ProLand work plan has not been approved in its entirety by USAID, it will be challenging to complete all of the proposed work plan activities before March 2016. However, ProLand is committed to doing all it can to advance the activities included in the work plan as they are approved.

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