



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

F2F Meetings Across the Coastal Regions Of Ghana.



MARCH, 2018



Friends of the Nation



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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is a five-year project (2015-2019) funded by the United States Agency of International Development (USAID). The main goal of the SFMP is to assist the Government of Ghana (GoG) and other stakeholders to rebuild marine fisheries stocks and catches through the adoption of responsible fishing practices, with an emphasis on targeted stocks important for food security, the small pelagic fish stocks. Further recognizing the need to promote participatory fisheries management practices of fisheries stakeholders to achieve the project's goal and results, and to ensure sustainability of the outcomes for the benefits of fishermen, women processors and other fisheries stakeholders.

SFMP desires to strengthen the long term capacity of GIFA, GNCFC, and NAFPTA in fisheries management and engagement in promoting the best fisheries and management practices and create a healthy cooperation with SFMP and the MoFAD/FC.

As a sign of commitment, the executive members of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) referred as "The Council" and the Chief fisherman from Elmina met on July 8th, 2016 to discuss a proposal to support the Fisheries Commission in implementing the fisheries management measures approved in the National Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019). The proposed project was reviewed and approved for funding by USAID/SFMP in their year-3 workplan (FY17).

SECTION 2: RATIONAL

The main fisheries resources of Ghana have been determined overfished. The small pelagic resources, particularly sardinella, are on the verge of collapse. In response, the GoG and fisheries stakeholders have embarked on a five-year fisheries management plan to end overfishing and reverse the declining trends of landings and abundance. The plan was prepared and presented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC) to stakeholders and later approved and gazetted in October 2015. The plan calls for a series of management measures to address overfishing and overcapacity, improve fisheries data collection, strengthen fisheries law enforcement and improve value chain and market strategies. The implementation of the fisheries management plan is in motion by first establishing a three-month seasonal closure for the industrial trawlers (November 2016 and February-March 2017).

Another contributing factor to the depletion of Ghana's small pelagic stock is the lack of effective collaboration between the Fisheries Commission (FC) and the major stakeholder (Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC)). Fishermen see management initiatives from the FC as some alien restraint imposed on them by government and as such do not consent themselves fully to its implementation. This, coupled with lack of sense of ownership of the fisheries resource and irresponsible fishing practices have contributed to the failure of formal fisheries management practices to yield the desired results. Effective implementation of the fisheries management plan therefore requires an effective partnership between MoFAD/FC and the fisheries stakeholders. To this end, the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) has been actively involved in the consultation process for rolling out an effective implementation process of the fisheries management plan in order to improve the conditions of the fisheries they depend on and increase business opportunities for their communities. This is in recognition that fisheries management and conservation is the only way to a better and more prosperous future of the industry and the fisheries resources. The Council is committed to initiate new projects to support the implementation of the

fisheries management plan and promote the voluntary guidelines of responsible fishing and self-governance adopted by many fishing communities.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to assist MoFAD/FC to achieve in a timely manner the objectives of the national fisheries management plan and build appropriate fisheries development models of the artisanal fishing sector through voluntary compliance and self-governance. This will relieve the government of potentially substantial development and regulatory responsibilities that would place additional burdens on an already unstaffed and under-funded MoFAD and Fisheries Commission

SECTION 4: PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND METHODS

The Council is a key representative of the artisanal fishermen of Ghana and a partner with MoFAD and FC in the development and management programs of the artisanal fisheries sector. The Council took steps to seek solutions outside the contemporary fisheries management model, often designed for the industrial fisheries sector, to address the artisanal fisheries as a viable fishing industry responsible for the large share of fishing effort and harvest. The Council focused on traditional and local methods based on the long standing and recognized social order within fishing communities lead by the Chief Fishermen to regulate the fisheries catch and effort.

In this context, the Council led the organization and the facilitation of a series of dialogues between Chief Fishermen and NAFPTA, named *F2F* to organize its members and that of NAFPTA, and increase the capacity of the Council to be able to address the expected responsibilities in fisheries resource management.

The key contribution of women in Ghana's fish value chain cannot be overemphasize. Not only are they involved in processing landed fish but also provide financial support to the fishermen as well as boat owners. They determine market value of fish through direct sales or bargaining power on behalf of the fishermen. But their involvement in decision making has been limited over the years though they have indirectly contributed to the depletion of the fish stock. As a result, they were also included in the *F2F* dialogues to draw their support in implementing the NMFMP while giving them a voice to contribute to key decision making in the fishing industry.

SECTION 5: REGIONAL DIALOGUES

A global event, World Fisheries Day (WFD) was chosen to start up the *F2F* initiative.

As a follow up to the ceremonial event in Cape Coast, the GNCFC led in the organization and facilitation of a series of dialogues among fishermen, chief fishermen, women processors and wives of chief fishermen who play key roles in the sale and distribution of fish across the various landing sites.



Figure 1. Fisher folks at an F2F dialogue in Central Region



Figure 2. Fisher folks at an F2F dialogue in Volta Region



Figure 3. Fisher folks at an F2F dialogue in Greater Accra Region

Seven (7) regional F2F dialogues were held across the coastal communities of Ghana between 177 Chief fishermen and 120 women from GNCFC and NAFPTA respectively. These events provided equal platform for women to contribute to decision-making in the fisheries sector. Both associations had previously held separate meetings on fisheries issues but identified the need to collaborate in order to effectively rebuild and manage the stocks.

Signing of the compact across all four (4) coastal regions of Ghana is an indication of the readiness of stakeholders to support the FC in implementing the Ghana fisheries management plan. They have agreed to add Sunday to the traditional Tuesday fishing holiday; as well as adopt traditional practices such as swearing to the sea to adopt responsible fishing activities. Chief fishermen in the Volta region took the initiative to implement the additional fishing holiday after the consultative event by reporting to the police thirteen (13) fishermen who violated the agreement. To assist in enforcing laws and effectively support management plans, the chief fishermen have requested the FC to authorize them make arrests where necessary. They recognize the critical role they play in sustainable management of the fish resource and therefore agreed to collaborate instead of blaming themselves. Chief fishermen in the Volta region reported fishermen who were involved in light fishing and this led to the arrest of the perpetrators by Naval officers. Other regional heads have also agreed to combat IUU by soliciting assistance from the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU). The women on the other hand have built consensus to reject bad fish and report processors who use chemicals to process fish. Having directed their indebtedness to bad fish and juveniles landed by the fishermen, they pleaded to fishermen to desist from such irresponsible fishing practices. The women acknowledged their contribution to Child Labor and Trafficking and have agreed to force their men to desist from this illegal act and encourage education of their children.



Figure 4. Fisher folks in a group discussion on the need to make women an integral part of decision making

Each consultative event gave fishermen and women the opportunity to discuss management issues and modalities to effectively contribute to rebuild and sustain management of Ghana's fish stock. It provided the opportunity for participants to discuss and make positive recommendations on how to achieve the following issues:

- Combat IUU
- Promote responsible fishing
- Make women integral part of decision-making

- Assist the fisheries commission in implementation of NFMP

Participants were selected randomly into groups to discuss the objectives above.

The table below shows the outcome of the regional training events:

Table 1 Status of activities aimed at reducing current levels of fishing effort and fishing capacity in the canoe fishery

Objective	Status	Target
C.1.1: Assist the FC to complete the canoe registration nationwide	Ongoing mop up exercise by FC in collaboration with GNCFC	October 2017
C.1.2: Propose and implement the additional one day per week fishing holiday to two (2) days per week	Chief fishermen and Executives of women's group have agreed but further engagement needed in Greater Accra and Central region before objective can be accomplished.	21 November 2017, Declaration at World Fisheries Day
C.1.3: Assist the FC to establish a moratorium on new entrants to the fisheries	Ongoing. Fishermen need to be educated on the need to cap canoes and how they can facilitate the process	June 2018
C.1.5: Lead the implementation of the co-management policy	Activity not started. Policy document not yet adopted.	

The table below gives the dates and relevant information on the various regional dialogues held

Table 2 F2F regional training events

Region		Date held	Participants		Agreement to Compact
			Male	Female	
Western	Takoradi	Dec 13, 2016	44	10	Yes
	Axim	Dec 14, 2016	23	3	Yes
Central	Cape Coast	Jan 11, 2017	28	25	Yes
Greater Accra	Accra Central	Feb 1, 2017	44	29	Yes
	Sege	Feb 2, 2017	14	29	Yes
Volta	Keta	Feb 3, 2017	24	24	Yes

SECTION 6: YEAR 4

The Council in collaboration with NAFPTA will continue to carry out a series of meetings and workshops to develop a resolution committing the Council to fulfill fisheries management responsibilities vis-à-vis the national marine fisheries management plan. The end result will be a signed National Resolution signed by fishermen, women and Chief Fishermen to comply with the measures of the national fisheries management plan. Chief fishermen and women who were engaged in year 3 will lead the district level workshops in the four (4) coastal regions of Ghana. This will provide direct contact with fishermen, boat owners, captains and fish mothers who have been left out in decision making processes.

In year four (4), traditional authorities will be directly involved because they have the authority to endorse traditional/ customary rights which support responsible fishing practices.

Their inclusion also provides the Chief fishermen with the authority needed to enforce management measures at their respective landing sites. It will also provide an opportunity to educate them on management initiatives and irresponsible fishing practices taking place in their area of authority. This will compel the traditional leaders to support the FC and Chief fishermen in the country's effort to rebuild the stocks, since fishermen pay allegiance to the stool.

The inclusion of FC zonal officers in the program will promote effective collaboration between fishermen and FC. It will provide the platform for the FC to engage the fishermen and work hand-in-hand to successfully complete the registration and embossment mop-up exercise of the canoes. This will solve some of the challenges the FC faced when it started the canoe registration, and improve implementation and compliance to the NMFMP.

The council, led by the executive secretary will formally announce the increase of traditional one day non fishing holiday on November 21, 2017 at the World Fisheries Day.

The council in partnership with NAFPTA will organize a total of thirteen (13) district level training events in the four (4) coastal regions of Ghana to discuss the fisheries management actions and mode of implementation and make inputs to the national resolution before its adoption by the council. The end result will be a finalized national resolution which will be declared on June 6, at the World Oceans Day. The basic tenants of these regional resolutions will be based on the commitment by fishermen to respect voluntarily the agreed on measures within the context of the national fisheries management plan and recognize regional differences.

The F2F program will be used to desensitize the fisherfolk to improve their understanding of the fish stocks and the need to implement a close season. The fisherman insurance scheme will be used as an alternative source of income during that period of closer. Agents of the PPP will be allowed to participate in the training event to educate fisherfolk on the benefit of the insurance scheme during a closer. Fisherfolk will have the chance to engage the FC on the introduction of Fishermen Smart Identification Card. They will have the privilege of deciding who receives the card and how the card can be used as a tool for fisheries management. This process will increase public support needed by the FC to impose a moratorium on canoes in the artisanal industry.

SECTION 7: MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The Council's executive committee will work within its regional representative to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan in collaboration with the FC and SFMP. The purpose of the M&E plan is to identify the performance of the implementation in each region and begin to address any shortcomings or challenges that may arise in coordination with the FC.

Table 3 Activities and time schedule

Activity		Description	Date	Venue	Responsible
Council meeting and NAFPTA		Prepare an operational plan and assign responsibilities and deliverables	Oct 3,4 2017	Accra	GNCFC and NAFPTA
Council meeting and Chief Fisherman		Prepare for World Fisheries Day. Draft a declaration	Oct 17,18 2017	Mankessim	
World Fisheries Day – Declare additional traditional holiday.		Organize the WFD event	Nov 21 2017	Volta - TBD	
Volta Regional F2F	Ketu South	One day training event in each district for Chief: traditional leaders fishermen, fishermen, canoe owners and bosins, fish mothers, konkohene and fish processors	Jan 16		
	Keta		Jan 23		
Greater Accra Regional F2F	Ada		Feb 27		
	Prampram		Mar 13		
	Nungua		Mar 20		
	Jamestown		Mar 27		
Central Regional F2F	Wenneba		Apr 3		
	Mankessim		Apr 10		
	Elmina		Apr 17		
Western Regional F2F	Takoradi		Apr 24		
	Esiamia		May 1		
	Dixcove		May 8		
	Jomoro		May 15		
Council meeting with NAFPTA – Deliberation and finalization of resolution		Consolidate inputs from stakeholder and amend national resolution. Prepare for World Oceans day	May 22	Accra	
World Oceans – Launch of Fisherman smart ID, Moratorium			June 5	TBD	

Activity	Description	Date	Venue	Responsible
On new entrants of canoes				
BAKATUE Elmina Festival	Organize Bakatue Elmina festival	July 4	Elmina	
Council meeting and reporting	Prepare a final report and a monitoring plan	Jul 24,25	Jamestown	

SECTION 8: EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the proposed project are to increase fishermen's engagement to voluntarily assist MoFAD/FC with the implementation of the national fisheries management plan (2015-2019). The desired results of the Council are a full implementation of the following management measures outlined in the national fisheries management plan with full participation of fishermen and Chief Fishermen. The Council will focus on the following actions for 2018:

- C.1.1: Assist the FC to complete the canoe registration nationwide
- C.1.2: Propose and implement the addition of a second traditional non fishing day
- C.1.3: Assist the FC to establish a moratorium on new entrants to the fisheries
- C.1.5: Lead the implementation of the co-management policy

SFMP will provide technical and financial assistance for this project through the *F2 F* dialogue based on consultation and an awareness campaigns in the local languages and under traditional settings. The Fisheries Commission will provide guidance for stakeholders' engagement in the implementation within the context of fisheries management laws and regulations.

The Council is confident that the *F2 F* dialogue under the traditional settings and with local language debates will create more awareness, education and sensitization on the need to rebuild our marine fish stocks. It will also empower women to make input in decision making and equip them with the skill to educate their colleagues. This project will further build their capacity to advocate for other women who are often neglected in policy formulation and implementation. Finally, both government and international lending and assistance institutions should provide an opportunity for fishermen to lead a voluntary compliance from the initiatives brought within the ranks of their associations to promote a steady and localized development and sustainable growth of fisheries.