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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Support for Annual Durbar



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THE
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Cover photo: Chief of Adelekezo seated in a palanquin on his way to the durbar grounds and dancing to traditional drums (Credit: Hen Mpoano)

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ACRONYMS

CBFM	Community-Based Fisheries Management
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kundum is an annual durbar celebrated by the most communities in the Western Region to take stock of the year and foster unity among community members. It is a revered celebration among the Nzemas, which bring home citizens from far and near back to their communities to contribute to the community development. The SFMP through Hen Mpoano saw an opportunity to create awareness on the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) and community support for the implementation of the Ankobra CBFM plan action. The project therefore provided support for the annual durbar in traditional areas whose jurisdiction covered the management area, that is, the Apataim traditional area and Adelekezo on 28 October and 18 November 2017 respectively.

The project support design revolved around the Ankobra CBFM committee members leading the awareness creation at the durbar grounds and presenting the key component of the Ankobra CBFM plan to the communities. This was to ensure that the process was seen as being led by community members rather than the project. The project's role was only facilitation of the whole process. The other important aspect of the committee led sensitization was to build their skills and confidence in articulating the process and object of the whole CBFM before the community and at other formal dialogues and meetings.

In the end, the committee members were able to participate and deliver the CBFM objectives at two key Kundum Festivals in Apataim and Adelekezo in the Nzema East Municipal and Ellembé Districts respectively. They were able to secure the commitment of community members in ensuring the success of the plan implementation and public District level support as well for the Ankobra CBFM initiative.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

The Kundum is an annual durbar of chiefs organized by communities in the Western Region. It is celebrated to foster unity and consolidate the existing peace in the community.

On 28 October and 18 November 2017, the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) committee members led awareness creation at the Apataim and Adelekezo Kundum respectively. The communities under the Apataim traditional council that celebrated the Kundum included: Kukuavile, Eziome and Ajomoro Eshiem. Adelekezo fall under the Nsein traditional council and marks its Kundum after the big celebration by the Nsein paramountcy.

The committee through the support of the project used the festival platform to sensitize all communities present on their action plan as laid out in the management plan and also to announce their registration with the assembly which gives them permit to operate in both the Nzema East Municipal Assembly and Ellembelle District

The committee used the opportunity to solicit the support of over 150 chiefs, MCE, police and community people presents towards the success of their work.



Figure 1: The Chief of Adelekezo seated in a palanquin dancing to traditional drums as he makes his entry to the community durbar ground

1.1 Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the annual durbar support by the project were to:

- Create awareness on the Ankobra CBFM.
- Inform the chiefs and people of the community of the CBFM progress.
- Build the committee members confidence in articulating the CBFM goals and process.
- Solicit public and district support for the CBFM process
- Solicit ideas for the CBFM plan and implementation process.

1.2 Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes of the annual durbar support included:

- Awareness and support for the Ankobra CBFM raised among community members both resource and non-resource users.
- Improve committee members public speaking confidence.
- Public interest towards joining the Ankobra CBFM Association that will be the parent body for the CBFM built.

SECTION 2: DURBAR HIGHLIGHTS IN APATAIM AND ADELEKEZO AND THE ROLE OF THESE COMMUNITIES IN THE CBFM

Both communities play a critical role in the Ankobra CBFM. Apataim, being a traditional area, oversees majority of the communities participating in the community-based management initiative. Adelekezo and Sanwoma (Ankobra) community fall under the Nsein traditional council and mark their Kundum after the big celebration by the Nsein paramountcy.

2.1 Apataim

Although Apataim as a community is not a member of the five communities involved in the CBFM pilot; it plays a critical role as a traditional council. The Apataim traditional council oversees three of the Ankobra CBFM communities: Kukuavile, Eziome and Ajomoro Eshiem. Participating in the traditional area's durbar provided the platform for the committee to communicate the importance of the CBFM to the Apataim community members who may be dependent on the Ankobra river for their livelihood. Their understanding and adherence to laid out rules and regulations in the management plan is essential to the successful implementation of the CBFM.

The committee used the opportunity to solicit the support of over 150 chiefs, MCE, police and community people presents towards the success of their work.



Figure 2: Chiefs of communities under the Apataim traditional council and invited dignitaries seated at the Apataim community center during the durbar opening

2.2 Adelekezo

Adelekezo is an active participant in the CBFM initiative with a strong traditionally instituted closed area that is an integral part of the whole fisheries management in these communities. The participation of the Ankobra CBFM committee at the durbar helped outline an important aspect of the management plan, that is, integrating existing traditional governance system into seemingly modern resource management practice.

The chief of Adelekezo, Nana Amihere II, who is also the Kyidom Hene of Nsein traditional council in his address highlighted the SFMP work on the Ankobra; he charged community members to work with the committee to ensure the success of the CBFMC.



Figure 3: Jubilant community members at the Kundum durbar ground in Adelekezo

SECTION 3: CONCLUSION AND WAYFORWARD

Community support for the Ankobra CBFM is crucial to its successful implementation and participation in activities such as the annual durbar helps provide some of the needed community support. It also highlights the project support for traditional institution which are important part of community existence. Such supports are also essential ingredient in successful project implementation as they create the space for new and traditional approach to natural resource management to co-exist and benefit from each other. The committee members will remain at the fore of such community interaction as a mindful effort to ensure community ownership of the CBFM initiative after lifespan of project.



Figure 4: Women group in Adelekezo leading the procession into the durbar ground with singing and dancing



Figure 5: The Ankobra CBFM committee members led by their chairman, John Asiedu, greeting the chiefs at the durbar



Figure 6: Jubilant crowd at the Apataim durbar grounds dancing to songs and rhythms of the traditional drums