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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Sustainable Mangrove Harvesting and Management Training for Mangrove Harvesters: A Summary Report



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Cover photo: Group photo of training participants (Credit: Hen Mpoano)

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Hen Mpoano: <http://www.henmpoano.org>
Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

ACRONYMS

CBFMA	Community Based Fisheries Management Area
FC	Forestry commission
HM	Hen Mpoano
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WD	Wildlife Division

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Communities of the Lower Ankobra River Basin depend heavily on the natural resources associated with the river basin and exploit them for their food and livelihood security. Notable among these resources is the exploitation of mangrove forest for various uses such as charcoal production and as firewood to smoke fish. However, due to lack of governance structures for natural resources management and decision making, resources are exploited without regard for their long-term sustainability. To reverse the trend, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) and Hen Mpoano (HM) carried out several activities to restore degraded mangrove areas within the Community Based Fisheries Management Area (CBFMA) of Ankobra mangrove ecosystem enclave. These activities included the establishment of mangrove nursery to raise more than 45,000 seedlings of mangrove to be replanted at degraded sites, introduction of Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) and the development of a community-based management plan. Throughout the engagement with members of the community fringing the Ankobra estuary, it was clear that the harvesting of mangroves formed a major part of the livelihood of the population and that total restriction on harvesting will lead to livelihood insecurity. To address this situation, two training sections on sustainable mangrove harvesting and management was organized for 51 mangrove harvesters (35 males and 16 females) from Ankobra community to take them through sustainable ways of harvesting mangrove trees and effectively managing mangrove forest and their resources without destroying the ecosystem in general and the mangrove forest in particular. Following up on this, a practical training section was organized for the same group to relate the theory to field practical. Participants were taken through ways of establishing and effectively managing mangroves nursery. The techniques in tendering and replanting of mangroves were also taught during the training.

Objectives of the Training

The objective of the training was to equip mangrove harvesters and community members on how to:

- Promote sustainable use of the mangrove resources.
- Initiate and adopt best management practices and create consensus on the way forward.
- Protect valuable mangrove resources.
- Create navigational access through mangroves to farms.



Figure 1. Group picture of first participants trained

The participants were introduced to the need for sustainable use of mangrove resources, and some techniques for effective harvesting of mangroves, their resources and management. The training also highlighted important clues to ensure effective and sustainable use of mangrove resources. Highlights included sustainable harvesting technics, mangrove nursing and direct planting methods, spacing of harvesting grounds and delineation of a no-cut-zone along the riverbank. The training is expected to equip harvesters to utilize mangrove resources sustainably.



Figure 2. Section of mangrove harvesters during 1st and 2nd training respectively

METHODOLOGY

The mode of training was mainly presentations by experienced facilitators. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and make contributions. Suggestions on what can be done to sustainably use mangrove resources were also gathered from the participants.



Figure 3. A facilitator addressing the participant

IMPLICATION FOR THE ANKOBRA MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM

Mangrove harvesters are now sensitized and educated to use mangrove resources sustainably. They expressed satisfaction with replanting efforts already conducted in cleared zones. They promised to utilize the skills they had acquired through the training to ensure that the mangroves resources bequeath to them by their forefathers are utilized in a way that their offspring would also be able to benefit from the resources. They however asked that public education be intensified to ensure voluntary compliance by mangrove harvesters in other communities fringing the Ankobra Estuary. They also asked that replanted areas be identified and marked as conservation site to ensure proper restoration and regeneration. They also asked that some form of accreditation be given to mangrove harvesters who harvest mangroves in a sustainable way to serve as an encouragement to other harvesters.



Figure 4. Facilitator using gestures to illustrate and explain a point to participants

CONCLUSION

There is therefore the need to adequately monitor progress of this training to ensure effective use of new techniques by harvesters. Mangrove harvesters are excited and motivated to replant degraded areas and replant areas they will harvest in the near future to ensure sustainable use. It is also expected that, with the collaboration and support of Wildlife Division of the Forestry commission, who are responsible and mandated by law to conserve wetlands and its resources, this unique ecosystem will be sustainably used for the benefit of present and future generation.

APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST (24-10-2018 TO 25-10-2018)

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COMMUNITY
MARY	SOMAH	ANKOBRA
SOPHIA	TWEME	ANKOBRA
PRINCE	KWOFIE	ANKOBRA
AUGUSTINE	FOMADO	ANKOBRA
KINGSLY	McCARTHY	ANKOBRA
ENOCH	SEFODAH	ANKOBRA
AKULU	TAMAWU	ANKOBRA
MATHEW	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
YAW	AGAMA	ANKOBRA
SANUEL	DONKOR	ANKOBRA
MARGARET	AMOH	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	AKYE	ANKOBRA
JOHN	SHOMA YANKEY	ANKOBRA
ZOMALO	MANN	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	KOKLELE	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	NDEFO	ANKOBRA
ASSUAH	NDA	ANKOBRA
MARY	ARTHUR	ANKOBRA
MARY	AKPALE	ANKOBRA
KOFI	McCARTHY	ANKOBRA
JAMES	EZUAH	ANKOBRA
EMMANUEL	KABENLAH	ANKOBRA
MANFORD	ASUAH NDA	ANKOBRA
PETER	YANKEY	ANKOBRA
PAUL	NATO CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
ISAAC	MORKEH CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
ANTHONY	K DUAH	ANKOBRA

APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANT LIST (31-10-2018 TO 01-11-2018)

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COMMUNITY
AUGUSTINE	CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
GABRIEL	ETE	ANKOBRA
COMFORT	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
BEATRICE	AKANAM	ANKOBRA
SANDRA	ADU	ANKOBRA
HAMZAH	PRAH	ANKOBRA
LUCY	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
MENSAH	AKPAMOLA	ANKOBRA
KOSUO	AKPASA	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	JOHNSON	ANKOBRA
ROBERT	A. KWASI	ANKOBRA
ADJEI	NDEDE	ANKOBRA
ASUAHWAH	EHOMAH	ANKOBRA
MANFORD	ASUAH	ANKOBRA
MAWU	DAWUKPO	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	E KWASI	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	ASARE QUAYSON	ANKOBRA
EMMANUEL	ACKAH	ANKOBRA
MARY	A ADJO	ANKOBRA
ROSE	YANKEY	ANKOBRA
PIOUS	TEYI	ANKOBRA
MARY	BOLOFEHYELE	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	K NYAMEKEH	ANKOBRA

APPENDIX 3: PARTICIPANT LIST (19-12-2018 TO 20-12-2018)

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COMMUNITY
MARY	SOMAH	ANKOBRA
SOPHIA	TWEME	ANKOBRA
PRINCE	KWOFIE	ANKOBRA
AUGUSTINE	FOMADO	ANKOBRA
KINGSLY	McCARTHY	ANKOBRA
ENOCH	SEFODAH	ANKOBRA
AKULU	TAMAWU	ANKOBRA
MATHEW	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
YAW	AGAMA	ANKOBRA
SANUEL	DONKOR	ANKOBRA
MARGARET	AMOH	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	AKYE	ANKOBRA
JOHN	SHOMA YANKEY	ANKOBRA
ZOMALO	MANN	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	KOKLELE	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	NDEFO	ANKOBRA
ASSUAH	NDA	ANKOBRA
MARY	ARTHUR	ANKOBRA
MARY	AKPALE	ANKOBRA
KOFI	McCARTHY	ANKOBRA
JAMES	EZUAH	ANKOBRA
EMMANUEL	KABENLAH	ANKOBRA
MANFORD	ASUAH NDA	ANKOBRA
PETER	YANKEY	ANKOBRA
PAUL	NATO CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
ISAAC	MORKEH CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
ANTHONY	K DUAH	ANKOBRA
AUGUSTINE	CUDJOE	ANKOBRA
GABRIEL	ETE	ANKOBRA
COMFORT	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
BEATRICE	AKANAM	ANKOBRA
SANDRA	ADU	ANKOBRA

HAMZAH	PRAH	ANKOBRA
LUCY	AHIAYO	ANKOBRA
MENSAH	AKPAMOLA	ANKOBRA
KOSUO	AKPASA	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	JOHNSON	ANKOBRA
ROBERT	KWASI	ANKOBRA
ADJEI	NDEDE	ANKOBRA
ASUAHWAH	EHOMAH	ANKOBRA
MANFORD	ASUAH	ANKOBRA
MAWU	DAWUKPO	ANKOBRA
FRANCIS	E KWASI	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	ASARE QUAYSON	ANKOBRA
EMMANUEL	ACKAH	ANKOBRA
MARY	A ADJO	ANKOBRA
ROSE	YANKEY	ANKOBRA
PIOUS	TEYI	ANKOBRA
MARY	BOLOFEHYELE	ANKOBRA
JOSEPH	K NYAMEKEH	ANKOBRA

APPENDIX 4: SOME SELECTED SLIDES USED DURING THE TRAININGS

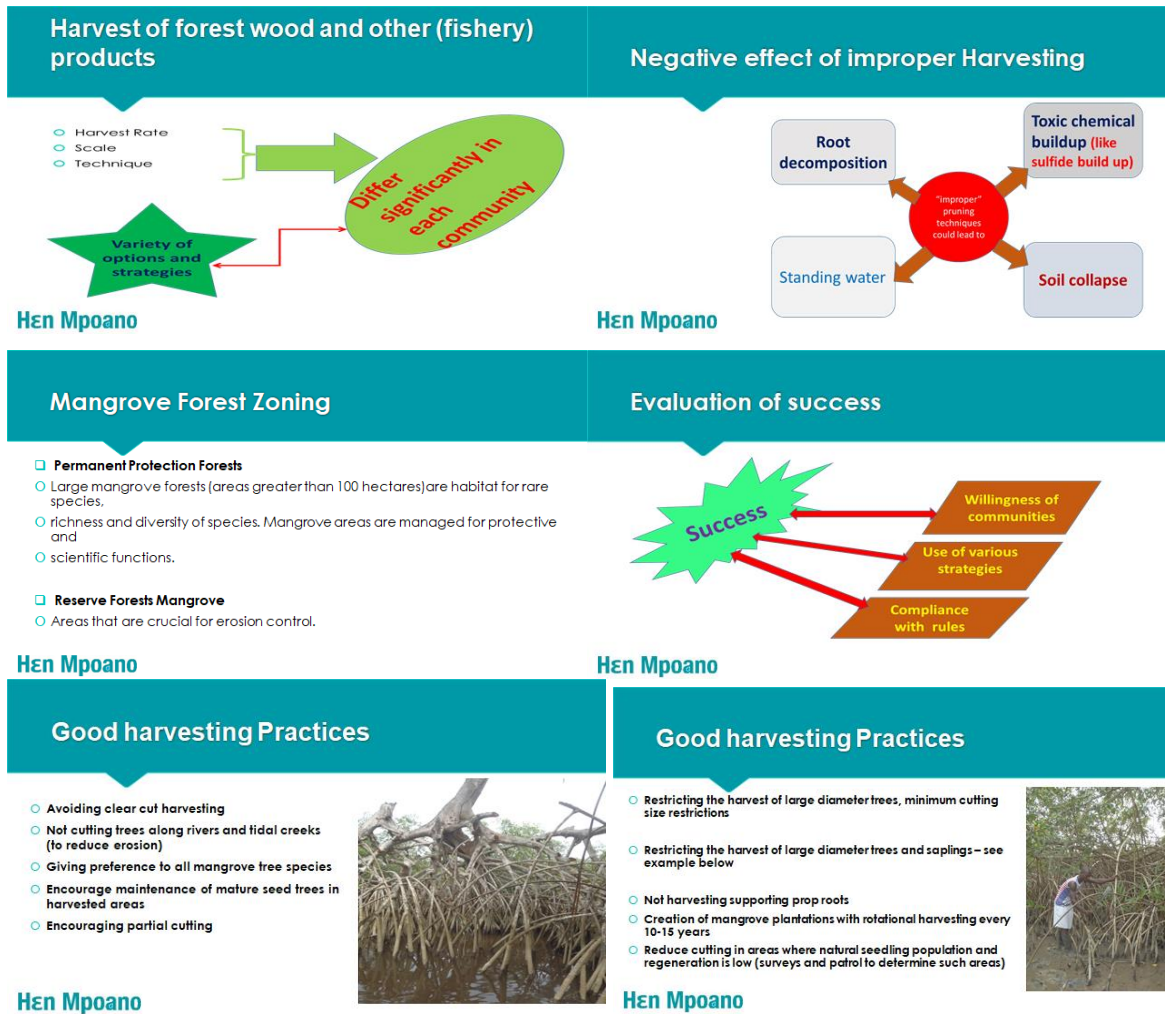


Figure 5. Selected presentation slides