



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



8th Capitalization Meeting

EU Land Governance Programme

Edna Quansah - GHANA - Far Dwuma Nkodo - Securing Sustainable Fisheries Project
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) – Hen Mpoano

United Nations Centre
Nairobi, Kenya
From 18 – To 21 June, 2019

Title: Far Dwuma Nkodo - Securing Sustainable Fisheries

Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) – Hen Mpoano

- 3 year project: 2017 – 2019
- Funding from the European Union, co-funding from German Ministry of Economic Cooperation
- EUR 1.9 million total budget
- Work with coastal communities in 10 districts in Ghana's Central Region and in the Volta Estuary



Project Objectives



- Demonstrably improve sustainable fishing practices while effectively strengthening illegal fishing prevention efforts
- Better empower small-scale fishers and vulnerable/marginalised groups to articulate their interests in fisheries tenure rights reforms and effectively implement fisheries co-management
- Open up alternative livelihood options to small-scale fishing communities



Project Progress



- Contributed to increased understanding of the impacts of industrial fishing activities on Ghana's fisheries and the challenges facing small-scale fishers; increased media coverage.
- Mobile application developed to allow fishermen to report geotagged information on illegal fishing and conflicts at sea; 25 fishers with app installed;. Geotagged cameras/smartphones deployed in 10 communities.
- 3 trips at sea to document illegal trans-shipment; 2 trips to observe vessels fishing illegally in the IEZ. 11 alerts submitted in 2018; 5 concerning multiple vessels. Led to updates to the online vessel registry (increased transparency) and warning issued by FC to trawler operator for fishing in the IEZ. 6 alerts submitted so far in 2019.
- Maps depicting IEZ boundary scenarios to inform potential extension of the IEZ under the future fisheries law framework (45, 50 and 60 metre depth, and 12 nautical miles). Scenarios presented at meeting of FC officials, academia and CSOs in April 2019.
- Assessment of current legal framework against principles of the VGGT and SSF Guidelines completed and subjected to consultation with small-scale fisheries stakeholders in March 2019.



Project Progress



- Study on gender in Ghana's small-scale fisheries sector published on IWD in March 2019, with recommendations on gender mainstreaming.
- Dedicated paper setting out 15 recommendations for improving transparency in the fisheries sector published in January 2019. Roundtable discussion on transparency held in November 2018 and communique published in national press.
- Journalist grant programme launched, with four articles published to date on illegal fishing by industrial vessels, conflicts with the oil sector, transparency and over-capacity in the industrial fleet.
- 81 clam farms have been mapped and documented in the OpenTenure database, and 4 composite maps produced. Maps validated by clam fishers and local stakeholders during 4 validation exercises held at Ada-Foah.
- Meetings organized with the women involved in the Ada area's clam business, resulting in the following achievements:
 - One new women's group formed: Kponkpo Clam Processors Association
 - Women integrated into another existing association at Agorkpo
 - Two associations strengthened with relevant registration and documentation



Capacity Development Activities



- 5-10 fishers, on average, with smartphones from 10 communities in the Central Region engaged on the role of fishing communities in monitoring, control and surveillance.
- 4 journalists produced stories under the project's fisheries story grant programme from July 2018-April 2019. The project team worked closely with the journalists to review and refine their stories.
- Roundtable meeting on transparency to brief stakeholders from industry, CSOs and government on the need for greater transparency and accountability in the fisheries sector. Over 50 participants briefed on progress in other sectors (e.g. oil and gas), global developments under the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and gaps in transparency in fisheries management in Ghana.
- 6 trainings carried out for 80 clam fishers and processors (38 men and 42 women) from two associations in Agorkpo and Kponkpo, in order to reinforce their organizational and management capacity.



Challenges

- Technological challenges associated with developing smartphone application for reporting on illegal fishing and conflicts at sea.
- Limited action to address the over-capacity and illegal fishing of industrial vessels, culminating in attempts to “legalise” activities defined as illegal in the fisheries law framework (trans-shipment between industrial trawlers and canoes at sea - saiko). Lack of transparency around licensing and IUU sanctions.
- Major delays in the reform of the fisheries law framework and a lack of clarity concerning leadership of the process and timing.
- Territorial claims by people from different districts and traditional areas and the duration of tenure of mapped farms since this a common resource. Discussions currently ongoing with the South Tongu and Ada East districts to address these issues.



Lessons Learned



- Concerning technology, the importance of being flexible and responding to circumstances on the ground. Sustained engagement is also required to encourage gathering and reporting of evidence and involvement of communities in MCS.
- Working closely with small-scale fisher associations has helped to amplify advocacy around joint priorities such as an end to saiko and the need for greater transparency in fisheries management.
- Transparency in decision-making (e.g. for fisheries – beneficial ownership, licensing agreements, fees, conditions, use of development funds) is an essential prerequisite for social justice in resource management and meaningful participation of stakeholders. The project has prioritized targeted advocacy to address this.



Recommendations



- Projects should aim to engage the related sector Ministry and other relevant authorities as early as possible in the implementation process to ensure alignment of the project with national priorities.
- Generating attention of the international community through targeted and quality communications can help to raise the profile of issues at the national level.
- Provision for strong advocacy component is essential.
- In the fisheries context, the need for emphasis particularly on the SSF guidelines as enshrining the VGGT principles in relation to fisheries.



Next Steps

- Continue to engage fishing communities to encourage reporting on illegal fishing and conflicts at sea. Incorporate evidence into alerts and submit to the enforcement authorities. Finalise and deploy mobile application to document and map conflicts at sea and illegal fishing.
- Continued advocacy to ensure saiko remains prohibited and laws are enforced.
- Engage artisanal and industrial fishing sectors to seek a compromise on the extension of the IEZ boundary in the reform of the fisheries laws. Advocacy to secure an extension.
- Publish issue brief setting out the key recommendations from the SSFG/VGGT legal assessment and advocate for consideration in the revision of the 2002 Fisheries Act.
- Engage fishmongers and processors at community level with a view to strengthening NAFPTA groups. Establishment of pilot VSLAs in three communities.
- Publish final landing site maps. Document process to secure one or two case study landing sites, engage with stakeholders external to fisheries sector.



Thank you!

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