



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Dialogue Supporting the Directive Actions of the National Fisheries Management Plan 2015-2019



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Cover photo: Fisherman to Fisherman Dialogue

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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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INTRODUCTION

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 work plan (FY17).

RATIONALE

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).

Effective implementation of the fisheries management plan 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.

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 understaffed and under-funded MoFAD and Fisheries Commission.

Specifically, the Council will increase awareness and positive engagement of fishermen through Fishermen to Fishermen (*F₂F*) consultation process and an education campaign to rebuild depleted fish stocks and recoup lost yield and revenues. The Council will encourage mass participation by its members in the implementation of the fisheries management plan. This will change fishermen’s attitude and behavior with regards to fishing practices and allows a sense of ownership so that fishermen stop regarding fisheries regulations as some alien restraint imposed on them by government.

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 wishes to take 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 will focus on a 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 will lead the organization and the facilitation of a series of dialogues between fishermen and Chief Fishermen, named *F₂F* to organize its members and increase the capacity of the Council to be able to address the expected responsibilities in fisheries resource management. The Council will 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 fisheries management plan. The end result will be a signed National Resolution signed fishermen and Chief Fisherman to comply with the measures of the national fisheries management plan.

The Council will focus on the following actions for 2017:

- **C.1.1: Assist the FC to complete the canoe registration nationwide**
- **C.1.2: Propose and implement the addition of a second fishing holiday**
- **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**

The Council's Executive Committee, chaired by the president of the Council, will serve as the steering and the organizing committee for events and will be responsible for deliveries and follow through actions of the proposed plan. Selected Chief Fisherman of major landings sites will serve on the steering committee when activities are organized within their jurisdiction.

The Council will launch the program of the *F₂F* dialogue during world fishermen day in Elmina on November 22, 2016. A National Resolution will be drafted and socialized at this event in local languages using drama and other means of communication.

The Council will organize four regional fishermen and Chief Fisherman's forums to discuss the fisheries management actions and mode of implementation and seek endorsements by communities for a regional resolution. The end result is expected to bring a signed four regional resolutions by the large majority members of the Council and the Chief fishermen of each coastal region. The basic tenants of theses 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 Council will reconcile the findings of each regional resolution in an open meeting and conclude with a deliberation of a national resolution with a schedule and plan of implementation. The national resolution will be officially declared on July 4th at the *Bakatue Festival* in Elmina.

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 1 Activities and Time Schedule

Activity	Description	Date	Venue	Responsible
Council meeting	Prepare an operational plan and assign responsibilities and deliverables.	October 4,5 2016	Accra	GNCFC /GIFA
Council meeting and Chief Fisherman	Prepare for World Fisheries Day. Draft a declaration	October 18,19 2016	Pram Pram	GNCFC /GIFA
World Fisheries Day – Launch <i>F₂F</i> dialogue.	Organize the WFD event	November 21, 2016	TBD	GNCFC /GIFA
Council meeting and Chief fisherman	Organize regional forums	December 6,7 2016	Accra	GNCFC /GIFA
Regional <i>F₂F</i> meeting – Volta	One day event in the Volta. Sign the Volta compact	January 18, 2017	TBD	GNCFC /GIFA
Regional <i>F₂F</i> meeting - Greater Accra	One day event in the Greater Accra – sign the GR compact.	January 31, 2017	Jamestown	
Regional <i>F₂F</i> meeting - Central Region	One day event in the Central Region – sign the CR compact	February 14, 2017	Elmina	
Regional <i>F₂F</i> meeting - Western Region	One day event in the Western region– sign the WR compact	February 21, 2017	Axim	

Activity	Description	Date	Venue	Responsible
Council meeting- Deliberation on the national <i>F₂F</i> compact	Prepare for the national <i>F₂F</i> compact. Organize events to disseminate the compact. Organize an official launch of the implementation of compact (management measures)	March 8, 9, 10 2017	Takoradi	
World Ocean Day – Official launch of the implementation of the national <i>F₂F</i> compact (management measures)	Organize World Ocean Day and official launch of the national <i>F₂F</i> compact (management measures) effective date August 1 st , 2017.	June 6 th , 2017		
BAKA TUE Elmina Festival	Organize Bakatue Elmina Festival. Dissemination of the national <i>F₂F</i> compact.	July 4 th , 2017	TBD	
Council meeting and reporting	Prepare a final report and a monitoring plan	July 26,27 2017	Tema	

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The expected outcomes of the proposed project is 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 is 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 2017:

- **C.1.1: Assist the FC to complete the canoe registration nationwide**
- **C.1.2: Propose and implement the addition of a second fishing holiday**
- **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**

The Council is proposing that SFMP provide technical and financial assistance for this project through a *F₂F* 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 *F₂F* 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. 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.