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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) Progress Report



OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2018

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Hen Mpoano



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Cover photo: The Charge d’Affaires for the American Embassy in Ghana, Mr. Christopher J. Lamora (left), and Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Madame Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye (right), showing the Fisheries Sector Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking Strategy charter after signing it in Accra, October 23, 2018. (Photo credit: CRC/URI)

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SNV	http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
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ACRONYMS

ACES	Community on Ecosystem Services conference
AGU	American Geophysical Union conference
CAC	Canoe Authorization Card
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
DOPA	Densu Oyster Pickers Association
EG	Economic Growth
F ₂ F	Fisher to Fisher (Dialogues)
FC	Fisheries Commission
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit
FFP	Fishers Future Plan
FoN	Friends of Nation
FtF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GITA	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
GOG	Government of Ghana
HM	Hen Mpoano
ID	Identity card
IR	Intermediate Results
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (Fishing)
LOP	Life of Project
LUSPA	Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MASLOC	Microfinance and Small Loans Centre
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
MT	Metric Tones
MTDPs	Medium Term Development Plans
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NFMP	National Fisheries Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMFMP	National Marine Fisheries Management Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRM	Natural Resource Management
QR	Quick Response
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSG	SSG Advisors, now Resonance Global, an implementing partner of SFMP
TA	Technical Assistance
TFN	Tigo Fishers Network (Mobile Phone Communications Network)

TV	Television
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UCC	University of Cape Coast
UCC-DFAS	University of Cape Coast Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United State Government
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

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1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Table 1: Sustainable Fisheries Management Project Summary

Program Name	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
Activity Start and End Date	October 22, 2014 to October 31, 2019
Name of Prime Implementing Partner	Coastal Resources Center University of Rhode Island
Agreement Number	AID-641-A-15-00001
Name of Sub-awardees	Hen Mpoano (HM) Friends of the Nation (FoN) Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) Resonance Global Central and Western Fishmongers Association (CEWEFIA) Development Action Association (DAA)
Major Counterpart Organizations	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) Fisheries Commission (FC)
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Ghana: Central Region, Western Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region
Reporting Period	October 1 – December 31, 2018

1.1 Program Description/Introduction

The objective of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), a five-year project (October 2014 - October 2019), is to rebuild marine fisheries stocks and catches through adoption of responsible fishing practices. The project contributes to the Government of Ghana’s fisheries development objectives and the US Government’s **Feed the Future Initiative**. Working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC), USAID/Ghana SFMP aims to end overfishing of key stocks important to local food security through achievement of the following intermediate results:

- Improved legal enabling conditions for co-management, use rights and effort-reduction strategies.
- Strengthened information systems and science-informed decision-making.
- Increased constituencies that provide the political and public support needed to rebuild fish stocks.
- Implementation of applied management initiatives for several targeted fisheries ecosystems.

More than 100,000 men and women involved in the local fishing industry are expected to benefit from this project and tens of thousands of metric tons of additional high quality low cost food supply from fisheries can be regained via improved and sustainable management of the marine fish stocks in Ghana’s waters.

The Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography is the lead implementer of the SFMP and leads a consortium of other international and local partners including; SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Resonance Global (formerly SSG-Advisors), Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, the Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association in Ghana (CEWEFIA) and the

Development Action Association (DAA). SFMP also works with other organizations that are not formerly part of the consortium but receive support and play important roles in achieving the goals of the project. These include the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), the Ghana National Canoe Fishers Council (GNCFC), and others. The project complements and coordinates closely with two other projects in the USAID/Ghana Coastal Program Portfolio: The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) (recently completed) and the University of Cape Coast/Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science (UCC/DFAS) Institutional Strengthening Project.

The SFMP builds on the best practices and lessons learned from the USAID-Ghana's Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Program implemented from 2009 - 2014. Based on lessons learned in the previous project SFMP is focusing efforts on small pelagic fisheries along the entire coastline as well as fisheries and essential mangrove fish habitat in three coastal estuaries - The Densu, Pra and Ankobra systems. Additionally, improvements in the value chain of smoked fish, important to tens of thousands of women fish processors is supported. The project is also undertaking actions towards reducing child labor and trafficking in the Central region of Ghana. Key government clients of this project include the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Fisheries Commission, the Regional Coordinating Councils, the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) and associated districts in the Central and Western Regions; and the Marine Police. Additional support is provided to a number of local NGOs and women's associations that are active in fisheries management issues and serving either as core or supporting partners in the implementation of this project.

This progress report details activities, results, and lessons learned during the first quarter of Project Year 5 (FY19). It also explains how partners contributed to the achievement of targets and how these achievements will be sustained to meet the overarching goal of SFMP.

1.2 Summary of Results

Highlights of activities and achievements for the third quarter of Year 4 include the following:

Strengthening Enabling Environment for Marine Fisheries Management: As reflected in its policy documents, the government of Ghana intends to implement fisheries co-management across the country. In support, the USAID SFMP has supported the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to draft a Fisheries Co-Management Policy for Ghana. Facilitated by SFMP, the completed draft has been discussed by the Fisheries Commission Board and the Ministry leadership and, with SFMP support, conducted a detailed analysis of the contents including proposed co-management implementation arrangements and program financing. The Policy is yet to be submitted to Cabinet through a Cabinet Memo for approval and endorsement by Government. SFMP is supporting the Ministry to develop one-page briefs on various issues that will accompany the approval request that focus on the three pilot community fisheries management plans developed in the Densu (Greater Accra Region), Pra and Ankobra (Western Region) estuaries. Developed in collaboration between SFMP and the Fisheries Commission, these community-based management plans demonstrate how co-management can work in Ghana. Copies of each co-management plan will be bundled and submitted for approval together with the co-management policy. Once approved, SFMP will support implementation of an outreach and communication program for the public, training of Fisheries Commission officers and local parliament members, and work with the Ministry and the Commission to develop guidelines for co-management implementation across designated sites. The SFMP team is already

training zonal officers in co-management principles and this will intensify once the Policy is adopted.

Efforts of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to revise the Fisheries Act of 2002, Act 625 as amended, and its subsidiary regulations gained traction with the hiring of two Ghanaian consultants. Professor Martin Tsamenyi, a global expert in marine law, and Raymond Babanawo who will be seconded to MOFAD for coordination and support, to support the process leading to the drafting of a new Fisheries Bill. A strategy towards the development of the Bill was completed. Three basic questions are being addressed in preparation to communicate to Cabinet the need for amending the law: ***Why must the law be changed? What specifically must change? How must this change happen?*** During Quarter 1 SFMP supported consultation retreats with relevant stakeholders to discuss the three main questions. Participants at the various meetings were unanimous on the need to revise the fisheries laws and provided various reasons to support their decision. Answers to the consultation ‘why’ is forming the basis of a Cabinet Memo that requests the government to approve the revision of the Fisheries Act 625. The Cabinet Memo is at the draft stage and the Minister is expected to present it to Cabinet before the end of the year. Answers to the other questions are providing the basis for the drafting instructions for the new fisheries bill when Cabinet approval is received by the Minister. The Drafting Instructions document is the official communication sent to the Attorney General’s office that specifies the intent of the law’s amendments. SFMP will continue to collaborate with the MoFAD and support further consultation processes until a new Fisheries Bill has been drafted for consideration by Parliament. Depending on timing, passage into law may or may not occur before the project end of October, 2019.

Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management: Under the collaboration between SFMP and UCC projects, five PhD students from UCC completed the fall 2018 semester at the University of Rhode Island. CRC offered a weekly seminar where local experts and fishermen were invited to present and discuss current fisheries management issues and ecosystem-based techniques. The students took courses, had a URI faculty mentor who advised them on coursework and dissertation research, and attended three conferences on fisheries and coastal management. Student evaluations highlighted the benefits from interacting with people from diverse backgrounds including leaders from all levels of government, NGOs, academia and private business which helped expand their experience and knowledge in different perspectives of fisheries and coastal management.

Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement: One of the major factors that has hindered the effective implementation of formal fisheries management measures to address the declining stocks in Ghana is inadequate collaboration between government and relevant stakeholders. Year 5’s Fishier-to-Fisher dialogues (F2F) gained ground to address this issue and the success of the effort is recognized by inclusion in the MOFAD’s 2019 budget for the first time since its inception. This gives a clear indication of government’s appreciation of the F2F platform and its role in engaging fishers in policy formulation and implementation. Not only did MOFAD/FC participate in the preparatory meetings that preceded the district level F2F events, but FC staff showed greater commitment by insisting on collaborating with the fishers throughout the dialogues. With SFMP support, MOFAD/FC took the initiative to train all 48 (35 males and 13 females) regional directors, relevant divisional heads and all zonal officers on their role in conducting F2F events. They also emphasized the importance of and how to effectively increase collaboration with the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC) and the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) to make F2F meetings successful. SFMP supported 18 clustered community level F2F dialogues focusing on effort reduction measures outlined in the National Fisheries Management Plan

(2015 – 2019). Through its partners, the project assisted the GNCFC and MOFAD/FC to mobilize their stakeholders as well as guide the chief fishermen to facilitate each dialogue. At the end of all the district level F2F dialogues, participating fishers agreed to close access through a proposed five-year moratorium on new entrants of canoes, with an annual review of the total number of canoes actually registered to operate. Moving from open access (the current situation in Ghana's canoe fishery) to closed access (through the proposed moratorium) is a global gold standard for sustainable fisheries management. It stops the further development of overcapacity while providing management mechanisms for canoes already in operation. The F2F provides a key platform for increased level of collaboration between government and fishers across the full range of management measures being support by SFMP.

Supporting Implementation of Applied Management Initiatives: As noted above, one of the major causes of Ghana's declining small pelagic stock is open access that has led to fleet overcapacity (so many boats that maximum annual sustained yields are reduced considerably). In Quarter 1, SFMP supported the FC to complete a review of the database of all canoes operating in Ghana's coastal marine area (the initial database was completed in Year 4). The database cleanup exercise of the canoe registry did not result in a significant reduction from the over 14,000 total number of canoes originally registered. Starting from this confirmed registry, SFMP is supporting MOFAD/FC and fishers to reach agreement and implement a moratorium on new entrants into the canoe fleet. This is the first step toward eventual reduction of the total number of canoes operating in Ghana's small pelagic fishery to more sustainable levels. The moratorium and canoe registration, together with other effort reduction measures, is aimed at reducing the canoe fleet from the July 2018 estimate of 14,700 vessels (per the FC Fishing registry and licensing system) to 9,095 canoes which is the estimated optimal sustainable number of canoes for Ghana's small pelagic fishery. When accomplished, this represent a 38 % reduction from the current number of operating canoes.

Linked to the registry, SFMP is supporting the Fisheries Commission to issue Canoe Authorization Cards (CAC) linked to each canoe's individual registration number. Once issued, these cards will be linked to purchases of government subsidized fuel and provide a reliable system for issuing citations by the Fisheries Enforcement Unit.

Continuing discussions on the fisheries sector closed season were held with senior staff members of MOFAD and FC. The current belief is that postponing the 2018 closed season was appropriate given the public response but they are committed to moving forward with the 2019 closed season declaration sometime in the first quarter of calendar year 2019. SFMP conducted individual discussion meetings with executive board members of GNCFC and NAFPTA to further clarify requirements for full support of the 2019 closed season.

Post-harvest value chain improvements related to the *Ahotor* fish oven (smoker) were consolidated in Quarter 1 through a new *Ahotor* user guide developed to train users of the *Ahotor* ovens. This guide is expected to help address the operational challenges that hampered the oven's performance in the pilot roll out phase such as not building the fire sufficiently deep enough in the fire chamber, appropriate stacking of fish trays above the smoker, etc. The guide has so far been used to train 150 fish processors. Two early adopters of the oven have been trained as '*Ahotor* oven champions' to educate their peers and consumers on the benefits of using the *Ahotor* oven. The supply chain of the *Ahotor* oven was strengthened with the formation of an artisan's network for oven builders. To complement this, a construction manual for the oven was developed as a reference guide for artisans to ensure *Ahotors* are built to the specific specifications that result in less smoke, more efficient burning of wood, higher product value and reduced carcinogens in fish smoked with the

Ahotor. The reference guide was used to train a group of new artisans. Additionally, revisions to the design of fat collectors were made and two new fat collector fabricators were identified to increase supply and eventually increase competition and reduce the overall cost of the oven.

Using guidelines developed with SFMP support, the Fisheries Commission certified 29 fish processing facilities on to the Class 1 Hygienic Fish Processing Recognition Scheme. This certification aims to promote the production and trade of improved quality fish in the supply chain. An operational guide was developed to guide other fish processors who wanted to work toward achieving the standards required for certification. Sixteen fish processors who have not yet achieved these standards were trained as early innovators in their communities. The training included other aspects of how to add value to their fish products for better incomes.

Ten village agents drawn from four VSLAs were trained to set up new groups, monitor and strengthen the existing ones, and serve as liaisons between their communities and other stakeholders.

Direct applied management training with USAID funds for natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change during the quarter totaled 2,976 persons (2,267 men and 709 women). Also, 3,142 persons (2,269 men and 873 women) received short-term agricultural sector productivity and food security training and 269 members of producer organizations and community-based organizations (45 men and 224 women) received training and assistance in business management and development. Also, 166 MSMEs (2 men and 164 women) received business development support services.

Supporting Gender Equity and Empowerment: SFMP was selected to participate in a new learning initiative on women's empowerment, access to finance and sustainable fisheries by USAID. The first phase has been completed with a focus group discussion with 13 fish processors and a results chain workshop with 11 industry experts. An internal assessment of the SFMP gender mainstreaming strategy was completed and indicated it has been successful with the caveat that scale up to more beneficiaries is a remaining challenge.

Promoting Strategic Private Sector Partnerships: SFMP liaised with the Fisher Future Plan (FFP) insurance partners to organize community clinics on the FFP in James Town in Greater Accra and Axim in Western Region. These provided venues through which potential customers could be sensitized on the concept of mobile money, especially Vodafone Cash which links to the FFP micro-insurance program, and also so that current policyholders could practice steps to pay their FFP contribution via the Vodafone cash platform (self-payment). The FFP partners decided to focus on further developing the FFP sales model and platform before aggressively scaling to new communities. Private sector partners continue to be committed to improving and scaling the FFP initiative to build on investments to date and continue to deliver micro-insurance and savings options to fisherfolk in Ghana. Current enrollment in the FFP is approximately 4,060 people in five communities, with more than \$430,000 of direct and in-kind private sector partner investment to date.

The Airtel-Tigo Tigo Fishers Network (TFN), facilitated by SFMP, was designed to allow fisheries free use up to a certain level for certain services such as text messaging and voice calling between fisherfolk subscribed to the TFN. Recent corporate changes installed a completely new team for the TFN and SFMP met with the new team to discuss re-launching the TFN initiative following the disruption caused by the Airtel-Tigo merger in Year 4. The Airtel-Tigo team expressed interest and promised a short term action plan. However, Airtel-

Tigo failed to respond to later follow up communications. With the corporate changes, the future of the program is not clear.

Supporting Improved Capacity Development: The capacity development efforts carried out by SFMP for its partners CEWEFIA, DAA, FoN and Hen Mpoano has yielded enormous results. These civil society organizations have improved on their organizational and financial management and increased their visibility and influence in the fisheries sector. However, the three fisheries associations supported by SFMP (NAFPTA, NAFAG and GNCFC) are still struggling to implement the standard operating procedure manuals developed with SFMP support and still face challenges in meeting their national secretariat functions. SFMP plans to move forward in Quarter 2 with continued support, particularly to GNCFC and NAFPTA, including recruiting a coordinator for the NAFPTA secretariat and consideration of support options with GNCFC.

Table 2 below summarizes the standard USAID indicators for SFMP showing results completed in the first quarter of FY 19 vis-a-vis targets. Significant deviations between results and targets are explained in Annex A which also shows custom project indicators.

Table 2. Summary of Results: Year 5 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2018)

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 5 (FY19) Results	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N	
Number of hectares in areas of biological significance and/or natural resource showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-1)	0	610,900 (small pelagics fishing area)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (Tracked annually)	
Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (FTF 4.5.1(24)) 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	0	Target	Q1 Results							
		Policy, plan or Strategy	Step 1. Analysis	Step 2. Stakeholder consultation	Step 3. Drafting or revision	Step 4. Approval	Step 5. Full and effective implementation			
		Fish Act –Step 3	Completed	Completed					Y	
		CLaT strategy– Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved			Y	
		Co- Management. policy –Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				Y	
		NMFMP-Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved			Y	
		Pra (CBMP) - Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				Y	
		Ankobra (CBMP) -Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				Y	
		Densu (Oyster Plan) Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				Y	
Gender Strategy -Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved			Y			

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 5 (FY19) Results	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop, implement, manage and access fisheries management plans	0	19 (16 Ongoing, 3 New added)	4 CSO 9 GoG (68%)	4 CSO, 9 GoG (68%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	4 CSO (68%)	N All 9 GoG institutions w/ improved capacity. All IPs with improved capacity. 4 fisheries associations so some improvement but not sufficient progress.
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	0	262	154 (59%)	154 (59%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	154 (59%)	Y on track
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-26)	0	Target met already	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y Target met already
Number of District Assemblies supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	0	6 ongoing	6 on-going (100%)	6 on-going (100%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 on-going (100%)	Y
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 5 (FY19) Results	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	0	111,000 (assumes national measure for small pelagics adopted)	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N (no significant management measure yet implemented by FC)
Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	0	700	166 (24%) M-2 (1%) F-164 (99%)	166 (24%) M-2 (1%) F-164 (99%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	166 (24%) M-2 (1%) F-164 (99%)	Y (most of YR5 MSMEs training are scheduled for Q2)
Value of agricultural and rural loans as a result of USG assistance (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-6	0	\$18,809	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	N (MASLOC is currently conducting credit worthy assessment with NAFPTA members)
Number of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving agricultural-related credit as a result of USG assistance (RAA) EG.3.2-3	0	100	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	N (MASLOC is currently conducting credit worthy assessment with NAFPTA members)
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FtF 4.5.2-38)	0	Tracked, No target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 5 (FY19) Results	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producer organizations, water users associations, women groups, trade and business associations, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FtF 4.5.2(11))	0	6 (same group with ongoing support, no new group)	6 - same group with ongoing support	6 - same group with ongoing support	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 - same group with ongoing support	Y
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S) (FtF 4.5.2(27))	0	8,200	269 (3%) M-24 (17%) F-224 (83%)	269 (3%) M-24 (17%) F-224 (83%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	269 (3%) M-24 (17%) F-224 (83%)	N (Target to be achieved when the Canoe Authorization Card exercise is rolled out in Q2)
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FtF 4.5.2(12))	0	0 (LoP Target met already)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (target of 2 over LoP already achieved)
Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/4.8.2-6)	0	1,854	2,976 (161%) M-2267 (76%) F-709 (24%)	2,976 (161%) M-2267 (76%) F-709 (24%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,976 (161%) M-2267 (76%) F-709 (24%)	Y (Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training events, high male % due to focus in F2F on canoe registration and Canoe Council whose members mainly male)

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 5 (FY19) Results	Q1 FY19	Q2 FY19	Q3 FY19	Q4 FY19	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of persons/hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (4.8.1-29)	0	12,354	16,621 (135%) M-12596 (76%) F-4025 (24%)	16,621 (135%) M-12596 (76%) F-4025 (24%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	16,621 (135%) M-12596 (76%) F-4025 (24%)	Y (Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training events). High male due to high male participation during F2F events
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-1	0	2,554	3142 (123%) M-2269 (72%) F-873 (28%)	3142 (123%) M-2269 (72%) F-873 (28%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	3142 (123%) M-2269 (72%) F-873 (28%)	Y (Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training events, high male % due to focus in F2F on canoe registration and Canoe Council whose members mainly male))
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported degree-granting agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) EG.3.2-2	0	1	2 M-1(50%) F – 0 (50%)	2 M-1(50%) F – 0 (50%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 M-1(50%) F – 0 (50%)	Y (delayed graduation date of masters student from Dec. 2018 to May 2019)

¹ This indicator is similar to the Feed the Future indicator: Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (FtF 4.5.2-13)

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Progress Narrative and Implementation Status

IR 1: Strengthened Enabling Environment for Marine Resources Governance

Fisheries Co-Management Policy

As reflected in national policy documents, MOFAD and FC intend to implement a national fisheries co-management program. Fisheries co-management (or collaborative management) is a strategy where responsibility for decision making on how the fisheries resources are managed is shared between government, resource users and other stakeholders, and is a globally accepted best practice. Under co-management, some level of authority for management of the fisheries is devolved to resource users who have practical day-to-day local knowledge of the fishery and can support government in practical ways in managing the fisheries. This is particularly important because in many cases there is no practical government presence making the actions and responsibilities of local stakeholders even more important.

The SFMP is supporting the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to draft a Fisheries Co-Management Policy for Ghana. The completed draft, developed with significant stakeholder consultations, has been discussed with the Fisheries Commission Board of Commissions and the Ministry leadership with detailed analysis of the contents especially implementation arrangements and financing requirements for national rollout of the policy once adopted. The Policy is expected to be submitted to Cabinet through a Cabinet Memo for approval and endorsement by Government in Quarter 2.

The Cabinet approval request will be accompanied by one-page briefs on the outcomes of 3 pilot community-based fisheries management examples in the Densu (Greater Accra Region), Pra and Ankobra (Western Region) estuaries developed and implemented in collaboration between SFMP and the Fisheries Commission. The examples from the three pilot locations demonstrate how fisheries co-management can be implemented in various fishing communities/locations in Ghana.

Once Cabinet approval is made, SFMP will support a communication and outreach plan that includes training of Fisheries Commission zonal officers and work with the ministry and the Commission to develop a guidebook for co-management implementation.

Legal Reform

Efforts of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to revise the Fisheries Act of 2002, Act 625 as amended, and its subsidiary regulations gained traction in with the hiring of two Ghanaian consultants. Professor Martin Tsamenyi, a global expert in marine law, and Raymond Babanawo who will be seconded to MOFAD for coordination and support, were hired by SFMP to support the process leading to the drafting of a new Fisheries Bill. A strategy towards the development of the Bill was completed. Three basic questions were to be answered: ***‘Why must the law be changed? What must change? and How must this change happen?’*** The ‘Why, What and How’ questions formed the basis of stakeholder and government engagements on the legal review supporting amendment of the National Fisheries Act.

During the Quarter 1, SFMP supported one to three-day consultation retreats with producer associations including the National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG), Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA), Ghana Tuna Association (GTA) and Ghana Inshore Fishers Association (GIFA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Association (GNCFCA) and the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAPFTA), as well as senior staff and

deputy directors of the Fisheries Commission to discuss the three consultation questions. Participants at the various meetings were unanimous on the need to revise the fisheries laws and also provided various reasons which included:

- Emerging issues in the industry which the current law does not address.
- Closing gaps and removing implementation obstacles resulting from unclear legal directions.
- Clarifications of the composition of the Fisheries Commission Board of Commissioners.
- Inclusion of co-management provisions.
- Lack of transparency in such things as the award of fishing licenses.
- The use of the National Fisheries Development Fund.
- Reflection of both obligatory and voluntary international obligations under various international treaties and agreements.

The Cabinet Memo is at the draft stage and the Minister is expected to present it to Cabinet in Quarter 2. Once Cabinet approval is received for the drafting of a new fisheries bill, other inputs from additional consultations will inform the drafting instructions for the new fisheries bill.

IR 2: Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management

UCC/DFAS/CCM Capacity Development

Through collaboration between SFMP and UCC projects funded by USAID, five PhD students from UCC successfully completed the fall 2018 semester at the University of Rhode Island (Table 3). Upon arriving, students were assigned individually with URI professors and attended classes relevant to their area of research. In addition, CRC offered a weekly seminar where local experts and fishermen were invited to present and discuss current fisheries management issues and ecosystem-based techniques. Students also learned about the Native American Heritage through site visits and classroom workshops.

Table 3. PhD students from UCC, advisor and area of research—fall semester at URI—2018

Student Name	URI Advisor	UCC Advisor	Area of Research
Miriam Ameworwor	Dr. Jeremy Collie	Dr. John Blay	Fisheries stock assessment
Fredrick Jonah	Dr. JP Walsh	Dr. Noble Asare	Coastal management
Lesley Ntim	Dr. David Bitwell	Dr. Denis Aheto	Fisheries science and management
Gertrude Dali	Dr. Brice Loose	Dr. Denis Aheto	Coastal management
Rhoda Nyarko	Dr. Marta Gomez	Dr. Joe Aggrey-Fynn	Fisheries science and management

Students attended three conferences on fisheries and coastal management. Miriam Ameworwor attended the proceedings of the 66th annual stock assessment workshop by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Woods Hole, MA. Lesley Ntim and Gertrude Dali attended the A Community on Ecosystem Services Conference (ACES 2018) in Washington DC, and Fredrick Jonah attended the 2018 American Geophysical Union conference (AGU) in Washington D.C. Students reported valuable benefits from interacting with people from diverse backgrounds including leaders from of

government, NGOs, academia and private business. It helped expand students' experience and knowledge in fisheries and coastal management. Students' testimonies" included:

- "This semester at URI proved to be far better than I expected. CRC's planning and care was excellent."
- "The semester was very useful and I am grateful for the opportunity. My access to the literature and my interactions with researchers improved my skills and advanced my research."
- "Working directly with fishermen to collect scientific information gave me a new perspective on how research should be conducted. Being on the fishing vessel and working with fishermen was lifetime experience."
- "I learned a lot from the classes and the seminar which made an impact."

One student, Rhoda Nyarko, returned to Ghana on November 10, 2018 before semester-end due to a serious medical condition.

Two additional students are continuing with graduate programs at URI. Evelyn Takyi successfully defended her thesis on the DNA of sardinella in West Africa and is working on required revisions with an expected graduation date extended from December 2018 to May 2019. Evans Arizi has completed all Ph.D. requirements except dissertation and is expected to defend his dissertation in the spring 2019 semester and will likely graduate in May 2019.

Advanced Spatial Data Collection and Processing

Hen Mpoano continues to provide geospatial services and generate products that directly support ongoing activities and partner organizations. During the period under review, HM supported improved data accessibility and the development of online maps and visualization tools to track SFMP activities through time and space.

Most of SFMP's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) imagery has been processed, delivered to partners, and is available through the SFMP's online Map and Data Center (<https://arcg.is/1v8n8j>). No specialized software is required to view the products and users are able to pan/zoom within a familiar "Google Earth" type of interface. Moving forward, all imagery will be made available for direct download to technical users looking to perform more complicated analysis or visualizations. Access to these data is free and open to all.

The University of Cape Coast's Center for Coastal Management (CCM) and Department of Geography and Planning have agreed to continue developing the University's capacity for UAV data collection and analysis. Several requirements are in the process of being fulfilled, including the development of a long-term sustainability plan and obtaining a UAV operating permit and pilot certifications through Ghana's Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). All requirements are expected to be satisfied in time for a Q3/Q4 transfer of all UAV equipment to UCC control. HM has been a key partner in developing SFMP's UAV capabilities and continues to capitalize on the training and experience received, obtaining pilot certifications and to assisting UCC in data collection and processing. HM continues to build pilot capabilities and experience by participating in recent aerial surveys of the Fosu Lagoon, Cape Coast (December, 2018). While the imagery will primarily be used to support UCC research efforts these data will also be made available through the SFMP imagery portal.

Being able to quantify the impact of SFMP activities is a fundamental goal of M&E reporting. HM continues to work with the SFMP M&E team to compile these reports into a single, searchable database of activities. Combined with cutting-edge mapping tools, an online dashboard is being created to visualize the scope of project activities and tabulate key metrics such as the number of male/female beneficiaries for each action. While not designed

as a replacement for reporting, the online system is a substantial enhancement designed to clearly demonstrate the scope and effectiveness of SFMP interventions. Users will be able to filter project activities by several important criteria (location, implementing partner, intervention type, etc.) and “drill down” to specific activity reports and details when needed. As the selection changes, the accompanying map and metrics are automatically updated. This effort is ongoing and a working prototype will be presented in Q3.



Figure 1. SFMP and UCC teams planning a UAV mission for the Fosu lagoon in Cape Coast.

IR 3 Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement

Fisher-2-Fisher (F2F) Dialogue Program

One of the major factors that hindering the effective implementation of formal fisheries management measures to address the declining stocks in Ghana is inadequate collaboration between government and relevant stakeholders. This has resulted in fishers seeing top-down management regulations imposed by the Fisheries Commission (FC) as unreasonable restraints imposed on them by government, and as such do not consent themselves fully to its implementation. Coupled with irresponsible fishing practices such as use of illegal fine mesh nets and lights among fishers, has led to the near collapse of the small pelagic stocks. However, there is a new hope through the Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues, jointly supported by SFMP, GNCFC and FC, which provides a platform to fill this gap.



Figure 2. Participants at F2F event in Winneba and Apam in the Central Region

Year 5’s F2F gained greater grounds to address the aforementioned issue as it was recognized in the Nation’s 2019 budget for the first time since its inception. This gave a clear indication of government’s appreciation of the role of fishers in policy formulation and implementation. Not only did MOFAD/FC participate in the preparatory meetings that preceded district level training events, but also showed greater commitment by insisting on collaborating with fishers throughout the dialogues. MOFAD/FC took the initiative with support from SFMP, to train all 48 regional directors (35 males and 13 females), relevant divisional heads and all

zonal officers on their role in the F2F, and how they can effectively collaborate with the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council (GNCFC) and National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) to make it a success.

SFMP supported 18 clusters of community level F2F dialogues with a focus on effort reduction measures outlined in the National Fisheries Management Plan (2015 – 2019). Through its partners, the project assisted the GNCFC and MOFAD/FC to mobilize their stakeholders as well as guide the chief fishermen to facilitate each dialogue. This approach aims at building a sense of ownership of the outcome of the dialogues and enhance the leadership skills of the chief fishermen in their respective landing sites. This was evident in the level of response from the fishers who unanimously agreed to close access to new entrants of canoes for a period of five (5) years with an annual review of the total number of active canoes. The fishers proposed that canoe owners who had only one canoe, should be allowed to replace it when the canoe breaks down beyond repairs while those who had more than one canoe should not be allowed to replace theirs when it breaks down beyond repairs. This, they believe will help reduce the number of canoes over the period of the moratorium. They further emphasized on the key role of chief fishermen in the registration of new canoes.

Fishers agreed to end open access and further recommended a five (5) year moratorium on new entrants of canoes, with an annual review of the total number of active canoes. This, they suggested to MOFAD/FC to be implemented by December 31, 2018.

The fishers collaborated with MOFAD/FC in the cleanup of the canoe register during the F2F. FC shared updated register with the fishers who agreed to lead the cleanup process in their respective landing beaches and submit the corrected list to the zonal officers within seven (7) days. In the Western and Volta regions, the chief fishermen and FC regional directors drew a road map to clean the register before December 31 2018. The Central region adopted a different approach where fishers and MOFAD/FC agreed to display the register at the respective landing beaches for a period of two weeks to allow canoe owners the opportunity to verify their canoes.

Even though there is a consensus on an additional non-fishing day across all the four coastal regions, the fishers used the F2F to increase awareness and re-emphasize their readiness to adopt the additional non-fishing days in their respective landing sites. While this has not been officially declared by MOFAD/FC, the Fishermen in the Volta region have decided to voluntarily implement this policy on their own.

Another key outcome of the F2F was the acceptance of the Canoe Authorization Card as a means of identification of canoe registration and its required use for the purchase of premix fuel. The fishers lauded the concept from MOFAD/FC as a tool that will help reduce the diversion of subsidized premix fuel. The level of collaboration between fishers and government throughout the F2F dialogues is gradually building the trust needed for effective implementation of management measures. It further provides hope that not all is lost, and indicative that fishers and government can work together once again to rebuild the declining small pelagic stock. The F2F dialogues are providing an ad hoc mechanism for better stakeholder engagement and participation in decision making. It models the behaviors expected and approach that can be implemented through formal mechanisms and co-management committees once the co-management policy is approved and put into action. The project supported dialogues will make the transition to formal institutional arrangements

easier and implementation of the policy faster due to the growing comfort and familiarity of communication by fisherfolk and government participants alike.



Figure 3 A picture showing western regional director of FC, Mr. Tsibu interacting with a cross-section of participants at the Axim F2F meeting

Legacy Documentation and outreach communications

Publications: A number of information, education and communication materials were developed to support stakeholder engagement activities and to further explain key fisheries sector issues in relation to the implementation of the National Fisheries Management Plan and Post-harvest programs. An *Ahotor* Oven user guide was developed, printed and distributed to fish processors along the coast to facilitate healthy fish processing. The guide complements the work of the Fisheries Commission to promote healthy fish processing nationwide. National Strategies on Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking in Fisheries and the National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for the Fisheries Sector that were approved by the Minister were printed and shared with MOFAD for onward distribution. Copies of “Success Stories” were also printed and circulated to stakeholders in addition to the FY18 annual work plan.

Other communications material such as brochure on the *Ahotor* Oven, factsheet on Fishers Future Plan, and Fisher to Fisher Dialogues have been developed. Also, stories for the project newsletter have been put together and sent to USAID for clearance. A committee to plan a nation a symposium to position and showcase US Government support to Ghana under the SFMP and UCC project was activated with the first organizing meeting held in Accra in December.

Media Engagement: A signing ceremony to formalize the adoption of the Fisheries Sector Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking (CLaT) Strategy for the fisheries sector by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development was held in December. Representation included His Excellency the acting US Ambassador and Charge d’Affaires for the American Embassy in Ghana, Mr. Christopher J. Lamora, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Honourable Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye; Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Honourable Francis Ato Cudjoe; the Director of Fisheries Mr. Michael Arthur Dadzie; Representative from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service;

Head of Anti-Human trafficking Secretariat; the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Madam Victoria Natsu; and with an extensive representation by the national media. The event highlighted the US Government contribution toward child labour prevention in Ghana.

Other media events sponsored this quarter included radio discussions to promote the adoption of the *Ahotor* Oven, and on a moratorium on new entrants and canoe registration as well as embossment.

Fisheries News Mass Mailing: In support of broader stakeholder engagement and information dissemination, SFMP continues to use the ‘MailChimp’ platform to facilitate information sharing with its wide range of stakeholders. Since the activation of the platform earlier this year, more than 500 stakeholders have received project news on weekly basis through a formatted email message service that includes links to relevant news and information. SFMP expects to increase the number of recipients to 1000 in the next quarter to increase public awareness and support for fisheries management actions.

CiviCRM Contact Management

The SFMP developed CiviCRM contact management system continues to serve as a very powerful tool for managing stakeholder contacts for the project. This system is used to identify and keep track of stakeholders engaged in project activities and continuously update knowledge and awareness of sustainable fisheries management issues and actions needed. Within the quarter, about 303 new stakeholder contacts were uploaded to the system which now includes a total of 5,888 individuals.

IR 4 Applied Management

Implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan

Artisanal Canoe Registration

One of the major causes of Ghana’s declining small pelagic stocks is open access, which has led to fleet overcapacity. The cleanup exercise of the vessel register has shown a continuing increase in the total number of canoes, which now exceeds 14,000. Through the F2F training programs, more fishers were sensitized on the need to register and emboss their canoes, which contributed to the drastic increase of registered canoes from approximately 12,700 in 2016 to over 14,700 in 2018. It is in this view that SFMP is collaborating with MOFAD/FC and fishers to implement a moratorium on new entrants of canoes as the first step to temporary close access and control any new entry.

One benefit of the moratorium is to achieve the NFMP objective of reducing effort to sustainable levels. It is hoped that the moratorium and canoe registration, together with other effort reduction measures can reduce the canoe fleet from the July 2018 estimate of 14,700 vessels (FC Fishing registry and licensing system) to 9,095 at an appropriate time in the future. This is the recommended number of canoes needed for sustainable fishing as per the 2015 Fishery Management Plan (See appendix of the Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana, MOFAD, 2015). This will represent a 38 % reduction of the current estimated number of canoe vessels. In this case, unregistered or unlicensed canoes would not be allowed to fish at all and a canoe vessel reduction strategy would need to be developed and implemented. The measure would reduce total fishing effort considerably.

To achieve this, SFMP is also supporting MOFAD/FC’s concept of Canoe Authorization Card (CAC) as a tool to grant access to fish. The Commission used the F2F preparatory meeting to educate the executives of GNCFC, NAFPTA, FC regional directors and zonal

officers. The meeting provided the opportunity for the fishers to make input on the overall design of the card (see sample draft design below in Figure 4 below) and its subsequent use.



Figure 4. Initial design of canoe ID card with QR code for verification

The introduction of the canoe ID card with QR codes is a bold step by MOFAD/FC to regulate the artisanal fleet. The security features on the card such as the QR code and an embedded hologram makes it difficult to duplicate and thus addresses one of the major factors that lead to the bloated vessel register. SFMP will continue to support the development of both the canoe management and premix management systems, as well as the printing of the QR coded ID cards.

Implement Community-Based Fisheries Management Pilots

As SFMP awaits the formal adoption of the national co-management policy and the community-based fisheries management (CBFM) plans of its three pilot sites, partners continue to work with communities to undertake specific actions in each plan.

Densu Delta Community-Based Fisheries Management

A year after implementing the first ever closed season for oyster harvesting communities in the Densu estuary located in Ga South Municipality of the Greater Accra Region with support from the USAID Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, the communities have made important headway with another closed season to boost sustainable production in the area. Building on the success from last year's closed season that resulted in larger oysters and higher income, the oyster harvester's association as well as traditional authorities, community members, Fisheries Commission officials, and the Municipal Assembly held a short ceremony with 39 participants (15 females) at the Tsokomey fish landing site on November 20, 2018 to declare another closed season for oyster harvesting in the Densu Delta. The closed season will last for a period of five months starting from November 15, 2018 to April 10, 2019, which allows for growth and replenishment of the oyster stock

This effort demonstrates that local harvesters can responsibly manage natural resources that enhances their livelihoods while simultaneously improving environmental conditions.

The adoption of closed season to help sustainably manage the oyster fisheries gives a local example to the artisanal fishers on the possible outcome of a closed season for the marine fisheries small pelagic stocks. The Fisheries Commission has indicated its intent to scale up

this approach, with a coast-wide closed fishing season for the marine sector planned for August 2019.



Figure 5. Members of DOPA, Traditional Leaders and members of the Ga South District Assembly during the short ceremony to declare a second closed season for the Densu Delta

To socialize the content of the Densu Delta Management plan prior to the closed season declaration, the Densu co-management committee headed by the chairperson, Madam Fedelia Soglo (from the Tetegu DOPA) sensitized the local community on the upcoming second Densu Estuary closed season starting on 15th November, 2018. Various courtesy calls were made to; the Sakumo We, Nii Ogbamey III (the traditional custodian of the Densu River in Tsokomey), the Fisheries Commission (Post Harvest Unit), the Weija Dam Authority, and the Bojo Beach Resort to inform them of the 2nd closed season. These stakeholders and many others were also informed through letters. Other platforms such as the local community information centers in Tetegu, Bortianor and Tsokomey were used to make several announcements on the impending closed season. The community radio and information announcements have reached an estimated audience of more than 3000 persons in the community.

Pra Estuary Community Based Fisheries Management

Implementation of the Pra estuary co-management plan began in early 2018. In the first quarter of the SFMP Year 5, a series of action planning meetings were held. These included focused meetings by the co-management committee members as well as general meetings with representatives of the 11 communities participating in the exploitation and management of the fisheries in the estuary. The meetings provided the platform for stakeholders to evaluate the management actions implemented to date including the closed season and closed area which has been perceived by the fisherfolk to have been successful. The meetings also provided an opportunity for the committee members to:

- Agree on key monitoring indicators that will be used to monitor the impact of the management actions including closed season, closed area, net regulation, mangrove health, etc.
- Agree to conduct outreach events to promote good practices and improve communication for implementation of actions in the management plan.

Capacity building workshop for the woodlot management committee and key stakeholders

Ownership and sustainability of initiatives is always an issue when a project closes out, especially when proper handing over is not carried out. Therefore, a workshop was held by CEWEFIA with the woodlot management committee and key stakeholders on how to sustain the plantation and hand over the certificate of registration to the management committee. The

management committee is considered to be fully equipped with the needed skills to sustainably manage the woodlot and revenues generated from the sale of harvested wood.

Ankobra Community -Based Fisheries Management

During the quarter, HM facilitated a meeting for Dr. Brian Crawford, the URI Project Manager of the SFMP, to discuss the progress of the plan with some of the executives of the Ankobra CBFM committee. The meeting was used to assess the progress made so far in the implementation of the CBFM plan and the challenges faced by the committee. It also outlined upcoming activities. Ankobra CBFM committee members understand their role in the implementation of the plan and are prepared to continue leading this initiative as SFMP activities phase out.



Figure 6. A group photograph of CBFMC members with Brian Crawford, Coastal Resources Center Program Manager for SFMP

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 mangrove forest which also is a key habitat supporting the fisheries production in the estuary. This important ecosystem is exploited for various uses such as charcoal production and fuel wood for fish processing. However, due to lack of governance structures for natural resources management and decision making previously, they have been exploited at unsustainable rates. Actions to reverse this trend and support mangrove conservation and rehabilitation are included in the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan and their implementation supported by SFMP. In the first quarter of Year5, 51 mangrove harvesters were trained on sustainable mangrove management. These harvesters who cut mangroves at commercial quantities for their livelihood are now sensitized and educated on wise use of mangrove resources. HM is continuing to monitor the outcome of the training to ensure the sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem.



Figure 7. Sustainable mangrove harvesting and management training: (left) group photograph of participants; (right) section of mangrove harvesters during the training

Value Chain and Post-Harvest Improvements

In Quarter 1 (Q1), the SFMP M&E team monitored the use of the *Ahotor* smoker technology by early adopters who had expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the oven compared to the *Chorkor* smoker. Further investigation showed gaps in the fish processors' knowledge of how to use all the components of the oven – in particular, the need to elevate the fuelwood on top of the grate at an angle of 45 degrees underneath the combustion chamber to ensure even distribution of heat in the combustion chamber through to the fat collector to cook the fish evenly.

The SFMP communication team designed a user guide in poster form and titled in three local languages (Fante, Ga and Ewe) which is to be used for training *Ahotor* oven users. This user guide is pictorial and user friendly so the processors can operate the ovens effectively. The user guide has so far been used to train 150 fish processors in two communities in the Greater Accra Regions and each trainee has been given a copy to paste at their facilities.

Two of the early adopters of the oven were also trained as '*Ahotor* oven champions' to support the awareness creation campaign. One of these women has been on a discussion panel on a national radio station to educate processors and consumers on the cleanliness of the *Ahotor* smoker and the quality of fish it produces.

The price of the fat collector has been a major contributor to the high cost of the *Ahotor* oven. In the period under review, two new fat collector fabricators have been identified in Mankessim in the Central Region and Teshie in the Greater Accra Regions. Their prices range from GHS 240-GHS 270. The addition of these new fabricators has created more competition in the smoker component supply chain and broken the monopoly of the initial fabricator in Tema who was charging GHS 350 for a fat collector.

The artisans who have been trained by SFMP on the construction of the *Ahotor* smoker have been supported to form a network with a platform for sharing new information and learning. These artisans will be certified in the next quarter.

In addition, a construction manual has also been developed to serve as reference guide and training material for the stove construction companies, artisans and other stakeholders.

An operational manual for the Class 1 Recognition scheme has also been developed with the Fisheries Commission Post Harvest Unit to educate fish processors on what is required to sign up for the certification scheme and to be certified. SFMP in collaboration with the FC

have in this quarter certified 29 fish processing facilities under the scheme. In addition, 16 fish processors were trained to add value to their fish products to enable them access better and formal markets for increased income.

Village Savings and Loans Associations

VSLAs have served as formidable channels of entering local communities and ensuring sustained engagement. To strengthen the gains made by working with these groups, 10 village agents attached to four VSLAs have been trained to set up new groups, effectively monitor the performance of the existing groups, and also serve as liaisons with stakeholders.



Figure 8. A section of the village agents during the training

Members of the VSLA in Eshiem in the Western Region, have invested their social fund to purchase a copra machine to process coconut oil for sale as an alternative livelihood and also reduce their dependence on the wetland resources.

Promoting and Sustaining the DAA and CEWEFIA Fisheries Training Centers

To ensure that the CEWEFIA fish processing center is managed efficiently and profitably, 8 members of the CEWEFIA team were trained on developing and operationalizing a business plan for the center. A consultant will be working with CEWEFIA and DAA in the second quarter to finalize business plans for each of these associations processing centers and put them into action.

Reducing Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) in the Fisheries Sector

Since its inception, SFMP has collaborated with local stakeholders to implement preventive actions to reduce Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT). In the period under review, 10 districts in the Central Region have been supported to mainstream CLaT activities in their District Medium Term Development Plans (DMTDPs) 2018 – 2021. The Department of Social Welfare and the child protection committees in these districts were also supported to develop action plans for their outreach campaigns on CLaT as well as review the progress of the community advocates.



Figure 9. MCE of Mfantseman Kenneth Essuman (left) and DCE of Gomoa-East Solomon Darko-Quarm (right) addressing their respective DCPC meetings facilitated by FoN-SFMP

IR 5 GENDER

Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries

SFMP has been selected by USAID as one of three USAID-funded projects to participate in the Learning Initiative on Women Empowerment, Access to Finance and Sustainable Fisheries. The first phase of this learning initiative began in November 2018 with a focus group discussion with 13 fish processors at different income levels. The focus group discussed the capacity trainings these fish processors have received, their ability to influence household decisions, and how much control they have over the use of their earned incomes. Though the women had some influence over the use of household income, they are not empowered to advocate against illegal fishing as they have very little savings and less influence on fishers. A results chain workshop, which brought together 12 capacity building and microfinance experts, also revealed that women can only advocate for sustainable fisheries if they and their households are economically resilient.

During this quarter, SFMP also completed the report of an internal assessment of the implementation of its gender mainstreaming strategy. The gender impact assessment found that women who have participated in SFMP's gender mainstreaming activities are more confident, knowledgeable and empowered to speak up. Furthermore, men recognize that it is time to acknowledge the role that women play in the fisheries sector. Capacity development sessions related to innovation, conflict management, advocacy, and leadership have contributed to women's perception that they have a voice in fisheries management. Women have been exposed to sustainable fisheries management and are equipped with the knowledge and leadership skills to advocate for good fisheries practices. Women are able to discuss fisheries management, including the importance of closed seasons and other measures. Trainings in post-harvest processing have helped women handle fish more hygienically whereas trainings in business management and financial literacy have provided tools to enable women to grow their processing enterprises.

Summarizing the impact on local organizations, SFMP's gender strengthening efforts have had an impact on the staff's attitudes towards women and women's engagement in fisheries. Gender mainstreaming efforts have succeeded in challenging cultural norms about women's role in fisheries as well as in the work place.

After four years of implementation, SFMP is still in the beginning of the process of diffusing gender mainstreaming into the Ghanaian fisheries sector. The next step will be to move from

gender “mainstreaming light” to deeper and more far reaching gender mainstreaming results. The gender assessment report has provided a number of recommendations for how this can be achieved:

1. Broaden the participation of women in fisheries management by ensuring that non-leaders/elders/dignitaries are invited to and are capable of attending project activities. Put systems in place to make sure that the truly committed, not just the distinguished, are invited to events.
2. Identify and work with champions that will have the resources and the staff to continue implementation over time to reduce reliance on project-based funding.
3. Be clear that gender mainstreaming requires the involvement of both women and men. Women are involved in almost every node of the fisheries value chain and they are disproportionately burdened with managing household economics. By taking a “men as partners” approach, it may be possible to increase men’s support and reduce the additional burdens that may come about as women engage more in the fisheries sector.
4. Increase the involvement of traditional fisheries leadership structures, including the chief fishmonger/processor, or *Konkohema*. These leaders may have an untapped potential to lead, manage, and mobilize their communities.

IR 6 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

In line with the SFMP life of project strategy, Quarter 1 was the last quarter of our support for private sector initiatives, with results described below. A final report will summarize lessons learned and the complete status of each initiative as part of SFMP closeout at the end of Year 5.

Fisheries Future Plan (FFP)

During the period, SFMP liaised with the FFP insurance partners, Millennium Insurance, miLife Insurance (formally UT Life Insurance) and Vodafone to organize community clinics on the FFP in James Town in Greater Accra and Axim in Western Region. The rationale of the exercise was to meet with policyholders to field questions and complaints and provide real-time resolutions, where appropriate, to their concerns. Further, the event afforded partners an opportunity to explain the FFP product package and planned changes to better meet the needs of customers, including auto-deduction of premium contributions. Finally, the community clinics served as an avenue to sensitize customers on the mobile money landscape, especially Vodafone Cash, and also educate and let policyholders practice steps to pay their FFP contribution via the Vodafone cash platform (self-payment). At the end, a majority of policyholders’ questions and concerns were addressed, customer confidence in the FFP deepened, and attending customers better understood the process for paying their FFP premiums. Overall, more than 180 policyholders participated in both programs. After the program, Resonance followed up with customers to help resolve and provide feedback on some of the concerns that could not be addressed at the community clinic.

SFMP undertook a field assessment on the FFP and held close-out meetings with stakeholders including key customers, FFP community champions and community leaders. Resonance ended its role on IR6 in Q1. For this reason, Resonance undertook an assessment of the most recent progress of the FFP to ascertain the state of the FFP initiative as SFMP exits. Resonance found that customers still have issues with the visibility of Vodafone Cash agents in their communities and available agents still do not always have the needed funds on hand to undertake FFP transactions. Furthermore, FFP agents expressed the need for better compensation from miLife in conjunction with Golden Key to incentivize their work. Resonance however assured them that their concerns will be communicated to the FFP partners for redress. Based on its assessment and discussions with FFP partners over the

course of implementing the FFP, Resonance drafted a final report on the FFP initiative, for submission to SFMP.

The FFP is currently in five communities, with 4,060 customers and more than \$430,000 of direct and in-kind private sector partner investment to date. In Q1, the FFP partners decided to focus on further developing the FFP sales model and platform before aggressively scaling to new communities. Identified needs under development include: improving the payment platform to enhance smooth payment, launching an auto-deduction function, improving the compensation structure for FFP sales agents, and ensuring stable network connections for Vodafone. Private sector partners continue to be committed to improving and scaling the FFP initiative, to build on investments to date and continue to deliver impact to fisher folk in Ghana.

Airtel-Tigo Fishers' Network (TFN)

SFMP met with a new Airtel-Tigo TFN team to discuss relaunching the TFN initiative following the disruption caused by the Airtel-Tigo merger (which had halted activities in Year 4). The Airtel-Tigo team expressed interest and promised a short term action plan. However, Airtel-Tigo failed to respond to later follow up communications. Resonance prepared a final draft summary report with learnings for the TFN initiative which will be finalized as part of project closeout.

IR 7 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

GoG Capacity Development

Strengthening GoG agencies continued through various interventions and training events this quarter. A formative assessment of their impacts was conducted in the later part of FY 18 and that report on those findings is being prepared and expected to be ready for distribution in Q2 of FY 19. Preliminary findings document that all of the seven units targeted by SFMP have shown various improvements in the capabilities. One example of this is the capacity built at CCM and the Department of Geography to conduct participatory action research with stakeholders as well as their growing capabilities to operate UAVs for spatial mapping and environmental monitoring, and analysis of the data collected. In another example, Rosina Cobbina, a recent URI graduate of the Marine Affairs program from the Fisheries Commission was promoted to a regional supervising officer in the Greater Accra Region. A final assessment will take place in Q2 of FY 19.

CSO Capacity Development

Over the life of SFMP, efforts have been made to build the organizational capacities of 4 of the implementing partners (CEWEFIA DAA, FoN and Hen Mpoano) as well as 3 fisheries associations (NAFPTA, NAFAG and GNCFC) to strengthen their internal organizational structures so they can engage with policy makers.

An end of year assessment of the 4 partners, indicate the adoption of good organizational management practices reflecting in improved financial management and organizational effectiveness, increased visibility and influence on national and local fisheries management platforms.

The 3 fisheries associations are however still struggling to implement the standard operating procedures developed with them and engaging with their members to comply with their obligations. The associations still need support to set up functional secretariats.

SFMP has therefore supported NAFPTA to recruit a coordinator who will provide administrative support and also serve as a liaison between the association and its stakeholders.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Evaluation Knowledge Management and Learning Plan

SFMP monitoring and evaluation unit organized a one-on-one hands on training for the implementing partners M&E Officers on the FY19 M&E plan, revised Feed the Future Indicator Handbook, FY19 indicator targets and project evaluation. Within the period, the unit continued to collect and track deliverables for reporting to USAID.

In Year 4, fish processors were provided with insulated containers to reduce post-harvest quality-related loss of fish, and maintain quality for further processing among others. The M&E unit and Kristine Beran from URI conducted an evaluation on the use of ice and ice chests among fish processors and traders across the four coastal regions. This was to assess the economic viability of the use of ice and ice chests to preserve fish. The major conclusion of this evaluation was that the initiative had failed for several reasons. Ice containers provided were not sized to the needs of the users; a group ownership rather than individual container ownership model was used that resulted in most not being fully utilized by all intended beneficiaries; processors did not consider icing appropriate for small pelagic fish and only those processing higher valued demersal species such as Cassava fish and grouper found them useful; and, no containers were provided to boats so fish being landed was already of partially degraded quality before being iced onshore. . The report in progress provides recommendations for subsequent attempts to promote more use of ice in the supply chain.

Also, a fish supply chain scoping visit to Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Brong Ahafo Regions was conducted by the SFMP M&E unit, Kristine Beran and Fisheries Commission Post Harvest Unit. The purpose of this visit was to assess the fish flow chain to the northern part of the country. One key finding was that both marine small pelagics as well as freshwater fish are important components of the fish supply chain in the northern part of the country with freshwater species somewhat more abundant in the markets than the marine fish species. The greater importance of freshwater species may be due to the declining catches of small pelagics which used to make up a larger component of the northern fish supply.

M&E Plan and Update

The monitoring and evaluation plan for FY19 is under revision to incorporate the new indicators based on the revised Feed the Future Indicator Handbook March 2018. New data collection tools for these new indicators are also being developed. The plan would be submitted for approval in quarter 2.

Implementation Challenges

The first quarter of SFMP Year 5 included increasingly close cooperation with institutional and project implementing partners. Among others, this includes:

- Joint meetings with senior MOFAD/FC staff on the final draft of the co-management policy and related program implementation guidance and budget requirements;
- A series of meetings, workshops and joint reviews were conducted supporting the amendment of the national fisheries act including SFMP hiring of two national legal consultants and active coordination with the FAO consultant hired to support the legal reform;
- Continued training for UAV pilots and initial agreement with UCC to receive and maintain the UAVs purchased by the project for which SFMP has provided training;
- Meeting with Fisheries Commission Zonal Officers on the National Fisheries Management Plan;

- Progress in demonstrating community-based fisheries management in Densu, Pra and Ankobra Estuaries;
- High level meetings with MOFAD and FC officers confirming the direction of SFMP assistance for Year 5;
- Complete cleaning of the database/registration of all marine canoes that is the foundation for issuing identity cards for each canoe, requiring identity cards for purchase of government subsidized fuel (premix), and limiting new entrants into the canoe sector which closes open access (a global best practice for fisheries management);
- Continued progress on CLaT issues in Central and Western regions including an increase in engaging district assemblies to incorporate anti-CLaT issues into recurring annual budgets;
- Expansion of *Ahotor* fish smoker technology and final agreement with a government loan program (MASLOC) to provide financing to women processors;
- Constituency building and stakeholder engagement across all coastal regions on all SFMP supported efforts.

Based on these achievements, SFMP is poised to make significant progress toward life-of-project outcomes in the remaining year. However, looking forward into Year 5 a number of challenges remain:

- Coordination and communication within government on their priorities supported by SFMP remains a challenge in terms of national policy issues.
 - a. Action Item: To address this, in Quarter 2 SFMP plans to increase support for internal government communication to ensure that all staff are aware of plans, progress and activities related to improving enabling conditions for marine fisheries management. The focus of this effort will be to support MOFAD and Fisheries Commission at the national level to produce a series of briefing documents specifically tailored for broad distribution and understanding by regional staff.
- While SFMP has an extensive communication and outreach program, and works closely with EU funded projects working on marine fisheries issues, the depth of public/stakeholder engagement is still insufficient to ensure comprehensive understanding and support by all parties including the over 100,000 fishers and all private sector stakeholders (primarily trawlers). This is particularly an issue as MOFAD/FC look forward toward a second and hopefully successful closed season declaration for 2019, successful submission to Parliament of an amended National Fisheries Act, Cabinet approval and MOFAD adoption of the national co-management policy, a second weekly non-fishing day declaration in all regions to reduce effort, and completion of the work needed for amendment of the national fisheries act. Under the current budget and project plan, SFMP is scheduled to start phase out in the April/May time period. Given the current pace of government processes this doesn't provide enough time to reach closure on these important issues. Also, social and biological monitoring of the impacts of a successfully declared 2019 closed season will also not be possible under the current SFMP closeout plan.
 - b. Action Item: SFMP submitted to USAID a request for a no-cost extension that would provide the time needed to achieve closure on most if not all of these major project needs and outcomes.
- Some concerns remain about the financial and institutional commitment of UCC to maintain UAVs if transferred to UCC. While a draft sustainability plan has been prepared it needs to be revised and updated to include maintenance of UAVs,

particularly in the case of crashes/accidents that could require a large cash outlay for repairs without which the assets become unusable. In addition, other conditions need to be met such as obtaining final Government of Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) UAV pilot licenses and equipment insurance policies acquired.

- c. Action Item: In Quarter 2 SFMP will work with UCC clarify commitments by the institution including a clear sustainability plan, revenue generation plan, and high level commitments to supporting a UAV program that provides image capture for the university, government and potential private sector clients.
- *Ahotor* oven adoption still requires additional project support and investment to reach a critical take-off level of adoption. MASLOC, a government small finance facility has initially agreed to provide loans but no final decision has been received.
 - d. Action Item: In Quarter 2 SFMP will work with MASLOC to reach agreement on small-scale financing for women interested in purchasing *Ahotor* ovens.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equity and Female Empowerment

Please see Section 2, IR5 for information on activities directly related to this issue.

3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

SFMP consistently works closely with government representatives to assure sustainability of project interventions. Organizational capacity assessments were conducted of partner organizations to inform the SFMP capacity development. A key issue with government partners continues to be lack of organizational capacity because of the relative newness of the MOFAD and FC. Insufficient staff capacity is directly linked to underfunding by Parliament and a funding emphasis on health and agriculture as high profile government programs. That said, the 2019 MOFAD/FC budget submitted to Parliament for review includes limited funds for co-management policy implementation, amendment of the national fisheries act, community watch committees, gender policy implementation, canoe registration, and other sustainable fisheries management reforms supported by SFMP.

SFMP organizational capacity assessments (OCAs) continue to show that capacity within government and non-government organizations has been measurably raised by SFMP engagement. Local implementing partners Hen Mpoano (HM) and Friends of the Nation (FoN) are well on their way to secure funding and implementation futures. CEWEFIA and DAA were smaller organizations with far less installed capacity at the beginning of SFMP support. Although SFMP support has greatly expanded the ability of these organizations to engage on issues such as sustainable fisheries, gender, CLaT and local economic development, SFMP will be focused closely on the transition of all local implementing partners as the project moves toward closure. SFMP will engage a business plan development advisor to work with CEWEFIA and DAA in Quarter 2 to develop business plans that clarify the needs and issues related to sustained operation moving forward.

3.3 Environmental Compliance

In order to avoid environmental failure and safeguard the reputation of USAID, SFMP complies with USAID environmental compliance regulations and procedures. SFMP continued monitoring the construction of *Ahotor* ovens. So far all ovens constructed met the required standards.

3.4 Global Climate Change

See Section 2, IR4.1: Planted mangroves stocks may be impacted by rising sea surface temps.

3.5 Policy and Governance support

See Section 2, IR1 which describes SFMP's policy and governance support initiatives.

3.6 Local Capacity Development

See Section 2, IR7 for capacity development activities of government, producer, processor and CSO groups.

3.7 Public Private Partnerships

See Section 2, IR 6 for activities on development of public-private partnerships.

3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation

See section 2, IR 2 and IR 6 for activities on the scientific and technical innovations achieved during the quarter.

4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

SFMP works through its implementing partners to continuously engage stakeholders including government agencies, the private sector and fisherfolk at the community, district, regional and national level. They were reached through trainings, meetings, services, field work, sensitization and education, radio programs and audio-visuals.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

No significant management or administrative issues were encountered in Quarter 1. However, it can be noted that as the project enters its final year, the drawdown of SFMP and local implementing partner staff and related activities are already driving some staff to seek new positions. In addition, with the notice of funding slowdown from USAID for the first two quarters of FY 19, SFMP has had limited ability to meet requests from government partners (MOFAD and FC in particular) for support, especially related to the planned declaration of the 2019 closed season. This creates some worry and/or disappointment as USAID is the development partner providing the most direct and substantial support for its national policy initiatives and reforms for marine fisheries. Finally, the US government shutdown starting on December 22, 2018 presents an unknown question in terms of funding requests submitted for the second half of SFMP's Year 5 implementation. This has significant potential to impact SFMP's ability to move forward with the national symposium (in conjunction with UCC) as the closing event for the project, as well as responding to government support needs related to the 2019 closed season, among others.

6. LESSONS LEARNED

The highlights of lessons learned during the course of implementation of project activities in Quarter 1 include:

- The Fisher-to-Fisher (F2F) dialogue continues to demonstrate a successful and effective approach to improving understanding of and compliance with fisheries laws. Also, it has created an effective platform for government-to-constituency

communication that has two-way benefits in terms of sustainable fisheries reforms. The platform is now so successful that there is competition between the Fisheries Commission, Ghana National Canoe Fisheries Council, and local NGOs over ownership of the program. SFMP sees the F2F dialogue as potentially modeling a future national-scale co-management committee structure that brings together local fishermen, fish processors, NGOs, the national Science and Technical Working Group, fisheries associations like GNCFC and NAFPTA, and government around co-management of resources at the local level. It will not be possible for SFMP to complete this transition in the remaining time of the project but SFMP staff will begin introducing this conceptual structure to key stakeholders in the second quarter.

- The benefits of SFMP's local organizations capacity development programs, started at the beginning of the project, are now revealing their full impact. Local organizations engaged earlier in the project are in Year 5 are fully visible in advocating sustainable fisheries management reforms in Ghana, as well as in their own internal governance and management activities. Fisheries sector associations such as GNCFC and NAFPTA that were engaged later in the project are now poised to play greater roles but need more advisory, coaching and organizational development support to strengthen their organizational structure and modes of operation. This support is particularly needed in terms of how they can effectively reach their large claimed memberships (GNCFC = potentially 130,000 and NAFPTA potentially 14,000) to mobilize them for sustainable fisheries management reforms.
- The Class I hygienic fish processing scheme developed in cooperation with the Fisheries Commission, Ghana Standards Authority, and SFMP has generated immediate interest by the Fisheries Commission and fish processors. It is evident that fish processors are interested in the certification program for various reasons and are increasingly requesting support from the FC to achieve minimum standards to qualify. Fisheries Commission Zonal Officers were trained by SFMP to become certified auditors and facilitators for local fish kitchens. Intensifying the effort to involve zonal officers, who are on the front line at the district level, will be instrumental in the expanding audit and certification process nationally.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR NEXT QUARTER

Selected highlights of upcoming activities in the FY19 second quarter include:

IR1

- Support to MOFAD to complete Cabinet Memos on the national co-management policy and the amendment of the national fisheries act.
- Meetings with industry players for comments and inputs on the revision of the national fisheries act.
- Validation of inputs from stakeholders on the Drafting Instructions
- Support MOFAD to complete the drafting instructions for amendment of the national fisheries act that will be submitted to the Ghana Attorney General's office to guide drafting of the actual amendments.
- Two-day training for zonal and regional directors on co-management policy (including a one-day field to SFMP sites as part of the training).

IR2

- Annual meeting of the Scientific and Technical Working Group.

- Advanced spatial data processing by URI and the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project, and the University of Cape Coast including distribution of processed UAV captured images.
- Coordination with UCC on sustainability and business plan for the Sustainable utilization of UAVs and their handover

IR 3

- Fisher-to-Fisher Dialogues on revision of the national fisheries act, registration of marine canoes, issuance of identity cards, moratorium on new entrants into the canoe sector and support for the closed season.
- Support to MOFAD/FC in communicating across their organizations on priorities, actions and progress to build organizational momentum and support for new initiatives.
- Communication training for MoFAD/FC staff.
- Engagement of media house editors and senior journalist to provide a venue for direct media-government interaction and briefing on key government priorities.
- Publication of monthly news articles publication.
- Scheduling and programming of monthly radio and TV discussions on government priorities, initiatives and progress.
- Three-day workshop with authors of SFMP legacy documents.

IR4

- Training programs for local leaders on the implementation of the CBFM Plan and integrated governance in the Pra Estuary in preparation for transition from SFMP support, and development of a future implementation plan for the Pra Fisheries co-management Plan.
- Two phases of mangrove replanting in the Densu Delta.
- Implementation of the second annual "Closed Season" of the Densu Estuary Delta oyster fishery.
- DOPA exchange and knowledge sharing tour from Densu Estuary to other CBFM associations in Pra Estuary highlighting their success of the closed season.
- Official national launching of the Class 1 Hygienic Fish Processing Certification Scheme.
- Business development training for new MSMEs in Sekondi, Shama and Axim.
- Development of a business plan for CEWEFIA and DAA training and demonstration centers.
- Strategic Regional Stakeholders Engagement Workshop and engagement of District Assemblies on inclusion of anti-CLaT activities in their annual budgets and Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs).

IR5

- Start of Phase 2 of the Gender Learning Initiative.
- Secure loans through MASLOC for women to purchase *Ahotor* ovens.
- Leadership training for NAFPTA regional organizations.
- Strengthening the organizational relationship among CEWEFIA, DAA and NAFPTA focused on women's empowerment to ensure synergy of operations.

IR6

- All activities for PPP were completed and phased out in Quarter 1. Final report will be outlined and drafting started in Q2.

IR7

- Conduct final Government of Ghana Organizational Capacity Assessment to evaluate SFMP's contribution to MOFAD/FC development.
- End of project Organizational Capacity Assessment for Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA)

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget Item	Total funds Obligated to Date December 31, 2018 (US\$)	Total Funds Expended through December 31, 2018 (US\$)	Balance of Sub-Obligated Funds, Remaining as of December 31, 2018 (US\$)	Estimated Cumulative Expenditures and Encumbrances thru March 31, 2019 (US\$)	Unexpended funds remaining after March 31, 2019 (US\$)
Direct costs	9,515,963	7,991,369	1,524,595	1,064,277	460,317
Sub grantees	8,817,667	8,468,750	348,917	348,917	-
Construction	387,000	307,113	79,887	79,887	-
Training	206,050	199,204	6,846	6,846	-
<i>Total Direct</i>	18,926,680	16,966,435	1,960,245	1,499,927	460,317
Modified Direct	9,515,963	7,991,369	1,524,595	1,064,277	460,317
Indirect	2,474,150	2,077,756	396,395	276,712	119,683
Total	21,400,830	19,044,191	2,356,639	1,776,639	580,000

¹ Projected expenditures include encumbrances for COP contract amendment

² Projected expenditures include encumbrances for Sub-contract amendments

ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY

The summary Table below includes all standard USAID indicators as shown in Section 1.2 as well as SFMP custom indicators. It measures planned versus achieved during the reporting quarter and gives a cumulative performance in each quarter.

Table 4. PMP Indicator progress - USAID Standard Indicators and Project Custom Indicators

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Project Goal: Rebuild targeted fish stocks via adoption of sustainable practices and exploitation levels											
Project Goal Indicators											
Number of hectares in areas of biological significance and/or natural resource showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-1)	Biophysical assessment, landing data, maps	2015	0	610,900 small pelagics	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	This indicator is tracked when management measures are implemented.
1.a Biomass to produce MSY (B_{msy}) (Project Indicator)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Stable/increasing (Assumes major management measures put in place)	2017 Biomass is low at $B=21,750$ MT.	2017 Biomass is low at $B=21,750$ MT.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Biomass for 2017 of 21750MT is far below target of 310,000MT MSY.
1.b Fishing Mortality at MSY (F_{msy}) (Project Indicator)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Stable/decreasing (Assumes major Management. measures	2017 fishing mortality is $F=0.88$	2017 fishing mortality is $F=0.88$	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.88 is high as compared to rebuilding F_{MSY} target of $F=0.3$

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				put in place							
Number of indirect project beneficiaries (number), the percentage of which are female (percent)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Counting 135,401 if the closed season or second fishing holidays is adopted	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	This will be counted when management measures are implemented (e.g. closed season or second fishing holiday or canoe registration/moratorium).
Intermediate Result (IR): POLICY: Strengthened enabling environment for marine resources governance											
Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (FTF 4.5.1(24)) 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	Copies of laws, policies, strategies, plan or regulation	2015	0	FY18 Target	Q 3 Results						Targets may be achieved by quarter 4. CLaT strategy was approved and Co-management Policy and CB-Management plans projected to be approved by Q3.
				Policy, plan or Strategy	Step 1. Analysis	Step 2. Stakeholder consultation	Step 3. Drafting or revision	Step 4. Approval	Step 5. Full and effective implementation		
				Fish Act – Step 3	Completed	Completed					
				CLaT strategy– Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved			
				Co-Management policy –Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				
NMFMP- Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved							

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				Pra (CBMP) - Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				
				Ankobra (CBMP) - Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				
				Densu (Oyster Plan) Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed				
				Gender Strategy - Step 4	Completed	Completed	Completed	Approved			
Intermediate Result (IR): SCIENCE & RESEARCH: Increased use of science and applied research to inform decision-making, law enforcement and the implementation of management plans											
Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop and implement managed access fisheries management plans	Project records, capacity assessment reports	2015	0	19 (16 Ongoing, 3 New added)	4 CSO (21%)	4 CSO (21%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	21%	As at end of Q1, OCA for 7 CSO were conducted and 4 CSO has improved capacity.
Intermediate Result (IR): CONSTITUENCIES: Constituencies and political will for policy reform & implementation built											
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	Trip reports, project records	2015	0	262	154 (59%)	154 (59%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	Indicator target will be achieved as external TA are expected in Q2 & Q3.
Number of information products disseminated in local media reports, radio shows, conference papers, and research studies (Project indicator).	Sample of reports	2015	0	6	5 (83%)	5 (83%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%	Indicator target to be achieved by end of Q2.
Intermediate Result (IR): APPLIED MANAGEMENT: Improved management of marine resources											

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1)	GIS Maps, policy documents	2015	0	LoP Target met already	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator LoP target met in FY18.
Number of DAs supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	Project records, Management plans	2015	0	6	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	Target achieved and ongoing assistance to DAs.
Improvement in fisheries enforcement and prosecutorial chain to counter IUU fishing (increase/decrease in prosecutions and percent that lead to conviction) (Project Indicator)	Project, police, district attorney, and FEU records	2015	0	Increasing	Unknown	Unknown as data not received yet	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not able to determine	Will be reported when data is acquired from southern and western commands.
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	Assessment reports	2015	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No target for FY 19. Target for LOP met – 2
Number farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	Project records	2015	0	111,000 (assumes national closed season or other measure for canoes/small pelagics adopted)	0 (0%)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	No significant management measure yet implemented by FC. This indicator will be tracked when management measures are implemented

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	training participant records, lists of micro-enterprises supported	2015	0	700 (Target met already)	166 (24%) M-2(1%) F-164 (99%)	166 (24%) M-2(1%) F-164 (99%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	24%	Indicator target will be fully accomplished by the end of Q2. Most of the activities are scheduled in Q2
Value of agricultural and rural loans as a result of USG assistance (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-6	Private sector financial records, program data	2015	0	\$18,809	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	MASLOC is currently conducting credit worthy assessment with NAFPTA members. Loans will be provided when completed.
Number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving agricultural-related credit as a result of USG assistance (RAA) EG.3.2-3	Private sector financial records, program data	2015	0	100	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	MASLOC is currently conducting credit worthy assessment with NAFPTA members. Loans will be provided when completed.
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FTF 4.5.2-38)	Private sector financial records, program data	2015	0	Tracked, no target	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator Target on track.
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's	Project document	2015	0	6 On-going	6 (100%)	6 (100%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	Target achieved. Support is ongoing to producer organizations.

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))											
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S)(FTF 4.5.2(27))	Project documents	2015	0	8,200	269 (3%) M-24 (17%) F-224 (83%)	269 (3%) M-24 (17%) F-224 (83%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	3%	Target to be achieved when Canoe Authorization Card is implemented.
Cross Cutting Indicators											
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2 (12)_	Project documents	2015	0	0 (LoP Target met already)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No target for FY19 LoP target already achieved
Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/ 4.8.2-6)	Project training reports and participant lists	2015	0	1,854	2,976 (161%) M-2267 (76%) F-709 (24%)	2,976 (161%) M-2267 (76%) F-709 (24%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	161%	Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training events across the 4 coastal regions Y (high male % due to high male participation in F2F dialogues on canoe registration and Canoe Council whose members mainly are male)
Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation	Project training report.	2015	0	12,354	16,621 (135%) M-12596 (76%) F-4025 (24%)	16,621 (135%) M-12596 (76%) F-4025 (24%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	135%	Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2019		Quarterly Status – FY 2019				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
supported by USG assistance (FtF 4.8.1-29)											events cross the 4 coastal regions. High male due to high male participation during F2F events
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-1	Project training report.	2015	0	2,554	3142 (123%) M-2269 (72%) F-873 (28%)	3142 (123%) M-2269 (72%) F-873 (28%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	123%	Target over achieved due to high participation during F2F training events cross the 4 coastal regions Y (high male % due to focus in F2F on canoe registration and Canoe Council whose members mainly male)
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported degree-granting agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) EG.3.2-2	Project training report.	2015	0	1	2 M – 1 (50%) F – 1 (50%)	2 M - 1 (50%) F – 1 (50%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	Indicator target achieved. 1 PhD student continuing and 1 MS student successful defense but thesis revisions not completed yet. Expected graduation of both in May 2019

ANNEX B: TRAINET REPORT

This report includes trainings that count towards two indicators: including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2-37), and Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/ 4.8.2-6). For indicator reporting they are included in one or the other of these result areas based on the type of training provided, but not double counted in any cases for both indicators.

Table 5. Trainings Reported for the Period October 1 – December 31, 2018.

Program Name	Start Date	End Date	USAID Budget (USD)	USAID Actual (USD)	Total Male Participants	Total Female Participants	Total Participants	USAID Budget Per Participants (USD)
In-Country Training								
Workshop to review Fisheries Act with MOFAD/FC, Tutu-CRC Y5Q1	10/29/2018	10/31/2018	15391	15391	71	18	89	173
F2F Zonal Fisher folks consultation and review engagement meetings on NFMP, Axim- FoN Y5Q1	11/28/2018	11/28/2018	3524	3524	251	50	301	12
Legal review consultation with the industrial fishing sector, Tutu- CRC Y5Q1	11/27/2018	11/28/2018	10363	10363	17	0	17	610
Workshop to review Fisheries Act with GNCFC, Accra-CRC/Kofi Y5Q1	11/6/2018	11/6/2018	944	944	19	0	19	50
Fisher to Fisher Dialogue, Denu, Keta- HM Y5Q1	11/24/2018	11/25/2018	6992	6992	267	62	329	21
M&E officers workshop on revised M&E plan and indicator targets, Accra, Cape Coast, Takoradi- CRC Y5Q1	11/26/2018	12/11/2018	2375	2375	4	6	10	238
F2F NFMP Consultation and review workshop with identified stakeholders, Elmina, Mankessim, Cape Coast - CEWEFIA Y5Q1	11/27/2018	12/4/2018	6169	6169	305	130	435	14
Sustainable Mangrove Harvesting and management training, Ellembelle, Ankobra- HM Y5Q1	10/24/2018	10/24/2018	293	293	21	6	27	11
Ahotor oven use and maintenance, Nungua, Teshie, Tema, Ada East- Resonance Y5Q1	12/5/2018	12/11/2018	414	414	2	148	150	3

Program Name	Start Date	End Date	USAID Budget (USD)	USAID Actual (USD)	Total Male Participants	Total Female Participants	Total Participants	USAID Budget Per Participants (USD)
Capacity building training workshop for woodlot management committee and key stakeholders in sustainability of the woodlot management after close out, Anlo beach- CEWEFIA Y5Q1	12/6/2018	12/6/2018	829	829	22	21	43	19
Training with Fisher folks(F2F), Senya- DAA Y5Q1	12/6/2018	12/6/2018	2027	2027	100	50	150	14
Training with Fisher folks(F2F), Senya- DAA Y5Q1	12/7/2018	12/7/2018	2054	2054	72	80	152	14
F2F Zonal Fisher folks consultation and review engagement meetings on NFMP, Sekondi- FoN Y5Q1	11/30/2018	11/30/2018	3524	3524	230	85	315	11
Sustainable Mangrove Harvesting and management training, Ellembelle, Ankobra- HM Y5Q1	10/31/2018	11/1/2018	288	288	14	10	24	12
Fisher to Fisher Dialogue, Half Assini, Dixcove- HM Y5Q1	12/4/2018	12/5/2018	7920	7920	241	45	286	28
F2F Training event between GNCFC and NAFPTA, Sege, Ada, Tema, Jamestown, Prampram- CRC Y5Q1	11/26/2018	11/28/2018	8231	8231	322	60	382	22
F2F Zonal Fisher folks consultation and review engagement meetings on NFMP, Shama- FoN Y5Q1	11/29/2018	11/29/2018	3524	3524	277	65	342	10
Training of village agents on the modules for sustainability of the associations, Ellembelle- HM Y5Q1	11/13/2018	11/15/2018	1561	1561	8	2	10	156
Training with Fisher folks(F2F), Senya- DAA Y5Q1	12/5/2018	12/5/2018	1419	1419	72	33	105	14
US Based Training								
Graduate degree training in fisheries - Masters of Marine Affairs at University of Rhode Island	09/07/2016	08/05/2019	13,000	13,000	0	1	1	13,000
Graduate degree training in fisheries - PhD in Biological and Environmental Science at University of Rhode Island	01/26/2016	05/18/2019	13,000	13,000	1	0	1	13,000
Total			103,842	103,842	2,316	872	3,183	27,432

ANNEX C: NEWLY RELEASED PUBLICATIONS

The following documents were compiled and processed for branding and Section 508 accessibility compliance during the quarter.

IR 1 Strengthened Enabling Environment

1. Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fisheries Commission. (2016) **Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking in Fisheries Policy**. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Ghana Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. GH2014_POL008_MOFAD"
https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_POL008_MOFAD_FIN508.pdf

IR 2 Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management

2. Spatial Solutions and Hen Mpoano. (2017). Advanced Training in the Application of GIS using practical field work in the preparation of the ICM toolkit, June-July, 2017. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Hen Mpoano and Spatial Solutions. GH2014_SCI063_SpS 22 pp.
https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_SCI063_SpS_FIN508.pdf

IR 4 Applied Management

3. Kwarteng, E., Nsiah, A. A. H, Tibu, G. A. Etsra, H. E., (2017). **Assessment of the Feasibility of Producing Healthy Fish for the Ghanaian Market**. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island and SNV. GH2014_ACT061_SNV 35 pp.
http://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_ACT061_SNV_FIN508.pdf
4. Tiwaah Amoah Y, Hardi B, Beran, K. (2015). **Understanding the flow of fish: A scoping visit to Northern Ghana**. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island and MOFAD. GH2014_ACT256_CRC pp 25
https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_ACT256_CRC_FIN508.pdf

IR 5 Gender

5. Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD). (2016). **National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for The Fisheries Sector**. Accra, Ghana: Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD). GH2014_GEN006_MOFAD_ 47 pp.
http://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_GEN006_MOFAD_FIN508.pdf

IR 8 Program Management

6. Coastal Resources Center. (2018). Year Five Work Plan, October 1, 2018 to October 29, 2019. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. GH2014_PGM198_CRC. 66 pp.
https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_PGM198_CRC_FIN508.pdf