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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Elmina Bakatue Celebration



JULY, 2017

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Citation: Antwi, H. (2017). Report On Elmina Bakatue Celebration. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island GH2014_COM030_CEWEIFA 9 pp.

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Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001), awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island, and entitled the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Cover photo: The paramount chief of Elmina, Nana Kojo Conduah IV, dancing after the durbar (Credit: Opare Addo, J.)

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

ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the almighty God for giving us the strength to work on this report. We acknowledge management, board and staff of CEWEFIA for their technical support. Appreciation goes to the paramount chief of Edina traditional area, the chief fisherman of Elmina and all stakeholders who supported the festival. Thank you for good work done.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Subject to the efforts to raise awareness and build constituencies to support project implementation of Best Fisheries Practices, Post-harvest Value Chain, and Child Labor and Trafficking, the Central and Western Fish Mongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) under the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) supported and participated in the celebration of the Elmina Bakatue Festival. The Bakatue festival is celebrated by the people of Elmina in the first week of July every year, to depict abundant fish to be harvested that particular year.

SECTION 2: OUTCOME

Thousands of fisher folks from Elmina and its environs gathered at the forecourt of the Elmina castle to witness and partake in the festive event. In attendance were the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Central Regional Minister, Members of Parliament, representatives from Fisheries Commission, Municipal and District Assembly, Paramount and Sub-Chiefs from within and outside Elmina as well as Chiefs from neighboring countries including Togo.

CEWEFIA under the SFMP participated in the Regatta and Durbar on Tuesday (2nd July) and Saturday (8th July) respectively. On Tuesday, there was a float and placards walk through the principal streets of Elmina to create awareness of Best Fisheries Practices, Child Labor and Trafficking, and Post-Harvest Value Chain. Also information, education and communication materials were distributed. Branded boats with positive messages prompted dignitaries to address fisheries related issues.

On Saturday, SFMP collaborated with the opinion leaders to create awareness. Most of the carriers of the Chief's palanquin were in attire branded with positive fisheries messages such as "Stop illegal fishing now", "End Child Labour and Trafficking now", etc.

Surprisingly, the paramount Chief of Elmina centered his speech on fisheries issues which rarely happens. All stakeholders including University of Cape Coast representatives dwelt on the fact that revamping Ghana's fisheries demands everybody's participation.

CONCLUSIONS

It is envisaged that continuous awareness creation, education and community sensitization would increase knowledge of every actor in the fisheries sector to understand the consequential impacts of fisheries value chain interventions on natural resources, food safety and security.

APPENDIX 1



Figure 1. Carriers of the Chief's palanquin in branded attire during Elmina Bakatue festival celebration



Figure 2. Regatta on 'Benya' Lagoon during the Bakatue festival celebration



Figure 3. Placards walk through the principal streets of Elmina during the festival