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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## Training On Gender Fisheries Policy Report



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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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**Cover photo:** Fish processors after BDS training (Credit: cewefia)

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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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## SECTION 1: Background

Women and men work together in the fishery value chain to ensure coherent supply of fish all year round. In carrying out their gender roles these actors either positively or negatively impact each other's work. The training therefore sought to clarify the various gender roles played by men and women in the fisheries value chain. Also the training was carried out to create understanding about the roles and how the negative impacts can be dealt with. Gender trainings are therefore held to help the fisher folk discuss pertinent issues hampering their progress as men and women working together to develop the fishery sector; preserve other activities in the value chain and what can be done to ensure that they all benefit from the current state of the dwindling fish stocks to maintain their livelihoods. Women can do more things when given the right resources. It is hoped that their participation would enable them engage in decision making meetings and also advocate for change in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. The training was held from 17th to 18th May, 2017 in the four target communities.

Open discussions and plenary sessions with presentations.

### 1.1 Objectives

- To be able to define the gender concept
- To explain gender dimension of fisheries issues
- Identify driving and restraining forces to gender equity in the fishery sector

## SECTION 2: OUTCOME

A total of 122 participants were trained

**Table 1: NAME OF COMMUNITY AND THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**

COMMUNITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Moree	10	20	30
Elmina	8	22	30
Anlo-beach	8	22	30
Sekondi	6	26	32

Participation was good. The participants were grouped into four and given numbers. The facilitator took participants through the various concepts of gender, the gender dimension in fisheries issues; and the driving and restraining forces to gender equity in the fishery sector

The men who attended were very vocal. The chief fisherman of Sekondi promised to take some of the women who were willing on fishing expeditions to show them what actually transpires at sea.

The issue of fishermen fishing illegally and therefore selling unwholesome fish was discussed. The women claimed it was the main contributing factor why some of them have lost their capital and are now resorting to taking bank loans to work with.

The fishermen accepted their faults and acknowledged the fact that engaging in IUU is a major contribution to actors working in the fishery value chain to lose their incomes leading to a lot of vices in their communities. Children who used to get fish and sell cheaply to old

women for money or send home to their mothers are now not getting it because the fishermen have stopped giving out such fish. Some fishermen are not making profits as they used to. The needy and physically challenged are also suffering due to lack of free fish in the communities.

## **2.1 LESSON LEARNT**

Fishermen are aware of the impact of their activities to the fisheries sector. If the fisheries laws are enforced, all the other fishermen who are claiming ignorance would adhere to the rules.

In coastal communities, the lack of fish aside nutrition, affects the livelihoods of almost all inhabitants including men, women, children, the physically challenged and old people.

## **2.2 WAY FORWARD**

The Next Training Would Focus On the Number of Women Who Have Been Able to Be Part of Decision Making in Their Various Fisheries Groups. They Would Be Made to Share Their Experiences. Also The Number of Fishermen Who Have Been Able to Stop IUU On Their Own, Without Waiting for The Fisheries Laws to Be Enforced.