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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

USAID SFMP Lessons Learned Event



March 30, 2021



Hen Mpoano



Friends of the Nation

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For more information on the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, contact:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

Coastal Resources Center

Graduate School of Oceanography

University of Rhode Island

220 South Ferry Rd.

Narragansett, RI 02882 USA

Tel: 401-874-6224 Fax: 401-874-6920 Email: info@crc.uri.edu

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Cover photo: Fish processors arranging anchovies on smoking trays for processing (**Photo Credit:** Development Action Association)

Detailed Partner Contact Information:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Telephone: +233 0302 542497 Fax: +233 0302 542498

Raymond Babanawo	Chief of Party	Email: raybabs.sfmp@rcuri.org
Enoch Appiah	Deputy Chief of Party	Email: eappiah.sfmp@rcuri.org
Kofi Agbogah	Senior Fisheries Advisor	Email: kagbogah@henmpoano.org
Perfectual Labik	Communications Officer	Email: perfectual.sfmp@rcuri.org
Mary Asare	M&E Officer	Email: mary.sfmp@rcuri.org
Brian Crawford	Project Manager, CRC	Email: bcrawford@uri.edu
Mark Newton	USAID AOR	Email: mnewton@usaid.gov

Hen Mpoano
38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge
Takoradi, Ghana
+233 312 020 701
Kofi.Agbogah
kagbogah@henmpoano.org

Resonance Global
(Formerly SSG Advisors)
182 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
+1 (802) 735-1162
Nick McClure
nmcclure@resonanceglobal.com

Friends of the Nation
Parks and Gardens
Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana
+233 312 046 180
Donkris Mevuta
Kyei Yamoah
info@fonghana.org

CEWEFIA
B342 Bronyibima Estate
Elmina, Ghana
+233 024 427 8377
Victoria C. Koomson
cewefia@gmail.com

Centre for Coastal Management (CCM)
University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast,
Ghana
+233 242910056
Denis Aheto: daheto@ucc.edu.gh

Development Action Association (DAA)
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor
Highway
Accra, Ghana
+233 302 315894
Lydia Sasu
daawomen@daawomen.org

For additional information on partner activities:

CCM/UCC	https://ccm.ucc.edu.gh/
CEWEFIA:	http://cewefia.weebly.com/
CRC/URI:	http://www.crc.uri.edu
DAA:	http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa
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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
GIMPA	Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
UCC	University of Cape Coast
UG	University of Ghana
UDS	University for Development Studies
UNER	University of Energy and Natural Resources
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 30, 2021, the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) held a lessons-learned event as part of final project close out activities. The three-hour event highlighted seven years of the project's interventions, challenges, lessons learned which provide valuable inputs for future programing within the fisheries sector in Ghana.

In attendance were various stakeholders, officials from USAID, the US Embassy, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Fisheries Commission, the Academia including University of Rhode Island, the parent institution of the SFMP.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was virtual via Zoom Meeting platform. More than ninety (90) participants took part in the event. Participants included The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson and Deputy US Chief of Mission, Christopher J. Lamora.

Also in attendance were officials of USAID, Ministry of fisheries and aquaculture development, Fisheries commission, officials of the University of Rhode Island, Ghana National Canoes Fishermen Council, National Fish Processors and Traders Association, Development partners, other SFMP's Implementing Partners, members of the academia (UCC, CCM, UG, UDS, UENR, GIMPA). Figure 1 shows screen shots of the virtual meeting attendees.

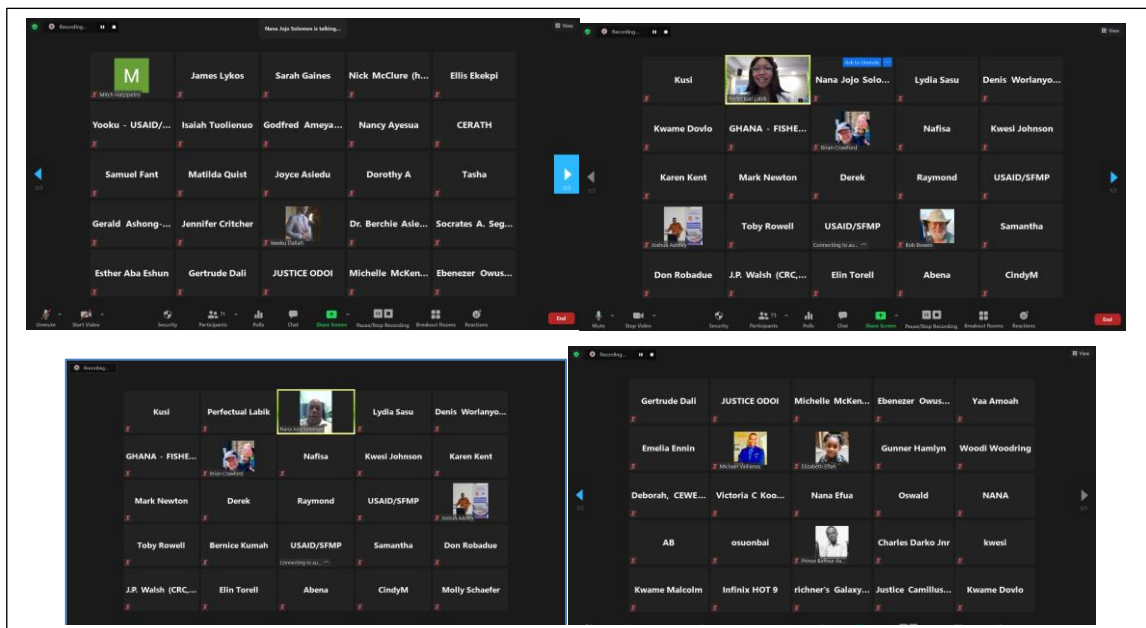


Figure 1 Screen shots of some event participants

EVENT PROCEEDINGS

The 3-hour event which was held virtually via Zoom Meeting platform, on Tuesday March 30, 2021, began with the first session at 1:00 pm GMT with a welcome address and purpose of the event by SFMP's Communications Specialist. This was followed by brief remarks from the Deputy Chief of Mission, Christopher J. Lamora. In his remarks, he commended the achievements of the SFMP over its implementation period. (See Figure 2.)

He mentioned that “we should all celebrate our collective achievements while recognizing that more work is needed to rescue Ghana’s small pelagic fish stocks, which are in dire state”

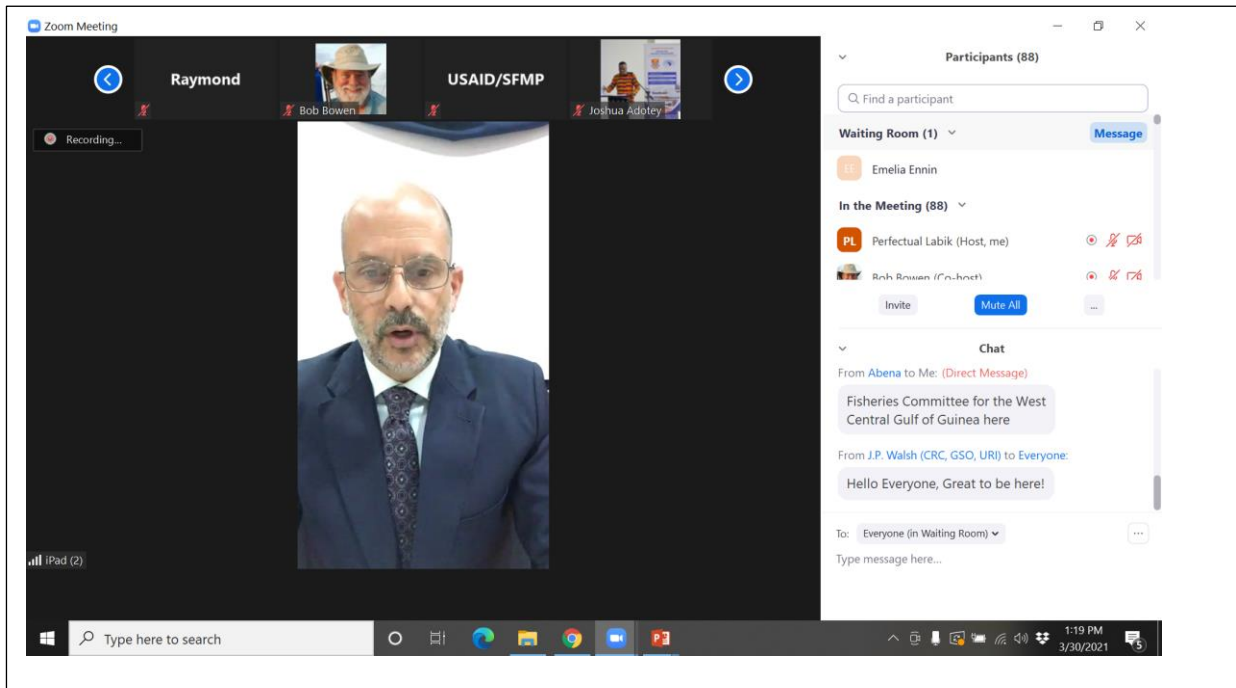


Figure 2 Deputy Chief of Mission, Christopher J. Lamora delivering his remarks

The Minister for fisheries and aquaculture development, Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson delivered her remarks to bring the first part of the program to a closure. She indicated that she was aware of the challenges the artisanal sector faces, she assured stakeholders of government’s commitment to addressing the challenges. She called for strong collaboration with all stakeholders and institutions and indicated that ‘together we can change the narrative and support actions for sustainable management of Ghana’s fisheries to ensure food security and the livelihoods of fishers’. (See Figure 3).

In sessions two of the event, the SFMP presented video documentaries on some aspects of the project’s interventions and achievements and also made PowerPoint presentations to highlight key deliverables on two of its COVID-19 response interventions; Economic Safety Net Assistance to poor and vulnerable fisheries dependent households and diversified livelihood options for fisheries dependent households.

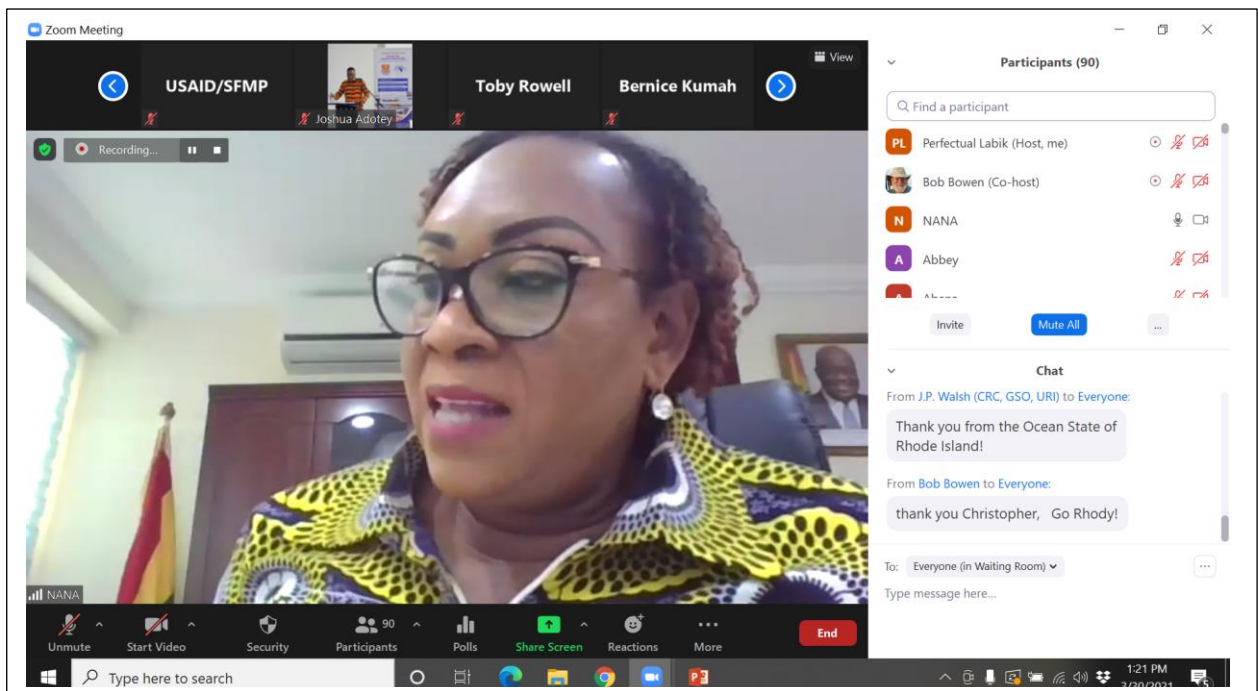


Figure 3 Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson, delivering her remarks

The first presentation on the economic assistance was made by Dr. Brian Crawford, SFMP Project Manager. In his presentation, Dr Crawford elaborated on how an economic safety net assistance scheme which was piloted during the SFMP’s COVID-19 response intervention can be replicated to moderate adverse socioeconomic impact experienced by fishers during closed seasons or adverse socioeconomic impacts, in the event of future economic shocks which could be precipitated by another pandemic. This presentation was preceded by a video documentary on the biological monitoring of the first ever fishing closed season for the artisanal marine sub-sector in 2019. The second presentation on diversified livelihood options was made by SFMP Program Specialist, Doris Amponsaa Owusu. (See Figure 4).



Figure 4 Some presentation slides used by Dr.Crawford (left) and Doris Owusu (right)

After the presentations, The SFMP showed three more video documentaries. The documentaries highlighted the USAID interventions in the fisheries sectors particularly in the Postharvest value chain, and women’s access to finance, USAID COVID-19 response interventions, and USAID support for legal and policy reforms in the marine artisanal sub-

sector. The videos offered participants very good perspectives and contexts with respect to USAID support for the fisheries sector in Ghana.

In the last session of the event, citations of appreciation were presented to partners of the SFMP to express gratitude for their support in the successful implementation of the SFMP and their contributions to sustainable management of Ghana's fisheries. The presentation was made by the Chief of Party SFMP, Dr. Raymond Babanawo.

Dr. Brian Crawford delivered the closing remarks, thanking participants for attending the event.

CONCLUSIONS

The lessons learned event was very successful with SFMP providing highlights of key issues, accomplishments and challenges encountered over the life of the project which can inform and influence future interventions and programming within the fisheries sector.

Representatives of key stakeholder institutions took turns to express their appreciation about SFMP interventions and their delight in being part of the lessons learned event.