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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) Progress Report



October 1 to December 31, 2015



Hen Mpoano



SNV SMART DEVELOPMENT WORKS



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AOR: Justice Odoi

Submitted by: Brian Crawford, Chief of Party
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: brian@crc.uri.edu
Project Office: 10 Obodai St., Mempeasem East Legon, Accra. Ghana
Box WY1049, Kwabenya, Accra, Ghana

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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: Community members using improved, more fuel efficient fish smokers.

(CREDIT: Daasgift Quality Foundation)

**Detailed Partner Contact Information:
USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana**

Brian Crawford	Chief of Party brian@crc.uri.edu
Najih Lazar	Senior Fisheries Advisor nlazar@crc.uri.edu
Patricia Mensah	Communications Officer patricia.sfmp@crcuri.org
Bakari Nyari	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org
Don Robadue, Jr.	Project Manager, CRC don@crc.uri.edu
Justice Odoi	USAID Administrative Officer Representative Jodoi@usaid.gov

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

Andre de Jager
adejager@snvworld.org
SNV Netherlands Development Organization
#161, 10 Maseru Road,
E. Legon, Accra, Ghana
233 30 701 2440

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

Peter Owusu Donkor
Spatial Solutions
powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net
#3 Third Nautical Close,
Nungua, Accra, Ghana
233 020 463 4488

Thomas Buck
tom@ssg-advisors.com
SSG Advisors
182 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 735-1162

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

Lydia Sasu
daawomen@daawomen.org
DAA
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor Highway
Accra, Ghana
233 302 315894

Giftly Asmah
giftlyasmah@Daasgift.org
Daasgift Quality Foundation
Headmaster residence, Sekondi College
Sekondi, Western Region, Ghana
233 243 326 178

For additional information on partner activities:

CRC/URI:	http://www.crc.uri.edu
CEWEFIA:	http://cewefia.weebly.com/
DAA:	http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa
Daasgift:	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-FNGO/135372649846101
Friends of the Nation:	http://www.fonghana.org
Hen Mpoano:	http://www.henmpoano.org
SNV:	http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
SSG Advisors:	http://ssg-advisors.com/
Spatial Solutions:	http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.html

ACRONYMS

AOR	Administrative Officer Representative
CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CR	Central Region
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Authorities
DAA	Development Action Association
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
FC	Fisheries Commission
FoN	Friends of Nation
FSSD	Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development
FtF	Feed the Future
HM	Hen Mpoano
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNAFF	Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
GoG	Government of Ghana
GSO	Graduate School of Oceanography
IR	Intermediate Results
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
LOE	Level of Effort
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Program
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
WR	Western Region

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW / SUMMARY.....	1
1.1 Program Description/Introduction.....	2
1.2 Summary of Results to Date.....	3
2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	8
2.1 Progress Narrative & Implementation Status.....	8
IR 1: Strengthened Enabling Environment for Marine Resources Governance.....	8
IR 2: Science and Technology Applied to Policy and Management.....	11
IR 3: Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement	13
IR 4: Applied Management.....	16
IR 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment.....	18
IR 6: Public Private Partnership Development	18
IR 7: Local Capacity Development	20
2.2 Implementation Challenges.....	21
2.3 M&E Plan & Implementation Update.....	22
3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD	23
3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment.....	23
3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms.....	23
3.3 Environmental Compliance	23
3.4 Global Climate Change	23
3.5 Policy and Governance support.....	23
3.6 Local Capacity Development	24
3.7 Public Private Partnerships	24
3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation.....	24
4. STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT.....	24
5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.....	25
6. LESSONS LEARNED	25
7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER	25
8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	27
ANNEXES.....	28
Annex 1. Summary Results to Date	28
Annex 2. TraiNet Report.....	31
Annex 3. Success Stories.....	32

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW / SUMMARY

Program Name:	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
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 Friends of the Nation SNV Netherlands SSG Advisors Spatial Solutions Central and Western Fish Mongers Association (CEWEFIA) Development Action Association (DAA) DQF Quality Foundation
Major Counterpart Organizations	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fisheries Commission
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Ghana: Central Region, Western Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region
Reporting Period:	October 01 – December 31, 2015

1.1 Program Description/Introduction

The objective of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) 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 USAID's Feed the Future Initiative. Working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission, 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 works in consortium with other international and local partners, including SNV Netherlands Development Organization, SSG-Advisors, Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, and the Central & Western Fish Mongers Improvement Association in Ghana/CEWEFIA, DQF Quality Foundation, Development Action Association (DAA), and Spatial Solutions. The project compliments and coordinates closely with two other sister projects in the USAID/Ghana Coastal Program Portfolio: The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) 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, known locally as the *Hen Mpoano* (Our Coast) initiative. In this follow-up, SFMP is focusing efforts on small pelagic fisheries along the entire coastline as well as the demersal fisheries and essential mangrove fish habitat in the Western Region. Additionally, improvements in the value chain of smoked fish, important to tens of thousands of women fish processors will be supported. The project is also adopting deliberate steps towards reducing child labour and trafficking in the Central Region of Ghana. Key government clients of this project include MOFAD, FC and the Regional Coordinating Councils and associated districts in the Central and Western Regions; the Marine Police are also being provided with direct support to build their capacity. Additional direct 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 hereby details activities, results, lessons learned during the first quarter of Year2 (October 1 to December 30, 2015). It further explains how partners significantly contributed to the achievement of set targets and how these achievements will be sustained to meet the overarching goal of SFMP.

1.2 Summary of Results to Date

SFMP implemented a total of 75 activities in the FY 16 first quarter. Implementation for the year commenced on October 01, 2015. Highlights of achievements during this quarter are provided below;

1. A national fisheries dialogue among fisheries stakeholders and the Fisheries Commission launched the recently adopted national marine fisheries plan; held November 2 to 4 in Cape Coast, followed by a full page feature “Rebuilding Ghana’s Marine Fisheries: National stakeholders dialogue on the Challenges and the Way Forward” published in the Daily Graphic on November 20th. This plan, the first in Ghana, represents a significant milestone towards the project goal of rebuilding Ghana’s marine fisheries stocks.
2. The SFMP’s Science and Technical Working Group presented its stock status report to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission at the National dialogue. The report showed a severely overfished status for small pelagic stocks with a rebuilding deficit of 180,000 MT. This establishes a quantitative rebuilding target related to the project goal and a hard quantitative baseline from which to measure progress in future years.
3. A PhD candidate from the University of Cape Coast (Evans Arizi) was admitted to the University of Rhode Island to pursue an advanced degree in fish stock assessment. The candidate is anticipated to begin classes in late January 2016. This is the first of what will be approximately 6 individuals sent for long-term overseas degree training and will contribute significantly to building scientific capacity at UCC and within the Fisheries Commission.
4. A study tour of members of the Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association, GITA, was hosted by the University of Rhode Island from 24th October to 6th November 2015, largely financed by the Association itself. The tour focused on understanding management measures applied to New England’s trawl fisheries, the role of voluntary compliance, cooperative research and modern trawling techniques that are highly selective and have low environmental impact. This study tour contributes to IR 3 – building constituencies in support of management measures, and engages a previously under-represented group in stakeholder meetings concerning management decision making.
5. Celebration of World Fisheries Day led by CEWEFIA under the direction of CRC, Accra. This was followed with a press release detailing resolutions reached during the celebration promoting responsible fishing and healthy post-harvest fishing practices. Importantly, this event helps raise the profile of women stakeholders in hearing their voice concerning the need for better management practices to be implemented in the fishery.
6. World Rural Women’s day celebration was duly observed and celebrated at Winneba by Development Action Association (DAA). This event saw the attendance of over 540 participants and highlighted the importance of women in fisheries and need to sustain and preserve coastal lands for fishing dependent businesses such as fish processing. This event

was also geared towards making sure women's voices are heard regarding fisheries management.

7. The efforts of SFMP led to the creation of a working dialogue/relationship with the National Steering Committee on Child Labor; with the USAID SFMP Project given a position on the National Steering Committee.
8. Adjetey Anang, a movie actor and producer has been selected as SFMP Anti-CLaT Ambassador
9. SFMP through FoN organized an anti- CLaT reporting orientation for Journalists in the central and western regions, contributing to the behavior change approach to reduce CLaT in fisheries.

Table 1 below summarizes the standard USAID indicators showing results completed in FY 15 vis a vis targets. Significant deviations between results and targets are explained in Annex 1. Annex 1 shows both USAID standard and custom project indicators.

Table 1 Summary of Results: Year2 Quarter 1 (Oct – Dec, 2015)

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2016	Annual Target	Year 1 (FY15) Results	Q1 FY16	Q2 FY16	Q3 FY16	Q4 FY16	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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of direct project beneficiaries (number), the percentage of which are female (percent) (IDA Core Indicator) disaggregated by rural, urban (IR 2.1 indicator from Ghana CDCS)1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
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	Fish analysis Small pelagic analysis Child labor analysis	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.3%	Y

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)

Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop and implement managed access fisheries management plans	0	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	0	888	806	194	N/A	N/A	N/A	194 (21.84%)	Y
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	0		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of DAs supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	0	4 (Ongoing)	4	0	0	0		4 (100%)	Y
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	0	2	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Number farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	0	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	0	1, 013	560	0	0	0	0	0%	Y
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FTF 4.5.2-38)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))	0	3	2	0	2		N/A	2 (66%)	Y
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(27))	0	4	164	4	4	N/A	N/A	4(100%)	Y
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(12))	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
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	1,100	404	200	N/A	N/A	N/A	200(19.74%)	Y
Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (4.8.1-29)	0	16,080	4040	4,674	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,674 (29.06%)	Y

Note: The Results Performance Column depicts level of achievement expressed as a percentage of Actual versus Planned.

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative & Implementation Status

IR 1: Strengthened Enabling Environment for Marine Resources Governance

This component employs a combination of legal and policy reform initiatives to be carried out at the national level with significant stakeholder engagement through a blend of a bottom-up and top-down approach. MOFAD/Fisheries Commission is mandated to spearhead all fisheries policy arrangements. The SFMP is working closely with the Ministry/Commission to facilitate effective marine resource governance.

National Workshops on Key Issues in the Marine Sector

In October, SFMP initiated series of joint planning meetings with the Fisheries Commissions for the National Fisheries Dialogue, the first in a series planned over life-of-project. It was also agreed in these meetings that the national dialogue should focus on the newly developed National Fisheries Management Plan, so that stakeholders could comment and provide inputs for the implementation strategy for the plan.

A national dialogue was held November 2-4, 2015 to discuss the content of the newly gazetted national marine fisheries management plan. The dialogue brought together key fisheries stakeholders including industry representatives: National Fisheries Associations of Ghana (NAFAG), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association (GIFA), Ghana Industrial Trawlers Associations (GITA), Ghana Tuna Association (GTA) and National Association of Women Processors (NAFPTA). Others included the Fisheries Commission (board), traditional authorities, parliamentarians, academia, World Bank, USAID mission, local and international universities, local NGOs and other civil society groups. The SFMP's Science and Technical Working Group (STWG) presented the stock status of the small pelagic stock and its rebuilding targets. Stakeholders deliberated on the marine fisheries management plan and recommended approaches for operationalizing and implementing the plan. Participants were supportive of the implementation of a closed season as noted in the management plan and called for widespread consultations in order to build support for implementation. Agreed next steps included the setting up of an operational committee by MOFAD/FC to review and monitor progress towards plan implementation. Recommendations were provided on the make-up of an implementation committee that would include significant stakeholder representation. While a closed season is noted in the management plan, the dialogue also clarified the processes that need to occur to put a closed season into operation, where more details of actual dates and duration of the closure and clarity on which fleets and stocks it will be applied to.

Meetings after the dialogue agreed that an operational committee be established to monitor the performance of the FMP. In addition it was agreed that SFMP-FC joint working committee be established to follow-up on the output from the National Dialogue and also draw synergies of the activities of the SFMP, Fisheries Commission and the WARFP on the implementation of the management plan. Complementarity activities were identified and possible joint funding for certain for a follow-up co-management workshop by both SFMP and FC agreed.

The successful national fisheries dialogue held November 2 to 4 in Cape Coast, was followed by a full page feature “Rebuilding Ghana’s Marine Fisheries: National stakeholders dialogue on the Challenges and the Way Forward” published in the Daily Graphic on November 20th.

In addition to the national dialogue, SFMP initiated discussions with WARFP consultants on developing a draft policy framework on fisheries co-management. This framework is expected to be the basis of a national workshop scheduled for the second quarter of Year2.

Strengthened Law Enforcement

Under strengthening law enforcement, two (2) key sub activities were organized in Quarter 1 these were 1) stakeholder discussions with SSG Advisors on the proposed IUU hotline for fisheries enforcement and 2) Planning sessions for a competence-based approach for Marine Police training on Fisheries Enforcement.

IUU Hotline for strengthened Law Enforcement

FoN supported SSG to organize a series of meetings in November with fisheries stakeholders in the Central Region and Western Region on the possible establishment of an IUU hotline. Separate meetings were organized with stakeholders including Artisanal fishermen, women fish processors/mongers, hook & line fishers and fisheries commission staff in C/R and W/R. At these meetings the local stakeholders discussed the Hotline for IUU reporting and indicated that there will be the need for a community-based stakeholder group to support the enforcement and compliance actions for the Hotline. Also they noted that a rapid response team could be put in place to respond to calls and on-the-ground actions to support the operation of the Hotline.

Planning Sessions for a Competence-Based Approach for Marine Police Training on Fisheries Enforcement

This quarter has seen the planning towards the implementation of a Competency-based approach to assessing Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes (KSA) needed for strengthened fisheries enforcement. This will enable Marine Police conduct rapid competency assessments of staff and ensure that training provides the minimum competencies needed for Marine Police to carry out effective fisheries enforcement actions. The first step is to identify competencies needed and assess personnel against those competencies, and then recommend strategies to address the gaps. The agreed recommendations would then be applied for future performance assessment, capacity development strategies, staff rewards and to inform long term al change.

Material Support to Law Enforcement

SFMP has conducted series of meetings with Marine Police Officers and conducted visits to marine Police Aiyinase Camp to assess the material support need for the Marine police. The meetings identified the specific material needs for the camp. It was finally concluded that the material support for the Marine Police Unit to be provided by the SFMP will be used to equip the US State Department Funded Building at the Aiyinase camp with basic conference room furnishings. The purpose will be to ensure that part of the building is furnished with basic materials so that mini-training events and conferences could be held there including SFMP year 2 trainings for Marine Police and Fisheries Enforcement officers.

Harmonizing Regional Fisheries Policies

SFMP and the Fisheries Commission attended the recent 7th scientific working group of CECAF in Tenerife, Spain on the assessment of fish stocks in the region. A team of collaborators were identified for a SFMP supported study to identify much needed stock identification using advanced genetics techniques for sardinella stocks, which extends from Morocco to Namibia. This will address a key finding for fisheries management by identifying boundaries of unit stocks that extends beyond the borders of Ghana. The management of shared stocks within the context of national boundaries may not achieve the desired management objectives in the absence of an effective coordination within the regional management bodies. The study will involve the participation of scientists and partners from selected countries to provide adequate samples of fish landed within their country. The CECAF requested that USAID/SFMP share results in a regional workshop at the end of the study and examine fisheries management implications of the results, especially as member countries begin to discuss regional quotas of shared stocks.

Informing the U.S. Government on Key Fisheries Policy Issues

Field visits to project activity sites in the Central Region in El Mina were implemented for senior USG personnel in Ghana including the USAID Mission Director, Director of the USAID Economic Growth Program and The US Embassy Charge' de Affairs. The field visits highlighted many of the issues the project is trying to address, including severe overfishing, open access, overcapacity, IUU fishing and strategies for adoption of more fuel efficient and profitable fish smokers. The role of subsidies in exacerbating overfishing were also discussed.

Reducing Child Labor and Trafficking In Fisheries

Journalist Orientation Training on CLaT

FoN through SFMP organized a journalist Orientation training of Child Labor and Trafficking. This training was held in Cape-Coast and participants comprised mainly of representatives of local media houses in the Central Region. At the training, the findings of the CLaT PRA survey were presented to the Journalists, the training also discussed the SFMP CLaT intervention focus. The key output of the training was; the development of a 1-year work plan for anti-CLaT communications in the Central Region where journalists agreed to play a key role in promoting anti-CLaT communications. To support the process the journalists proposed the establishment of a WhatsApp platform and an e-mail journalist working group on CLaT. These communicative networking platforms will help promote intra-communication and information flow among the core media practitioners for wider impacts.

Development of an article on CLaT

An anti-CLaT article has been developed for the sharing to stakeholders, Journalist and posting on FoN Website and Facebook Page. This Article gives background information about CLaT in Ghana and share the findings of the PRA CLaT field survey in Central Region. The Article also stress on the role of stakeholders and local/national institutions in addressing the CLaT issues in Central Region. The purpose of the anti-CLaT article is to inform readers about the prevalence of CLaT issues in the Central Region including the root causes and what to do to address the issues.

Anti CLaT Ambassador

SNV has discussed the possible involvement of 2 Ghanaian celebrities in the SFMP project to help with outreach activities SNV has shared TORs with the celebrities on the intended activity. These celebrities are interested in working with the project to raise awareness of CLaT in Ghana and are also willing to complete two community visits with the project. One of the celebrities, a movie actor and producer, Adjetey Anang was eventually selected as the Anti-CLaT Ambassador. The script for the Anti-CLaT edutainment and the video documentary will be completed in January 2016.

IR 2: Science and Technology Applied to Policy and Management

Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG)

The Scientific and Technical Working Group prepared a fact sheet on the draft stock assessment for small pelagics in Ghana and presented the draft findings to stakeholders at the National Fisheries Dialogue. The draft findings document long term overfishing of these stocks and that biomass of stocks in the ocean at extremely low levels below which are necessary to obtain maximum sustainable yields. The findings also recommended targets for managers in terms of biomass and fishing mortality for these stocks. The STWG will organize an independent review workshop during the second quarter with local and international experts from UCC, UG, KNUST, NOAA and independent consultants.

ICT Innovations for Effective Fisheries Management

On November 12, SSG led an ICT Strategy Workshop in Accra, bringing together participants from MOFAD, FC, WARFP, SFMP and other key stakeholders to share ideas on how ICT can be used to transform and manage Ghana's fisheries. SSG used the Advanced Participatory Methods (APM) to ensure a participatory approach, working with participants to co-design an ICT strategy for the fisheries sector in Ghana. SSG is currently drafting the ICT Strategy document, to capture and synthesize the ideas put forward in the workshop. SSG will then circulate the draft Strategy among stakeholders and incorporate their comments. The Strategy will serve as an ICT roadmap for fisheries management in Ghana. SSG will also develop a workshop report.

UCC/DFAS/CCM Capacity Development

A candidate from UCC staff has been accepted in the PhD program at the University of Rhode Island. The candidate (Evans Arizi) holds a masters in fisheries and aquaculture from UCC and is currently employed in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. He is expected to travel and begin classes in January 2016, pending approval of his visa. He has joined the team of Dr. Humphries laboratory and will focus on fish stock assessment (<http://ahumphrieslab.com/team/>)

Two additional individuals were selected to apply for Master degree training at URI starting in the fall of 2016. Program of study will be in areas of Marine Affairs, Fisheries Ecology/Genetics and fish stock assessment. The selected individuals are preparing their application packages and practice sessions for the GRE, all requirements for the formal application due by the end of January 2016.

The SFMP, in coordination with UCC and the FSSD, prepared and submitted for purchase a list of equipment for the age and growth laboratory renovated under USAID-Capacity Development grant implemented by UCC-DFAS. This laboratory will be managed by UCC

with shared access to FSSD for applied stock assessment and research. Age and growth information allows managers to understand the dynamics of fish stocks and how fish populations react to environmental stresses (i.e. climate change).

In December, URI received permission to undertake drone flights to assess UAV applications for fisheries management and coastal spatial planning. UC DFAS and Department of Geography participated in these activities and a proposal for larger applications of this technology at UCC are being prepared.

Improving FC Data Systems and Stock Assessment Capacity

National Workshop on Electronic Data Survey using KoBoToolbox

The M&E and IT units of the fisheries commission benefitted from a 1-day workshop on electronic data survey using KoBoToolbox. Modules treated were developing forms both using excel and the graphical user interface (GUI), deploying forms to mobile devices, sending completed forms and detecting errors in forms. It is anticipated that this tool will be used in their upcoming surveys and a possible scale-up during subsequent surveys to be conducted by the Commission and other governmental fisheries bodies.

The SFMP fisheries advisor, URI IT specialist and the WARFP IT specialist met with the Fisheries Commission Fisheries Scientific and Statistical Division to assess IT needs within their office and also to lay the groundwork in later quarters for pilot testing of paperless landing site data collection system. Equipment needs and specifications were developed for installing a LAN system with servers that can be accessed by all personnel and used as a central data depository. Complimentary roles and equipment contributions by USAID/SFMP and WARFP were identified.

The SFMP fisheries advisor met with the Fisheries Commission Fisheries Scientific and Statistical Division to develop a training curriculum for 42 field enumerators. Equipment for field enumerators were purchased and will be distributed during the training in fish sampling techniques, fish identification and basic computer data entry and processing in MS Excel and MS Access.

Fishing Capacity Assessment

SFMP met with the Fisheries Commission and WARFP to discuss avenues to access the vessel registration database. Issues of data confidentiality were addressed and access will be granted for the analysis of the fishing capacity.

In addition the standardization of Catch-Per-Unit Effort for the artisanal fisheries using historical data survey was completed as part of the small pelagic fisheries profile report. SFMP plans for a training on fishing capacity assessment during next quarter for member of the STWG.

Environmental Planning Data Hubs for the Western and Central Regions

In fulfillment of the establishment of a data hub and capacity building at central and western region, several meetings had been conducted with regional and national TCPD officials to discuss the planned material support for, and refurbishment of, the central region TCPD GIS and environmental data hub. A scope of work for the refurbishment of the hub and provision of the minimum IT equipment to support a functional hub was developed.

All activities relative to hub refurbishment fall under the category of construction and will require USAID approval before continuation. The focus in the next quarter will be the development of a detailed plan, costs and environmental mitigation plan for USAID consideration.

IR 3: Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement

The first quarter of Year Two focused on scale-up strategies for building more constituencies and drawing more political and public support towards achieving project goal of rebuilding the stocks; as enshrined in the national communications strategy.

National level engagements, particularly with the MOFAD/ Fisheries Commission have heightened with the successful implementation of the National Fisheries Dialogue, jointly organized with the Ministry/FC.

The first quarter also saw successful engagements at the grassroots with fisheries associations including the GITA, as the association is now collaborating closely with SFMP to devise strategies for replicating best practices from a Study Tour to the United States on sustainable fishing and postharvest processing methods. The group had previously not been too easy to engage.

SFMP's engagements with selected national and local media houses along the entire coastal stretch of Ghana is yielding positive results; in the period under review, a minimum of 29 news articles, communiqués and talk shows on fisheries related issues have been published or aired in the media. 22 items out of the 29 media stories were engineered by the SFMP Media ambassadors.

The SFMP Communications Team has also been expanded to include a representation of all the partner organizations rather than the small core team that existed previously. This change has culminated in a better understanding of USAID branding and document production protocols with the identification of at least two success stories since project inception.

A training workshop was conducted for the SFMP communications team to improve skills in developing USAID success stories and results reporting.

Strategic Communications Campaigns in support of MOFAD/FC policy initiatives for the small pelagic fisheries

A Communiqué on conclusions of the National Dialogue proceedings was published in Ghana's biggest national newspaper - Daily Graphic, Friday 20th November, 2015 edition. There was a general consensus at the end of a three-day National Fisheries Dialogue, intended to share the newly-approved Fisheries Commission's National Fisheries Management Plan with stakeholders and seek inputs for operationalizing the Plan. All stakeholders including the canoe fishers, women processors and traders, inshore fishers and The Ghana Industrial and Trawlers Association agreed to the implementation of some management measures such as the closed season. Next steps include dialogue with FC, the Minister of Fisheries and WARFP to develop a common language and strategy to support implementation of the Plan.

Events

Media Outreach Workshop

This was organized for 30 journalists in Axim, Nzema East Municipality, W/R on 21st and 22nd October, 2015. This was a follow-up event to a first orientation workshop held in July

2015 in Central Region. The follow-on outreach facilitated implementation of recommendations made at the first workshop by the media participants. It has culminated in the release of a minimum of 22 fisheries related news publications and talk show discussions. An SFMP Social Media platform using *WhatsApp* mobile application was established in Q1 to share information with identified SFMP Media ambassadors and provide leads to facilitate effective reportage on fisheries. The SFMP's strong media presence for fisheries issues is evidenced by the total number of news items on fisheries in the media during the period under review.

A World Rural Women's Day 2015

Event was organized 10th October in Winneba, C/R with a focus on reserving coastal lands for women. Development Action Association organized the event in collaboration with SFMP Accra. An issue brief on the importance of women's livelihoods to the fisheries economy and social development was developed and distributed at the event. This event was aimed at recognizing the significant roles rural women folks play in the production of food and ensuring food security across many developing nations in the world. In line with the theme Post-event follow-up activities include continued dialogue with local government authorities and town and country planning units of Winneba and Apam district assemblies as well as with land owners and traditional authorities for spatial planning and new allocations of land for fish processing.

Farmers Day Celebration – Apam & Winneba

SFMP awarded two fishmongers for observing best fishing and safe fish handling practices at the 31st National Farmers Day celebration in Apam and Winneba. Through partnership with the Effutu Municipal Assembly and Gomoa West District Assembly, DAA participated in the event with support of SFMP Accra. The event celebration facilitated engagements with stakeholders and dignitaries present and socializing of SFMP key messages. Again, the two award winners under the SFMP Healthy Fish category were given the opportunity to present a 3-5 minutes speech encouraging other women processors to support the SFMP and advocating for responsible fishing. DAA and its rural women constituents displayed some well packaged and branded fish produce and some SFMP IEC materials. DAA issued a press release to highlight SFMP's role in support of rural women fish processors.

World Fisheries Day Celebration at Komenda

CEWEFIA collaborated with SFMP Accra Office to organize World Fisheries Day in Komenda on 21st November 2015 under the theme 'Sustainable Fishing is Key. Ghana's Food Security Depends on Us'. The day's celebration was preceded by a Clean-up Exercise on Tuesday, 17, 2015 at the beach of Komenda. The exercise was well attended by the community members and Komenda Edina Eguafio Abirem Municipal Assembly members. The event offered SFMP and Fisheries Commission the opportunity to initiate engagements with Komenda, a major fishing community in Central Region as well as a platform to initiate discussions on the way forward for rebuilding the stocks, especially for stakeholders who did not take part in the National Fisheries Dialogue. Discussions on closed seasons via entertainment-education rural drama were received well by participants and aroused several questions on effective implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan.

Campaign on Child Labor and Trafficking (See also 4.2.1.4-6)

Work with the anti-child labor and trafficking advocates is progressing well in the beneficiary communities; some CLaT households have through interactions with the advocates enrolled their children – of school going age into school. SNV produced a fact sheet on the situation of child labor and trafficking in Ghana and impact on development. CEWEFIA also produced a success story on CLaT in the Central Region.

Healthy Fish Communications Campaign / Behavior Change Communications on Good Fishing Practices

Hen Mpoano has developed a script in collaboration with the SFMP Communications Specialist, which will form the basis for the production of a short video on IUU fishing. This video is currently being edited and refined, including integrating voice over recordings in Ewe, Ga and Fante in preparation for beach level communication campaigns against IUU fishing in the next quarter.

Gender Strategy Outreach

SFMP is mainstreaming gender and incorporating messages on the role of women in fisheries while targeting this under-marginalized group as change agents for combating IUU fishing while promoting healthy and sustainable fishing practices. The celebration of the Farmers Day and World Rural Women's Day events form part of SFMP's behavior change communications strategy intended to encourage the involvement of more women fisher folks in decision making, relative to fisheries management.

Executive Level Communications

Briefings of Key National Level GoG MOFAD/FC, MPs

A briefing packet of some project information, education and communication products have been shared with members of the Parliamentary Select Committee for Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs, under which fisheries falls. The Chairman of the Committee who is also a coastal MP (Shama District- W/R) and three other coastal MPs were also invited to the National Dialogue event in November, with an aim to increasingly create more understanding of the project goals and support for rebuilding the declining fish stocks.

USAID communications

SFMP organized two field visits for the USAID/Ghana Mission and Embassy officials in Elmina. Briefing packets were developed for the team and interactions facilitated with fisher folks. This was to create a better understanding of SFMP's cope of work in order for appropriate messaging with GoG officials.

The project internal level communications focuses on branding the project in a uniform, consistent and coherent manner as well as internal coordination activities to facilitate production of documents and effective dissemination via diverse channels and tools using different approaches suitable for a particular target audience(s).

Expansion of the Communications Team

The SFMP Communications team has been expanded to include representatives of all partner organizations for the purpose of ensuring consistency in messaging and enhancing effective communication. A 2-day workshop was organized for the team on 14th and 15th December, in Accra to socialize the Communications Strategy and solicit more inputs for effective implementation. The workshop also aimed to create a better understanding of and appreciation for the USAID branding and marking standards. At the end of the workshop, participants now have adequate knowledge on basic 508 Compliance rules and also generated a minimum of two success stories for Q1. More team building exercises and hands-on exercises will form part of subsequent quarterly meetings.

A Social network page will be established in quarter two to enhance intra-project communications amongst partners as well as for the Communications team.

IND # 6: NUMBER OF IEC MATERIALS PRODUCED AND DISSEMINATED (Custom Indicator)		
Nº	IEC Type	Title
3	Fact sheets	1 Status of the stocks; 1 National Fisheries Plan 1 Child Labour)
2	Press releases	Farmer's Day and National Dialogue events
1	Communiqué	on the National Dialogue highlights
1	Issue Brief	Importance of Coastal Lands to Livelihoods of Women
2	Success Stories	on Healthy Fish and CLaT
6	Talk Shows	Of fisheries issues on radio and TV
16	News items	On TV, Radio, newspaper, Online
31	Total number of IEC products in Q1	

IR 4: Applied Management

Small Pelagic Fisheries Management

The final meeting with fisheries enumerators was conducted to wrap up data collection on the small pelagic fishery and to discuss lessons learned and challenges encountered in the field. The first draft of the small pelagic fisheries profile was also completed during this quarter. This report combines the demographic and other data gathered in the field with secondary literature to give a high end reader friendly report to guide management intervention in the small pelagic fisheries sector. Final reviews are currently been made.

FoN developed a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide the establishment of FWG in Volta and Greater Accra Regions. The ToR outlines the purpose for establishing the two (2)

new FWGs and their expected roles. This ToR will be used to establish the new FWG in the second quarter.

A profile of the small pelagic fishery is being completed and expected to be published in the second quarter of Year2.

The Western Region Demersal Fisheries Management Initiative

Progress on collecting data for assessing demersal stocks is on-going, being conducted collaboratively with UCC and with participating fisheries stakeholders. To date, SFMP has trained twelve fishers to collect record key information about major demersal fish species under the cooperative research program. Fishers take measurement on size, sex and the stage of maturity using simple methods. Information gathered by fishers themselves will be used determine seasonal closure and other management measures.

SFMP completed a semi-annual report which will be distributed with participating fishers and other stakeholders.

Involving fishers in research and management is essential for successful fisheries management. It allows fishers to be engaged in all aspects of decision making processes using their own data and knowledge about the fisheries. This model will expand in other communities to foster partnerships in a win-win situation for the FC and fishers toward successful fisheries management.

Integrated Community Fisheries Management and Resilience Plans for the Ankobra River Estuarine and Mangrove Ecosystem

Early October was devoted to the completion of outstanding work that was carried over from the Year 1 Ankobra Vulnerability assessment. As part of the early actions aimed at building the resilience of Ankobra river estuarine communities, HM facilitated the formation of Village saving and loans associations (VSLA) in two riparian communities in the Ankobra catchment. This activity was conducted in close coordination with the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project. Chris Damon of the Environmental Data Center conducted very successful tests of a small unmanned aerial vehicle for photographing and mapping fish landing sites included in the vulnerability assessments (Sanwoma and Axim).

Integrated Community Fisheries Management and Resilience Plans for the Pra River Estuarine and Mangrove Ecosystems

FoN and URI/CRC's program manager D. Robadue met in December to compare approaches used to date in the Ankobra with the more advanced and well-developed situation for the Pra. Based on the success of using the small UAV to help with vulnerability assessments in the Ankobra, an effort will be made to apply similar techniques for shoreline communities in the Anlo/ Old Town area. Available GIS information on Shama District covering the Pra wetland was provided to FoN staff along with basic GIS viewing software. The excellent thesis by Isaac Okyere of UCC, funded in part by the previous ICFG project, will serve well as the basis for the ecological profile of the Pra estuary. Okyere identified the potential for co-management of local fisheries resources.

Central and Western Region Fishing Community Livelihood Development Value Chain and Post-harvest Improvements

For Year 2, the focus of the project in terms of the post-harvest component is “learning to scale”. This involves the piloting of various business models for nation-wide improved fish smoking stove scaling-up and the further improvement of available fish smoking stoves to resolve PAHs issues related to them. During this quarter, the following activities were undertaken to make the objectives a reality:

- SNV oversaw an additional 12 improved Morrison stoves installed (9 at Apam and 3 at Winneba); bringing the total so far to 32 improved fish smoking stoves deployed.
- 12 improved stove beneficiaries have undergone 5 weeks business management training (Calculating profit, savings, book keeping, customer relations etc.)
- SFMP supported the Fisheries Commission by training NAFPTA executives on post-harvest improvements and the use of the FTT stoves.
- The SFMP Environmental Compliance Officer and SNV carried out site inspection in relation to conducting environmental review for the construction of the DAA Fisheries Training center building.
- Under improved fish smoking stove research and development, SNV has profiled two additional improved fish smoking stoves available in the Ghanaian market – the Divine stove and the SNV-supported newly design open source fish smoking stove. The profile gives details on process characterization and energy efficiency of these stoves. The information from this activity will serve as input data for the development of a low PAHs improved fish smoking stove in quarter 2.

DQF trained one hundred (100) existing MSME’s, trained new one hundred MSME’s and established two demonstration sites each in 5 project communities. Training manuals and materials have been developed, the core communities visited, and mobilization processes for the new trainees has been completed. A list of 100 existing and 100 new MSMEs has been compiled based on the identification and screening guide.

IR 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment

This project year targets will be gender disaggregated to ensure that partners deliver results based on gender. A deliberate action will be required from each partner to incorporate a female empowerment plan into every activity. For this reason, the M&E and gender focal persons will meet in January to discuss in detail the implementation of this strategy.

IR 6: Public Private Partnership Development

Stakeholder Consultations

SSG undertook a field tour from November 5-9 to brief fisher folk and opinion leaders on the three proposed SSG/SFMP strategic partnership initiatives. The field tour covered Takoradi and Cape Coast to accommodate fishers in the Western and Central regions, respectively. SSG then met with the Ghana National Fishermen Council in Accra. This consultation process allowed SSG to solicit concerns, recommendations and suggestions from fisher folk on how each proposed partnership could be molded to fit their needs. SSG’s stakeholder consultation in Takoradi was conducted in close collaboration with the Western Regional directorate of the Fisheries Commission. This ensured that the regional government is aware of and up-to-date on SFMP partnership initiatives. SSG also met with heads of the fisher folk

and fish processor associations in Greater Accra, Central and Western regions. The consultation fieldwork exercise was done in collaboration with Friends of the Nation (FoN).

The use of ICT for fisheries management will be a vital component of USAID/Ghana SFMP. As MOFAD and the Fisheries Commission will be critical partners in ICT interventions, SSG's ICT Strategy Workshop included officials from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Fisheries Commission, National Information and Technology Agency, Marine Police, National Communications Authority, and the University of Cape Coast. This ensured that the strategy captures ideas and perspectives from a range of key stakeholders whose operations and decisions affect fisheries management.

Due Diligence

SSG conducted a due diligence exercise on Vodafone to understand the company's modus operandi, finances, CSR activities, environmental compliance and other vital information critical to assessing partnership risk for USAID. SSG finalized and submitted the Due Diligence report at the start of December.

Partnership Forum

On November 16-17, SSG led a Partnership Forum in Accra, bringing together participants from the private sector, government, fishers' associations and SFMP to discuss a possible partnership between SFMP, Vodafone, and the Fisheries Commission to extend Vodafone innovative Farmers' Club to the fisheries sector. Through an interactive, participatory approach, SSG led participants through various exercises to co-design the partnership. SSG also solicited insights on how the Farmers' Club could be modelled and adopted for the fisheries sector. Over the course of the two-day workshop, participants proposed key activities, possible resource contributions, and expected timelines to kick-start the partnership. SSG's stakeholder consultation in Takoradi was conducted in close collaboration with the Western Regional directorate of the Fisheries Commission. This ensured that the regional government is aware of and up-to-date on SFMP partnership initiatives. SSG also met with heads of the fisher folk and fish processor associations in Greater Accra, Central and Western regions.

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The Vodafone Partnership Forum also involved government, WARFP, the private sector, and fisher folk associations, all working together to design the partnership. The involvement of these stakeholders creates a sense of ownership, transparency and commitment for the partnership.

Strategic Concept Paper

Following the Vodafone Partnership Forum, SSG drafted a Strategic Partnership Concept Paper for the Vodafone partnership. The Concept Paper outlines partnership objectives, partner roles and responsibilities, activities and timelines. The draft Concept Paper will be

submitted to SFMP in December, and then circulated among all partners for review and finalization. This Concept Paper will be the foundation for a future MOU.

IR 7: Local Capacity Development

During Year 1, SNV together with URI undertook organizational capacity assessments of five local partner CSOs that are SFMP sub-awardees. This was part of the efforts to strengthen local CSO partner organizations' capacities to effectively implement SFMP, to improve the quality and sustainability of services they provide to their constituencies and to be ready and capable of receiving direct funding from USAID and other donors. In year 2, three additional local civil society membership organizations will benefit from the capacity assessment. Key capacity development activities that will be focused on in Year 2 include completing the additional assessments and following up on the CSO OCA findings to provide capacity development services. In strengthening capacity of CSOs for sustainability of project activities, the project during this quarter, undertook the following activities:

- The capacity Development Team developed the Draft Organizational Capacity Assessment Reports for Six (6) Organizations namely, FON, Hen Mpoano, DAA, CEWEFIA, Fisheries Alliance and Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council.
- The Capacity Development Team organized a validation workshop for Development Action Association (DAA) leading to the development of an Action Plan. The validation workshop was organized at the offices of DAA on the 24th of November 2015.
- The Team is working on a draft synthesized report for the OCA conducted for the six (6) organizations; to be completed this quarter.
- The Capacity Development Team organized a validation workshop for Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, Fisheries Alliance and Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council on 16-18th December 2015; leading to the development of Action Plans for the various organizations.
- The Team is working on a draft synthesized report for the OCA conducted for the six (6) organizations; to be completed this quarter.
- The Capacity Development Team also participated in NAFPTA meeting organized under the auspices of the Fisheries Commission. This meeting was held to prepare the grounds for Capacity Assessment (scoping study) of the National Association of Fish Processors and Traders (NAFPTA).

A study tour of members of the Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association, GITA, was hosted by the University of Rhode Island from 24th October to 6th November 2015, largely financed by the Association itself. The tour focused to understand management measures applied to New England's trawl fisheries, the role of voluntary compliance, cooperative research and modern trawling techniques that are highly selective and have low environmental impact. Seven participants met with 21 facilitators and speakers over the course of the two week event. Activities included formal sessions and discussions with URI experts, led by Dr. Kathy Castro, who also co-led the Fisheries Leadership Course in Cape Coast in August, 2015. Gear demonstrations took place at the major fishing port of Pt. Judith and industrial fish processing facilities in Quonset Point. A field trip to Massachusetts fishing ports included Newburyport and Gloucester. Among lessons learned:

- The need to involve the knowledge of fishermen in policy making
- The need to adopt different approaches in solving different problems instead of the one-size fit all approach used in Ghana

- The essence of science and research in designing selective fishing gear technology for improving sustainable fishing practices to enhance the fishing business through collaboration between the industry, research institutions and policy makers
- The possibility of mobilizing resources of fishermen (GITA) such as funds, vessels, etc. to support industry driven collaborative scientific research
- The need to avoid blame game in conflict resolution and seek a win-win situation through dialogue and negotiation with other fishing associations, regulators and managers in Ghana.
- The GITA group prepared its own agenda for action and proposals for collaborative research with URI, UCC and the Fisheries Commission. Ideas included:
- Modification of industrial trawl gears in Ghana to optimize their efficiency and selectivity while decreasing their impact on the sea floor
- Developing an efficient, selective and habitat specific trawl gear for rocky bottom fishing in offshore waters of Ghana
- Assessment of the state of demersal stocks in offshore waters off the eastern coast of Ghana
- Mapping of breeding grounds for commercial fish species in Ghana's coastal waters as a contribution towards determination of closed areas

2.2 Implementation Challenges

While achieving many of the planned activities in Quarter 1, the project faced some challenges which delayed some activities and necessitated ongoing adjustments in timing of key tasks. Development of Improved Smoker Business Model Options Report, Market Segmentation Study and Investment Impact Assessment could not be achieved by SNV due to delays in the procurement process for a consultant to carry out the assignments. This resulted in rescheduling of these activities to be completed in Quarter 2.

Business development training for IFSS producers was also scheduled for this quarter but training has been delayed as a result of a delay in the three knowledge documents above.

The Evaluation of 50 stoves built in Year 1, is also an activity for this quarter that could not be achieved because the construction of 50 stoves is taking longer than expected due to MFI policy on five week training before loan disbursements can be given to interested fish processors.

The proposed boat construction for the Ankobra to enable regular access to the Ankobra estuarine communities must be incorporated into an upcoming program amendment request along with several other SFMP activities. Involvement of these communities in estuarine fishery management requires regular contact to build and network supportive community structures over the life of project. However, the Ankobra estuarine communities – except Sanwoma - are virtually inaccessible by road during most part of the year due to the influence of surrounding wetlands. The alternative, which is boat rental, has also proved to be unreliable, unsafe and cost ineffective thereby resulting in relatively slow take-off of some of the early actions aimed at building resilience of the estuarine communities.

Unavailability of cloud-free satellite data for land use/ land cover (LULC) maps was also affected the production of the LULC maps which is necessary to support improved

management and lay the groundwork for updating the spatial plans for both Nzema East and Ellembele districts to incorporate conservation and improved management measures for the Ankobra estuarine and mangrove ecosystem. Existing satellite imagery has limited coverage and is also affected by cloud cover, thereby reducing its usability. The mapping exercise will therefore wait in anticipation of new imagery from ongoing US Geological Survey mapping effort. Meanwhile, the experiment with a small UAV by URI's Environmental Data Center offers some short term help (see 2.2.4.3) for key areas.

2.3 M&E Plan & Implementation Update

Baseline data has been cleaned and ready for analysis. This was completed with support from the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD) at KNUST. A final report is expected to be completed in quarter 2. T

Intended targets for year 2 have been reviewed. This follows a review of partner's budget and a removal of double count of beneficiaries probable to receive several interventions of the project. An interim system has been initiated to detect double count of beneficiaries for the same indicator measurement during quarterly reporting. These changes have been updated in the M&E plan and other related documents. This requirement to avoid double counting of training beneficiaries in any given year is proving to be cumbersome and adding significant time and costs to account for this issue, especially considering this task needs to be accomplished and coordinated across a number of sub-recipients that implement the bulk of the training activities. Plans are far advanced to also incorporate gender disaggregated targets. This is aimed at mainstreaming gender into project activities.

In Quarter 2, a workshop will be held for partners on data quality issues, components of the updated M&E plan and simple methodologies for analyzing output data, knowledge management among other several topics.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

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

3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

In order to assure sustainability of project activities, emphasis is placed on:

- Involvement of relevant government officials in project planning and implementation to ensure continuity.
- Continued capacity building and development of local stakeholders described throughout the report will greatly assist project sustainability.

3.3 Environmental Compliance

The project during this quarter submitted the annual EMMR and drafted an Environmental Review report detailing out all the potential adverse impacts and mitigation actions required to monitor construction activities of the proposed DAA Fisheries Center. During the Executive Directors Partners meeting, the Directors of the various partner organizations were taken through the Environmental policies and procedures stipulated in the EMMP that relates to activities with negative determination with conditions (especially for construction activities) being implemented in Year 2.

A number of follow-up visits were made to monitor ongoing construction activities of the improved smoking technology in some of the project communities to ensure compliance with the SFMP EMMP.

3.4 Global Climate Change

Please see Section 2, IR4.5 Pra and Ankobra Resilience plans for information on activities directly related to this issue.

Vulnerability assessment completed for Ankobra area revealed that Sanwoma and its residents are vulnerable to hazards, notably flooding and evolving sea level rise. The assessment revealed that impact of flooding on fish processing as a livelihood option is disproportionately high. In the next quarter, the priority will be the development of flood risk plans as part of resilience building and supporting adaptation for resilience planning processes to inform siting decisions for fish processing facilities. Areas for siting these facilities will also be designated in district spatial plans to ensure long term protection of these sites for such uses.

3.5 Policy and Governance support

Please see Section 2, IR1 which describes SFMP's substantial 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 information on activities directly related to this issue.

3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation

Please see Section 2, IR2 for descriptions of activities of the science and technical working group on fisheries, collaborative research undertaken with UCC, and development of an ICT strategy for the project.

Chris Damon of the URI Environmental Data Center worked with Spatial Solutions, Hen Mpoano and the University of Cape Coast Geography Department to obtain permissions needed from the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority to test a small unmanned aerial vehicle equipped with a high resolution camera and positioning system for mapping and analysis of coastal vulnerable sites and wetlands. Permission for the flights required development of an operations manual, an in-person flight demonstration and a permit fee paid as well as obtaining required liability insurance. The results in quality and information from the pilot test flights went well beyond expectations. Addition to supporting ongoing SFMP activities, a meeting at UCC with DFAS leaders, a PhD student seeking to apply GIS, and Geography Department staff revealed that a proposal to acquire a winged UAV with far better range, sensor and camera equipment would be an enormous boon to the UCC DFAS, Geography and TCPD Data Hub information acquisition efforts as well as advanced UCC student research.

SFMP participated in a USAID Washington supported Innovation lab workshop on digital financial services, held in Accra. The workshop helped SFMP identify challenges and opportunities in applying digital financial services into its Strategic Private Partnership Activities, specifically for the proposed Vodafone Fishers Club. The workshop also identified other opportunities of digital services such as a potential –e voucher system which the Minister of Fisheries is very much interested in. Following the workshop, SFMP hosted the USAID DC team at SFMP and provided an overview of the SFMP ICT innovations including an IUU hotline, Vodafone farmers club, and paperless household survey tools using mobile devices and tablets, and plans for pilot paperless landings data collection.

4. STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder participation and involvement is a key pillar of the SFMP approach and a central means to achieving intermediate result 3; building constituencies and political will for policy and legal reform, as well as behavior changes needed to restore Ghana’s marine fisheries to a healthy and sustainable state.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The SFMP Accra office made some important hires in Q1, including replacing an administrative assistant, and adding two new staff members aimed at reducing backlogs in the review of subcontractor financial information, insuring timely processing of invoices, as well as supporting the M&E function including organizing a work flow for managing, editing, storing and distributing project technical and progress report documents, which number an estimated 200 for Year 1.

URI CRC successfully completed the hiring of its full time international coordinator for finance and administration of the SFMP, based in Rhode Island at the beginning of November. Ms. Sarah Woodring, who was already making contributions to financial management, quickly initiated the submission of all partner subcontracts, resulting in transfers of needed funds by mid-December. Ms. Woodring and Enoch Appiah also initiated a number of improvements to invoicing procedures that will prevent potential gaps in cash flow for subcontractors moving forward.

SFMP financial managers are now utilizing QuickBooks accounting software to enhance reporting and the interface with URI's PeopleSoft system. In addition, several implementing partners have been provided the software and are receiving training as part of the civil society organization capacity building effort.

6. LESSONS LEARNED

- Effective stakeholder engagements through communication (one-on-one discussion, focus group discussions) promote high participation in project activities. Behavioral change communication among fish mongers, fishermen, fish traders and all who are involved in fishing activities is vital to the success and sustainability of the fishery. Giving recognition and rewarding good behavior to individuals can foster unity and enthusiasm among other group members.
- The SFMP Accra office was under-designed and understaffed in Year 1, and URI CRC's effort to obtain a skilled financial manager to oversee all business operations was slowed considerably by the URI personnel process. Now that nearly all the needed staff are in place on the financial and administrative side, processes, work flow and efficiency has notably increased, and backlogs generated during the startup phase are expected to be largely eliminated by mid – 2016.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Planned activities for the second quarter will include the following:

- Facilitate a national workshop to discuss fisheries co-management models and experiences around the world.
- Coordinate with FC, Marine Police and the Naval command to design a code of responsible conduct for fisheries enforcement.

- Roll out beach level behavioral change communication campaigns in 15 communities on IUU and good practices.
- Select and compose panel for best practices in fisheries awards as well as review and selection of awardees.
- Conduct refresher training for Western Region planners.
- Develop Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) on small pelagic including participatory mapping in GIS.
- Initiate mangrove restoration in the Ankobra area.

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget Item	Total Funds Obligated to Date (US\$)	Total Funds Expended to Date, through Dec 31, 2015 (US\$)	Pipeline (US\$)	Estimated Expenditures and Encumbrances (US\$) January - March 2016
URI Personnel	779,866	451,446	328,420	105,639
URI Fringe	293,519	197,973	95,546	50,666
SFMP Personnel/Consultants	691,851	425,647	266,204	100,000
Other direct costs	1,886,609	211,812	1,674,797	66,305
Travel	805,337	471,840	333,497	100,000
Subcontracts	4,475,594	2,457,377	2,018,217	726,008
Capital Equipment	338,941	249,122	89,819	-
Training	68,501	-	68,501	23,200
Total Direct	9,340,218	4,465,216	4,875,002	1,171,818
Modified Direct	4,657,182	1,933,718	2,723,464	430,810
Indirect	1,142,826	604,866	537,960	112,011
Total	10,483,044	5,070,082	5,412,962	1,283,829

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Summary Results to Date

This summary includes all standard USAID indicators as show as well in Section 1.2. It measures planned versus achieved during the reporting quarter and gives a cumulative performance in each quarter.

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2015		Quarterly Status – FY 2015				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
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		888		194				21.84%	Indicator on target to be achieved
Intermediate Result (IR): APPLIED MANAGEMENT: Improved management of marine resources											
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	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This indicator will be tracked from FY 17, to FY 19
Number of DAs supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	Project records, management plans	2015	0	4 (Ongoing)	0	4				100%	Ongoing assistance to DAs.
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	Assessment reports	2015	0	1		0				0%	Preparation works are being done
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	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This indicator will be tracked in FY17, FY 18 and FY 19

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2015		Quarterly Status – FY 2015				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 microenterprises supported	2015	0	1,013	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0%	Activities delayed but likely target will be met in fourth quarter
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							
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women’s groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))	Project document	2015	0	3 (DAA, CEWEFIA, NATIONAL CANOE FISHERY COUNCIL	2 DAA, & CEWEFIA,)		2			2(66.6%)	On track
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S)(FTF 4.5.2(27))	Project documents	2015	0	Baseline established	4 (Ongoing)		4(Ongoing)			4 (100%)	Target ongoing/achieved

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status – FY 2016				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Will be tracked in FY 16
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	1100	0	199 M- 21 (10.5 %), F- 178 (89.4 %)	0	0		18%	Indicator on target
Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (FtF 4.8.1-29)	Project training report.	2015	0	16,080	0	4,674	0	0		29.06%	See comment above

Annex 2. TraiNet Report

This report includes trainings that count towards two indicators: Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2), 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.

Program Name	Start Date	End Date	Total Budget	Total Actual	Total Male Participants	Total Female Participants	Total Participants	USAID Budget Per Participant (USD)
SFMP Partners Finance staff capacity building training workshop	10/19/2015	10/20/2015	1252.2	1252.2	5	7	12	104.35
Success Stories and communication workshop-YEAR 2 Q1	12/14/2015	12/15/2015	94.70	94.70	5	4	9	10.52
Use and maintenance of improved smoking ovens-Anlo-Year2 Q1	12/18/2015	12/18/2015	3303	3303	0	48	48	48.57
FC Electronic Data Survey Workshop	12/08/2015	12/08/2015	94.6	94.6	3	1	4	23.65
Use and maintenance of improved smoking ovens-Elmina-Year2 Q1	12/16/2015	12/18/2015	3253	3253	0	62	62	52.47
Use and maintenance of improved smoking ovens- Moree -Year2 Q1	12/16/2015	12/18/2015	3718	3718	0	48	48	77.46
Quick books Training for Partners	11/11/2015	11/16/2015	4618.2	4618.2	8	8	16	288.64

Annex 3. Success Stories

See documents sent as separate PDF files.



BEFORE AND AFTER

From Ground to Tabletop

Fishers abandon the ground to instead cut fish on clean tabletops

BEFORE



AFTER: *Susana Bisiw standing between two fish butchers on the beach*



Photo Credit: Daasgift Quality Foundation

“Our community stands out from others because we are now practicing safe fish handling. Our fish is no longer dirty because we cut them on tables.”

Susana Bisiw
Fishmonger, Shama Bentsir,
Western Region-Ghana

In Ghana there is a long-held belief that “Salt from the sea water kills the bacteria and germs likely to contaminate the fish from cutting on the ground.” The Shama Bentsir community now knows differently.

At the break of dawn, the women fish processors of Shama Bentsir rush to reach the beach with their head pans—ready to buy “any and all” fish that are landed. Unfortunately, while the demand for fish is increasingly high, fewer and fewer fish are being landed. And while fish is critical to local food security, in 2014, landings were only 15 percent of the maximum landings (about 280,000 metric tons) for 1996.

This makes it even more critical that the fish that are landed are handled carefully and kept healthy for consumption. It has always been traditional practice for fishermen to offload fish directly onto the beach and for fish processors to then cut and process them there on the ground as well. However, this ground is a mixture of sand and fecal matter—the result of the longstanding habit, especially in fishing villages, of defecation on the beaches.

In response, the USAID Feed the Future Initiative is bringing knowledge about a healthier way of food handling to the people of fishing communities such as Shama Bentsir. Not only is it helping rebuild a collapsing fishery, it is helping protect consumer rights and people’s health. This includes the USAID Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, which is providing training and raising awareness on hygienic fish handling. One example is what is happening in Shama Bentsir.

After an eight-week training on business management skills for 2014 selected micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises in the Western and Central Regions, about 98 percent of the beneficiaries in one community, Shama Bentsir, now cuts their fish on wooden tables instead of on the fecal-polluted beach sand. Some of the women fish processors proudly took project staff to the landing site after a training session to demonstrate behavior change in action.

So far, the project team has trained 751 enterprises and is scaling up the Healthy Fish Campaign using “best fish-handling practices” competitions among communities. The goal is to train more than 1,100 enterprises in Year 2 and have many, many more communities handling their fish as Shama Bentsir now handles its fish.



FIRST PERSON STORY

Child Labor Practitioner, Turned-Advocate

A Mother and Now an Advocate for Keeping Children Safe and in School



Photo Credit: Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association

Araba Takyiwa at far left/rear with 3 of her children in school uniforms; and her neighbors - 2nd and 3rd right/rear, and their schooled children; beside them are Project staff

"I will use my own story as a means to advocate against child labour and trafficking in Elmina."

Araba Takyiwa, 46
A mother of seven who trafficked her 13 year old daughter and allowed her sons aged 7 and 10 years to labor in fisheries instead of attending school is now an anti-child labor and trafficking advocate who is helping change the lives of her own children and those of others in her poor fishing community.

Elmina is one of the largest fishing communities in Ghana with a vast landing site that accommodates its own fisher folks as well as migrants from other communities within the same Central Region, such as Moree, Anomabo, Apam, Abandzi, Winneba, Komenda etc). The situation has resulted in a rise in child labor activities in the community and environs.

Almost 85 per cent of Elmina's population, including migrants, keeps their children out of school so they can labor in fisheries or in other hazardous work to earn income for their family. Some even push their children into sexual activities in exchange for fish, or in exchange for money, traffick them to other countries. Not only are these children's lives and health endangered, but they lose out on the very education that might help them escape this cycle of poverty and child labour.

USAID is helping change this through the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project component on behavior change communications aimed at training community anti-Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) Advocates. These advocates counsel households who engage their children in hazardous work or traffick them, on the dangers that come with this way of life – health hazards and in some cases, even loss of their children's lives. And, they encourage parents to keep their children out of work and in school.

Araba Takyiwa is a beneficiary of the USAID/SFMP Anti-Child Labor Campaign; she is a 46-year old mother of seven and a fish processor in Elmina. In need of money, in 2010 Araba trafficked her 13 year old daughter to Ivory Coast and sent her young sons to work in fisheries. In spite of her efforts, Araba has not been able to locate and bring back her daughter. But it is not too late for her sons. Today, Araba sends them to school. And, she is spreading the word throughout the community, helping others see the longer term benefits to their children, their families, and their community when children stay in school and out of hazardous labour and trafficking. Araba hopes her own personal story of loss is helping others decide that they too want a brighter future for their children. And to realize that such a future starts by keeping children in school.



SUCCESS STORY

Fishers Become Researchers in Fight to Restore Stocks

In the quest to rebuild Ghana's fish stocks, some fishers are now helping conduct fish stock assessments



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Eifah, UCC Researcher

46-year old Fisherman - Raymond Annan, recording information of fish at sea

“This collaborative research is very insightful; I now know the alarming status of our stocks; I am ready to learn more and help educate peers on the state of our fishery”.

Raymond Annan
Fishermen, Sekondi - W/R, Ghana

In Ghana, fisheries plays a major role in the country's socio-economic development. Fish has long been the preferred and cheapest source of animal protein with about 75% of total annual production consumed locally. Ghanaians eat an average of 20-25kg of fish per person per annum — higher than the world average of 13kg. As much as 65% of animal protein in the Ghanaian diet is thought to be from fish.

Yet in the last 10 years, stocks of four key fish stocks in Ghana's waters have declined by 23%. To help revive the fishery, researchers and scientists must first understand more about the stocks. To conduct at-sea assessments, however, would require them to hire boats and crew — resources fishermen already have.

Through a USAID Feed the Future Initiative, Ghana intends to rebuild a collapsing fishery to reduce poverty and hunger. The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), in partnership with a sister project of the University of Cape Coast and a Science and Technical Working Group, has trained local fishermen to help understand the fisheries — a critical first step in reversing the decline. This collaborative team approach of technical and non-technical members helps fishers — often excluded from such processes — to experience firsthand science-based decision-making and become part owners in the process.

To date, SFMP has trained 12 fishers, who record information during fishing expeditions without losing significant time from their fishing effort. As they haul their catch, fishers note the quantity of fish caught, size and sex, and for females, their egg maturity. All that's needed is a filet knife, paper, pencil, and photos.

Raymond Annan is a fisherman from Sekondi and also a member of the collaborative fish research team. Now, as he hauls his catch, he records with hash marks on paper the number of fish he catches in each of the four key species. He cuts them open and records their sex, size, and maturity of the eggs if females. Raymond also takes photos.

This team approach and simple methodology is proving invaluable and plans are already underway to train another 20 fishermen toward the SFMP goal of 100 trained fishermen and women processors on the team by 2017. The collected data not only serves the SFMP science/technical team, but informs those implementing Ghana's National Fisheries Management Plan; a plan signaling Ghana is serious about its fisheries crisis and committed to restore its health.

For the first time ever, fishermen are doing more than fish; they're helping with research and decision-making on the future of Ghana fisheries.

Telling Our Story

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