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Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

Multi-Stakeholder Workshop to Design a Citizen Watch on Water Initiative for Fisheries Co-management in Ghana

March 17 to 18, 2016

Accra, Ghana

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Cover photo: Participants at the workshop (SSG Advisors)

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Forum Description and Objectives

This workshop will allow key stakeholders in the Ghanaian fisheries sector to co-design a framework for a Ghanaian Citizen Watch on Water (CWOW) Program to improve co-management of fisheries in Ghana. During a recent study tour to the Philippines, key stakeholders from the Ghanaian fisheries sector learned about the Philippine *Bantay Dagat* (Sea Watch) program, in which fisherfolk as well as members of local coastal communities volunteer to aid in the detection of illegal fishing as well as the enforcement of coastal and marine laws. Study tour participants recognized the potential benefits of developing a similar community-based monitoring and enforcement program to support effective co-management of fisheries in Ghana. This workshop will draw upon the successes and challenges in the development and implementation of the *Bantay Dagat* program in the Philippines as well as existing policies, plans, programs, and relevant institutional frameworks in Ghana.

The key objective of this workshop will be to create a framework to guide the initial development and implementation of a community-based fisheries monitoring and enforcement program. Following this initial design exercise, SSG will draft a design document and legal framework, to outline the Citizen Watch on Water program at the national level. This design document will be circulated to all participants for comment.

Following approval of the program design, SSG will organize a second design workshop in Ghana, this time to design and plan the initial program pilot.

It is hoped that this new initiative will enhance current fisheries management practices and help to safeguard small pelagic fish stocks in Ghana.

Workshop Activities and Discussion

March 17th, 2016 – Day 1

Overview of Filipino Bantay Dagat Initiative and Study Group Reflections.

Filipino conservation expert Romy Trono presented a brief introduction to the Philippine Bantay Dagat program. He discussed the creation of the program, the program goals and objectives, key components and structure, the incentives and motivations of the Bantay Dagat volunteers, and successes and challenges.

Figure 1 Romy Trono and Brian Crawford

Current Reality.

Each stakeholder group discussed their current reality with regards to illegal fishing and conservation efforts in Ghana and verbally shared one highlight of their discussion.

Legal Review Presentations and Recommendations.

- First, Atty. Mario Maderazo from the Philippines presented an overview of the key policy, legal,

  institutional, and regulatory foundations for the Bantay Dagat program in the Philippines.
- Second, Atty. Tuinese Edward Amuzu presented on his review of current Ghanaian laws and policies vis-à-vis the Citizen Watch program, including identified gaps and key recommendations.

Mr. Amuzu shared the following specific **recommendations** for creating a Citizen Watch program in Ghana:

1. The Minister of Fisheries in Ghana can establish the Citizen Watch initiative under Sections 2(2)(o) and 94(4) of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625). This should be done with a clear policy direction specifically requesting recognized organizations, in particular District Assemblies along the coast, to participate in the initiative.
2. The Minister of Fisheries and the Minister with responsibility for Local Government and Rural Development should jointly develop a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Citizen Watch initiative by the various coastal District, Municipal and Metropolitan assemblies.
3. To support the Citizen Watch initiative, there should an inter-agency taskforce, to include a police prosecutor(s) and/or lawyer(s) from the Office of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General's Department. The roles of the members of this taskforce should be clearly outlined.
4. The Minister of Fisheries should propose amendments to the Fisheries Act to specifically make provision for the Citizen Watch initiative in the Fisheries Act. This provision should identify clear jurisdiction and inter-relationships between institutions, the administrative and programmatic design of the program, and the sources of funding for the Citizen Watch program.
5. The Citizen Watch program should commence with a pilot program, to be reviewed and refined for later scale-up.
6. Thorough stakeholder analysis should be conducted to secure the buy-in of key stakeholders for the Citizen Watch program.
7. A thorough guide detailing the operations, roles and responsibilities, and requirements for the Citizen Watch volunteers should be developed and shared with all new volunteers. Training should be provided to volunteers on the basis of this Operations Guide.
8. Ghana should review previous fisheries co-management initiatives – in Ghana and elsewhere – to inform the establishment of the Citizen Watch program.

Participants then split up into their stakeholder groups to discuss and share their reactions to the Legal Recommendations:

Participant Feedback to Legal Recommendations

Enforcement Group	**Fishermen Group**	**Government Group**	**Fish Processors Group**
1. Preferred Recommendation: • No. 4 – the mandate/legal authority • Outlined responsibility • Funding to Operate 2. Barriers • Source of funding • Political Interference • Institutional Rivalry 3. Suggestions • Sustainable fund for the FEU • Capacity building • More training • Effective collaboration • Share resources & info • Clear distinctions of the core roles of Institutions involved	1. Preferred Recommendation: • We agree with all recommendations provided they go through cabinet approval under the name CBFMCs 2. Barriers or Concerns • GNCFC should be given the legal rec. to be able to operate effectively	1. Preferred Recommendation: i. Send communique to MOFAD containing the following: • Request for the amendment of the Fisheries Act 625 • Development of National Policy • Issue regulation for CWOW ii. MOFAD to issue a draft regulation on CWOW iii. Draft regulation to be consulted with national agencies and other structures iv. MOFAD to issue regulation for CWOW 2. Barriers or Concerns: • Inadequate legal framework (not precise) • Amend and make regulations • Fisheries mgmt. is not decentralised to the districts	1. Preferred Recommendation: • Generally agree to all. Emphasis placed on high participation of women in the initiative 2. Barriers or concerns • CF/KonKohemaa conniving to sell illegally caught fish • Challenges in the Filipino experience or learning/collaboration (asked to hear more about challenges) 3. Suggestions • Processors/ Traders to be sensitized to not patronize illegally caught fish • CF who allow illegal activities must be sanctioned • EPA, oil companies

Practical Shared Vision

Next, participants worked together to develop a shared vision for the Citizen Watch program in the near term.

"In the next 2-3 years, what are the key elements of a successful Citizen Watch initiative that would involve fishing communities, enforcement agencies and government representatives for the co-management of fisheries and marine resources?"							
No political interference	Holistic, effective fishers' empowerment	Regular and adequate logistics	Clear legal and institutional framework	Adequate and appropriate incentives	Continuous and effective education	Effective stakeholder collaboration	Availability of Quality Fish
• No political interference	• More fish processors participating in CWOW • Empower GNCFC • Legal Recognition for chief fishermen • Woman empowerment	• Logistics available • A sustainable funding system • Prescribed uniforms • Hotlines for easy communication • Private sector funding, e.g. Telecos, oil companies	• Well-established legal regime • Clear legal mandate to operate • Develop appropriate policy framework for co-management • Mandate to arrest • Mandate for members' roles and functions	• Awards, rewards schemes • Documentation of success stories and awards • To attract youth into improved processing to reduce poverty	• Education on fisheries laws and regulations • Frequent and visual education events • OPS manual • NGO training and support • Periodic training • Study tours • Improvement • More education about new ovens	• Collaboration among stakeholders • Interagency collaboration • Police and chief fishermen collaboration • Improved interagency collaboration • Well-defined roles of institutions involved	• Quality fish to reduce poverty through proper fishing • Fish processors and traders stop buying illegal fish

Figure 2 Workshop participants

March 18th, 2016 – Day 2

Morning Context Questions:

Pilot CWOWs:

- What are the conditions/ requirements for 1-2 successful CWOW Pilots?
  - **<u>Conditions:</u>**
    - Mandate from Ministry (written) and ID of competent orgs to pilot with (existing group GNCFC, NAFPTA)
    - Criteria for site selection/individuals
    - Consensus on roles and functions
    - Criteria to evaluate if org is competent
    - Communications strategy
    - Capacity development of org and individuals at pilot site level
    - Support from traditional authorities, district assembly and chief fishermen
    - Legal space defined per rules
    - Fisherfolk willing to participate
    - Additional stakeholder engagement and analysis
    - Logistics/resources – needs identified and sourced
    - Operational plan for pilot area

Figure 3 Legal Consultants ,. Macki Maderazo and Tuinese Edward Amuzu

- What are some critical initial steps?
  - **<u>Next Steps:</u>**
    - From workshop participants → communique with recommendation to Minister & follow up meeting, requesting written permission with workshop results and directive to proceed
    - Draft up action plan with M&E framework to pilot with informal working group (FC/Stakeholder/SFMP)
    - Lawyer to review mandate/roles of CWOW group
    - Decide on criteria for selecting pilot sites

CWOW Mandate

What are the prioritized roles and responsibilities of volunteers? Short-term vs. long-term?

- Priority Roles
  - Education in communities and classrooms
  - Intelligence gathering & reporting
  - Witnessing /detecting illegal fishing
  - Fisheries and environmental protection
  - Promote conservation
  - Promote compliance
  - Sea and foot patrol within local communities
  - If making arrests, must include composite teams (community and enforcement)
    - Independent CWOW teams will primarily focus on reporting and deterrence
- Other longer-term potential roles
  - Fisheries protection
  - Food processors – monitoring beach and market
  - Women – monitoring good hygiene
  - Traders/processors report violations to police (illegal nets, lights)
  - Trained as court-recognized fish examiner
  - Management agents for marine resources
  - Promote alternative forms of income generation
  - Promote conservation
- Not appropriate
- Making arrests alone – better to report, aid and assist
- Would need a stronger legal framework before this deputized role could be appropriate.

Figure 4 Women processors contributing ideas

Figure 5 Gifty Dorkenu, a fish processor from Elmina

Action Planning: Key Action Areas

"In the next 12 months, what are the key actions to successfully launch CWOW in Ghana?"

Develop and Implement Capacity Building Strategy	Pilot Sites	Legal Mandate	Monitoring & Evaluation	Operations
1. Conduct training for community leaders e.g. NAFPTA, fisher groups, executives 2. Develop and implement capacity building strategy 3. Educate fishing communities to accept the concept 4. Sensitize members of the communities on fishery laws 5. Education through audio visuals 6. Strengthen local organizations 7. Build capacity of volunteers 8. Develop training program 9. Sensitization and training 10. Conduct training needs assessment 11. Conduct training activities	• Short list Possible sites • Select pilot communities • Identify and launch pilot in two communities	• Obtain mandate from MOFAD Minister • Obtain legal mandate • Establish grounds of noninterference • Develop National Policy Statement	• Monitor and evaluate performance of pilot CWOWs • Develop Monitoring and control mechanism	• Enforcers and fisher leaders work hand in hand • Develop action plan • Conduct campaigns against illegal methods/bad fishing practices • Develop communication strategy • Develop logistics and incentive requirements • Provide adequate logistics • Assist in prosecutorial processes as witnesses • Identify resource needs/ funding sources • Identify sources of funding • Set up working group • Provide logistics for efficiency in operations • Provide logistics for effective and continuous training • Outline TOR for CWOW • Identify sustainable funding source • Develop administrative and operational framework

Figure 6 Participants developing the action plan

Action Planning Part II. Per Key Action Area- Participants Generated First Year Tasks

Obtain Legal Mandate

- Amend the Fisheries Act 625, providing for CWOW
- Submit communiqué to MOFAD
- Request the Minister to amend the Act/Developmental Policy
- Draft regulations for the CWOW
- Finalize the draft after consultation with stakeholders

Pilot Sites

- Develop criteria for selecting pilot sites
- Shortlist pilot sites
- Conduct a rapid appraisal of shortlisted sites
- Select pilot sites
- Conduct a baseline survey/ needs assessment
- Sensitize committee of volunteers/ mobilize volunteers

Launch CWOW

Operations (Key Areas: Logistics & Funding, Training)

- Logistics and funding
  a. Stakeholder mapping
  i. Fisheries Commission
  ii. NGOs
  iii. Many others
  b. Resource Mapping
  i. Sharing of information
  ii. Financial contributions
  iii. Assets (vehicles, patrol vessels, etc.)
- Training
  a. Stakeholder engagement plan
  b. Training Manual
  c. Expertise Curriculum

Figure 7 Identifying the tasks to carry out in the first year of the CWOW

Develop and Implement Capacity Building Strategy

- Identify stakeholder groups
- Conduct training needs assessment for each stakeholder group: GNCFC, CEWEFIA, Enforcement, Marine Police agencies, FEU, etc.
- Include Trainer's Training

Develop training curriculum and produce training materials

- Produce and disseminate educational materials (AV/Print) (e.g. use "Information Vans")
- Conduct trainings

Idea Factory on Key Questions:

Involvement: What are appropriate incentives for volunteers?	**Sustainability**: How can we provide for sustainable funding?	**Training**: What are the selection criteria/ suggestions for CWOW?
• Insurance • % of fines • Study tours • Life insurance • Award schemes: performance-based awards/ recognition • Limited legal authority • Uniforms • Educational support • Scholarships for children • Health schemes (National Health Insurance) • Transportation support • Allowance, rations • Honorarium • Free pre-mix for patrols • Literacy training for illiterate participants	• National Fisheries Development Fund • Provision in Fisheries Act requirements - budget line items • Public-Private Partnerships - "Adopt a CWOW" • Call and Contribute Fundraising • Parliamentary Appropriations • Oil Fund • User-fees • Sponsorship package • Encourage District Assembly contribution • Self financing from communities • Pre-mix proceeds	• Age 18 years or older • Education – OK if limited, but helpful if volunteers can read and write (but not a requirement) • Mentally/physically fit • Men, Women and young adults • Members of a Fishery stakeholder group **Figure 8 Thomas Insaidoo from the Fisheries Commission and Laura Johansson**

Final Reflections:

Group reviewed topics of discussions over the 2-day workshop. Group discussed why they felt this work is important (expected impact) and expected next steps.

Impact of Success:	**Next Steps:**

1. Fisheries will recover
2. Voluntary compliance
3. Salvaging fishermen's livelihood, employment
4. Wholesome fish
5. Cleaner beaches
6. Fewer fish imports
7. Fewer conflicts at sea
8. Fewer infractions of fish laws
9. Improved co-management
10. Fishers become good stewards
11. Improvements in processing
12. Respect of international community
	1. Report of Workshops
	  a. Concept paper
	2. Draft to Minister and request
	3. Identify working group
	  a. Send formal letter of invitation to stakeholder groups
	  b. Recommend nominations: Nii, Kofi, Emmanual, Que, Elijah, Thomas, Leonard

Suggested Names for CWOW Ghana:

Unity	**EMDF – Eco Marine Defense Force**	**Hope**	**Agua Eye Ghana**	**Sea Crabs**
Sea Guards Ghana	**Sea Angels ***	**CWOW: Save our Sea**	**CWOW: Fish for the Masses**	**Mpoano Abrafo ** **
Sea Wow *	**CWOW! ***	**Pap Ye ***	**Sea Watch **** **	**Nam Resa**

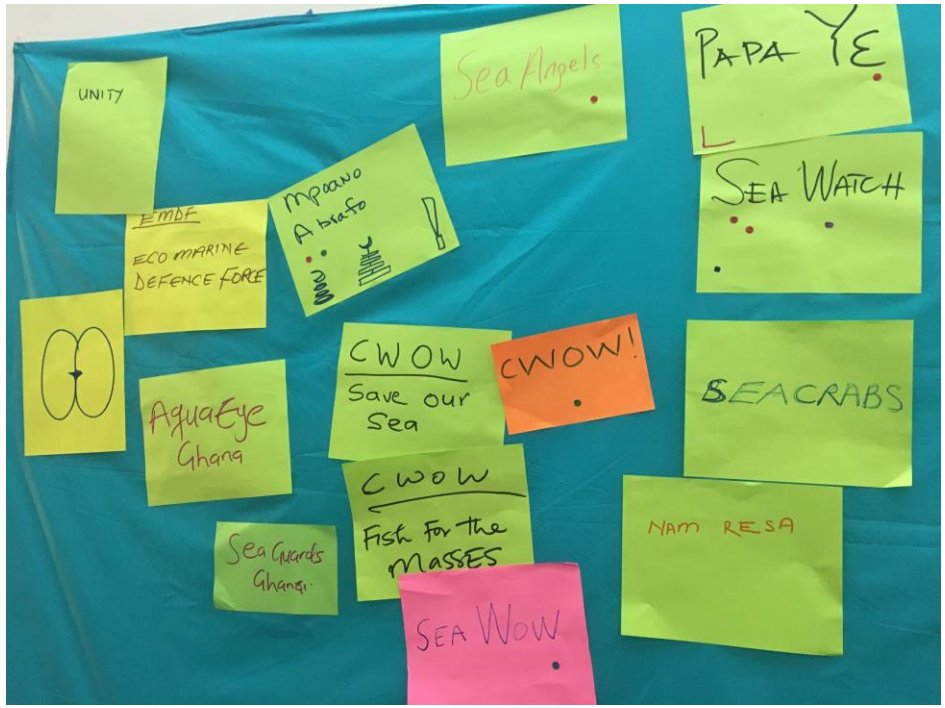

Figure 9 Ideas for naming the initiative

Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, March 17th

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:30-9:00	**Arrival and Registration**	
9:00-9:10	**Welcoming Remarks**	Brian Crawford, SFMP
9:10-9:50	**Introductions and Review of Workshop Objectives and Agenda** <u>Description</u> Introductions of the participants and review of the objectives and agenda for this workshop.	Romy Trono, SSG Laura Johansson, SSG
9:50-10:25	**Overview of Filipino Bantay Dagat Initiative** <u>Description</u> Filipino conservation expert Romy Trono will provide the group with a brief introduction to the Philippine Bantay Dagat program. He will discuss the creation of the program, the program goals and objectives, key components and structure, the incentives and motivations of the Bantay Dagat volunteers, and successes and challenges.	Romy Trono, SSG
10:25-10:45	**Study Tour Reflections** <u>Description</u> SSG will ask the Philippine study tour participants in the room to come forward and speak briefly about their observations of the Bantay Dagat program from the study tour.	Laura Johansson and Romy Trono, SSG

10:45-11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00-12:00	**Participatory Assessment of the Current Reality** <u>Description</u> Small group discussion regarding the 'current reality' of illegal fishing and marine conservation challenges in Ghana, and their impacts on each stakeholder group. <u>Output</u> Participants gain shared understanding of current reality of illegal fishing in Ghana.	Laura Johansson, SSG
12:00-1:00	**Legal Analysis – Ghana and the Philippines** 1. Framework and Evolution of the Philippine Bantay Dagat: • *An overview of the Bantay Dagat program in the Philippines and a review of key policy, legal, institutional, and regulatory foundations* 2. Legal Context in Ghana: What is Possible? • *A review of the current Ghanaian laws and policies vis-a-vis the Citizen Watch program, identification of gaps, and key recommendations*	Atty. Macki Maderazo, SSG; Atty. Tuinese Edward Amuzu, SSG; and Laura Johansson, SSG
1:00-1:15	**Q&A**	
1:15-2:15	**Lunch Break**	
2:15-3:00	**Spectrum of Initiative Scope** *"What should be the specific mandate and responsibilities of Citizen Watch on Water volunteers in Ghana?"*	Laura Johansson, SSG

	<u>Output</u> As a group, the participants will reach consensus on the scope of volunteer activities under the CWOW program. This consensus will guide discussion of further technical issues.	
3:00-4:30	**Practical Visioning** <u>Description</u> A large group brainstorming and consensus-building activity for the program. Proposed focus question: *"In the next two years, what are the key elements of a successful Citizen Watch initiative that would involve fishing communities, enforcement and government agencies for the co-management of fisheries and marine resources?"* <u>Output</u> As a group, the participants will develop a consensus vision for the Citizen Watch on Water program in Ghana.	Laura Johansson, SSG
4:30-4:45	**Close of Day & Wrap Up**	Laura Johansson, SSG
	Optional Homework	Laura Johansson, SSG

Day 2: Friday, March 18th

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:30-9:00	**Arrival and Registration**	
9:00-9:15	**Welcome to Second Day and Recap of Day 1**	Romy Trono, SSG
9:15-9:55	**Review Homework & Small Group Gallery Walk**	
9:55-10:55	**Determining Strategic Actions** <u>Description</u> The participants will brainstorm strategic actions for the program in Year 1. Together, the full group will develop strategic consensus on a broad overall program agenda and priority action points. <u>Output</u> The group will develop an overall CWOW program agenda and identify up to 10 priority actions and tasks.	Laura Johansson, SSG
10:55-11:05	**Coffee Break**	
11:05-12:30	**Year 1 Action Plan** Action planning continued, exploring immediate next steps and Year 1 activities in more depth. <u>Output</u> Participants will draft Year 1 action plans	Laura Johansson, SSG

Time	Activity	Facilitator
12:30-1:30	**Lunch**	
1:30-3:00	**Citizen Watch on Water Idea Factory** <u>Description</u> Participants will split into 4-5 groups to explore key issues and create recommendations related to program design and implementation. <u>Output</u> Suggestions for CWOW design and implementation.	Laura Johansson, Romy Trono, Nii Tackie-Otoo, SSG
3:00-4:00	**Reflection and Discussion of Next Steps** <u>Description</u> To close the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the discussion over the last days: Are there any outstanding questions? Do additional partners or stakeholders need to be brought to the table? SSG will then summarize the immediate next steps for the program, including drafting a design document and legal framework and planning for an initial pilot. <u>Output</u> List of immediate next steps for program development	Laura Johansson and Romy Trono, SSG