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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report on Multi-Stakeholder Meeting
held on 23rd September 2015 at
GNAT Hall, Cape Coast

SEPTEMBER, 2015



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SSG Advisors:	http://ssg-advisors.com/
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ACRONYMS

CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FoN	Friends of Nation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Program
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of CEWEFIA's activities under the SFMP, a multi-stakeholder meeting was organized to brief the stakeholders on the activities and achievements of Year One as well as present the activities to be carried out in Year Two. The meeting also aimed at discussing the way forward for the implementation of the SFMP.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

The workshop was attended by the Member of Parliament for Komenda Edina Eguafio Abirem District (KEEA); DCEs; Heads of Departments, Traditional Authorities, Anti-CLaT Advocates from Elmina and Moree, SFMP Partners (Friends of the Nation (FoN), SNV), MSMEs from Elmina, Anlo and Moree; Community members and Opinion leaders. The total number of participants was 99 (38 females and 61 males).

3.0 OUTCOME

The meeting started at 9:30am. After an opening prayer by Pastor Abednego Otoo, the community facilitator for Moree, the Chairman for the occasion; Nana Ekuamaanan V, a Sub Chief of Elmina Traditional area was introduced. In his remarks, he advised all the participants to collaborate with CEWEFIA to implement the SFMP since the project would benefit the fisher folk. Subsequently, Mrs. Victoria Churchill Koomson, the Executive Director of CEWEFIA welcomed the participants and extended greetings from Dr. Brian Crawford, the Chief of Party of the SFMP who could not make it to the programme. She gave an overview of the SFMP and CEWEFIA's role in the SFMP. She emphasized on the need to prevent Child Labour and Trafficking as well as the need to adopt responsible fishing practices to sustain the marine fish stocks.

3.1 Optional Speeches

The Member of Parliament for KEEA, Honorable Dr. Nana Ato Arthur commented that he was happy that the District is a beneficiary of the SFMP. He added that Climate change and Oil discovery were some of the main causes of the fishery problem today. He explained that there was the need for a massive sensitization of the fisher folks and effective engagements with MCEs, MPs and fishing communities for an in-depth understanding and sustainability of the project. The Regional Director of Food and Drugs Authority, Mr. Kwame Nsiah-Poku talked on the effects of consuming chemical fish. He spoke on the plan to gradually reduce certain quantities of drugs into the country and stopping the importation of some foods which can cause health problems to citizens. He stated that all fish processors and traders would be registered to help monitor their activities. He further commented that the FDA had been empowered to destroy any food that is not good for human consumption.

The Deputy Central Regional Director of Fisheries, Mr. George Anti also indicated that they were training marine police in collaboration with FoN to ensure sanity on the sea.

Madam Lydia Sasu, the Executive Director of DAA talked about the role of women in fisheries. She said that when fish is brought to the shore, it is women who buy it and should therefore put a stop to the practice of illegal fishing. She also said cutting of mangroves is a cause of the depletion of fish in our sea.

3.2 Presentation of Year One Activities and Achievements

Miss Hannah Antwi, the Communications Officer of CEWEFIA made a presentation on the achievements of Year One. This included activities that had been carried out, challenges and lessons learnt. This was to serve as a building block for year two activities and to also help

the stakeholders to come out with the right strategies to adopt in the achievement of year two activities.

3.3 Presentation of Findings on CLaT Survey in Elmina and Moree

Mr. Nicholas Smith, CEWEFIA's Project Officer for Central Region presented the findings on the CLaT household surveys in Elmina and Moree carried out by CEWEFIA to gather interest stories in the two communities.

Afterwards, there was a drama performance on illegal fishing, CLaT and healthy fish handling

3.4 Presentation of Year Two Activities

Miss Juliet Buaben, the Administrative Officer of CEWEFIA took participants through the proposed activities for Year Two.

3.5 Strategies to Achieve Year Two Goal

Mr. Michael Takyi, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer of CEWEFIA led the discussion on the strategies to help achieve year two activities. This was an open forum where participants were given the opportunity to make their contributions.

3.6 Comments/Strategies from Participants

- Nana Ama Kyema, the Programs Manager at Radio Central who is also CEWEFIA's Board Secretary promised to give free airtime to CEWEFIA for sensitization on the adoption of responsible fishing practices and CLaT.
- The MCE for KEEA District, Honorable Isaac Kweku Sam suggested that a community radio should be installed at the beaches to sensitize the fisher folk on responsible fishing practices.
- Nana Ama Kyema also suggested that CEWEFIA should encourage the fisher folk to attend the Fisheries College at Anomabo as part of the SFMP activities.
- A Planning Officer at Shama District suggested that Anlo Beach should also be targeted for the Anti-CLaT activities.
- The MCE for KEEA District, Honorable Isaac Kweku Sam also called for more sensitization on the SFMP especially in the churches.
- Mr. Kojo Mensah Sortoh, the Vice President for Inshore Fishers Association at Elmina suggested that some of the meetings should be organized at the beaches and fish processing sites to enable more of the fisher folks to participate and understand the SFMP message.
- Mr. Randolph Kwesi Johnson of FoN indicated that the District Assemblies have Child Protection Committees which are currently dormant. He therefore suggested that they could be revived to support SFMP to help prevent CLaT in the target communities.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

The strategies and suggestions outlined by the stakeholders will be incorporated into CEWEFIA's activities to enhance the implementation of the Year Two activities in order to have more impact in the target communities to achieve the goals and objectives of the SFMP.