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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

SWOT Analysis Workshop For Shama District Agriculture and Coastal Management Sub- Committee



APRIL 2015

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Friends of the Nation

This publication is available electronically on the Coastal Resources Center's website at http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects_page/ghanasfmp/

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Citation: Friends of the Nation (2015). SWOT Analysis workshop for Shama District Agriculture and Coastal Sub-committee. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. GH2014_POL015_FoN. 17 pp.

Authority/Disclaimer:

Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001) awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island and entitled; the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP Project team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Cover photo: Members of the Agriculture and Coastal Resource Management Sub-Committee in a meeting session at the Shama District (Credit: FoN)

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ACRONYMS

ACRMSC	Agriculture and Coastal Resource Management Sub-Committee
ASNAP	Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural Africa Plant Product
B-BOVID	Building Business on Values, Intergrity and Dignity
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
KVIP	Kumasi ventilated improved pit latrine
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SWOT	Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
SDA	Shama District Assembly
ToR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United Nations Agency for International Development

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the USAID/GHANA SFMP which seeks to ensure the rebuilding of marine fisheries stocks and catches, the project has selected Pra Estuary as one of the two areas for the development of mangrove ecosystem and fisheries management plans. In order to certify proper development of these fisheries and mangroves management plans, the project seeks to ensure that communities encompassing the Pra Estuarine area are more resilient to vulnerabilities such as flooding.

There has been already activities which has been undertaken to help prepare the Pra Resilience Planning. In the scoping and literature review, there were some essential information identified. And in that was a SWOT Analysis to be conducted of key local institutions identified during the scoping and literature review and this will help develop and build capacity building initiative for these local institutions.

In view of this, Friends of the Nation organized a SWOT Analysis workshop with the Agriculture and Coastal Resource Management Sub-Committee which was one of the local institutions in the Shama District identified during the scoping and literature review. The workshop took place at the Conference Room of the Shama District Assembly on April 19, 2016 around 10:12 am.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop adopted an open discussions method which was related to the activities of the Agricultureulture and Coastal Resource Management Sub-Committee.

DETAILED SESSION

Prior to the discussions of the SWOT Analysis, the Agriculture and Coastal Resource Management Sub-Committee met for their quarterly meeting. The ACRMSC is a 12-member committee which constitute Heads of Department from the Shama District Assembly, the Assembly Members as well as Chief Fishermen. During the meeting, the previous minutes of their last meeting in December, 2015 was read and adopted.



Figure 1 Picture of cross-section participants at the Agriculture Coastal Resources Management Sub-Committee.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND KEY ISSUES FROM THE MEETING

Brief Report from the Environmental Department Head

Mr. Mensah gave a brief report on the activities of the department from their last meeting up to date. In his submission, he talked about sanitation along our beaches. The first place for sanitation day started at Aboadze. But the sanitation at the beaches has become worse due to attitudinal problems we are facing from community members. So we currently have secured some vehicles and we will do education along the coastal stretch. This is because the judges usually ask if the people have been educated then we can arrest people. I would plead that when people are arrested relatives don't come in to intervene. If there is to be any intervention it should be done before it is taken to court. And we are in the rainy season and usually cholera is prevalent during this season. The public education will start in the first week of May.

Questions/Comments/Responses/Recommendations.

- Hon. Emmanuel Mark Ackon quizzed, how is the education going to be done? Which people are going to be educated, those who do open defecation or those who throw rubbish at the beaches? And besides, there is only one toilet facility in my community which is inadequate.
- The head responded that aim of this sensitisation is to keep the coast clean so it is to cover the two issues.
- Another member pleaded that the second Kumasi improved ventilated pit latrine (KVIP) should be completed early so that they can use it else the people will still have no option. It will not be laudable at the court to arrest people when there are no community toilets.
- Timothy Ayensu commented that irrespective of whether there is a public toilet or not, there is no excuse to defecate at the coast. Communities should move from the mentality

that governments should build toilets in their communities. Individuals should have toilets in their houses.

- The Head agreed but he added that the nature of some of the houses and the layouts of the communities is such that it will be difficult to make provision for toilet facilities and dislodging will even be difficult.
- Chairman asked whether there are no laws to check open defecation and does your outfit ensure that building plans make provision for toilet facilities?
- Mr Mensah responded that there are laws, but the core of the problem is attitudinal of people that is why we want to do the education to enlighten them. The assembly members also ought to help to ensure sanitation at the coast. The Head of Department responded yes, we look out for these things in the building plan before permits are given. But Timothy Ayensu chipped in that the Statutory Committee and Technical Committee go through the building permit and building plans for reviews before the approvals are given. But the problems are with the general public who are playing reluctant to submit their building permit making the enforcement difficult. Instead, they start building while they have acquired a land. So it is an attitudinal problem with the general public. What we need to do is to educate the people continuously on these policies. The assembly should do more education on these issues and let them know how dangerous it is to build without an approved building permit from the assembly.
- Jeffrey Scott also added that there is a committee whose core mandate is to check these issues. I would urge that these issues be forwarded to them so that they can look into it. But education is also very important. We cannot always go by ignorance of the law is no excuse. People need to be enlightened then we can effectively enforce the law.
- The Chairman later went ahead and recommended that the committees responsible for such issues ensure that the right things are done. Education should be done but the various departments should also be diligent.

Brief Report by Mr Joseph N. T.Otu, the Head of Agriculture Department

Mr Out briefed the house about the ongoing farmer registration to obtain a data base. This excludes fishermen. This is to promote small ruminants farming, that is goats and sheep. We started with 6 farmers. Per farmer, 5 females and one male sheep was given. But the animals were struck with pneumonia so we lost most of them. We currently have only 13 surviving.

Also, there is an ongoing Greenhouse Technology Project. Shama District is the only district to 5 kits with one located at the Shama Senior High School. The programme is for peri-urban communities and it is not to replace the traditional method of farming. This is an intervention because of the lack of land for farming. The challenge is to acquire more the kit to because it is expensive.

Another project is a collaboration of the department and Tullow Oil who has sponsored NGOs, B-Bovid and ASNAP to facilitate pig farming and 20 acres of cassava plantation, and sweet potatoes which is 132 metric tons per hectare. These are pilot phases and if they are seen to be successful, there will be replicated and more beneficiary communities will be brought on board.

The last issue he addressed was the 2015 Farmers' Day Celebration. He stressed that there were challenges with the resources, transportation, accessibility to the venue was a challenge among others. There was also very little donations which I think is due to the fact that they seem not to see any benefit from their benevolence.

Questions/Comments/Responses/Recommendation.

- Emmanuel Ackon asked whether farmers go to the office for registration or the officials go to the farmers in the community.
- Mr Otu responded that the registration adopted both ways.
- Jane Simone recommend that the venue for the next Farmers' Day Celebration should be one that can easily be accessed because the venue chosen last year hindered a smooth celebration.
- Theophilus Dadzie questioned the head that by which means were farmers informed of the registration exercise because "though I am in this committee I am not aware of this exercise".
- The head responded that field officers under the department made the announcements. I am aware the message has not reached your community. We are still trying to mobilize some people to do that.
- Mark Arhur then recommended that the department can fall on the unit committees and assembly members in disseminating such information.
- A member also prompted the house that there is no allocation for the Agriculture Department from the District Common Fund leaving the department handicapped in undertaking a lot of activities they are mandated to and it also makes the department look inactive.
- The Chairman then recommended that the issues should be taken into consideration and the committee should look at how to resolve it. The district assembly should assist the Agriculture Department with resources, while they wait on the Central Government to allocate part of the Common Fund to the Agriculture Departments. Also, letters soliciting for donations should be sent early enough for companies to incorporate it in their plans. Meetings should be organized regularly for us to discuss these pressing issues. This meeting is delayed because the allowance to be paid for the previous meeting needed to be sorted before another meeting is organized.

Brief Report by Mr. Hughes Ametefe, NADMO Head.

NADMO is to coordinate activities of all organizations in relation to disaster. We have been charged recently to embark on education to prevent disasters. One of the challenges we are facing is with funding and logistics. For two years now the organisation has not received any imprest which is GHC200 per month, from government. We also do not get any support from the assembly though there is usually allocation for the organisation in the District Assembly's budget. The focus of NADMO is to prevent the disasters and not to mitigate effects. The organization no longer provides relief items to individuals that fall victim to disasters because such people can put up with friends or relatives. NADMO only provides education to such people. It is only seen as a disaster when huge numbers are involved.

Questions/Comments/Responses/Recommendation.

- Chairman of the Committee recommended that NADMO should reconsider this policy because individuals who fall victim to disasters need help to recover. Lodging with a friend or relatives may not work out in all cases.



Figure 2 Chairman of the Committee addressing the house.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The session of the meeting commenced with an open discussion on the SWOT Analysis of the committee. Before that, Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah gave a brief overview on SFMP, stating that FoN is undertaking some activities along the River Pra estuary as well as embarking on capacity building programs for some committees. FoN adopts participatory approach in all the activities it undertakes hence the need to sit with the committee. He later briefed them on the activities taken so far on the Pra Resilience Planning.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Theophilus Booachie Yiadom facilitated this process with support from Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah. The SWOT Analysis was based on the issues that cropped out of the meeting of the ACRMSC. These questions were asked;

- What is the mandate of the committee?
- Are there any specific terms of reference?
- Were there any guidelines given to the committee by the District Assembly?



Figure 3 Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah giving a brief overview of SFMP/Pra Resilience Planning



Figure 4 Theophilus Boachie-Yiadom facilitating the SWOT Analysis

Based on these questions, the following responses were retrieved;

- According to the Chairman of the Committee, the mandate of the committee is to address problems associated with Agriculture and coastal management. We channel these concerns to the assembly for them to be addressed.
- Also, the committee was set up to ensure the implementation of the wetlands and shorelands managements bye laws by the the SDA and to see to other Agriculture and and fisheries issues.
- The Committee does not have any ToR.
- There are no guidelines from the District Assembly to the Committee.

After collating all these responses from the questions and and key issues that emanate from the discussions of their meeting, Theophilus and Kyei facilitated the SWOT Analysis below;

Goal

- To ensure the general development of Agriculture and coastal/fisheries issues in the Shama District.

Mandate

- To address problems associated with Agriculture and coastal management. These concerns are channelled to the assembly for them to be addressed.

Terms of Reference

- Identify relevant issues and make recommendations to appropriate agencies or committees.
- Ensure that relevant committees conduct effective education and sensitization exercises for citizens.
- Mobilise resources for District Farmers’ and Fishers’ Day Celebration and other relevant Agriculture and coastal issues.
- Oversee or positively influence the selection and award scheme for winners of Farmers’ and Fishers’ Day Celebration.
- Protect the shores from human activities such as sand winning, building, etc.
- Ensure that the Agriculture department is well resourced to execute its mandate
- Ensuring availability of fisheries input.
- To reduce/curb illegal fishing.

Table 1 SWOT Analysis Table

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREATS
Availability of Bye-laws approved by assembly	Copies of bye-laws not available to committee members.	Leverage support from CSOs	Inadequate capacity of the assembly members to understand their roles and responsibilities

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREATS
Committee inaugurated by assembly	Limited understanding of the bye-laws and their roles	Availability of Fort St. Sebastian (ecotourism potential)	Inadequate capacity of the assembly departments to understand their roles and responsibilities
Some level of support by the assembly (space for meeting, allowance, etc)	Limited resources (allowances, timeliness,) causing committee's inability to meet as mandated quarterly	Anlo Beach and the Pra River Estuary Wetland Area (Availability of lands for relocation)	Attitude/commitment of technocrats to respond to concerns/complaints
Diversity of membership (Some level of technical and administrative decision making)	Low enforcement of bye-laws	Coastal games like beach soccer	Bureaucracy
The committee has the power to co-opt members (to support human resource)	Lack of action plans	The area falls within the oil and gas enclave	Low capacity in resource mobilization (internal and external)
		President of the GNCFC resides within the district	
		Local knowledge available	

CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman expressed gratitude to FoN and USAID/Ghana for enlightening the committee on the various issues. He also appealed for support from FoN in terms of resources needed in holding meetings. FoN should assist the committee to visit all the landing beaches to interact with the chief fishermen and the like on the activities. Incentives should be given to farmers to encourage the youth to also go into farming. The Agriculture department should be furnished with a computer.

FoN has come to really help us and to enlighten us with this SWOT analyses and helping us identify the opportunities we have and I believe in a year's time, there will be a lot of changes in the SDA. Theophilus Boachie-Yiadom also encouraged the committee to also look at other internal and external areas for resource mobilization. The meeting ended around 2:54 pm and was adjourned to Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Programme Outline

AGRICULTURE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE

19TH APRIL, 2016 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

- List paragraph Opening prayer
- Welcome address by the chairman
- Adoption of the previous minute
- **BRIEF REPORT FROM HEADS OF DEPARTMENT**
- Agriculture department
- Environmental department
- Planning department
- Brief report on sanitation along our beaches.
- Brief report from the landing beach committees.
- How to protect our wetland and the beaches
- Registration of canoes in the district
- Registration of farmers within the district
- How to exploit revenue for the development of shama district, relevance in taking conveyance fees from truck operator who carry tons of fish in the district on daily basis.
- Report from Friends of the Nation
- Other matters
- Closing prayer.

Appendix 2
Picture Gallery



Figure 5 Pictures from the Workshop



Figure 6 Participants at the Workshop