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USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)



Artisanal fishing canoes line up along the shoreline in Ghana. (Credit: Donald Robadue, CRC)

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COASTAL
RESOURCES
CENTER

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Hen Mpoano



USAID/Ghana SFMP: In Brief

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed approximately \$24 million US Dollars to the implementation of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). The objective of this 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 a multi-pronged approach:

- 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 will benefit from this project.



Far left, a woman sells fish in Tema. Near left, children play on a canoe. (Credit: CRC)

USAID has selected the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at The University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography as lead implementer of the SFMP. In leading the project, CRC will work with The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission along with a consortium of international and local partners, including SNV Netherlands Development Organization, SSG-Advisors, Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, the Central & Western Fish Mongers Improvement Association in Ghana/CEWEFIA, Daasgift Quality Foundation Development Action Association (DAA), and Spatial Solutions. The project also will contribute to the strengthening of marine and fisheries management capabilities at the University of Cape Coast and coastal spatial planning capacity of districts in the Central and Western Regions.

The SFMP builds on the accomplishments of the USAID-Ghana Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Program, known locally as the Hen Mpoano (Our Coast) initiative. In this follow-on, the USAID /Ghana SFMP will focus efforts on the small pelagics fisheries along the entire coastline as well as the demersal fisheries and essential mangrove fish habitat in the Western Region. The project will promote ecosystem-based and adaptive management approaches. Additionally, improvements in the value chain of smoked fish, important to tens of thousands of women fish processors and marketers will be supported. The project also will implement activities aimed at reducing child labor and trafficking in the fisheries sector in the Central Region of Ghana.