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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Elmina Bakatue Celebration



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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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: The paramount chief of Elmina, Nana Kojo Conduah IV, dancing after the durbar (Credit: Opare Addo, J.)

Detailed Partner Contact Information:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Telephone: +233 0302 542497 Fax: +233 0302 542498

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Maurice Knight | Chief of Party maurice@crc.uri.edu |
| Kofi Agbogah | Senior Fisheries Advisor kagbogah@henmpoano.org |
| Nii Odenkey Abbey | Communications Officer nii.sfmp@crcuri.org |
| Bakari Nyari | Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org |
| Brian Crawford | Project Manager, CRC brian@crc.uri.edu |
| Ellis Ekekpi | USAID AOR (acting) eekekpi@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

Resonance Global
(formerly SSG Advisors)
182 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
+1 (802) 735-1162
Thomas Buck
tom@ssg-advisors.com

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

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

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

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

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>
Friends of the Nation: <http://www.fonghana.org>
Hen Mpoano: <http://www.henmpoano.org>
Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

ACRONYMS

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| CCM | Centre for Coastal Management |
| CEWEFIA | Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association |
| CRC | Coastal Resource Center |
| CSLP | Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project |
| DAA | Development Action Association |
| DFAS | Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science |
| DMFS | Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences |
| DQF | Daasgift Quality Foundation |
| FtF | Feed the Future |
| GIFA | Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GNCFC | Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council |
| HM | Hen Mpoano |
| ICFG | Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance |
| MESTI | Ministry of Environment Science and Technology |
| MOFAD | Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development |
| NDPC | National Development Planning Commission |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| SFMP | Sustainable Fisheries Management Project |
| 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 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| ACRONYMS..... | iii |
| LIST OF FIGURES | v |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... | vi |
| SECTION 1: BACKGROUND | 1 |
| SECTION 2: OUTCOME..... | 1 |
| SECTION 3: CONCLUSIONS..... | 1 |
| APPENDIX 1..... | 2 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|---|---|
| Figure 1. Carriers of the Chief's palanquin in branded attire during Elmina Bakatue festival celebration..... | 2 |
| Figure 2. Regatta on 'Benya' Lagoon during the Bakatue festival celebration..... | 2 |
| Figure 3. Placards walk through the principal streets of Elmina during the festival | 3 |

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We thank the almighty God for giving us the strength to work on this report. We acknowledge management, board and staff of CEWEFIA for their technical support. Appreciation goes to the paramount chief of Edina traditional area, the chief fisherman of Elmina and all stakeholders who supported the festival. Thank you for good work done.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Subject to the efforts to raise awareness and build constituencies to support project implementation of Best Fisheries Practices, Post-harvest Value Chain, and Child Labor and Trafficking, the Central and Western Fish Mongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) under the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) supported and participated in the celebration of the Elmina Bakatue Festival. The Bakatue festival is celebrated by the people of Elmina in the first week of July every year, to depict abundant fish to be harvested that particular year.

SECTION 2: OUTCOME

Thousands of fisher folks from Elmina and its environs gathered at the forecourt of the Elmina castle to witness and partake in the festive event. In attendance were the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Central Regional Minister, Members of Parliament, representatives from Fisheries Commission, Municipal and District Assembly, Paramount and Sub-Chiefs from within and outside Elmina as well as Chiefs from neighboring countries including Togo.

CEWEFIA under the SFMP participated in the Regatta and Durbar on Tuesday (2nd July) and Saturday (8th July) respectively. On Tuesday, there was a float and placards walk through the principal streets of Elmina to create awareness of Best Fisheries Practices, Child Labor and Trafficking, and Post-Harvest Value Chain. Also information, education and communication materials were distributed. Branded boats with positive messages prompted dignitaries to address fisheries related issues.

On Saturday, SFMP collaborated with the opinion leaders to create awareness. Most of the carriers of the Chief's palanquin were in attire branded with positive fisheries messages such as "Stop illegal fishing now", "End Child Labour and Trafficking now", etc.

Surprisingly, the paramount Chief of Elmina centered his speech on fisheries issues which rarely happens. All stakeholders including University of Cape Coast representatives dwelt on the fact that revamping Ghana's fisheries demands everybody's participation.

CONCLUSIONS

It is envisaged that continuous awareness creation, education and community sensitization would increase knowledge of every actor in the fisheries sector to understand the consequential impacts of fisheries value chain interventions on natural resources, food safety and security.

APPENDIX 1



Figure 1. Carriers of the Chief's palanquin in branded attire during Elmina Bakatue festival celebration



Figure 2. Regatta on 'Benya' Lagoon during the Bakatue festival celebration



Figure 3. Placards walk through the principal streets of Elmina during the festival