SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Elmina Bakatue Celebration

JULY, 2017
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Cover photo: The paramount chief of Elmina, Nana Kojo Conduah IV, dancing after the durbar (Credit: Opare Addo, J.)
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Resonance Global: https://resonanceglobal.com/
SNV: http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.