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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) PROGRESS REPORT



OCTOBER 22, 2014, TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

(Revised 10-31-2018)



THE UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Hen Mpoano



SNV



**SPATIAL
SOLUTIONS**

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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Cover photo: Fisherman at sunset in Ahanta District. (CREDIT: CRC photo)

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Acronyms

AOR	Administrative Officer Representative
CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CoP	Chief of Party
CR	Central Region
CRC	Coastal Resources Center at the Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project
DA	District Authorities
DAA	Development Action Association
DAASGIFT	Daasgift Quality Foundation
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
EG	Economic Growth
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FC	Fisheries Commission
FtF	Feed the Future
FoN	Friends of Nation
HM	Hen Mpoano
GoG	Government of Ghana
LAN	Local Area Network
LoP	Life of Project
METSS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Support Services
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SS	Spatial Solutions
SSG	SSG Advisors
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program
WR	Western Region

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Acronyms	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	iii
INTRODUCTION	3
PROJECT OVERVIEW	3
PROGRESS TO DATE PER THE AGREED DELIVERABLES	4
IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND DELAYS	11
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS AND CORRECTIVE ACTION	11
OUTCOMES OF ANY HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AND FIELD VISITS	11
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD	11
ASSESSMENT OF THE VALIDITY AND EFFICACY OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE OUTCOMES AND RESULTS	13
PROGRESS ON GENDER	13
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE	13
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	13

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary of Results to Date	8
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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Theory of Change showing causal links, sequences of interventions, intermediate outcomes and impacts, including linkage to USAID, FtF and DO2 intermediate result	5
Figure 2. SFMP applied management activity areas	5

INTRODUCTION

This is the first Progress Report for the SFMP covering the period from the project award start date through the end of the 2014 calendar year (October 22- December 31, 2014). As this reporting period covers start-up activities conducted in the first 11 weeks of the program, the normal requirements and contents of progress reports as per the cooperative agreement do not necessarily apply to this report. Nevertheless, the format for progress reports as stipulated in the Cooperative Agreement was used for this report.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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 are expected to benefit from this project, and if successful, working with the Government of Ghana implements to implement needed management measures, tens of thousands of metric tons of additional high quality low costs food supply from fisheries could be gained via improved and sustainable management of the marine fish stocks in Ghana's waters.

The Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at The University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography is the lead implementer of the SFMP. In leading the project, CRC works 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, and 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 district authorities 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 is focusing 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.

The SFMP compliments and coordinates closely with the two other sister projects in the USAID/Ghana Coastal Program Portfolio: The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) and the UCC/DFAS Institutional Strengthening Project.

The SFMP is developing nested governance arrangements and management plans for fishery management units at three ecosystem scales, utilizing adaptive co-management approaches tailored to each unit. An immediate focus at the national level is on the small pelagic stocks, which are most important to food security and employment and are near collapse.

Key government clients of this project, MOFAD, FC and the Regional Coordinating Councils and associated districts in the CR and WR, will be provided with direct support to build their capacity. Additional direct support is provided to a number of local NGOs and women's associations that are active in fisheries management issues and serving either as core or supporting partners in the implementation of this project. SFMP is investing considerable project resources in capacity development at UCC as well.

The theory of change for the project is depicted in Figure 1 below and described in more detail in the SFMP program description as well as in the work plan. The geographic scope of the applied management activities are shown in Figure 2 below.

PROGRESS TO DATE PER THE AGREED DELIVERABLES

During this progress reporting period the main activities undertaken involved project start up and the development of the Year1 Work plan along with the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan) and the draft Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP). All three of these plans were submitted to USAID on December 19th. Initial comments on the work plan were received from USAID on December 23rd.

Development of the Year 1 work plan, EMMP and M&E Plan: After the signing of the Cooperative Agreement between URI and USAID/Ghana, a URI team consisting of the CRC Project Manager, the CRC Business Manager and the Senior Fisheries Advisor traveled to Ghana in November to consult with partners on work plan development. The URI Chief of Party was unable to travel to Ghana with this team due to an ankle injury. A participatory process was used to develop the Year 1 work plan using the program description and associated Life-of-Project (LoP) results as a guide. A 2-day work planning workshop was held in Accra from November 17-18 that included key staff from all implementing partners organizations, the USAID AOR, as well as representatives from MOFAD and the Fisheries Commission. Subsequent to this workshop, additional meetings were held with specific implementing partners and with the FC and MOFAD to further obtain inputs and refine proposed Year1 activities and priorities. The SFMP National Activity Manager, Kofi Agbogah, represented the CoP and SFMP in several follow up meetings and discussions with national partner agencies and the USAID AOR. During this period, the URI team also worked with partners to refine LoP and Year 1 targets relative to the proposed indicators in the M&E Plan and undertook other start-up tasks described below.

Figure 1. Theory of Change showing causal links, sequences of interventions, intermediate outcomes and impacts, including linkage to USAID, FtF and DO2 intermediate result

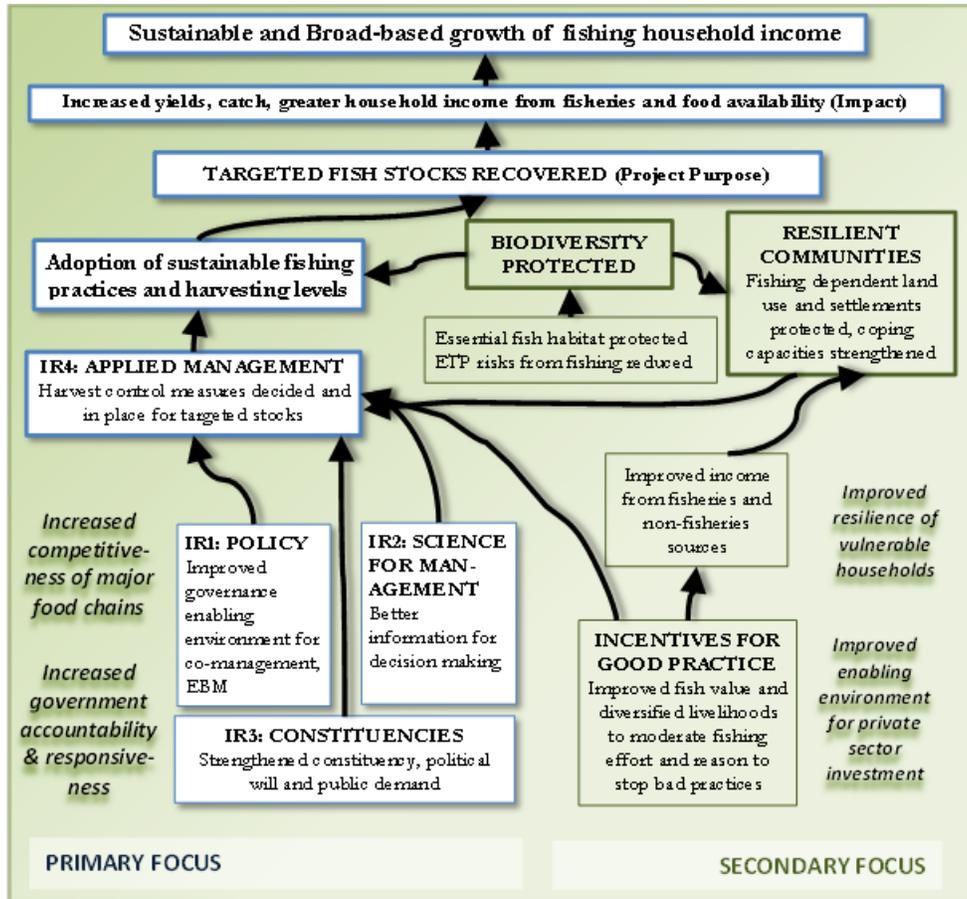
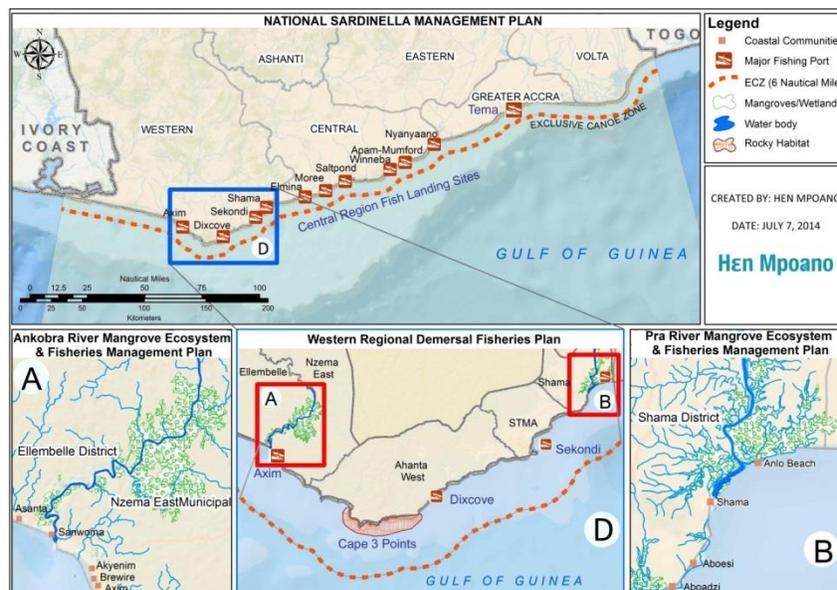


Figure 2. SFMP applied management activity areas



Administrative Start-up: During this reporting period the URI Team, working closely with the National Activity Manager, started to put in place arrangements for establishing an Accra-based project office. An office location was selected at 10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, and a lease signed with the landlord and down payment made on the lease. Specifications for purchasing of computer and other MIS equipment and software were developed and bids requested from local firms. Request for bids for establishing a high speed internet connection and LAN system at the office location were also sent to local firms. Arrangements for the purchase of project vehicles with local Ford dealer were also started.

The Team also prepared registration papers to make the URI Project Office a legal entity for the purposes of operating project business and hiring of full time in-country contract personnel. An Accra-based project bank account was opened at Ecobank and an initial test wire transfer deposit sent from URI to ensure account functionality.

Employment contracts were signed with the M&E Specialist and the Communications Specialist, two of the key positions and host country personnel named in the cooperative agreement. A recruitment firm was hired to advertise and screen applications for the Project Finance Officer and Office Coordinator Positions. The firm is in the process of screening applications that are being received prior to making short list recommendations to URI.

Letters of Authorization were provided by URI to implementing partners that allowed them to undertake limited spending and activities related to work planning and assistance to URI with administrative start-up tasks. These start-up costs can be billed to URI and will be built into their initial sub-award budgets and scopes of work. Work began as well in preparing the terms of reference and language for the contracts of the core and supporting implementing partners.

In order to facilitate smooth and efficient communications between the Accra-based Project office and partners and the URI home office, the following has been accomplished:

- Purchasing of Adobe Connect SFMP accounts for web-conferencing and web-meetings whereby all implementing partners including USAID and Government counterparts can log on for virtual attendance as long as they have an internet connection.
- Creation of a shared Ghana SFMP calendar on the CRC home based server for group posting of all travel and other important project events.
- A Dropbox folder established for internal sharing of documents with implementing partners
- Hosting the CRC domain crcuri.org as an external email host for in-country contract staff using the Google Apps system.
- Establishment of a web-based inventory database system for use in-country that meets the needs of USAID and URI inventory reporting and audit functions and with Excel output capabilities. This system will be linked to use of bar code labels for all items purchased and listed in the inventory and a smart phone bar code reader for conducting annual inventory audits.

Strategic Communications: The SFMP developed a short 2-page project brief that was distributed to all project partners and GOG counterpart agencies. Press releases were also prepared and distributed both in the US as well as in Ghana announcing the project award, its goal, results expected, implementing partner team, and key beneficiaries. The project also developed an initial document style and format template for the preparation of administrative and technical documents (e.g. Work plan, EMMP, M&E Plan and Progress Report) consistent with USAID co-branding guidelines and policies and the Project Marking Strategy and Branding Plan.

Strategic planning with USAID Coastal Program Sister Projects: The USAID UCC/DFAS Project Director attended the SFMP work planning workshop to help facilitate coordination and integration

among these two USAID sister projects. In addition, conversations were also had with staff at the CLSP concerning SFMP Year one project activities and areas of potential assistance and coordination in the Western Region in particular. Arrangements were also made to bring the DFAS Department Chair, Denis Aheto, and the CCM Director, John Blay, to URI for a series of meetings to discuss strategic planning and cooperation among the two projects and explore broader linkages among our respective institutions.

This Progress Report for the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) covers the second quarter of the FY 15 fiscal year (Project Year 1) encompassing the period from October 1 through December 31, 2015

Revision of PMP Results

Note: The table below has been revised to capture results according to each quarter. Some indicator data were revised to reflect indicator definition at the end of the year as part of internal review process. Also some of the results delayed and were reported in the next quarters as an update of the previous quarter result thereby creating inconsistencies in the way the previous quarter result as reported. The revision of this result table is as a result of project internal review and the adoptive management process. This revision did not change the annual figures reported.

Table 1: Summary of Results to Date

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Q1 FY15	Q2 FY15	Q3 FY15	Q4 FY15	Annual Performanc e Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of hectares in areas of biological significance and/or natural resource showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-1)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of direct project beneficiaries (number), the percentage of which are female (percent) (IDA Core Indicator) disaggregated by rural, urban (IR 2.1 indicator from Ghana CDCS)1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (FTF 4.5.1(24)) 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	0	Fish analysis Small pelagic analysis Child labor analysis	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop and implement managed access fisheries management plans	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	0	806	SSG & URI 38	N/A	N/A	N/A	38 (5%)	Y

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Q1 FY15	Q2 FY15	Q3 FY15	Q4 FY15	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-26)	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of DAs supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	0	4	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	0	2	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	0	560	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FTF 4.5.2-38)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))	0	3	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 (67%)	Y
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(27))	0	4	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	4 (100%)	Y

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Q1 FY15	Q2 FY15	Q3 FY15	Q4 FY15	Annual Performanc e Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(12))	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N
Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/ 4.8.2-6)	0	404	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (4.8.1-29)	0	4040	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N

Note: The Results Performance Column depicts level of achievement expressed as a percentage of Actual versus Planned.

- Table was inserted to capture Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28) after internal review of results conducted at the end of the year.

IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND DELAYS

The Chief of Party, Brian Crawford, sustained a severe ankle injury just prior to USAID/Ghana making the award to URI as the lead implementing partner for the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. Unfortunately, his prevented his travel to Ghana in November with the rest of the URI team to engage in direct discussions with project partners and government counterpart agencies. This problem was mitigated by delegation in his absence of tasks undertaken in-country to the CRC Project Manager, Don Robadue and the National Activity Manager, Kofi Agbogah. Additional extensive use of Skype, telephone and email was used to facilitate communications between the Chief of Party, the USAID AOR and partners.

At URI, the grants assistant at CRC assigned for this project accepted another job offer within the URI system in December. A transition plan has been worked out whereby the grants assistant will continue to support the project through the start-up phase (end of January) prior to transitioning to the new job. CRC is working with the URI human resources office to advertise and recruit new administrative support staff needed for this project, which is the largest single grant ever awarded at URI.

CRC has also had a series of discussions and meetings with the office of sponsored projects at URI that has administrative and financial oversight responsibilities for this grant. Specific procedures and special provisions are being put in place for sub-awards to some of the in-country partners that are considered of higher risk with respect to financial management of grant funds. This will include submission of detailed back up information with invoices, frequent internal audits, and in subsequent years, external audits. Internal URI policies and procedures to more efficiently and rapidly address clearings of in-country office advances are also being planned.

None of the above mentioned issues are anticipated to cause any significant delays in project implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

Not applicable and none recommended at this time.

OUTCOMES OF ANY HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AND FIELD VISITS

The National Activity Manager has had several meetings with officials at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission and several letters have been exchanged between the Chief of Party and the Minister of MOFAD. The most recent communications concerned MOFAD and FC inputs to the Year 1 work plan, To the extent practical, these have been addressed in the work plan although we have communicated to the Minister that we do not intend to directly support aquaculture activities as she requested.

No high level field visits have taken place during this reporting period.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

- USAID/Ghana (AOR) approval of; the first annual Work Plan through FY 15 (September 30, 2015); the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (which includes the PMP and KM&L Plans), and; the Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP).

- Drafting of scopes of work and execution of sub-awards for all implementing partners (SNV, SSG, Hen Mpoano (HM), Friends of the Nation (FoN), CEWEFIA, DAA, and Daasgift). Operating advances for initial activities and payments for start-up expenses wire transferred.
- Establishment of the Project Accra-based office: Procurement of furnishing/outfitting, installation of a server, LAN and WIFI system; purchasing of computer equipment and capital purchases – vehicles.
- Project administrative, financial and banking systems for the Accra office up and operating
- Staffing of Accra Project Office including relocation of URI key staff, CoP Brian Crawford and Fisheries Advisor Najih Lazar to Accra. Bakari Nyari (M&E Specialist) and Pat Mensah (Communications Specialist) start full time as Project Key Staff and based in Accra. Other URI direct hire local staff (Finance/Administration Officer and Office Coordinator), and other office personnel hired and oriented. SSG Strategic Partnership Advisor contracted and starts assignment in the Accra Office.
- Orientation meetings with key clients, stakeholders and related donor projects including USAID, MOFAD/FC, WARFP, METSS, FtF Policy Project, CLSP, UCC Strengthening Project, Development Partners Environmental and Natural Resources working group. Briefings with USAID/EG team, Maritime Security Group, State Department Child Labor staff, and with Washington-based World Bank staff regarding coordination with WARFP.
- Orientation retreat for all staff and partners in late February 2015 on the SFMP design, Year 1 work plan, results expected, project standard operating procedures and policies, standard provisions of the cooperative agreement, The M&E Plan, PMP data collection and QA/QC procedures, TraiNet, EMMP and environmental review procedures, marking and branding policies, communications protocols, clarification of roles and responsibilities, team building.
- Official Launch Event in Accra in early March, 2015
- Convening the project steering committee.
- Technical work will begin on establishing the science and technical working group and baseline studies and stakeholder engagement for the small pelagics fisheries management plan, study of child labor and trafficking, UCC capacity development, completing the communications and gender strategy. Work will also begin on the Ankobra ecosystem plan, organizational assessments of implementing partners, the fisheries supply chain and related value chain improvements.

International travel planned for the next quarter is described below.

January Travel:

Denis Aheto and John Blay from UCC to URI January 4-10 to discuss UCC and URI strategic linkages and coordination.

Cindy Moreau, CRC Business Manager to Accra Jan 9-27 to coordinate office set up and interviews for Accra office admin positions

Bob Bowen to Accra January 19 - February 4 to Accra for project office MIS set up, LAN, Wi-Fi and computer systems purchased and installed.

Brian Crawford (and spouse) and Najih Lazar travel to Accra January 22 to take up full time Accra assignment posts

February/March Travel:

URI team members to attend and facilitate Implementing Partner Retreat and training of Accra personnel in project Standard Operating Procedures (Don Robadue, CRC Project Manager, Carol McCarthy, CRC Communications Adviser, and Cindy Moreau, CRC Business Manager)

Chris Damon of the URI EDC will travel to work with Hen Mpoano on the GIS Data Hub and Ankobra ecosystem plan, Dr. Elin Torell on implementing the gender strategy, and Karen Kent to engage in organizational assessments in collaboration with SNV. SSG Advisor Tess Zakaras will attend the partner orientation workshop and orient the SSG local strategic partnership advisor top SSG tools and procedures

ASSESSMENT OF THE VALIDITY AND EFFICACY OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

Not applicable in this reporting period.

PROGRESS ON GENDER

Not applicable in this reporting period.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Draft EMMP submitted and pending review and approval

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item	Total Funds Obligated (US\$)	Expended Y1, Q1 (US\$)	Pipeline (US\$)	Estimated Expenditures and Encumbrances Y1, Q2 (US\$)
URI Personnel	398,444	17,800	380,644	132,815
URI Fringe	202,105	-	202,105	67,368
SFMP Staff	193,660	-	193,660	160,897
Consultants	124,564	-	124,564	41,521
Other direct costs	476,467	6,044	470,423	339,685
Travel	613,124	18,893	594,231	204,375
Subcontracts ¹	2,538,260	-	2,538,260	2,538,260
Capital Equipment	60,602	-	60,602	60,602
Tuition	-	-	-	-
Total Direct	4,607,226	42,737	4,564,489	3,545,523
Indirect	574,175	11,112	563,063	298,132
Total	5,181,401	53,849	5,127,552	3,843,654

¹ Subcontract funds will be fully encumbered within Q2