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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

National CSOs and Fisheries  
Alliance Engagement Meetings for  
Implementation of the National  
Fisheries Management Plan



**AUGUST, 2017**

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
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OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Friends of the Nation

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**Cover photo:** Engagement meeting. Credit: FoN

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SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

## **ACRONYMS**

CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAA	Development Action Association
FA	Fisheries Alliance
FoN	Friends of the Nation
FtF	Feed the Future
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NFMP	National Marine Fisheries Management Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## FORWARD

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. More than 100,000 men and women involved in the local fishing industry will benefit from this project. Working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission, SFMP aims to end overfishing of key stocks important to local food security through:

- 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

The USAID/Ghana SFMP is focusing its efforts on implementing Ghana's National Marine Fisheries Management Plan, gazetted in 2015, with an emphasis on the small pelagics fisheries along the entire coastline as these stocks are the leading source of animal protein supply in the Ghanaian diet. The project is promoting ecosystem-based and adaptive management approaches, improved law enforcement and co-management of local fish stocks in lagoons and estuaries. Additionally, improvements in the value chain of smoked fish, important to tens of thousands of women fish processors and marketers are supported.

Highlights of key Life-of-Project Results in the current M&E Plan include the following

- Management measures in place that allow for the recuperation of tens of thousands of metric tons of food protein supply lost due to severe overfishing and poor management, and a rebound of fish stocks, indirectly benefiting over 130,000 fishermen, fish processors and traders.
- 735,241 hectares of natural resources and fish habitat under more effective management.
- Declines in Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) fishing due to an increase in arrests and successful prosecutions and improved voluntary compliance.
- UCC producing management-relevant, science-based information used in decision-making.
- Inclusive participation by under-represented groups, women and youth in decision-making.
- 4,324 people (a majority women) benefiting from improved livelihoods, access to micro-credit, adoption of more efficient and profitable fish smokers and fish product value-added.
- Several climate-resilient fishing communities and strengthened capacity of District Assemblies (DAs) to promote and support resilient community policies and initiatives.
- A decline in child labor and trafficking in the fisheries sector in the Central Region (CR).
- A Fisheries Act that allows co-management and use rights in Ghana's fisheries to be realized.

## **1. OBJECTIVE OF THE ALLIANCE MEETING**

Scientific evidence has repeatedly pointed to the fact that Ghana's fisheries are in crisis. Declining volume of fish landed, coupled with increasing demand for fish for the increasing population growth had compelled Ghana to become a net importer of fish consumed. Fish has always had far-reaching implications for food security in Ghana. Fish supplies naturally augment food availability and ensuring good nutritional outcomes particularly for the poor and rural populations, because the vast number of people engaged in the fishing industry earns incomes that improve upon their access to food.

The Government of Ghana in an attempt to improve fisheries governance and address the challenges of the fisheries sector developed the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan (NFMP) in 2015 in consultation with stakeholders.

The NFMP has recommendable management proposals including; promoting co-management and reduction of fishing efforts in all fleets. Also key measures in the NFMP include; reduction of fishing days and vessels capacity, introduction of closed season for trawlers and Inshore vessels, introduction of additional holidays and increased enforcement, etc. These measures, if successfully implemented will contribute to the rebuilding of the small pelagics stock which is also the key goal of SFMP.

Experts have strongly recommended that the NFMP must be socialized widely through stakeholder consultations and extensive communication to ensure that stakeholders understand the content to gain their acceptance and support for the implementation.

Keys stakeholders that could provide supportive services for the implementation of the NFMP include Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media. However, CSOs and the Media have not been engaged adequately and this has been a major setback for the implementation of the NFMP.

Against this background, a two-day National CSOs and Fisheries Alliance<sup>1</sup> meeting was organized to share and discuss the content of the NFMP with the CSOs to improve their understanding and promote their participation and support for the implementation of the NFMP.

The key output of this meeting was the development of an action plan that outlined key interventions areas where CSOs and the media would undertake to support the implementation of the NFMP. The action plan was also developed with the view to promote CSOs active participation in Ghana's fisheries sector.

### **1.1 Participation and Key Outputs of Meeting**

The National CSOs and Fisheries Alliance meeting was held in Accra at the Ampomaah Hotel in East Legon on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Participants for the meeting were 43 (including 12 Females and 31 malse) from CSOs, Media Organizations, Researchers and Fisher Associations.

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<sup>1</sup> Fisheries Alliance is a network of Fisheries interest groups CSOs (NGOs CBOs, FBOs, etc.), Media Organization, Research Institutions, Journalist and individuals with the mission to support the growth of Ghana's fisheries sector through empowerment (Alliance strengthening) and collective actions.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that participated in the meeting included; OXFAM, CARE International, SNV, GIZ, UCSOND, Friends of the Nation (FoN), Green Earth Organization, CEWEFIA, The Numbians, Oil Watch, KASA, PENAF, FORVEG, ACTWAR, SYND, CSRM, CEPTRAD, etc.

Representatives from the, USAID/SFMP project and the EU -FAR BAN BO project also participated in the meeting.

Representatives from Fisher Associations were also present at the meeting, they included:

- National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA).
- Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC).
- National Inland Canoe Fishers Council (NICFC).
- Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA).

Also present at the meeting were the following Media Organizations: Citi FM, New Crusading Guide News Paper, Public Agenda Newspaper, Adom FM and Adom TV.

Representatives for the University of Cape Coast and the University of Rhode Island were also present at the meeting.



**Figure 1. A picture of cross-section of participants at the meeting**

## **1.2 Key Outputs of Meeting**

The meeting provided the platform for the participants to be informed on the content of the NFMP; electronic copies of the NFMP were circulated to participants and a power point presentation on the NFMP was made, the presentation explained the content and the implementation status of the NFMP. After the presentation participants were informed and they discussed the progress of the implementation of the NFMP, especially the actions on the close season, additional fishing holidays, co-management vessels moratorium, etc.

The meeting also discussed some fisheries sector projects been implemented to support the NFMP implementation, these projects included the SFMP project and the EU funded far Ban Bo project.



The meeting concluded with an action plan that outlined additional interventions that Civil Society Organizations and the media could undertake to support the implementation of the NFMP to contribute to sustainable fisheries management in Ghana.



**Figure 2. Group picture of participants**

## 2. SESSIONS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

To ensure proper dissemination of information, the meeting began with the **Information Session** and concluded with an **Action Planning Session**.

### 2.1 The Information Session

This session provided background information to participants and informed them about the status of Ghana's fisheries stocks, key challenges and the management measures and interventions being implemented.

Presentations made in this session included:

- a) Fish stock Assessment by the STWG,
- b) NFMP content and Implementation and
- c) Fisheries Sector Donor Interventions and Projects.

The presentation on Fisheries Stock Assessment conducted by the USAID/SFMP Scientific Technical Working Group (STWG) was made by Mr. Najih Lazar from CRC of the University of Rhode Island. The presentation shared scientific information about Ghana's current fish stock levels and explained the scientific evidence of the declining fish stocks. The presentation recommended key management actions that could reverse the trend of declining stock to contribute to rebuilding the marine fish stock. (refer to Appendix A-1 below for the detail presentation).



Figure 3. Pictures of Najih Lazar making his presentation to the participants

His presentation provided scientific evidence to prove that Ghana's fisheries resources have seriously been overfished and there was urgent need to reduce the current fishing effort to about 40% in all fleet. The presentation recommended the introduction of additional gear regulations and conservation measures (in addition to those outline in the NFMP) to promote rebuilding of the stocks. The presentation also recommended that need for stakeholder support and active participation in fisheries governance to contribute to addressing the challenges of the sector.

The National Marine Fisheries Management Plan (NFMP) presentation was made by Mr. Kyei Yamoah of FoN. He shared the key Fisheries challenges identified by Government and explained government's approach of addressing the challenges through the NFMP. The presentation explained the key management measures proposed in the NFMP which includes; Close season, mechanisms for reduction of fishing efforts, introduction of additional fishing holidays for canoes, registration and capping of canoes, fisheries co-management pilots, increased enforcement and other recommendable actions.

This presentation provided the platform for the participants to discuss and appreciate the content of the NFMP.

Two presentations were made on fisheries sector donor interventions and projects; the first presentation was on the USAID/ SFMP project and the second presentation was on the EU funded Far Ban Bo fisheries Project. The presentations explained the various projects and outlined the key objectives and activities of the projects and how the projects were contributing to addressing the challenges of the fisheries sector.

## **2.2 The Action Planning Session**

This session created the platform for participants to discuss and reflect on the presentations. After the discussions participants develop an action plan with key activities to support the implementation of the NFMP, also participants agreed on additional actions towards strengthening of the CSOs Alliance on Fisheries to ensure active CSOs participation in Ghana's fisheries sector.



**Figure 4. Pictures of participants at the action planning session**

### 3. THE ACTION PLAN

Participants concluded that the NFMP was a comprehensive document and its implementation will contribute to sustainable management of Ghana's fisheries resources. Participants also resolved that there was need for civil society and the media to actively participate and support the implementation of the NFMP.

In view of this, an action plan was developed at the end of meeting to guide CSOs participation in fisheries governance. The premise for the action plan was that:

*If Civil Society Organizations including the media could provide evidence-based fisheries policy recommendations and follow up with advocacy and strong voices to ensure accountability, transparency and inclusive fisheries governance, **then** Ghana's fisheries sector governance would improve and key challenges could be addressed that will contribute to rebuilding of the Marine fish stock.*

Participants therefore agreed that the action plan should focus on enhancing transparent and accountable fisheries governance and specifically guide the Alliance to engage in evidence-based policy advocacy. The advocacy would be informed by Research and Documentation and would seek to influence reforms in Ghana's fisheries sector guided by relevant best practices, internationally established conventions, protocols, agreements and the United Nations SDG goal 14.

#### 3.1 Action Plan

##### **Purpose of Action Plan**

The action plan below was developed with the objective to enhance active civil society participation in Ghana's fisheries governance. Elements of this action plan included activities to support the implementation of the NFMP.

The actions proposed in the plan are also in line with the Vision, Goal and Objectives of the CSOs Fisheries Alliance as stated below:

**Vision of the Alliance:** Ensuring that Ghana's fisheries sector is consistent with environmental sustainability, improve governance while taking into account the life and dignity of the resource dependent population and their right to life and livelihood by 2030.

**Mission:** To support the growth of the fisheries sector through empowerment (Alliance strengthening) and collective actions.

**Goal:** To contribute to a sustainable management of fisheries resources and the environment through transparent and responsible use of the fisheries resources in an equitable and a sustainable manner for development - where people live a life of dignity, thus realizing their right to life and livelihood.

##### **Objectives**

##### **The key objectives are:**

- To conduct Research and Documentation in key thematic areas in the fisheries sector to for evidence-based advocacy
- To influence national agenda for sustainable fisheries management through active Policy Advocacy and Engagement with key stakeholders and the media.
- To promote Transparency and accountable Fisheries Governance.

### 3.2 Action Plan Detailed Tasks

Table 1. Action plan task table

ISSUE	POLICY ACTION	ACTIVITY / TASK	STRATEGY	RESOURCES
<p><b>NFMP Communication:</b> The NFMP has very useful management measures that if successfully implemented will contribute to rebuilding the Marine Fish stocks, however knowledge and understanding of the NFMP is low; several stakeholders including key policy makers, Coastal MPs, traditional leaders, CSOs, Media and local fishermen such as canoe owners, fishing crew members, etc. do not know and understand the content of the NFMP and the ecological justification and therefore are unable to support the implementation.</p>	<p>Support the communication of the content of the NFMP widely to key stakeholders through Media engagements, etc. to ensure their understanding, acceptance and active support.</p> <p>Period From 2017 to 2019</p>	<p><b>Organize</b> Media engagement; Develop and share Press release, press statements and briefs using social media, print and electronic media.</p> <p>Organize TV/Radio Programs to explain the content of the NFMP.,</p> <p>Organize Press Conference, etc.</p> <p>Share the content of the NFMP to literate stakeholders through emails, text messaging, etc.</p> <p>Organize stakeholder meetings to explain content of NFMP.</p>	<p>Develop communication plan with key messages linked to the various target groups. Use low cost approach e.g. social media to share text, voice and video messages.</p> <p>Partner media houses to secure low cost airtime for TV/Radio interviews. Include more media/ journalist in the Alliance as members to support communications. Collate contact list of key stakeholders (e.g. MPs, Chiefs, Fishers, journalist, etc.</p>	<p>Resources for collation of key contacts.</p> <p>Man hours of some Alliance members.</p> <p>Funds for other media engagement</p>
<p><b>NFMP adverse Impact Documentation:</b> The NFMP proposes very useful fisheries management measures, however the implementation of the capacity and effort reduction actions in the plan could have some adverse effects on fishers and coastal communities.</p> <p>The Impacts of Close Season, canoe moratorium, reduction of trawler fishing days, additional holidays, etc. needs to be studied to inform how to mitigate them.</p>	<p>Assess the social, economic and political impacts of the implementation of the NFMP and propose key mitigation actions to address the impacts.</p> <p><b>Period:</b> <b>Completed by 3rd Quarter 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Conduct technical research</b> to document any adverse Impacts of the Implementation of the NFMP.</p> <p>Produce policy recommendation paper to inform with specific actions to mitigate the impacts on fishers and coastal communities.</p>	<p>Develop concept note/ proposal and engage potential partners including Fisheries Commission /MOFAD, development partners, etc.</p> <p>Conduct desk top review to collate impacts of implementation of such measures and how they were mitigated elsewhere.</p> <p>Conduct FGDs, interviews etc. with affected groups, etc.</p>	<p>Funds for field work.</p> <p>Man hours of some Alliance members.</p>



ISSUE	POLICY ACTION	ACTIVITY / TASK	STRATEGY	RESOURCES
<p><b>IUU Policy Advocacy: IUU fishing has serious effects on fisheries</b>, experts estimate that IUU fishing costs the global economy up to \$23 billion annually, which represents around 20% of the global seafood catch. In developing countries such as Ghana, IUU fishing impacts smaller-scale fishers by stealing fish from near-shore waters or undermining the ecosystem on which the fish depend. In Ghana IUU fishing is a significant threat to marine fish stock. If IUU is not addressed the implementation of the NFMP will produce results.</p>	<p>Assess the nature and impacts of IUU fishing in Ghana and identify the key actors and beneficiaries, the policy challenges to inform policy reforms and actions. <b>Period: in 2018</b> (completed by 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)</p>	<p>Conduct a Rapid Appraisal and Produce a report that analyses the actual impact of IUU on Ghana Fisheries.</p> <p>Produce a policy discussion paper with finding of the study.</p> <p>Use report to engage the media and policy makers.</p>	<p>Develop concept note/ proposal and engage potential partners including EU, FAO, World Bank, Fisheries Commission /MOFAD, development partners, etc.</p>	<p>Funds for research.</p> <p>Man hours of some Alliance members.</p>
<p><b>Low Advocacy in Ghana’s Fisheries contributing to weak fisheries governance:</b> CSOs and media voices is low in Ghana’s fisheries sector, this lack of strong advocacy has allowed weak social accountability by the fisheries managers. As a results consultation and involvement of key actors in the planning and decision making is low.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a comprehensive Advocacy Plan to contribute to improvements in fisheries sector governance.  Period: To be completed in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017</p>	<p>Conduct Media engagements include workshop with journalist to inform them about the fisheries sector issues to get them to play a more effective watch dog role.</p> <p>Hold dialogue meetings with policy makers, Fisheries managers, etc.</p>	<p>Have a small working group to develop a draft CSOs advocacy plan and share with Alliance members for fine tuning.</p>	<p>Funds for workshops and dialogue meetings.</p> <p>Man hours of working group members.</p>

ISSUE	POLICY ACTION	ACTIVITY / TASK	STRATEGY	RESOURCES
<p><b>Low Transparency and accountable Fisheries Governance:</b> The Fisheries Act of 2002, Act 625 established the Fisheries Development Fund (FDF) as the main fund for fisheries management in Ghana. The NFMP also proposes that monies from this FDF should be used to fund activities in the NFMP. 100% of proceeds from Fines, Permits, fishing Licenses, government budget allocation and donor support for fisheries, etc. goes to this fund. However, fisheries managers are unable to use the FDF to implement key activities to rebuild the declining stocks while they complain about inadequate funds. Also the management of the FDF is highly perceived to be non-transparent nor transparent. The FDF issue has been great concern to stakeholders.</p>	<p>Promote the Transparency and Accountability of the FDF.</p> <p>Assess the management of the FDF and Assess any Auditor General's report of the FDF.:</p> <p>Period: By 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)</p>	<p>Conduct an assessment of the management of the Fisheries Development Fund –<i>Value for Money Audit</i>.</p> <p>Use Findings of the FDF assessment to inform advocacy for reforms for the management of the funds.</p>	<p>Collate information for this assessment where possible secure the services of an expert to track and analyze the legal application and management of the FDF</p>	<p>Funds for consultancy</p> <p>Man hours of some Alliance members</p>



### 3.3 Alliance Strengthening

Participants concluded that the Fisheries Alliance needed organizational strengthening to enable the successful implementation of the actions plan above. Towards this, the OCA assessment conducted by SNV (under the SFMP project) was discussed and participants proposed specific actions towards strengthening the Alliance for active participation in fisheries governance.

Participants also recommended that, to sustain the actions the Alliance should;

- a) **Build capacity of the members of the Alliance** through information sharing, resource mobilization, partnerships, collaboration and coordination of efforts at local, national and sub-regional levels.
- b) **Mobilize critical masses of key stakeholders for a united voice** to advocate and continually engage for positive reforms of the fisheries sector.
- c) **Mobilize resources** through fund raising networking and strategic partnership.

**Table 2. Alliance Strengthening: ACTION / TASK**

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>Partners and Support</b>
1. Strengthening Capacity of Alliance members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate profiles of all Alliance members and short Bios/Resume for Individual members.</li> <li>• Conduct capability and Needs Assessment for members.</li> <li>• Develop strategies for internal learning and sharing.</li> </ul>	By end of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017	Kyei, -lead And All Alliance members ...
2. Completion of governance documentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion and adoption of Constitution.</li> <li>• Develop administrative and Procedure manuals.</li> <li>• Develop a Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>	By 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018	Far ban Bo Project Alimo-Lead Richster, Noble, Gilbert, Kyei, ...etc
3. Improved Governance of the Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstitution of steering committee</li> <li>• Reconstitute Board of Directors</li> <li>• Develop a Board Charter.</li> <li>• Develop a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (GESI).</li> </ul>	In 2018 by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	SNV-Sarah lead And all members
4. Develop a Knowledge Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Communications strategy,</li> <li>• Develop Websites, IEC Materials, SMS, Social media platforms to publicize the Alliance.</li> </ul>	By 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018	Oxfam-Naana-lead, Gilbert, Kyei, etc .....
5. Fund Raising and Resource mobilization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Concept Papers on key thematic areas and engage development partners.</li> <li>• Develop proposals and engage with potential funders, supporters, etc.</li> </ul>	From 2017 to 2020	Richster-Lead All Members
6. Improve the Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open a bank account for the Alliance</li> <li>• Define subscription modalities and payment and also</li> </ul>	By end of 1st Quarter 2018	Kyei, Richster, Nobel, Nana Solomon, etc
7. Strengthen External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop song/fact sheet and external relations protocols:</li> </ul>	By 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018.	Gilbert, Kyei, Yaw Ampofo, Marvin, etc

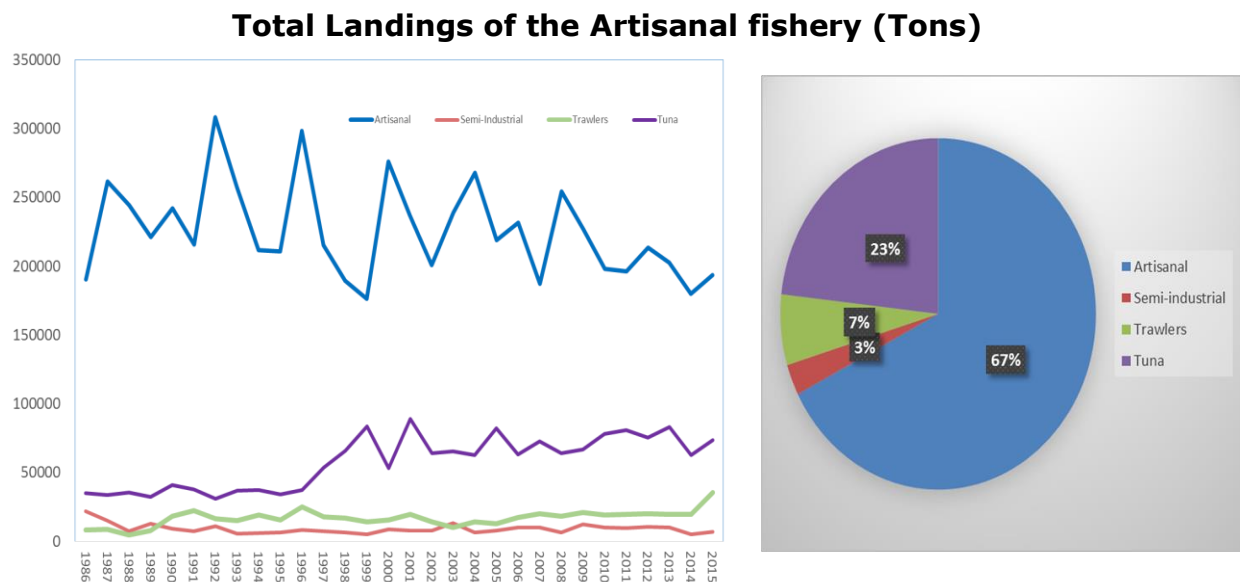
<p>Relations and strategic Partnerships:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revive relationships with academia and research institutions and Develop MoUs for collaborations.</li> <li>• Identify and partner key research institutions.</li> <li>• Engage in join advocacy with the media,</li> <li>• Strategically increase media membership in the Alliance (form a media wing of the Alliance).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
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## APPENDIX A-1: SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FISHERIES STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION

The presentation on the status of the fisheries sector in Ghana was made by Mr. Najih Lazar from CRC of the University of Rhode Island and Senior Fisheries Advisor to SFMP project. He began his presentation with the of background of the fishery sector and explained that importance of included the following:

- Provides employment to about 10% of the population.
- Supports the nutritional value by providing 60% of the protein needs .
- Contributed 4.5% to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Ghana’s GDP but revenue from the production of oil and gas and expansion of the economy has contributed to the reduction of the contribution of fisheries to GDP.
- Generates Gross value of 254.4 million dollars/year for the country.
- Contributes revenue of over 1 billion dollars/year to Ghana’s economy.
- Offers over 200,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- Provides export value of over 100 million dollars/year.
- Is a major food sources with average consumption of is 23 kg/cap. (average world 13 kg/cap).
- It is a way of life in most coastal communities.

He continued his presentation and explained using graphs that the total production from marine fisheries has been declining since 1999, from almost 420 000 tonnes to 202 000 tonnes in 2014. Total fish exports showed a peak in 2003 with the value at USD 120 million but declined sharply to USD 44 million, while the peak of total fish export in quantity was at about 60 000 tonnes (product weight) in 2001.



**Figure 5. A graph and chart showing fish landings by the various Fleets.**

He explained that the artisanal fisheries lands 67% of the total fish landed and the Tuna vessels lands about 23%, Trawlers land 7% and the Semi-industrial land about 3%. He noted that in order to sustain the *per capita* annual consumption of fish (estimated at around 24.2 kg in 2010), imports have increased substantially in the most recent years, reaching USD 373 million in 2013. As a result, the seafood trade balance moved from a USD 33 million surplus

in 1997 to a USD 319 million deficit in 2013. He noted that the contribution of the artisanal fisheries was:

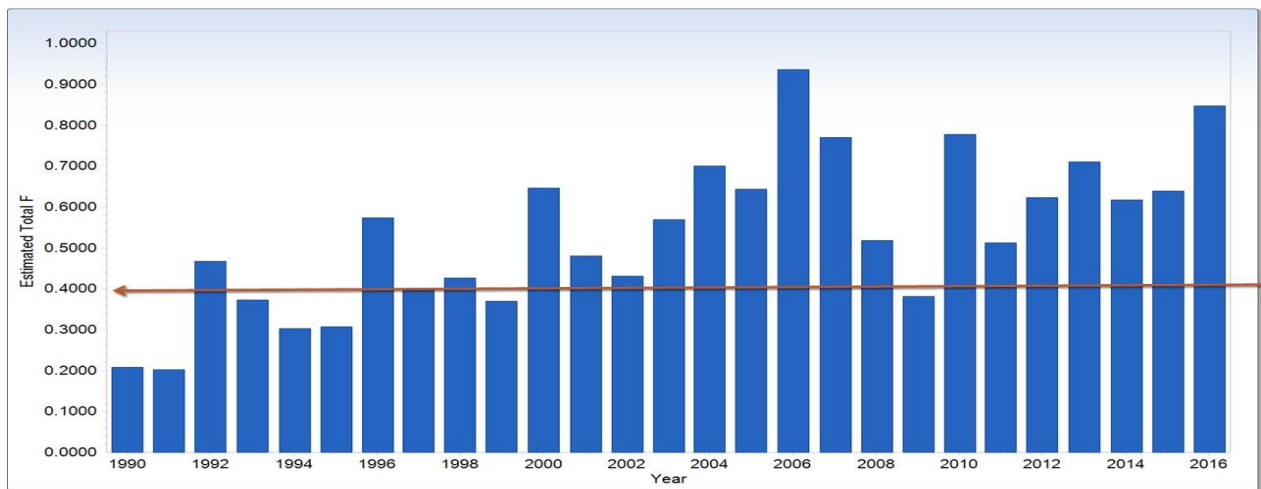
- It contributes (75%) to the total domestic marine fish production in the country
- Employs 98% of the total number of people engaged in the fishery sector. (Dovlo et al, 2016).
- Sector is no more profitable due to the large number of canoes
- 

**STOCK STATUS OF THE SMALL PELAGIC FISH STOCKS IN GHANA**  
**Estimated Biomass and Fishing Mortality Trends**



**Figure 6. A graph showing the stock status of small pelagics fish stock in Ghana.**

**STOCK STATUS OF THE SMALL PELAGIC FISH STOCKS IN GHANA**  
**Estimated Fishing Mortality Trends**



**Figure 7. A graph showing the estimated fishing mortality trend**

He explained from the graph A-1.2 and 1.3 above that the fishing mortality increases beyond sustainable levels. He noted the high mortality was contributing to a rapid decrease the biomass due to the following man-made and environmental factors:

Man-made factors

- Open access caused overcapacity (5000 – 12,000 canoes in 20 years).
- Overfishing (average net increased and input of large canoes and bycatch from foreign trawlers).
- Lack of adequate enforcement caused use of illegal methods and gears (small mesh, light fishing, saiko, dynamite, chemicals...etc).

- Lack of adequate infrastructure caused wasteful fishing practices leading to post harvest losses.

Environmental factors

- Upwelling and unexpected interactions.
- Climate change.

**He indicated that there was urgent need to reduce fishing mortality to 0.40 that is about 40% of the current rate.**

Opportunities: He noted that though there were challenges in the fisheries sector, there were opportunities to address the challenges and these included:

- Current National Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019) seeks to implement effort reduction strategies in the various sectors and improve data collection and enforcement.
  - ARTISANAL CANOE SECTOR
    - Registration of all canoes
    - Closed or control access on new entrants (moratorium)
    - Formalize traditional holidays and add a second traditional fishing holiday
  - INDUSTRIAL & INSHORE FISHING SECTOR
    - Reduce number of vessels by 50% (phase out or old ones)
    - Nationalize the operation and access to the industrial trawling sector
    - Introduce Closed seasons
    - Improve enforcement on illegal fishing (IUU).

He explained that the profits within the canoe sector could increase by as much as \$30 to \$50 million per year within 10 years of implementing management arrangements that focus on controlling access (World Bank 2011).

He concluded that the fishing sector presents a significant economic growth opportunity, creating wealth, health and sustainability of the blue environment for millions in Ghana, therefore there was urgent need to address the challenges and ensure sustainable fisheries management.

## APPENDIX A-2: NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NFMP)

The presentation of the National Fisheries Management Plan (NFMP) was made by Mr. Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah. In his presentation he explained that the section 42 (1) of the Fisheries Act of 2002 (Act 625) mandates the Fisheries Commission to prepare Management Plans for the Fisheries Sector. He noted that the current NFMP was therefore prepared by the mandate of the Fisheries Act and the plan is being implemented from 2015 to 2019 with the following key objectives:

- To reduce the excessive pressure on Fish stocks.
- To ensure that fish stock within the marine water of Ghana are exploited within biological acceptable levels.
- To ensure the effective fisheries legislation is implemented to protect The Nation's fish resources.
- To protect the marine habitats and biodiversity.
- To contribute to enhancing export opportunities and strengthening value addition
- To strengthen participatory decision making in fisheries management (co-management).

He used the table below to explain the key issues to be addressed by the NFMP.

**Table 3. Key issues facing the National Fisheries Management Plan**

<b>Key issues</b>	<b>Description</b>
Inadequate information on Fisheries Biology and Stocks.	There has been very little scientific information known about the biology and current biomass levels of the main commercial species. Available information suggests demersal fish stocks are overexploited and require rebuilding strategies.
Excessive fishing effort exerted in all fisheries	There has been excessive fishing capacity, especially in the trawl sector, requires effort reduction to more sustainable levels. The exact extent of the overcapacity in the canoe sector is not currently known. The overcapacity translates into levels of fishing effort above the MSY level of effort representing both economic and biological overfishing. Urgent reduction of fishing effort by management action is required.
Weak enforcement of Fisheries Regulations	There has been weak enforcement of the fisheries laws and regulations due to inadequate resources (both human and financial) and adequate conflict resolution mechanisms. More strategic use of existing resources to support new conservation actions should be applied.
Low levels of protection of marine Biodiversity	There has been inadequate protection of specific marine ecosystems. Better protection of sensitive ecosystems is required to ensure replenishment of biomass, particularly of coastal areas which are known nursery areas of various commercial species. Closure of known spawning and nursery areas is required.
Inappropriate procedures in certifying fish for export.	There was need for catch monitoring and catch certification to ensure informed management decisions. There are no clear cut guidelines on verification of fish and fishery product for export often leading to rejects.

He explained that the NFMP had the following key measures to address the issues identified;

a) Measures for Artisanal (Canoe)

- To conduct Survey and registration of all Active Canoes and control new entrants to the fisheries after the registration.
- Increase the Traditional Holiday to two days per week.
- Implement of co-management for the artisanal sector.
- Modernization of the Fleets (fiberglass, steel, etc) replace old canoes.
- Promote community group involvement in post-harvest and facilitating business opportunities.
- Implement of Insurance and Pension Scheme.

b) Measures for Trawlers

- Reduction in fishing days for trawlers (scaled annually).
- Introduce Close Season (1-2months up to 4 months in a year).
- Control the Number and capacity of Vessels by:
  - Deletion of inactive boats
  - 50% reduction in fishing days over the next 3 years for Trawlers (scaled annually)
  - Cancellation of licenses for violators of fisheries laws and regulations (All).
  - Replacement scheme for registered vessels

He noted that additional measures in the NFMP included;

- Maintain and upgrade vessel monitoring system (VMS), Increase effectiveness of fisheries enforcement.
- Enforce strictly provisions in Act to eliminate IUU fishing
- Collaborate effectively with regional bodies on MCS strategies to combat IUU fishing;
- Bycatch mitigation measures,
- Develop a Data Collection Regime
- Undertake Stock assessments survey.
- Collaboration with Universities and Close Areas (Marine Protected Security Areas-MPSA).

He concluded that the NFMP is a very good document and had the following goal and purpose

- Goal: To rebuild fish stock to enhance the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities, create employment within National and International Framework and standards and improve food security as well as contribute to GDP and foreign exchange earnings.
- Purpose: To provide a strategic framework for reversing the declining trend of fish resources and establish a sound management regime to ensure that fish stocks are exploited sustainably in an enhanced environment.

He explained that successful implementation of the NFMP will contribute to the rebuilding of the small pelagics stocks so there was need for stakeholders to support the implementation.



## **APPENDIX A-3: FAR BAN BO PROJECT**

The presentation on the Far Ban Bo Project was made by Mr. Kwame Mensah the Project Manager from CARE. In his presentation he explained that the Far Ban Bo is an EU funded 4 year fisheries governance project from 2017 to 2020. He noted that Far Ban Bo which means ‘protecting fisheries livelihoods’ in Fante is implemented by a consortium consisting of CARE (the Lead), Friends of the Nation (FoN) and Oxfam in collaboration with key fishery stakeholders, including smallholder fishery associations, the Fisheries Commission, Fisheries Alliance, etc. He explained that the project is designed to address the challenges of overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices also including Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishery fishing, Low Compliance and weak capacity for monitoring and law enforcement within this sector. He noted that the project also focuses on tenure rights security for fish landing sites and pilot mechanisms for grievances and dispute resolution among the fisher groups (Industrial, Inshore and Artisanal/ Smallholder fishers). He said the project hopes to strengthen the capacity of fishery associations to engage in equitable fisheries governance and promote safeguards livelihood for poor and vulnerable smallholder fishers. He explained that the Far Ban Bo Project will cover 30 districts in the Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions and will work closely with key fisheries stakeholders in the Marine and Inland fisheries sector.

He shared that the overall objective of the Far Ban Bo Project is to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources.

He also explained that at the end of the four-year period, the Far Ban Bo Project is expected to have:

- Empowered Smallholder Fishery Associations to take Active Part in Fisheries Governance by strengthening the capacities of smallholder fishery associations as well as CSO Fisheries Alliance to engage in fisheries sector governance processes.
- Piloted Effective IUU Monitoring and Grievance Mechanisms to ensure that fishing practices take place within the context of approved laws and regulations. The Action will also create platforms and spaces for interactions between all fishery stakeholders to discuss, monitor and implement fishery laws and development strategies and policies to improve its governance and sustainability.
- Contributed to Improving Livelihoods and Nutritional Status of Smallholder Fishers and other users of fishery resources through Social and Economic Safeguards. This expected result is to contribute towards ensuring that smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources especially women have access to sustainable fishery and alternative diversified livelihood strategies to ensure food and nutrition security for themselves and their families.

He concluded his presentation and explained that Far Ban Bo action will help develop and demonstrate sustainable livelihood models along the fishery value chain, analyse alternative and diversified livelihood options, and enable fishers to save and invest in new and or improved livelihood strategies through capacity strengthening including financial support such as introduction of savings and loans groups schemes.

## **APPENDIX A-4: SUSTANABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The Presentation on the Sustainable fisheries management (SFMP) project was made by Mr. Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah. He explained that the problems of Ghana's Marine fisheries sector were complex, tragic, and all too-common severely overexploited fisheries put at risk tens of thousands of metric tons of fish in the local food fish supply and threaten the livelihoods of over 130,000 people and many more fisheries-dependent households.

He explained that the SFMP funded by USAID/Ghana is implemented by a consortium of partners led by the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) of the university of Rhode Island, USA. He noted that local implementing partners include: Friends of the Nation, Hen Mpoano, CEWEFIA, DAA, DAASGIFT, etc. He explained that the goal of the SFMP is to contribute to rebuilding marine fisheries stocks and catches through adoption of responsible fishing practices with expectations of increased yields and catch which will lead to greater, sustained household income and food availability. He noted that SFMP project seeks to:

- Improve legal enabling conditions for implementing co-management, use rights, capacity and effort-reduction strategies;
- Improve information systems and science-informed decision-making;
- Increase constituencies that provide the political will and public support necessary to make the hard choices and changed behavior needed to rebuild Ghana's marine fisheries sector; and these components feed into
- Apply management initiatives for several targeted fisheries ecosystems.

He also explained that the key objectives of the SFMP project is to contribute to the following:

- Recoup tens of thousands of metric tons of food protein supply lost due to severe overfishing and poor management.
- A rebound of key stocks, benefiting over 130,000 fishermen, 18,000 fish mongers.
- Significant declines in IUU fishing due to an increase in arrests and successful prosecutions.
- Improved voluntary compliance and active support of polices and rules by stakeholders.
- Information and communications technology (ICT) for mobile apps for fisheries management.
- Inclusive participation by under-represented groups, women and youth in decision-making.
- 13,000 people (the majority being women) benefiting from diversified livelihoods, access to micro-credit, adoption of more efficient and profitable fish smokers and fish product value-added.
- Climate-resilient fishing communities and strengthened capacity of District Assemblies to promote and support resilient community policies and initiatives.
- A decline in child labor and trafficking in fisheries in the Central Region.

He concluded that the SFMP builds on the gains and lessons learned under the previous USAID/Ghana Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Project (ICFG) initiative, led by CRC from 2009 to 2014.