



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Vol. 1 (1)

## Our Fish. Our Coast. Our Future.



### FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

#### FOR GHANA'S FISHERIES: USAID, MOFAD AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE!

**T**he fisheries sector is gradually receiving more attention in Ghana as stakeholders commit to rebuilding a collapsing sector. In October 2014, the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, committed funds to the implementation of a five-year Feed the Future Initiative-Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) in Ghana. The project, which was launched by Ghana's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, MOFAD, Hon. Sherry Ayittey - seeks to rebuild marine fish stocks through the adoption of sustainable practices and exploitation levels.

Fish is the most traded commodity in the world, surpassing that of gold, cocoa and other natural resources, yet it receives little attention the world over putting in jeopardy a great majority of livelihoods that depend on it. The fisheries sector employs more than 12 million Africans as

fishers and processors, and fish is a leading export for Africa with an annual export value of nearly \$3 billion. More than 25% of the world's dietary protein is provided by fish.

In Ghana, fisheries resources result in annual revenues that in some years exceeded US\$1 billion and contributed as much as 4.5% to national GDP while accounting for about 11% of Agriculture GDP. Of great economic and ecological significance is the high abundance of small pelagic species (mackerel, sardinella and anchovies). The sector directly employs 135,000 fishers in the marine capture sub sector alone, plus another 71,000 inland fishers and 27,000 women involved in fish processing and marketing. The sector provides over 2million indirect jobs along the value chain and service provision. It is estimated that the fisheries sector employs up to 20% of the national workforce. Despite the level of wealth in the sector,

Ghana's fisheries are under drastic decline for the past decade or two. The small pelagic fishery which, is the mainstay of the majority of the fishers is near-collapse! The canoe fishery's annual sardinella catch reduced to about 17,000 MT in 2012, from a record high of 120,000 MT just over a decade ago. Weak governance, overcapacity and an open access fishery, which allow overfishing from an increasing number of canoes and boats, contribute to the crisis.

In the last year, USAID/Ghana SFMP has been working with the MOFAD and the Fisheries Commission, fisheries associations and communities to reverse the trend. The project is national in scope and works along entire coastal stretch of Ghana; contributing to the Government of Ghana's fisheries and agriculture development objectives as well as the USAID Development Objectives to reduce poverty and hunger. *continued on page 4*

*Photo: From left - right: Chairman of Food & Agric. Parliamentary Select Committee/ Member of Parliament, Shama (Hon. K. Essilfie); Member of Parliament, Takoradi - W/R (Hon. D-Mensah); Dep. Minister, W/R (Hon. Alfred Gyan); Paramount Chief, Eastern Nzema, W/R (Awulae Kpanyili); Hon. Sherry Ayittey (Minister of Fisheries); Andy Karas (Mission Director, USAID/Ghana); Dr. Anton Post (Director, CRC-URL); Dr. Brian Crawford (Chief of Party, SFMP).*

#### CHILD LABOUR PRACTITIONER TURNS ADVOCATE

A mother of seven, who trafficked her 13-year-old daughter and allowed her sons, aged 7 and 10 years, to labor in fisheries instead of attending school, is now an anti-child labor and trafficking advocate

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#### ALSO IN THIS EDITION...

- National Marine Fisheries Plan Unveiled at Stakeholders Dialogue
- Stakeholders Poised for Change; Consultations Reveal
- SFMP and WARFP Philippines Study Tour Paves the Way
- USAID Sister Projects on the go!

#### SUCCESS STORIES

- From Ground to Tabletop
- Fishers Become Researchers in Collaborative Research Intervention

April, 2016

Bi - Annual Newsletter



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GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES PLAN UNVEILED AT STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE



From right – left: Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Min. for Fisheries, on the podium; MP for Shama and Chairman of Food & Agric Select Committee, Hon. Essilfie; Minister, C/R, Hon. Aquinas Quansah; USAID/Ghana MD, Andy Karas; FC Board Chair, B. Nutsukpui; SFMP CoP, Brian Crawford; World Bank, Nyaneba Nkrumah; EU, Chris Ackon

**A** National Fisheries Dialogue organized by the MOFAD and Fisheries Commission with support from USAID/Ghana SFMP has ended successfully with participating stakeholders pledging support for implementation of a National Fisheries Plan and measures, such as closed seasons as noted in the Plan. The dialogue culminated in the publication of a communique containing highlights of the dialogue proceedings.

The 3-day event in early November, 2015, focused on the theme, “Rebuilding Ghana's Marine Fish Stocks: Challenges and the Way Forward.” The event provided a platform for relevant fisheries stakeholders to know about the approved 5-year National Marine Fisheries Plan (2014 – 2019) and to make recommendations to MOFAD/FC on modalities for operationalizing and implementing the plan, as well as to establish a platform for strengthening collaborations between national and grassroots level fisheries stakeholders and an avenue to contribute to collective decision-making. The dialogue brought together key fisheries stakeholders, including industry representatives: the Canoe Fishers Council (GNCF); Inshore Fishers Association (GIFA); Industrial and Trawlers Association (GITA) and National Association of women Fish Processors and Traders (NAFPTA). Others were Traditional Authorities, Coastal Members of Parliament and Select Committee on Food and Agriculture, World Bank, European Union, USAID Mission, local and international universities, local NGOs, other civil society groups and MOFAD/FC.

The Minister for Fisheries, Honourable Sherry Ayittey highlighted the importance of fisheries, stressing the need to implement some action options, such as protected areas and a 2 – 3 months closed season to help rebuild stocks; as contained in the Plan. The USAID/Ghana Mission Director - Andy Karas - pledged the US Gov-

ernment's continued support towards improved food security in the fisheries. A Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) presented preliminary findings of status of fish stocks (small pelagic species). The STWG was formed by the project to provide science-based counsel to support legal framework for improved fisheries management

The various stakeholder groups provided comments on the Plan to key decision makers present at the dialogue, including the Minister of Fisheries, Chairman of the Fisheries Commission, Members of Parliament on the Select Committee for Agriculture, which is responsible for fisheries, among others.

*Conclusions are that the small pelagic fish stocks (including anchovies, sardinella) are overfished, which means the abundance of fish in the sea has been depleted to the extent that maximum yields cannot be obtained. Furthermore, overfishing is still occurring on these stocks; the stocks cannot rebuild to obtain higher annual yields in the future. Collapse of the stocks could occur and do irreparable long-term harm to the industry if fishing effort is not reduced.*

Next steps include formation of an Operational Committee for implementation of the Plan and roll out of a national communications campaign in support of Plan implementation. These take effect from January 2016.

## STAKEHOLDERS GIVE NOD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES



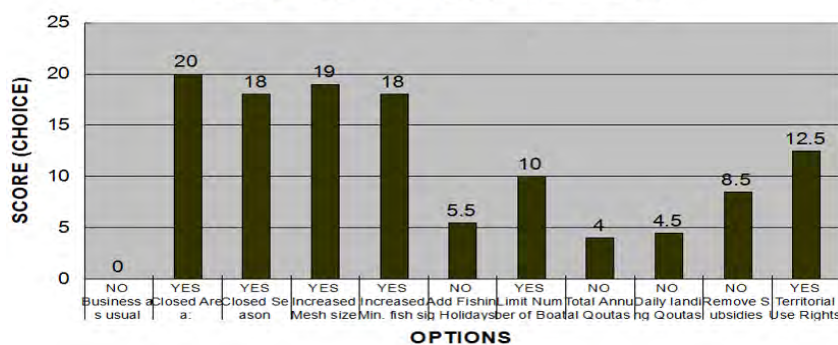
**A** series of regional stakeholder consultations conducted by SFMP partner Friends of the Nation (FoN) mid-2015 have revealed that business as usual is no longer the way to go. The various fisheries associations, including canoe fishers, inshore, industrial and trawlers and women processors, among others, are now ready for change!

The stakeholder consultations organized in the four coastal regions of Ghana brought together fisheries associations, enforcement agencies, traditional authorities, fisheries managers, etc., and were intended to elicit views on ideal fisheries management action options necessary for rebuilding the stocks. Eleven action options were discussed, including closed seasons, closed areas, increased minimum mesh size, additional fishing holidays, business as usual options, etc.

These stakeholder consultations preceded the national fisheries dialogue and were aimed at providing inputs and supporting the agenda for the national dialogue in accordance with the Fisheries Plan objectives.



### TOTAL RESULTS (ALL REGIONS)



Graph on results by region

# USAID/GHANA COASTAL PROGRAM

SFMP is one of three projects that constitute the USAID/Ghana Coastal Program; just like the SFMP, the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project – CSLP – is a follow on to the four year Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Initiative. ICFG was a successful governance project funded from USAID's Biodiversity earmark and later from the Feed the Future funding mechanism.

To sustain the gains from ICFG, CSLP and SFMP were born. The third project – The Fisheries and Coastal Mgt. Capacity Building Support Project – is implemented by the University of Cape Coast's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and the Centre for Coastal Management. The three projects organize periodic coordination meetings and knowledge management and learning workshops.

## CSLP PROMOTES BEEKEEPING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

**E**ighty-three farmers, including ten women, have benefitted from two trainings on beekeeping concepts. These farmers prioritized beekeeping management as a livelihood activity of interest compatible with existing practices and have set aside secondary forest lands for the beekeeping livelihood. The intervention forms part of the USAID-funded Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) and implemented by the US Forest Service. Beneficiary districts include the Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro districts of Ghana's Western Region. CSLP works throughout the six coastal districts of the Western Region to strengthen capacity for low emissions development through improved coastal forest landscape management.

The intervention is one that will provide the added benefit of conserving forest patches and tree cover on farms. The use of these secondary forest patches for beekeeping is an important climate change mitigation activity as farmers see the need for conserving these patches to promote pollination and development of the apiary

rather than clearing them and converting them to agricultural land. The apiaries will hopefully provide valuable honey and associated by-products that can be sold locally to meet high demand throughout the country. Thanks to project efforts with enlisted farmers, these areas are being conserved and will help maintain important stocks of sequestered carbon. A beehive was given to one promising farmer in each of four communities across the three districts. The enthusiastic farmers started practicing beekeeping at the next swarming season (which is typically late July to early November). Additionally, beehive construction training was conducted for six carpenters/artisans; three of whom were CSLP enlisted farmers. These carpenters have now gained new skill and will hopefully be engaged by additional farmers to



Construction of a Beehive

use their knowledge and skills to build additional hives and thereby gain additional income.

Initial reports are that farmers have already contacted one carpenter to engage his services on such construction. CSLP intends to engage these newly-trained carpenters on further beehive construction needs as well.



From right to left: Prof. K. Yankson – UCC; Peter Trenchard – USAID/Ghana; Ms. Sherry Ayithey – Fisheries Minister; Osabarima Kwesi Atta II – Paramount Chief, Cape Coast; Prof. N. Buah – UCC; Prof. S. Y. Mensah - Physical Sciences, UCC.



Cross section of Audience

**T**he Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Sherry Ayithey has pledged govern-

ment's support towards the establishment of a Fisheries College in Anomabo – Central Region. She made the statement at the launch of the USAID Ghana Capacity Strengthening Project at the University of Cape Coast.

## FISHERIES MINISTER PLEDGES SUPPORT

FOR FISHERIES COLLEGE AT USAID/UCC PROJECT LAUNCH

The project, a Feed the Future Initiative, contributes to USAID's Development Objectives of sustainable and broadly shared economic growth. This is a 5-year project running concurrently with the SFMP and seeks to improve sustainable

management of Ghana's marine and coastal resources with a purpose to strengthen capacity for sustainable fisheries and coastal management. Under this project, the Center for Coastal Management (CCM) at UCC and the Department of Fisheries (DFAS) are working closely with SFMP for strengthened organizational and human capacity for UCC, including training for PhD students and research grants for undergraduate students

# PHILIPPINES STUDY TOUR

## OPENS DOORS FOR IMPROVED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



Some participants at sea



Participants in a group photo with a guest from industry

A five-day study tour to the Philippines – for 20 critical fisheries stakeholders from Ghana – has resurrected a new hope for Ghana's Fisheries management.

Drawing lessons from the Philippines experience of a fishery similar to Ghana's, participants expressed hope that one crucial management measure necessary for rebuilding the stocks is the closed

season. The tour was jointly organized by USAID/Ghana SFMP and the World Bank's West African Regional Fisheries Program.

Participants included representatives of the Fisheries Commission and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, chief fishermen, women fish proce-

ssors, the marine police and FEU and the Fisheries Alliance. The tour presented a platform for participants to interact with key stakeholders in the fishing sector. Again, participants earned the opportunity to learn about the Philippines experiment with closed seasons, the participation of the private sector in sustainable fisheries management, and community-based co-management and enforcement initiatives, such as the Bantay Dagat system, which is a network of community volunteer patrols for enforcement of closed seasons, marine protected areas, etc; these best practices can be replicated in Ghana.

Returning to Ghana from the tour, participants have held a series of meetings with their communities and constituents; sharing lessons learned also at big events, such as the National Fisheries Dialogue, and preparing the minds of peers for the implementation of impending management measures as enshrined in the Fisheries Management Plan.

*"I believe a closed season is possible for Ghana to implement. If the Philippines that has a fishery similar to Ghana's, has been able to implement a closed season and seen results, then Ghana can follow suit"*

– said Nana Duncan,

Chief Fisherman of Elmina and Regional Executive of the Ghana Canoe Council.

## SFMP Year One Milestones

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- \* Policy development by organizing national fisheries dialogues on key issues in the marine sector on improved regulatory processes for fisheries management

- \* 750 MSMEs (mostly women businesses) improved through training in business development and value addition.

- \* Strengthened law enforcement to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing via training of over 60 marine police and fisheries enforcement officers on fisheries laws and improved approaches to shore-based policing of regulations as well as via workshops to improve the success rate of prosecutions to serve as greater deterrence to illegal practices.

- \* For the first time, establishment of a multi-stakeholder Science and Technical Working Group to advise the Fisheries Commission on status of fish stocks and management measures to address over-fishing using a science based approach

- \* Building constituencies to support measures to rebuild fish stocks through community, regional and national level stakeholder engagements using a blend of multimedia and mass media tools as well as community stakeholder events

- \* Improved reporting in the local press through the training of more than forty (40) journalists on fisheries issues, resulting in more than 30 recent news items and talks shows on fisheries following the media engagement.

## FISHERIES MINISTER PLEDGES SUPPORT

cont'd from pg. 3

Other activities include research on marine and coastal resources for conservation and management of biodiversity as well as educating stakeholders (schools, communities, policy makers) in order to increase knowledge for natural resource management.

The launch aimed among other things to create awareness of the new project and to encourage collaboration with other coastal projects. In a keynote address, the Minister of Fisheries applauded USAID for their contribution to improved fisheries management initiatives in Ghana. She also pledged the Ministry's commitment to the project towards improved food security in Ghana. "Despite the contribution of the fisheries sector to the socio-economic development of the country, the sector has not been able to achieve its full potential and so the Government is very much committed to work with the University of Cape Coast towards the establishment of a Fisheries College at Anomabo," Hon. Sherry Ayittey.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. J.N. Buah in an address noted that activities to deliver the outcomes of the project will not only operationalize the Centre for Coastal Management in the university, but will also support innovative, applied research, technology, teaching, training and extension as inputs for improved management and livelihoods in marine and coastal environments in the country.

## MEET OUR PARTNERS

The USAID/Ghana SFMP is funded by USAID/Ghana and implemented by Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island with a consortium of eight other partners. For more information about the partners and project activities, see links below:

Coastal Resources Center

<http://www.crc.uri.edu>

Hen Mpoano

<http://www.henmpoano.org>

Friends of the Nation

<http://www.fonghana.org>

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

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

Ssg Advisors

<http://www.ssg-advisors.com/>

Development Action Association

<http://www.womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa>

Daasgift Quality Foundation Financial NGO

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-FNGO/135372649846101>

Spatial Solutions

<http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.html>

# SUCCESS STORIES

## 1 CHILD LABOUR PRACTITIONER TURNS ADVOCATE



Araba Takiyiwa at far left/rear with 3 of her children in school uniforms; and her neighbors - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> right /rear, and their schooled children; beside them are Project staff

Araba Takiyiwa, 46 is now helping change the lives of her own children and those of others in her poor fishing community, after benefitting from a USAID/SFMP Anti-Child Labor Campaign. Araba is a mother of seven and a fish processor in Elmina-Central Region-one of the largest fishing communities in Ghana.

According to a 2015 Household Survey conducted under the project, almost 85% of Elmina's population, including migrants, keeps their children out of school so they can labor in fisheries or in other hazardous work to earn income for their family. Some even push their children into sexual activities in exchange for fish, or in exchange for money, traffic them to other countries.

In need of money and due to declining catches in fish stocks, Araba trafficked her 13 year old daughter to Ivory Coast in 2010 and sent her young sons to work in fisheries. In spite of her efforts, Araba has not been able to locate and bring back her daughter. But it is not too late for her sons.

Through interactions with Anti-Child Labour Advocates trained by the Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) under the project, Araba Takiyiwa now sees the importance of education and has in turn managed to educate her peers to enroll their children in school.

"I will use my own story as a means to advocate against child labour and trafficking in Elmina," said Araba.



46-year old fisherman - Raymond Annan, from Sekondi, Western Region, recording information of fish at sea

## FISHERS BECOME RESEARCHERS IN FIGHT TO RESTORE STOCKS

For the first time ever, fishermen are doing more than fish; they're helping with research and decision-making on the future of Ghana fisheries. In the quest to rebuild Ghana's fish stocks, some fishers are now helping conduct fish stock assessments. Fish has long been the preferred and cheapest source of animal protein, with about 75% of total annual production consumed locally. Yet in the last 10 years, four key fish stocks in Ghana's waters have declined by 23%. To help revive the fishery, researchers and scientists must first understand more about the stocks. To conduct at-sea assessments, however, would require them to hire boats and crew — resources fishermen already have.



A beneficiary of the USAID intervention - Susana Bisiw standing between two fish butchers on the beach

## FROM GROUND TO TABLETOP

Fishers in Shama Bentsir, a fishing community in Shama District - Western Region have abandoned the ground to instead cut fish on clean table tops. In Ghana there is a long held belief that "Salt from the sea water kills the bacteria and germs likely to contaminate the fish from cutting on the ground." It has always been traditional practice for fishermen to offload fish directly onto the beach and for fish processors to then cut and process them there on the ground as well. However, this ground is a mixture of sand and fecal matter—the result of the longstanding habit, especially in fishing villages, of defecation on the beaches. Now, however, the Shama Bentsir community knows differently!

The USAID Feed the Future Initiative (SFMP) is bringing knowledge about a healthier way of food handling to the people of fishing communities such as Shamir Bentsir. Not only is it helping rebuild a collapsing fishery, it is helping protect consumer rights and people's health. After an eight-week training by Daasgift Quality Foundation on business management skills for 751 selected micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises in the Western and Central Regons, about 98% of the beneficiaries in Shama Bentsir, one of the communities, now cuts their fish on wooden tables instead of on the fecal-polluted beach sand. SFMP is scaling up its training and building on the Healthy Fish Campaign using "best fish-handling practices" competitions among communities.

SFMP, in partnership with a sister project of the University of Cape Coast and a Science and Technical Working Group, has trained local fishermen to help understand the fisheries — a critical first step in reversing the decline. To date, SFMP has trained 12 fishers to record information during fishing expeditions. This team approach and simple methodology is proving invaluable, and plans are already underway to train another 20 fishermen toward the SFMP goal of 100 trained fishermen and women processors on the team by 2017.

## Coming Up in Next Edition...

\* USAID/SFMP Poverty Baseline Survey Results out!

\* President of University of Rhode Island visits Ghana (Africa for first time) to strengthen ties

\* A Citizen's Watch on Water Program Design ready for kick off

\* 4 Ghanaian Students benefit from USAID/Ghana UCC Project Scholarships

\* USAID/SFMP Study Tour to Senegal-Gambia on Women's Empowerment and Post-Harvest Ends successfully

\* Ghana Journalists for Sustainable Fisheries set the pace

\* Science & Tech. Working Group presents status of the stock findings to Fisheries Minister

\* WARFP/MOFAD begins Processes for Improved Fisheries Co-Management in Ghana

\* WARFP/MOFAD establish register of fishing vessels/canoes

## Did You Know ?

**01** That Ghana's per capita apparent fish consumption is among the highest in the world at an average of 28 kg/capita?

**02** That the world per capita apparent fish consumption increased from an average of 9.9 kg in the 1960s to 19.2 kg/capita in 2014?

**03** That Ghana ranks sixth amongst countries of the world that depend highly on fish for their nutritional and economic needs?

**04** That the total landings of the small pelagics in Ghana have decreased from a high of 277,000 MT in 1996 to 92,000 MT in 2011?

**05** That women make about 50% of the workforce directly involved in fisheries, globally?

**06** That Ghana's fisheries sector employs about 375,000 people of which 150,000 are women?

**07** That the fisheries indirectly support livelihoods of about 2.2million people in Ghana?

**08** That the goal of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is to help rebuild Ghana's small pelagic fishery, which is the mainstay of the artisanal sector covering about 60 % of the sector workforce?

**09** That the marine capture fisheries is an underperforming sector that shows that the difference between the potential and actual net economic benefits from marine fisheries is \$50 billion per year?

**10** That study argues that marine fisheries reforms and improved governance can recapture a substantial proportion of the global economic losses of \$50 billion per annum?

**11** That global experiences reveal that closed seasons are one effective way to rebuild a collapsing fishery? The Philippines instituted a 21-day closed season of the small pelagic fishery in 2011 which resulted in a 30 per cent increase in metric tons in 2013.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fill in the blank spaces with Answers to the Questions provided below.

