



Far Dwuma Nkodo

Securing Sustainable Fisheries

ISSUE BRIEF

Project update – January to June 2018

Introduction

The **Far Dwuma Nkodo** project aims to secure greater environmental sustainability and social equity in Ghana's fisheries sector, by supporting efforts to reduce illegal fishing and building the capacity of fishing communities in the sustainable management of their resource. Welcome to our 2018 half-year newsletter, which provides an update on progress under the project and our upcoming work.

Consultations with fishing communities on the reform of Ghana's fisheries laws

As part of the process to review Ghana's fisheries legal framework, the **Far Dwuma Nkodo** project organised consultations in March-April 2018 to gather input from fishing communities on the future fisheries law. A total of 10 consultations were held covering 15 communities across the nine coastal districts of the Central Region,

the project's area of focus. In all, 464 fisherfolk participated in the consultations, of which 273 were fishers, including crew and canoe owners, and 191 were fish processors and traders.

In May, Chief fishermen and Konkohemaa from all 45 coastal communities across the Central Region came together in Cape Coast to validate the results of the consultations. At the validation workshop, the Chief fishermen and Konkohemaa agreed on a ten-point communiqué summarising the key points of consensus from the consultations. The communiqué was presented to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in June 2018 as representing the general position of the artisanal fishing industry in the Central Region and signed by the leadership of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council and the National Association of Fish Processors and Traders in the Central Region. It was also printed in the Daily Graphic, a national newspaper.



The leadership of the artisanal fishing industry in Central Region present a communiqué to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development setting out their recommendations for the reform of the national fisheries law framework. © Far Dwuma Nkodo



Fishmongers and processors in Central Region share their inputs for the reform of Ghana's fisheries laws during consultations organised by the Far Dwuma Nkodo project. © Far Dwuma Nkodo

Roundtable on the relevance of global guidelines on fair tenure rights for Ghana's fisheries

In April 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project held a roundtable discussion on the relevance of the UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), and on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) for addressing the challenges facing Ghana's small-scale fisheries sector. The meeting was organised jointly with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as part of the support provided to the EU Land Governance Programme. The EU Land Governance Programme provides technical support to 17 country level VGGT-related projects, including the Far Dwuma Nkodo project in Ghana.

The roundtable brought together around 70 participants, including fisheries associations, NGOs, traditional authorities, government, academia and the media, to build support for implementation of the guidelines as Ghana revises its fisheries laws. The guidelines are considered international best practice on promoting fair tenure rights in fisheries, and securing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to livelihoods and food security. They provide an authoritative point of reference for states amending or adopting laws on these issues.

The meeting marked a crucial first step towards implementation of the guidelines, to save the country's declining fish stocks and to safeguard food security.

In the second half of 2018, a participatory assessment will be carried out to determine how the VGGT and SSF guidelines can be implemented through Ghana's future fisheries law.

Among other things, the communiqué called for:

- stricter penalties for fishing with light, chemicals and explosives;
- an extension of the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) reserved for artisanal fishers;
- consultation of communities in fisheries management;
- empowerment of communities to enforce fisheries laws at the local level;
- mitigation of impacts from offshore oil development; and
- an end to the damaging illegal fishing practice known as 'saiko'.

The communiqué provided a number of additional recommendations to address the crisis in Ghana's fisheries that it is hoped will be reflected in the future fisheries law.

The consultation process was documented in a number of news stories:

<https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/engaging-local-communities-in-reforming-ghanas-fishing-laws>

<https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/ghanas-small-scale-fishing-industry-makes-its-voice-heard-in-fisheries-law-reforms>

The final communiqué is available at:

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/joint-communique-from-the-ghana-national-canoe-fishermen-council-gnfc-and-national-fish-processors-and-traders-association-nafpta>



Canoe landing site at Winneba, Central Region. Over two million people in Ghana rely on fisheries for their livelihoods. © Far Dwuma Nkodo

For further information see:

Briefing on the VGGT and SSF guidelines:

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/principles-of-good-governance-for-securing-equitable-and-sustainable-fisheries>

Film on the relevance of the guidelines to Ghana's fisheries sector:

<https://vimeo.com/261337744/2e79ace92d>

Report of the roundtable:

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/roundtable-to-discuss-the-international-guidelines-on-the-responsible-governance-of-tenure-and-the-relevance-for-ghanas-fisheries-sector>

Media training

In May 2018, a three-day training was organised for journalists specialising in fisheries reportage. Eleven journalists drawn from various media outlets in Ghana attended in a bid to build their capacity to report effectively on the fisheries sector. The following topics were covered:

- the issues and challenges facing the small-scale fishing industry in Ghana;
- illegal fishing and its consequences with a focus on 'saiko';
- the EU yellow card to Ghana and the implications for the fisheries sector; and
- progress towards implementing Ghana's Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019).

The journalists joined Chief fishermen and Konkohemaa at the workshop to validate the results of the local level consultations on the legal reforms. The aim was to increase understanding of the process, and the concerns of small-scale fishing communities.

To support journalists writing stories on pertinent issues in fisheries, we launched a grant programme in June 2018.

Campaign to end the destructive illegal fishing practice known as 'saiko'

During the first half of 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project has campaigned for an end to the illegal practice of 'saiko' where industrial trawlers sell fish illegally to canoes at sea for onward sale to local markets. Originally an informal trading system, whereby unwanted bycatch would be exchanged for produce brought by canoes, it has become a part of targeted fishing for the trawl fleet. This puts industrial vessels in direct competition with small-scale fishers for catches of species such as sardinella that are a staple food for local communities. Saiko is a key driver of the collapse of Ghana's inshore fishery, on which millions of Ghanaians rely for food security and income.

On 5 June 2018, the world's first international day for the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the project released a film revealing the true extent of the crisis in Ghana's fisheries, highlighting the practice of saiko and why this must be stopped. The film, entitled Ghana: A Fishing Nation in Crisis, premiered on Joy News TV's PM Express Show and was followed by a panel discussion including representatives from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, the Fisheries Commission, and Hen Mpoano.



A saiko canoe at Elmina port. An average saiko trip lands 26 tonnes of fish. © Far Dwuma Nkodo

A briefing was also released explaining the serious threat that saiko presents to Ghana's artisanal fishing sector. Saiko is a highly organised and lucrative practice, accounting for an estimated 100,000 tonnes of illegal and unreported catches in 2017, with an estimated landed value of US\$34-65 million.

We will continue to campaign for an end to illegal saiko fishing and for the ban to be upheld as Ghana's fisheries laws are revised this year.

For the full panel discussion on Joy News TV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyXcCjB6tZ0>

The project film is available at:

<https://vimeo.com/271532956>

For further information on saiko and why the ban must be upheld: <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/new-film-reveals-extent-of-ghanas-fishing-crisis>
<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/the-problem-with-saiko>

Mapping of tenure rights in the Ada clam fishery

The Ada clam fishery presents an interesting case for fisheries co-management in Ghana. Access to the fishery is regulated by well-developed, but as yet undocumented, traditional norms and practices, including closed seasons, and restrictions on rights of access. In recent years, tourism and residential developments have begun to encroach on traditional fishing grounds and landing sites. As such, the zoning of land and estuarine users is needed to prevent conflict.

In early 2018, the project set out to document traditional management arrangements and the distribution of clam fishing and farming grounds in the Volta Estuary. The Open Tenure app developed by the FAO was used for the mapping, the first time the app has been applied in a fisheries setting. Open Tenure allows community members to record claims to tenure rights, with key information captured on the use type, the name and gender of the right holder, and the boundary of the area concerned.



Far Dwuma Nkodo and FAO staff during the pilot test of the Open Tenure app in the Ada clam fishery © Far Dwuma Nkodo

The app can support implementation of the UN guidelines on tenure rights, which aim to ensure that traditional tenure rights – such as the right of small-scale clam fishers to access their fishing grounds, and to a secure livelihood – are protected.

Communities were engaged ahead of the mapping activity, resulting in full community participation throughout the mapping process. An expert from FAO joined the pilot test of the Open Tenure app on the water. A subsequent de-briefing was held with academics and officials from Ghana's fisheries and land planning departments, at which participants highlighted the app's potential for documenting tenure rights in other sectors, both on land and at sea.

As a next step, the project will use the mapping data to support right holders in Ada to secure titles to the mapped areas.

Mapping of canoe landing sites

The Far Dwuma Nkodo project has now completed the mapping of all 125 landing sites in the Central Region. The aim is to secure landing sites for traditional fishing use in the face of encroachment from competing uses, such as coastal infrastructure, tourism and real estate development.

The mapping activity has produced a database of all mapped areas, with key characteristics for each landing site. As part of the validation process, project staff visited each site with the Chief fisherman to verify the physical boundaries and characteristics of the landing site, and to ascertain how the maps can be used in decision-making.

The final output will be shared with the Chief fishermen and council of elders through a regional durbar at a later stage of the project. The validation exercise is almost complete, and in the next phase fishermen and community members will be trained to understand and use the maps.

A training manual has also been produced to explain how the landing site mapping was completed using the GeoODK app installed on mobile devices:

http://henmpoano.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Training-Manual-for-Fish-Landing-Site-Mapping-Using-GeoODK_FINAL.pdf

Development of a mobile app to record illegal fishing and conflict at sea

In March 2018, with the help of local fishers, the project ran a test of the smartphone app that aims to enhance community surveillance. The app, which is currently in the final stages of development, will allow fishing communities to document illegal fishing and conflicts with industrial vessels at sea. Initial tests revealed issues in terms of compatibility of the app with phones used by fishers. The project team is working with the software developer to solve these challenges, with the aim of deploying the app during the second half of 2018.

The **Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)** and **Hen Mpoano** are working in partnership under the **Far Dwuma Nkodo – “Securing Sustainable Fisheries”** project, with financial support from the **European Union** and the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**. The Far Dwuma Nkodo project is a three-year project to secure greater environmental sustainability and social equity in Ghana's fishery sector.

Project implemented by:



info@ejfoundation.org
+233 33 2139 968

Hen Mpoano

info@henmpoano.org
+233 31 2020 701

With financial support from:



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