



Far Dwuma Nkodo

Securing Sustainable Fisheries

ISSUE BRIEF

Project update: July to December 2020

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 newsletter for July to December 2020, which provides an update on activities implemented during the final six months of the project.

NEW FILM SHOWS THAT ILLEGAL SAIKO FISHING CONTINUES UNBATED IN ELMINA PORT

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), as part of the Far Dwuma Nkodo project, in a new film revealed that illegal saiko fishing by industrial vessels continues openly in Ghana. Daily in-person monitoring at Elmina port –the major hub for saiko landings in Ghana– revealed that, during the first six months of 2020, an average of 11 boats landed saiko fish illegally every week, with as many as 13 landings in a single day. Saiko is a severely destructive form of illegal fishing, where industrial trawlers illegally target the staple catch of small-scale canoe fishers –such as the severely depleted small pelagics– and transfer these catches to specially adapted boats at sea for sale on local markets.

In the 2020 Budget Statement, published in November 2019, the government of Ghana committed to ending saiko and prohibiting any vessel found to have engaged in saiko from fishing in Ghana's waters. However, footage captured by EJF at Elmina in mid-2020 showed saiko boats unloading fish in broad daylight and in plain sight, suggesting those engaged in this illegal trade are not fearful of prosecution. An analysis published by EJF in July 2020 found that over 400 saiko canoes landed fish illegally at Elmina port since November 2019. This is despite the fact that every trawl vessel operating under the Ghanaian flag is now required to have a fisheries observer on board to monitor and report on illegal activities.

The film was screened on TV3, Net 2 Television and Adom FM, with the Director of Hen Mpoano, Kofi Agbogah, as the panelist.

Links to news coverage on the launch of the film:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3auDrPAcdc>
- <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1016142/illegal-saiko-fishing-continues-openly-in-ghana.html>

Link to film:

- <https://ejfoundation.org/films/business-as-usual-illegal-saiko-fishing-continues-unchecked>

Link to briefing:

- <https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/Illegal-saiko-landings-at-Elmina-port.pdf>



Saiko boats (top of picture) landing fish at Elmina port.

REPORT ON LINKAGES BETWEEN ILLEGAL FISHING IN GHANA AND THE EUROPEAN SEAFOOD MARKET

In July 2020, Far Dwuma Nkodo project partner EJF published a report highlighting the risk that seafood caught illegally in Ghana continues to enter European markets. The report found that industrial trawlers with authorisation to export seafood to the EU under EU health legislation have been implicated in the use of prohibited nets, fishing in the inshore exclusion zone reserved for small-scale canoe fishers, and the illegal 'saiko' trade.

Using data from satellite monitoring and at-sea observations, as well as pooling data from other organisations, EJF identified multiple cases in which trawl vessels authorised to export to the EU have been involved in illegal activities. The report concludes that as a market for seafood caught by Ghana's trawl fleet, EU consumers are inadvertently supporting illegal practices and severe overfishing in Ghana's waters. This is having a devastating impact on local fishing communities, and the over 2.7 million people in Ghana that rely on marine fisheries for their livelihoods. The report calls on the European Commission and EU Member States to scrutinise in detail all imports of seafood from Ghana, and to use all tools available under the EU regulation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to help Ghana to bring an end to illegal saiko fishing and improve transparency in its fisheries. The findings of the report were presented to the Market Advisory Council (MAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory body representing all stages of the EU seafood value chain, in September 2020. The MAC issued a set of recommendations to the European Commission on the issues in early 2021.

Links to news coverage on the report:

- <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/warning-to-eu-over-imports-from-vessels-fishing-illegally-in-ghana>
- <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1017760/warning-to-eu-over-imports-from-vessels-fishing.html>
- <https://thebftonline.com/22/07/2020/ejf-warns-eu-over-imports-from-vessels-fishing-illegally-in-ghana/>

Link to the report:

- <https://ejfoundation.org/reports/europe-a-market-for-illegal-seafood-from-west-africa-the-case-of-ghanas-industrial-trawl-sector>

Link to MAC recommendations and reply from the European Commission:

- <https://marketac.eu/en/commissions-reply-iuu-fishing-by-ghana/>

RADIO PROGRAMMES



A panel discussion on fisheries issues aired on Adom FM.

During the second half of 2020, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project produced a number of radio programmes at the regional and national levels to give a voice to artisanal fishers to speak on issues that affect the sector and their livelihoods. The radio platform was also used to engage the general public, targeting consumers to inform them on the state of Ghana's small pelagic fishery and build support for the advocacy to end saiko and other forms of illegal fishing.

July 2020 saw Accra-based station Adom FM taking on the issue of fisheries observers and how flaws in the observer programme have contributed to the continuation of illegal saiko activities in Ghanaian waters. The programme followed the airing of two documentaries on Joy News TV entitled "Saiko – when the last fish is caught" and "Saiko – the observers are missing" by Richard Kwadwo Nyarko and Nancy Emeffa Dziradasi, respectively. The Far Dwuma Nkodo project contributed research material and production support to a total of four radio programmes on Adom FM in July 2020.

The last quarter of 2020 saw a final radio programme organised by the project on Adom FM to advocate for the government to end illegal saiko fishing. Representatives from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), academia, and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) joined the discussions. The radio programmes contributed to increased interest by the general public in the urgent need for government to end saiko.

Links to the radio programmes:

- <https://www.adomonline.com/fishermen-warn-ministry-over-saiko/>
- <https://web.facebook.com/adom106.3/videos/339366177302564>
- <https://web.facebook.com/atlfm1005/videos/659891651300290>
- <https://web.facebook.com/adom106.3/videos/944377086051632>
- <https://web.facebook.com/adom106.3/videos/588628371853384>

JOURNALISTS STORY GRANT ON FISHERIES

In the last quarter of 2020, three story grants were awarded under the Far Dwuma Nkodo project to journalists to work on stories relating to enforcement in the fisheries sector and the prosecution of illegal fishing offences. In all, four stories are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2021 via television, online, print and radio. This includes a story from one of our previous story grants, a feature story on the clam fishery in Ada in the Volta estuary. The feature will look at how clam fishers have been managing their resources in accordance with traditional customs and the role of co-management involving all stakeholders to ensure sustainability of the resource.

ADVOCACY BY THE GHANA NATIONAL CANOE FISHERMEN COUNCIL (GNCFC) TO END SAIKO



GNCFC representatives protest against saiko fishing in the Western Region.

The second half of 2020 saw the continuation of advocacy against illegal saiko fishing with calls on government to end the practice. The advocacy started with radio programmes, silent protests and press conferences by the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), the representative body for artisanal fishers. This followed the community screenings of the Stolen at Sea film on the scale and impacts of saiko and regional dialogues as part of the #StopSaikoNow campaign during the first half of 2020.

Beginning in August 2020, artisanal canoe fishermen and fishmongers in the Volta, Central, Western and Greater Accra regions embarked on a series of week-long silent protests against illegal saiko fishing. The fishers wore red attire with red bands on their wrists and heads, to demonstrate how they were grieving as a result of the impact of the saiko menace on their livelihoods. Around six hundred fishers across the Central, Western, Greater Accra and Volta regions participated in the silent protests with a call on government to end saiko. More than 200 communities along Ghana's coastline rely on fisheries as their primary source of income but the illegal practice of saiko fishing is having a highly destructive impact on their livelihoods.

The silent protests were followed by press conferences by GNCFC across the Volta, Central and Western regions. The leadership of the council in these regions called on the government to end saiko as promised in the 2020 Budget Statement published in November 2019. The fishers highlighted at the press conferences that saiko consignments were still being landed at ports in Elmina, Apam and Axim in spite of the fact that the trade is expressly prohibited in both the Section 132 of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625) and Regulation 33 of the Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (LI 1968).

The decision by the GNCFC to organise a national protest was postponed due to heightened tensions ahead of the 2020 elections and the surge in COVID-19 infections.

Links to media coverage on the advocacy:

- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.18672517>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d0vMdSXRCa>
- <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/saying-no-to-saiko-canker/>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/canoe-fishermen-to-embark-on-protest-against-saiko-fishing.html>
- <https://www.myjoyonline.com/canoe-fishermen-in-central-region-protest-against-saiko-illegal-fishing/>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/business/business-news/stop-illegal-transshipment-of-fish-on-ghanaiian-waters.html>

VISIT BY THE EU DELEGATION TO THE PROJECT



The EU Delegation attend a meeting of the Landing Beach Enforcement Committee (LaBEC) at Moree.

In October 2020, the Delegation of the European Union to Ghana paid a visit to the project to assess progress of work as the project neared its completion. The visit started with a courtesy call on the Omanhen of Oguaa (King of Cape Coast), Osabarima Kwesi Atta II, who commended the project and the EU for the work carried out to secure sustainable fisheries. The Head of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development at the EU Delegation, Roberto Schiliro, thanked the Omanhen and the Oguaa Traditional Council for the support given to the project from inception to closure.

The Delegation then travelled to British Komenda landing beach for a durbar as part of the project's activities to secure access to landing sites for fishing communities. Following extensive mapping of landing sites in the Central, Greater Accra and Volta regions under the project, the landing site at British Komenda was selected as a case study to demonstrate how formal land documentation processes can be used to secure landing sites for use by future generations. The landing site at British Komenda was selected for the pilot project due to potential threats arising from planned works under the sea defence and erosion project and associated tourism and other development, which may compete with existing usage of the beach front. Mr. Schiliro from the EU Delegation handed over the signed indenture of the landing site to the community and fishers as proof of ownership.



Mr Schiliro from the EU Delegation hands over the signed indenture of the landing site to the community at British Komenda.

The team later met with the Landing Beach Enforcement Committee (LaBEC) at Moree to observe work undertaken since the committee's formation with the project's support in early 2020. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Moree LaBEC members to share experiences since the committee was formed and their role in collaborating with the Fisheries Commission in the enforcement of fisheries measures while improving voluntary compliance and responsible fishing practices at the landing beaches.

At Senya Breku, the EU Delegation also participated in a meeting of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) established under the project, to observe how funds had been used and disbursed to date. The VSLA is seen to be an effective tool in bringing people together to manage their resources and build community capital to improve their livelihood. Informed by the recommendations from the gender analysis of the fisheries sector carried out under the Far Dwuma Nkodo project, VSLAs were piloted within two communities. Three VSLA groups were formed: the "Enye Nyame Dzen" group with 23 members at Senya Breku, and the "Aseda" group and "God First" group with 30 members each at Ankaful. The VSLA groups were taken through financial literacy, leadership, team building and conflict management trainings. These trainings were intended to build, strengthen and enhance the local chapters of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA).

During the meeting with the Senya Breku VSLA, the group revealed that a total of GH¢18,500 had been given out in loans to 17 members of the group. Out of a total welfare fund of GH¢1,130, the group had also given GH¢100 each as welfare donations to two members who had lost their loved ones. The group's records also revealed a high level of commitment from the membership towards repayment of loans resulting in total savings of GH¢22,690. The group demonstrated growth and sustainability by funding the start-up of a second VSLA group within the community. Interest for the new group was borne out of the successes chalked by the existing group in raising money to support their membership in the form of loans for the growth of their fish processing work. The EU delegation presented the start-up materials to the new group during the visit and encouraged the group to emulate the steps of the existing group and create more groups within the community and beyond.

In an interview with the media as part of the visit, Mr. Schiliro called on Ghanaians to join the fight against illegal saiko fishing to ensure the sustainability of the country's fisheries resources. With almost three million people relying on the industry for their livelihoods, he emphasised that "it is important that Ghanaian society as well as Ghanaian businesses join in the fight."

Media coverage of the EU visit:

- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Two-NGOs-work-to-secure-landing-sites-for-fishing-communities-1084141>
- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.18962104>
- <https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2020/10/15/eu-calls-on-ghana-to-end-saiko-fishing/>
- <https://newsghana.com.gh/eu-calls-on-ghana-to-end-saiko-fishing/>
- <https://www.peacefonline.com/pages/local/news/202010/430036.php>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpniL8PKQTc>

SECURING LANDING SITES ALONG THE CENTRAL, GREATER ACCRA AND VOLTA REGIONS



A landing site map at Ankaful Hasowodze in the Mfantseman municipality of the Central Region.

Over the past four years, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project has been engaging fishing communities in activities aimed at helping them to secure access and use rights for their fish landing sites.

The project has carried out extensive mapping of 118 landing sites along the coast of the Central Region, Ada in the Greater Accra Region, and Tsatsukope in the Volta Region. This was the first step in protecting the landing sites from being taken over by competing land uses. In the second phase, the project selected one landing site as a case study to demonstrate how formal land documentation processes could be used to secure the beachfront for small-scale fishing activities.

In November 2020, the project held a workshop to share the results of the mapping and survey works and solicit inputs on the processes involved in securing fish landing sites. The workshop was attended by the Chief fishermen from all landing beaches in the Central Region, as well as representatives from the Fisheries Commission, Lands Commission, Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFTPA), planning officers of the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in the Central Region, Central Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and Traditional Authorities from Saltpond-Ankafu, British Komenda and Winneba. Participants at the workshop unanimously agreed on the urgent need to secure fish landing sites from competing uses, noting the alarming rate at which beach fronts and wetlands are being lost to hoteliers and other entrepreneurs at the expense of fishers and fishing related activities. There was an appeal by the head of LUSPA on government through the MoFAD and RCC to ensure that landing sites are immediately secured for posterity, suggesting a government directive earmarking the beachfront for fishing related activities.

Inputs from the stakeholders will inform the review of the project's draft manual on securing fish landing sites. The stakeholders agreed that a collaboration between fishers, traditional authorities, government agencies and relevant ministries is critical to securing the lands for fishing communities. Costs associated with land searches, registration and other processes involved in securing the landing sites would need to be shared by all parties, although government agencies could provide services related to registration and land searches as social services to the fishing communities. It was unanimously agreed that the project should bring together NGOs, GNCFC, and decentralized government agencies to develop a common protocol and road map for the mass registration of all coastal landing sites.

Links to media report on the workshop:

- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.19221149>
- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Rapid-beachfront-development-calls-for-comprehensive-land-use-planning-along-the-coast-Korli-1113469>
- <https://newsghana.com.gh/rapid-beachfront-development-calls-for-comprehensive-land-use-planning-along-the-coast-korli/>
- <https://g-newsnetwork.com/moree-chief-fisherman-bemoans-sale-of-landing-beaches-for-other-uses/>

DASE MOBILE APP LAUNCH IN CAPE COAST



The Director of the MCS Division of the Fisheries Commission speaking at the launch of the DASE app.

In the last quarter of 2020, the project launched the “DASE” mobile app (DASE meaning evidence in the Fante language) in Cape Coast. The app, based on the Collect platform by Atlan, allows canoe fishers to gather evidence of illegal fishing practices and provides a user-friendly interface to alert the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Division of the Fisheries Commission of incidents of illegal fishing at sea. The app can also be used to help fishers who have had their canoes or fishing gear destroyed to claim damages from the perpetrators.

The mobile app aims to help fisherfolks rid Ghana's waters of the illegal fishing that threatens their livelihoods. Using the app, canoe fishers can take a geotagged photo of a vessel fishing illegally with its name or identification number showing. Although extra information can be added to the report, such as a video, all that is needed is a photo and location, which can be logged quickly and easily at sea. The app will then upload the report to a central database where the evidence can be used by the Fisheries Commission to arrest and sanction the perpetrators.

In collaboration with the Fisheries Commission, the project has engaged over 700 fishers across 48 communities in Ghana's Central Region on how to use the app and gather robust, actionable evidence at sea. The project has also provided training to the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), the representative association for small-scale fishers, on how to analyse reports submitted by fishers and to follow up on enforcement action.

To date, over 100 fishers in Ghana have subscribed to the app and over 50 reports of potential infractions have been received. Reported infractions include illegal trawling by vessels in zones reserved for small-scale fishers. The evidence has been submitted to the enforcement agencies for further action.

At the launch event, the Head of the MCS Division lauded the Far Dwuma Nkodo project for developing the app as it would help fishers to gather the needed evidence of reported incidents at sea. He revealed that the lack of evidence to support reported cases of illegal fishing and accidents at sea, made it difficult for the authorities to provide fishers with the required support and compensation when conflicts between artisanal fishers and industrial trawlers arise.

Fishing communities and GNCFC have expressed their support for the app:

“Now the trawlers are afraid to come close to shore because they have become aware we are taking photos of them. They only do so at night in our absence.”

– Fisher, Moree

“Illegal fishing is causing the collapse of Ghana’s staple fish stocks and the loss of food security, livelihoods and tens of millions of dollars in national revenue. This app means canoe fishers no longer have to stand by while industrial vessels fish illegally in their fishing grounds.”

–Nana Jojo Solomon, GNCFC



A community member from Gomoa Fetteh trialling the DASE app on a sea patrol.

Links to the coverage on the app launch:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/11/fishing-app-launched-to-tackle-trawling-in-ghana>
- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.19177602>
- <https://iafrica.com/one-of-the-worst-overfishing-crises-in-west-africa/>
- <https://dailyguidenetwork.com/ejf-deploys-technology-to-fight-illegal-fishing/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-dRjXTYbTo>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/mobile-app-to-track-illegal-fishing-launched.html>
- <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/mobile-phone-app-to-support-fight-against-illegal-fishing-launched/>
- <https://en.reset.org/blog/ghana-new-app-striving-save-fishermen%E2%80%99s-livelihoods>

COMMISSIONING OF SHED FOR CLAM FISHERS IN KPONKPO AT ADA



The EU Ambassador to Ghana, Diana Acconcia, at the commissioning of the Kponkpo clam shed.

In December, the EU Ambassador to Ghana, Diana Acconcia, commissioned and handed over a shed for clam fishers and processors at Kponkpo in Ada, constructed with the generous support of the European Union. The structure has a waiting area of around 45 square feet with three rooms for offices and storage of documents and other materials of the clam association. The EU has supported the construction of two further sheds for clam fishers and processors at the communities of Tsatsukope and Agorkpo, also situated along the lower Volta river. The purpose of the sheds is to provide a venue for the clam fishers and processors associations to hold meetings and to organise themselves in the sustainable management of the clam resource.

“Available information indicates that the grounds for clam production have dwindled from 100 kilometres from the pre-dam era to a narrow stretch of 10 kilometres due to the development of sand bars at the estuary. We are very worried for the sustainability of Ghana’s fisheries, that catches are declining in recent years and this needs to be addressed by all stakeholders”, said Ambassador Acconcia, during the commissioning of the shed at Kponkpo.

Over the course of the Far Dwuma Nkodo project, work has focused on promoting co-management of the clam fishery of the Volta estuary to improve sustainability and the livelihoods of clam fishers and their families. Fishers have been trained on how to document the traditional management arrangements that regulate the fishery and ensure these rights are secured in the context of increasing competition from other users of the estuary. A management plan has been developed for the clam fishery and a co-management unit made up of clam fishers and processors, traditional authorities, government and other resource users of the Volta estuary has been formed in line with the recently gazetted National Co-management Policy for collaborative and sustainable management of Ghana’s fisheries. The unit will promote the peaceful and sustainable exploitation of the clam resource through the implementation of the management plan.

Clams are an important source of protein to communities along the lower Volta river. The industry plays an important role in alleviating poverty in these areas and provides employment to more than 2000 people. An estimated US\$3.8 million worth of clam is sold annually in Ghana. The shell of the clam has a number of uses notably as source of calcium in animal feed and in the manufacture of lime and paints.

Links to news coverage on the commissioning of the shed for clam fishers and processors:

- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.19430165>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/clam-fisheries-deserves-more-attention-ngo.html>
- <https://www.myjoyonline.com/eu-promotes-clam-production-in-ghana/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vI9GISYpMw
- <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1051284/eu-ambassador-to-ghana-hands-over-a-community-cent.html>
- <https://dailyguidenetwork.com/eu-ambassador-hands-over-community-centre-to-ada/>
- <https://thebftonline.com/24/12/2020/eu-ambassador-to-ghana-hands-over-a-community-centre-to-the-clam-fishers-and-processors-of-ada/>

INAUGURATION OF LANDING BEACH ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES (LaBECs)



The Zonal Director (Head of LaBEC) of the Fisheries Commission in the Central Region presents an illustrated list of “do’s and don’ts” to guide responsible fishing.

In December 2020, Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs) from the 48 landing beaches in the Central Region were inaugurated at a ceremony organised by the Fisheries Commission in Cape Coast.

Each LaBEC comprises 15 members –10 community fishers who form the enforcement team to report on illegal fishing and 5 grievance team members who review the evidence and resolve disputes between parties. The move forms part of efforts to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance of illegal activities in Ghana’s waters and improve community participation in fisheries management. The committees are expected to augment effort by the Fisheries Commission in reducing illegal fishing and help to settle disputes among the fisher folks at the local level.

At the inauguration, LaBEC members were provided with reflective visibility jackets to enhance their work and an illustrated code of ethics to guide their activities. The project has previously trained committee members on how to use the DASE mobile app to take geotagged images and videos of illegal fishing and evidence in support of claims for compensation where fishing nets or canoes are damaged/destroyed following interactions with other vessels.

Beginning in 2019, the LaBEC programme was piloted in the communities of Elmina, Mumford and Nyanyano and has seen significant success. In 2019 and 2020, the Fisheries Commission, with the support of the Far Dwuma Nkodo project, led trainings for LaBEC members reaching over 700 fishers and supported committees to develop a code of ethics for LaBEC members and a list of “do’s and don’ts” to guide responsible fishing by artisanal fishers. These have been validated by the LaBECs across the Central Region and transformed into posters and guidance materials. The adoption of the code of ethics, combined with sensitisation and trainings, is aimed at improving voluntary compliance and responsible fishing along the coast.

The inauguration was attended by the Chief fishermen from the 48 landing beaches in the Central Region, regional directors of the Fisheries Commission from all four coastal regions, zonal and technical officers from the Fisheries Commission, representatives of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), executives of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) from the Central Region, the Marine Police, Navy, academia, and the media.

Links to media coverage on the inauguration of the LaBECs:

- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Fisheries-Commission-launches-Landing-Beach-Enforcement-Committee-1142033>
- https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=723208668306106&_rdc=1&_rdr
- <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.19482040>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/48-landing-beach-enforcement-committees-inaugurated.html>

ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS



A project officer interacting with fishers at Brenuakyinmu on the government's Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) programme to support small-scale farming as an alternative livelihood.

One of the objectives of the Far Dwuma Nkodo project has been to explore alternative or supplementary livelihood opportunities for small-scale fishing communities to enable fisherfolks to adapt to future caps on fishing effort and to improve resilience in the face of fisheries declines, climate crises and other external shocks.

Earlier in the project, a scoping assessment was carried out of fisher perspectives on non-fisheries livelihood opportunities in Ghana's Central Region. The assessment was intended to inform the development of more detailed recommendations for a sustainable livelihood programme. The assessment found that farming in all its forms was most preferable to fishers as an alternative or supplementary livelihood. This includes crop farming, and poultry, pig and other livestock rearing. Many fishers were found to be engaged in farming on a small-scale basis and were confident that an expansion to larger scale crop farming and more intensive livestock rearing could serve them well as an alternative livelihood.

To build on this scoping work, the project engaged the Organisation for Livelihood Enhancement Services (OLIVES) to facilitate a workshop on the theme "Opening up Environmentally Sustainable, Climate-resilient Livelihood Opportunities for Artisanal Fishing Communities in Ghana". The workshop focused on examining previous and ongoing livelihood projects implemented both within and outside of fishing communities in Ghana, with a view to exchanging experiences, lessons learned and best practices.

Discussions at the workshop focused on understanding the elements of a successful livelihood project, in terms of preferences and needs of fishing communities, and how to avoid the pitfalls and challenges that have resulted in the failure of previous initiatives. It focused primarily on smallholder crop farming and livestock rearing as the preferred livelihood options from the scoping assessment that offer the greatest potential for replication along the coast. At the end of the workshop, it was recommended that any alternative livelihood intervention in the Central Region should consider short-cycle options such as vegetable production, poultry and piggyery.

Lessons can be learnt from developments in vegetable production in fishing communities in the Volta Region, while other medium to long-term interventions could include the farming of cash crops, especially in the Western Region. Access to financial support should be of topmost priority in any proposed interventions, with other key areas to be considered including capacity building, institutional collaboration, and sustainability. The detailed recommendations are intended to inform the design of future sustainable livelihood programmes for fishing communities.

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 aims to secure greater environmental sustainability and social equity in Ghana's fishery sector.

Project implemented by:



info@ejfoundation.org
+233 33 2150 119

Hen Mpoano

info@henmpoano.org
+233 31 2020 701

Follow our work at:

www.facebook.com/FarDwumaNkodo
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