



Far Dwuma Nkodo

Securing Sustainable Fisheries

ISSUE BRIEF

Project update: January to June 2019

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 January to June 2019, which provides updates on progress under the project and our upcoming work.

Launch of transparency report

January 2019 saw the launch of our report titled "*Securing equitable and sustainable fisheries: The case for greater transparency in the management and governance of Ghana's fisheries sector*". The Ghanaian fishing industry suffers from a lack of transparency, the report revealed. This allows illegal operators to disguise the identity, ownership and history of fishing vessels, avoiding detection and sanctions. As a result, illegal fishing is rife and vast over-capacity in the fishing fleet continues to decimate fish stocks.

The report sets out key measures that can be implemented immediately by the government of Ghana to help eradicate the illegal fishing that is driving the country's fish stocks to extinction and impoverishing local communities.

To bring about meaningful change, the report recommends that the Ghanaian government should:

- Allow for external scrutiny of progress towards achieving targets for sustainable fisheries management.
- Invest the revenue from licence fees and fines in the sustainable development of the sector and publish the details.
- Identify the true beneficiaries and perpetrators of large-scale and organized illegal fishing and hold them publicly accountable for their actions.
- Make vessel monitoring data publicly available, to improve oversight of Ghanaian fishing activities, both in national waters and in neighbouring countries.
- Publish licence lists and details of fisheries-related infringements and sanctions.

The on-going revision of the 2002 Fisheries Act provides a unique opportunity to put Ghana's fisheries on the road to sustainability by enshrining these crucial measures into national law.



Saiko canoe unloading at Elmina port.

Link to the report

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/securing-equitable-and-sustainable-fisheries-the-case-for-greater-transparency-in-the-management-and-governance-of-ghanas-fisheries-sector>

Links to stories published following the launch of the report:

<https://thebftonline.com/2019/business/fisheries-and-aquaculture/to-save-fish-stocks-ghana-must-enshrine-transparency-in-law/>

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/909633/to-save-fish-stocks-ghana-must-enshrine-transparency-in-law.html>

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/economics/more-than-100-000-metric-tonnes-of-fish-traded-illegally-in-ghana-report-144221>

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/ejf-ghana-must-enshrine-transparency-in-law>

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2019/01/18/ejf-to-save-fish-stocks-ghana-must-enshrine-transparency-into-law/>

<http://peacefmonline.com/pages/local/social/201901/372716.php>

<https://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&id=101194&ndb=1>

Communiqué on improving transparency and accountability in the fisheries sector

The Far Dwuma Nkodo project continues to advocate for improved transparency and accountability in the management and governance of Ghana's fisheries, as a cost effective means of fighting illegal fishing and ensuring the fair and sustainable exploitation of the resource. To this end, following a roundtable discussion on transparency held in November 2018, fishing industry associations, civil society organisations, regulators, development partners and the media issued a communiqué highlighting the need for government to improve transparency, drawing on experience of implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EiTI) in the mining, oil and gas sectors.

Through the communiqué, stakeholders declared:

- That government should routinely publish and maintain updated information on sanctions imposed for fisheries offences, licensing of industrial vessels, vessel ownership, and utilisation of the fisheries development fund, as well as observer reports and annual reports of the Fisheries Commission.
- Support for the establishment of an online and publicly accessible licensing and revenue-reporting system in the fisheries sector as implemented for mining licences and revenue by the Minerals Commission.
- That reform of the composition of the Fisheries Commission board is urgently needed to ensure all sectors of industry are adequately represented in the decision-making process.

- That provisions to improve transparency and accountability should be incorporated into the revision of the 2002 Fisheries Act, Act 625, including with respect to the publication of information, reducing the discretionary powers of government officials and reforming the composition of the Fisheries Commission board.

The communiqué was published in national newspapers the Daily Graphic and the Business and Financial Times.

European Council African Working Group (COAFR) pays a working visit to the EU fisheries projects in Ghana

In February 2019, a 24-member team from the European Council African Working Group (COAFR) paid a working visit to the Far Dwuma Nkodo and Far Ban Bo projects at the fishing community of Gomoa Fetteh in Ghana's Central Region. The Working Party is responsible for the management of EU external policy towards Sub-Saharan Africa. The delegation interacted with the fishers to understand the challenges bedevilling the sector, and heard about ongoing work under the two fisheries projects.

The visit by COAFR was featured in the press:

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/end-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing-145025>

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/914246/fishermen-urges-govt-to-end-illegal-unreported-and-unregul.html>

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/unreported-and-unregulated-fishing-must-stop-now/>

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/business/2019/February-11th/end-illegal-fishing-practices-to-give-meaning-to-closed-fishing-season-fishermen-begs-govt.php>



EJF's Communications Officer makes a presentation to the COAFR delegation.

Launch of report on gender issues in the artisanal fisheries sector



Fishmongers at Elmina port.

Women play a crucial role in Ghana's fisheries sector as business owners, fish processors and traders. They make an important contribution to the socio-economic development of the country, yet have little say in fisheries management, especially concerning the illegal fishing methods that are damaging their livelihoods.

The Far Dwuma Nkodo project report "*Gender analysis: Ghana's artisanal fisheries 2019*" was released on 8 March 2019, to mark International Women's Day. It takes a detailed look at the gender dynamics in the artisanal fisheries sector and makes recommendations to further empower women. It calls for the strengthening of women's organisations and the provision of leadership training to ensure the voices of women are heard. Increased use of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) is recommended as a tool to organise women at the community level, while creating a buffer for the low season and provision for emergency relief – for school fees and sickness costs, for example. The report also recommends that along the beaches, women should be encouraged to become actively involved in the fight against illegal fishing.

Over the coming year, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project will work closely with the National Association of Fish Processors and Traders (NAFPTA) to implement some of the key recommendations from the report. NAFPTA was formed under the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme (WARFP) as an important step in bringing women together to demand better representation.

Link to the gender report

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/gender-analysis-ghanas-artisanal-fisheries-2019>

The report was featured in the press:

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/920178/ghanas-fishing-industry-needs-womens-voices.html>

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-s-fishing-industry-needs-women-s-voices-ejf-and-hen-mpoano.html>

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/ghanas-fishing-industry-needs-women-in-tackling-current-crisis/>

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/the-brave-path-of-the-ghanaian-fishmongers/>

<https://www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/ghanas-fishing-industry-needs-womens-voices>

<https://nexusmedianews.com/ghanas-queen-fishmongers-face-an-uncertain-future-ecd5efe9869c>

<https://www.newswiregh.com/ghanas-fishing-industry-needs-womens-voices-ejf-and-hen-mpoano/>

<https://www.ecowatch.com/ghana-queen-fishmongers-2632474791.html>

Consultation with small-scale fisheries stakeholders on findings of legal assessment to secure tenure rights



Stakeholders provide inputs at the consultation meeting.

Under the Far Dwuma Nkodo project, natural resource governance lawyers at the Taylor Crabbe Initiative (TCi) have carried out a legal assessment of Ghana's fisheries law framework for alignment with international guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure, and securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. The assessment identifies gaps in the current fisheries law framework, and sets out a series of recommendations for how these gaps may be addressed as part of the ongoing revision of the 2002 Fisheries Act.

In March 2019, executives from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) and leaders of the National Association of Fish Processors and Traders (NAFPTA) were consulted on the key recommendations arising from the assessment. Based on the inputs received, TCi drafted legislative proposals for consideration by the Ministry for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Attorney General's department in the drafting of the new Act.

The recommendations from the assessment include measures such as clarifying access to the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) reserved for small-scale fishers so that the rights of local communities are protected and they know where they stand. The assessment also advises that the Fisheries Commission board should include representatives of women's associations,

small-scale fisher groups and non-governmental organisations working on fisheries. This will improve decision making by ensuring that all relevant opinions are heard.

The report also recommends that parliamentary approval be required for any fishing licence given to large industrial or foreign vessels, in line with provisions on the exploitation of natural resources set out in the 1992 Constitution. The Fisheries Commission should also publish the license applications by the operators of such vessels.

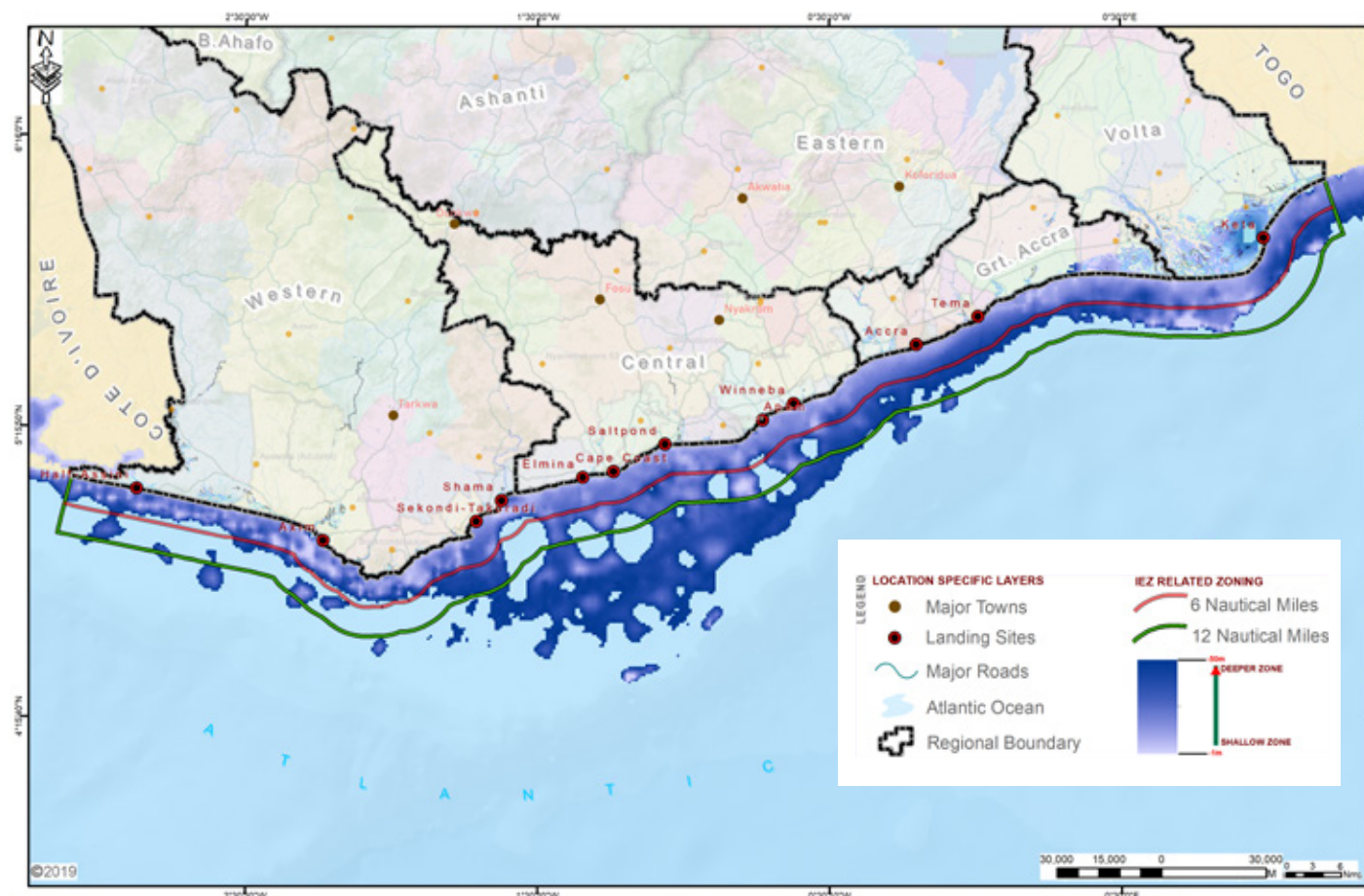
Improving transparency in this way would play a crucial part in eradicating the illegal fishing that is driving the country's fish stocks to extinction and impoverishing local communities.

The final report will be submitted to the Ministry in the second half of 2019 and a meeting convened to discuss the findings.

Link to the issue brief summarising the key recommendations from the assessment:

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/assessment-of-ghanas-fisheries-laws-against-global-guidelines-on-tenure-rights-and-sustainable-small-scale-fisheries>

IEZ boundary scenarios and consensus for extension



Map showing the areas of the seafloor along the coast of Ghana from 0-50 metres depth.

During the first half of 2019, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project finalised maps of the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) depicting different scenarios to inform the potential revision of the boundary in the reform of the 2002 Fisheries Act. Currently the boundary of the IEZ reserved for artisanal fishers stands at 6 nautical miles or 30 metres depth, whichever is farther. Maps were prepared depicting the 6 and 12 nautical mile limits, in relation to the 30, 45, 50 and 60-metre bathymetric contours.

In April 2019, a consultation was held with academics and divisional heads of the Fisheries Commission to discuss the different scenarios. The meeting agreed on the need to extend the IEZ boundary to reflect current fishing patterns of the artisanal fleet, with a consensus on extension to 12 nautical miles or 50 metres depth, whichever is farther. The Far Dwuma Nkodo project also presented the scenarios to the industry associations (canoe, inshore and trawlers), for further consideration.

A report and film on illegal 'saiko' fishing in Ghana launched

The highlight of 2019 was the release of a film and report on the illegal 'saiko' trade. The report "*Stolen at sea: How illegal saiko fishing is fuelling the collapse of Ghana's fisheries*" presents the results of monitoring at ports, analysis of fish landed through saiko, and film shot at sea, to reveal the full catastrophic scale of this form of organised crime. Saiko is a severely destructive form illegal fishing, where trawlers target the staple catch of canoe fishers and sell this fish back to local communities at a profit. The report estimates, for the first time, the true cost of saiko to Ghana's people and its seas. In 2017 alone the saiko trade took around 100,000 tonnes of fish, meaning just 40% of trawler catches were landed legally that year. Much of the saiko catch is juvenile fish – over 60% of fish analysed from October 2018 to April 2019. Harvesting at this early stage can severely impact the capacity of Ghana's fish stocks to recover and replenish.

The saiko catches in 2017 were worth US\$ 40.6 - 50.7 million when sold at sea, and US\$ 52.7 - 81.1 million when sold at the landing site, the report estimates. The specially built 'saiko canoes' – that take the fish from the trawlers back to ports such as Elmina – carry 450 times the average catch of the fishing canoes and are operated by only a few individuals.



Crew preparing a *saiko* canoe at Elmina port.



Slabs of *saiko* fish being offloaded at Elmina port.

The report calculates that while canoe fishing offers direct employment for around 60 fishers for every 100 tonnes of fish, *saiko* means only 1.5 jobs per 100 tonnes – 40 times fewer.

The film and report were launched at an event in Accra, with stakeholders in the fisheries sector including the Chairman of the Fisheries Commission board and media present. The film was also screened on national television, accompanied by panel discussions. Over 500 fisherfolk attended screenings of the film in Moree and Ankaful.

Link to the report and film

<https://ejfoundation.org/reports/stolen-at-sea-how-illegal-saiko-fishing-is-fuelling-the-collapse-of-ghanas-fisheries>

<https://ejfoundation.org/films/stolen-at-sea-the-chinese-trawlers-driving-the-collapse-of-ghanas-fisheries>

Links to stories published in the press:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/17/illegal-fishing-by-foreign-trawlers-costs-ghana-50-million-dollars-a-year-researchers-say>

<https://chinadialogueocean.net/8677-saiko-fishing-costs-ghana-tens-of-millions-of-dollars-in-a-single-year/>

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/ejf-documents-severe-impact-of-foreign-trawlers-in-ghana>

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/economics/ghana-loses-us-50-million-through-illegal-fishing-in-2017-151288>

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/938316/saiko-steal-jobs-threatens-food-security-and-endangers-ghan.html>

http://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/illegal-fishing-cost-ghana-50m-in-2017/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=illegal-fishing-cost-ghana-50m-in-2017

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-loses-about-81m-to-illegal-fishing-practices-study.html>

<https://thebftonline.com/2019/headlines/us50m-lost-through-illegal-fishing-in-2017/>

<http://thechronicle.com.gh/index.php/2019/06/12/ghana-loses-us50-million-through-illegal-fishing-in-2017/>

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/business/2019/June-18th/illegal-fishing-by-foreign-trawlers-costs-ghana-50m-a-year-researchers.php>

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Ghana-loses-US-50-million-through-illegal-fishing-in-2017-753838#>

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2019/06/10/ejf-report-illegal-chinese-vessels-hoovering-up-ghanaian-small-pelagics/>

<https://www.intrafish.com/aquaculture/1803304/ejf-reveals-full-scale-of-iuu-in-ghana>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK9gjsVOtk>

<https://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=6-2019&day=11&id=103186&l=e&country=27&special=&ndb=1&df=0>

<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2019/06/11/ghana-loses-50m-through-illegal-fishing-in-2017-study/>

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/reports-warn-ghana-fisheries-sector-at-risk-of-collapse>



Community screening of the *saiko* film at Moree in Central Region.

Journalists interact with fishers as part of training workshop on mobile journalism

In mid-2019, 15 selected journalists met with fishers at the community of Ankaful in the Central Region as part of a training workshop on mobile journalism organised by the EU. The field trip was an opportunity for journalists to assess projects being undertaken with EU support and to apply their skills in gathering electronic news using their smartphones. One fisherman, Egya Kofi Sam, spoke of industrial trawlers invading areas reserved for artisanal fishers, which had compelled some artisanal fishermen to adopt illegal practices. He called on all stakeholders to do their part in restoring fish stocks. The field trip also included a boat trip to test the DASE mobile application for reporting cases of illegal fishing developed under the Far Dwuma Nkodo project.



A journalist conducts an interview with fishers at the training.

Links to stories in the press:

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/take-stringent-measures-to-restore-fishery-stocks-fishermen.html>

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/tighten-and-enforce-laws-to-safeguard-our-livelihood-fishermen-to-government-153886>

Production of monthly radio programmes

In 2019, we continued with our monthly radio shows on ATL FM in Cape Coast to give a voice to fishers to speak on issues that affect the sector and their livelihoods. The programmes are aired in English on a Monday morning, and in Fante on a Tuesday afternoon. During the first half of the year, the EU-funded Far Dwuma Nkodo radio shows discussed the following topics:

- **January 2019:** the need to improve transparency and accountability to secure sustainable fisheries in Ghana and address illegal fishing.
- **February 2019:** the process to register and emboss canoes undertaken by the Fisheries Commission – progress, status and next steps.



Regional Director of the Fisheries Commission, Western Region, makes a submission during a panel discussion on ATL FM.

- **March 2019:** the mobile application for IUU reporting developed under the Far Dwuma Nkodo project - increasing awareness of the app, how it works and its use.
- **April 2019:** the 2019 closed season, its importance and preparations being made by the Ministry, Fisheries Commission and fishers.
- **May 2019:** gathering evidence of illegal fishing by industrial vessels using the mobile app, and processes for achieving a successful prosecution after submission of evidence.
- **June 2019:** the 2019 closed season - successes, lessons learnt and the way forward for the Ministry in ending all form of illegal fishing, with a focus on saiko.

Journalist grant programme for reporting on fisheries

We continued with our quarterly story grant programme, which offers grants to journalists of up to 2,500 Ghana Cedis for reporting on fisheries issues. Story grants were issued in the first half of 2019 to two journalists, one from Ghana Broadcasting Corporation and another from Joy News. A further two stories were published under the grant programme between January and June 2019, “*Mending Ghana’s fishing net with transparency*” (Afedzi Abdullah, Ghana News Agency), and “*Paradox at sea; more trawlers on Ghana’s waters as stocks dwindle*” (Zadok Gyesei, Daily Graphic).

Links to stories published between January to June 2019:

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/features/features/paradox-at-sea-more-trawlers-on-ghana-s-waters-against-dwindling-stocks.html>

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/features/mending-ghana-s-fishing-net-with-transparency-145905>

<https://citinewsroom.com/2019/02/17/fishermen-demand-transparency-amid-industry-challenges/>

Co-management at the Ada clam fishery

In 2019, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project continued to help clam fishers at the Volta estuary evolve practices that would guarantee their use rights and ensure sustainable exploitation of the clam resource that they depend on. The clam fishers and processors were supported to form four resource users' associations at Tsatuskope, Kponko, and Agorkpo with a total membership of 290 fishers and processors. These associations have been duly registered with the Registrar General's Department and supported with various capacity building trainings and logistics.

In order to lay the grounds for a holistic management of the clam fishery, the project begun exploratory work in the South Tongu District which harbours the northernmost grounds

of the clam bed of the estuary. The clam fishers and local government authorities in the district were involved in several discussions to help promote sustainable exploitation of clams in the district, and briefed on best practices from the Ada East District.

Members of the clam fishers and processors associations in the Ada East District nominated 13 representatives who were engaged in a sensitisation workshop to enable them to build structures and put in place institutional arrangements for co-management of the entire clam bed of the estuary. A co-management committee and management plan are being developed to sustainably develop the clam fishing and farming practices in the area.



Clam processors at the Volta Estuary.

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.

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