



Far Dwuma Nkodo

Securing Sustainable Fisheries

ISSUE BRIEF

Project update: July – December 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 newsletter for the second half of 2018, which provides an update on progress under the project and our upcoming work.

Monthly radio programme

In September, we launched our monthly radio programme on ATL 100.5 FM in Cape Coast. Cape Coast is the capital of Ghana's Central Region, one of the two regions of focus for the Far Dwuma Nkodo project. The radio programme seeks to raise awareness amongst fisher folks and the public on the impacts of illegal fishing, the importance of Ghana's small-scale fisheries for national food security and income, and the challenges facing fishing communities today in a context of declining fish stocks and increasing competition in the sector. The discussions involve

panellists from fishing communities, government, NGOs and academia, and take place in English on a Monday morning and in Fante on a Tuesday afternoon so that fishers can listen in during their day off from fishing. Four shows were aired in the second half of 2018 and covered a number of issues including planning for the 2019 fishing closed season, and the problem of increasing competition between industrial trawlers and artisanal fishers for fish due to illegal 'saiko' fishing. Saiko was also covered in an accompanying radio documentary sponsored by the project. The year ended with a review of the project's activities in 2018.

The radio programmes were the subject of several news stories:

- <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/ejf-and-partners-hen-mpoano-launch-regular-radio-show>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/fishers-call-for-grassroots-engagement-to-prepare-for-2019-closed-season.html>

The radio documentary is available at the following link:

- <https://vimeo.com/255033068>



Panellists on the Egyanom Afarfo show discuss the need for intensive engagement of fishing communities to secure a successful closed season.

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



Frozen blocks of 'saiko' fish traded at Elmina port.

During the second half of 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project continued its campaign for an end to the illegal fishing practice known as 'saiko' where industrial trawlers sell fish to specially adapted 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 fuelling the collapse of Ghana's inshore fishery, on which millions of Ghanaians rely for food security and income.

Following the arrest of a saiko canoe in Apam in August 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project issued a press release calling for the transparent prosecution of the owners of both the saiko canoe and the industrial trawler that caught the fish. We will continue to follow the case in 2019 and push for adequate sanctions that serve to deter individuals from engaging in the practice.

Despite attempts to legalise the saiko trade, the practice is clearly illegal under the 2010 Fisheries Regulations, LI 1968. We will continue to monitor the saiko trade in

2019, through satellite observations and monitoring at sea and in ports, and submit alerts to government where suspected infringements are detected.

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>
- <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/ghana-steps-up-the-fight-against-illegal-fishing-practices-1>

Press release concerning the arrest of a saiko canoe in Apam:

- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/be-transparent-in-dealing-with-saiko-culprits-ejf-hen-mpoano.html>

Cape Coast beach clean to mark International Coastal Clean-up Day



Volunteers at the beach clean in Cape Coast.

On 18th September, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project joined initiatives around the world to mark International Coastal Clean-Up Day with a beach clean in Cape Coast. Dozens of bags of trash were collected thanks to the efforts of 124 volunteers from St. Monica's Junior High School, Dennis Foundation, the Fisheries Commission, ATL FM and EJF, among others. Single use plastics, such as water sachets, polythene bags, take away packs, cups, and bottles, made up the majority of items collected. After the beach clean, the school children were educated on the impact of plastics pollution on the health of communities, fisheries and the oceans. Participants were encouraged to reduce their use of single use plastics, and infographics shared with information and ideas for alternatives. Zoomlion supported the initiative with equipment and rubbish collection services.

The beach clean event was featured in the press:

- <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/science/recycling-is-not-the-answer-to-fighting-plastic-pollution-problem-ejf-138888>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/environmental-justice-foundation-cleans-cape-coast-beaches.html>
- <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Environmental-Justice-Foundation-cleans-Cape-Coast-beaches-686662>

Cape Coast festival - 2018 regatta and quiz on sustainable fisheries



The Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission hands out awards at the Cape Coast festival.

As part of the 2018 Oguaa Fetu Afahye festival in Cape Coast, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project partnered with the Fisheries Commission and ATL FM to organise the Bakatue (regatta) on the Fosu Lagoon, followed by a quiz for fishers on sustainable fisheries.

The theme of this year's regatta was "Replenishing the Fisheries Resource: A Shared Responsibility". The winning teams received flags from the Far Dwuma Nkodo project with messages promoting responsible fishing, which were also displayed by the Oguua Masqueraders during their street performance. Staff from the Fisheries Commission and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development were also present for the award ceremony and celebrations. Kyidomhene (Sub-Chief) of Oguua Traditional Area, Nana Kwamina Nyimfa, urged fishers to observe best practices to ensure that fisheries resources are sustained for future generations.

Launch of grant programme for reporting on fisheries



Journalist Obrempong Yaw Ampofo interviews a fisherman for his story.

Earlier in 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project launched a quarterly grant programme, which offers grants to journalists of up to 2,500 Ghanaian Cedis for reporting on fisheries issues. The first stories under the programme were published in October and November 2018, respectively, on the topics of conflicts between oil supply vessels and small-scale fishers (Obrempong Yaw Ampofo, Citi FM) and the detrimental impact that illegal saiko fishing is having on small-scale fishing communities (Shirley Asiedu Addo, Daily Graphic). The next two stories, which focus on issues around transparency in the fisheries sector and the activities of industrial trawlers, are expected to be published in early 2019.

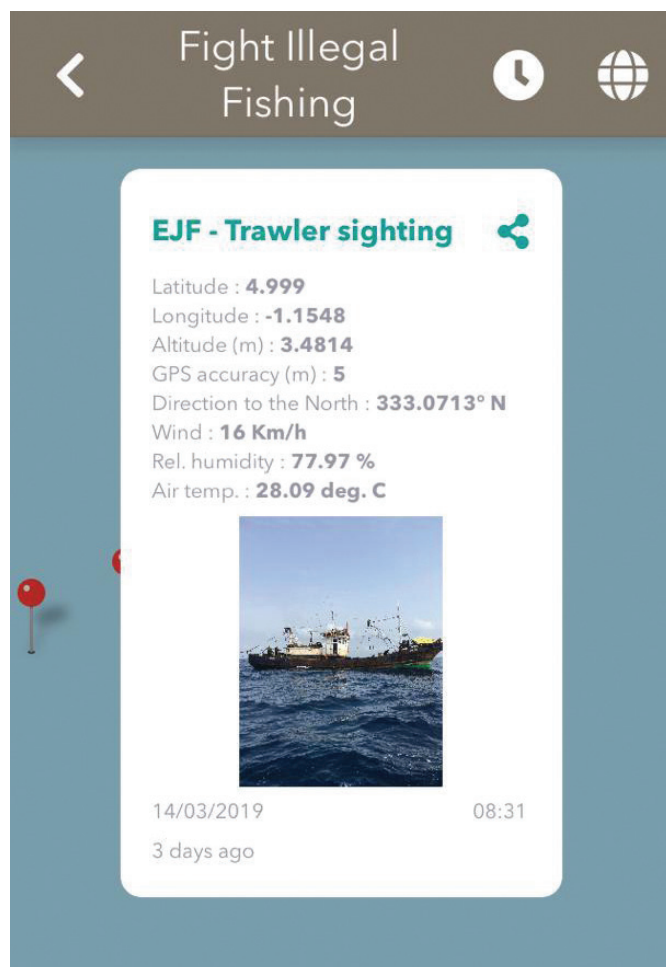
Introduction to the fisheries story grant programme:

• <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/2018/supporting-journalism-in-ghana>

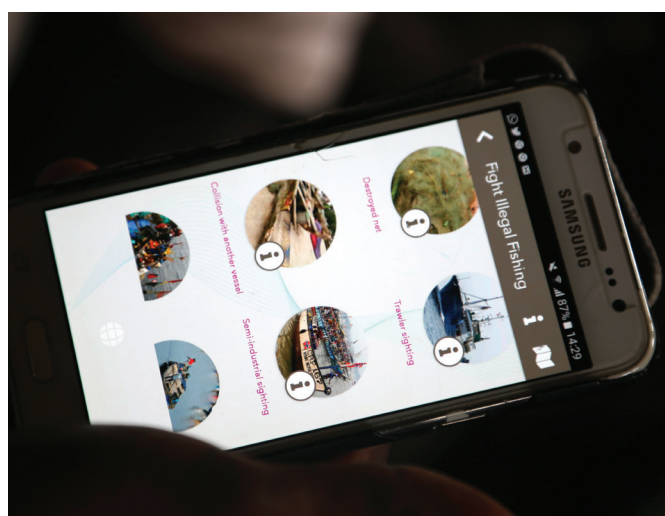
Links to the stories published under the first round of awards:

- <http://citinewsroom.com/2018/10/26/obrempongs-oil-diary-vessels-crashing-canoes-at-sea-a-silent-killer-of-fishermen/>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/features/features/saiko-s-scourge-a-fight-that-must-be-won.html>

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



Sighting of an industrial trawler in Ghana's Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) reserved for artisanal fishers recorded on the mobile app.



Screen showing activities that may be reported by fishers using the mobile app.



Sighting of an industrial trawler allegedly fishing in the IEZ in March 2019.

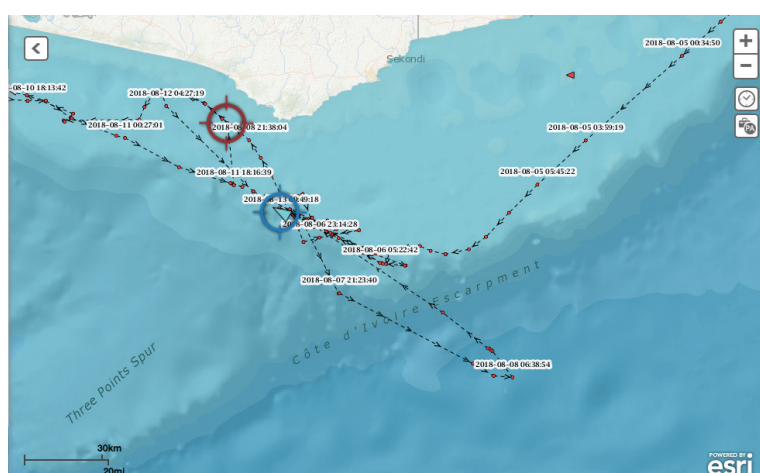
Work continued during the second half of 2018, to develop a mobile app that aims to provide a simple and user-friendly means for fishers to record information on illegal fishing and encroachment by industrial vessels they witness at sea. The data are geo-tagged and reported to a central database, and can be used to:

- Demonstrate the extent of overlap and conflict at sea between small-scale and industrial fishing vessels.
- Provide evidence for the prosecution of individual cases of illegal fishing.
- Assist fishers in obtaining compensation when their rights are infringed (damage to fishing gear, collisions at sea, etc.).

The first test of the app at sea was carried out in October 2018, during a visit to the Far Dwuma Nkodo project by the EU Delegation. In December 2018, the mobile app was trialed at Gomoa Fetteh in the Central Region, with the results of the pilot test being fed back to the software developers to refine the final application. The mobile app will be rolled out to more fishers in early 2019, in close collaboration with the Fisheries Commission and Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC).

Remote monitoring of fishing vessels

During this period, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project continued to observe the activities of fishing vessels in Ghana's waters, and vessels registered to the Ghanaian flag, using the software ExactEarth. ExactEarth is a satellite-based tracking system that allows for the observation of vessels equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS). As a result of this monitoring, a number of notifications were sent to the fisheries authorities in both Ghana and in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire for further investigation and follow up.



AIS positions of an industrial trawler observed using ExactEarth.

Research into alternative or supplementary livelihoods



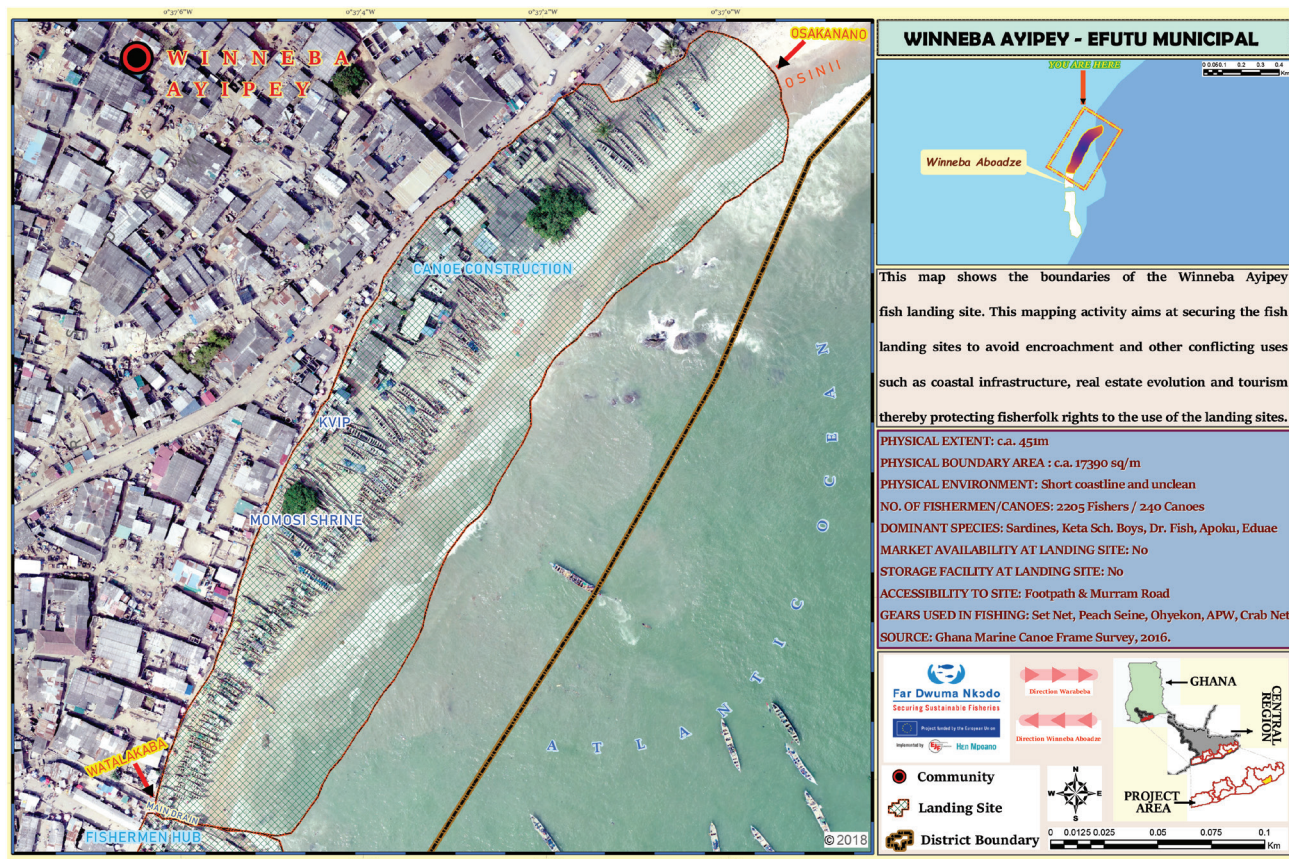
EJO officer leading a consultation with fishermen in Central Region.

In the third quarter of 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project started to gather information for a study on potential and alternative economic opportunities that can be undertaken by fishers to reduce pressure on fish stocks. Field work was carried out between July and September 2018, with a total of 24 focus group discussions and 12 in-depth interviews held. These covered fishers using six different types of fishing gear (purse seine, set net, gill net, ali net, beach seine and drift gill net), as well as canoe owners and fish processors. In total, discussions were held with 291 fishers from 17 different communities in the

Central Region as well as academics, NGOs, government institutions, Konkohemaas (Queen Fishmongers) and Chief Fishermen from across the country. The most common alternative livelihood options which came to the fore included pig farming and other livestock rearing, baking, pineapple farming, salt mining, aquaculture, transport business and real estate. Though most of the fishers are willing to divert their resources into other ventures, the lack of skills in those areas often made it impossible. The final report is expected to be released during the first half of 2019 and will inform further activities of the project and the preparation of proposals to access funding for future initiatives.

Mapping of landing sites

In the last quarter of 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project deployed a drone to acquire high resolution aerial imagery to be integrated into maps of landing sites in the Central Region produced under the project. The landing site maps were validated in the last quarter of 2018 and will be used as a basis for securing the rights of communities to access and use those sites for landing fish and related activities. The Far Dwuma Nkodo project aims to secure landing site tenure rights in case study communities, which will inform the production of a guidance document to assist other communities to do the same.



Example map of a landing site in Central Region produced using high resolution aerial imagery.

Improving transparency in Ghana's fisheries sector



Participants at the roundtable on improving transparency and accountability in the fisheries sector.

During this period, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project continued to advocate for improved transparency in the management and governance of Ghana's fisheries, as a cost-effective means of fighting illegal fishing, improving participation and accountability in the management of the sector, and ensuring the fair and sustainable exploitation of resources.

In November 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project organized a roundtable in Accra on the theme 'Improving transparency and accountability in the governance of Ghana's fisheries sector'. The meeting was attended by fishing industry associations, civil society organisations, regulators, development partners and the media. Discussions considered the role of transparency and accountability as pillars of good governance in fisheries resource management, while drawing on successes from the experience of implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Ghana's mining, oil and gas sectors. The roundtable also sought to identify the transparency and accountability challenges in the fisheries sector, and to map a way forward. Participants called on the government of Ghana to improve transparency by routinely publishing and maintaining updated information on sanctions imposed for fisheries offences, licensing of industrial vessels, beneficial ownership of fishing vessels, and use of the fisheries development fund, as well as observer reports and annual reports of the Fisheries

Commission. They also called for the establishment of an online and publicly accessible licensing and revenue-reporting system in the fisheries sector, akin to the system implemented by the Minerals Commission, and for the reform of the Fisheries Commission board to ensure all sectors of industry are adequately represented in the decision-making process. According to participants, these provisions should be incorporated into the revision of the 2002 Fisheries Act, Act 625. A communiqué setting out the key recommendations and outcomes of the roundtable will be published in early 2019 and the next steps determined to ensure issues around transparency and accountability are raised up the political agenda.

In addition, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project circulated a report at the roundtable setting out 15 priorities for improving transparency in Ghana's fisheries sector. The formal launch of the report will take place in January 2019.

The roundtable discussion was documented in a number of news stories:

- <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/12/05/industry-ngos-call-for-more-transparency-in-ghanas-fishing-sector/>
- <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/fisheries-stakeholders-call-for-transparency-and-accountability-in-ghana-s-fisheries.html>
- <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/transparency-and-accountability-are-key-to-transforming-fisheries-sector-142968>

Documenting traditional management of the clam fishery at Ada

In the last quarter of 2018, the Far Dwuma Nkodo project began to document the traditional management system in place for the clam fishery in the Volta Estuary. So far ten focus group discussions have been conducted, with at least 70 clam harvesters and processors in Ada Foah and Agave Afedome attending. Influential clam harvesters and processors have now been identified in the communities, and a framework for constituting a co-management committee has been agreed. Next steps will include training on co-management and further discussions to develop a co-management plan.



Women processing clams at Agorkpo in Ada.

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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