



GHANA FAR DWUMA NKODO

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

The fisheries sector plays an essential role in the government's national development objectives in relation to employment, livelihood support, poverty reduction and food security. It accounts for 4.5 percent of GDP and provides livelihoods for an estimated 2.4 million people, with women involved in post-harvest activities such as fish processing and marketing.

A series of reforms within the fisheries sector was prompted by the European Commission's (EC) "yellow card" in 2013 (card lifted in 2015), caused by high levels of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Ensuing dialogue with the EC and the World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) EULGP CI will impact on tenure rights in the small-scale fishing sector, impacting canoe registration to control access; capacity reduction; legal reforms to address IUU; and co-management policy development.

As Ghana shifts from "open access" fisheries, it is crucial to ensure that the VGGT principles and the principles of the associated Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines) are better understood and applied to guarantee the fair and transparent roll-out of tenure rights reforms.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to contribute to greater environmental sustainability and social equity through a reduction of illegal fishing and strengthened capacity to support legal, sustainable and co-managed fisheries. The specific objective is to promote food security and improved livelihoods of fishers and their families by reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, in particular the ones impacting artisanal fishers and promoting participatory co-management of fisheries.

Name of the EULGP CI*	Far Dwuma Nkodo - Securing Sustainable Fisheries
Implementer partners	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) – Hen Mpoano
Target areas	Central Region, districts of: Awutu Senya, Gomoa East, Gomoa West, Effutu Municipal, Ekumfi, District, Mfantseman Municipal, Abura Asebu Kwamankese, Cape Coast Municipal, Komenda-Edina Eguafo-Abrem. Volta river estuary at Ada in Dangme East District in Greater Accra Region and the Keta District in Volta Region
Political entities involved	Ghanaian Government represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) and the Fisheries Commission
Budget	EUR 1 900 000
Length of the EULGP CI	January 2017 – December 2020

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The EULGP CI aims to promote knowledge and understanding, skills and "buy-in" from the communities and help guide the development of policies, legal frameworks and processes in support of fisheries co-management. A network of stakeholders will be created to foster dialogue, skills-sharing, collaboration and participation at multiple levels in support of the incorporation of VGGT principles in fisheries decision-making and co-management. It is based on a "bottom-up approach" where dialogue, identification of problems and research into solutions comes from local communities, with appropriate engagement with the relevant authorities and stakeholders. The EULGP CI will produce publications and studies to inform the policy reforms and support the beneficiaries in their advocacy efforts.

Capacity building will increase the technical capacity of stakeholders, enabling them to provide quality support and implement initiatives identified by grassroots organizations. An increased understanding of fisheries and coastal management issues will be developed with stakeholders not directly involved (town planners, politicians etc), to foster cross-sector collaboration.

The inclusion of the VGGT in fisheries policy reform will help strengthen coastal communities' tenure rights, promoting food security and improving the incomes of artisanal fishing communities and their families. The intervention will ensure the institutionalization of IUU multi-stakeholder platforms, functioning community-based monitoring.

*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

In addition, it will raise awareness on tenure rights among the government and decision-makers, contributing to the inclusion of the principles of policy reforms in fisheries and potentially in other sectors.

- Promoting the participation of coastal communities to gather evidence and report on illegal fishing, providing much needed evidence for government enforcement agencies and creating a sense of ownership with regard to resource protection.
- Training key fisherman associations in legal and policy processes, co-management and rights-based fisheries management, to strengthen capacity and ensure the representation of small-scale fishermen's interests.
- Promoting the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in tenure rights and proposed reform processes and encouraging the self-organization of these groups.
- Encouraging the participation of artisanal fishing communities in managing fisheries resources by promoting the fair and equitable allocation of tenure rights based on the VGGT principles and identifying and strengthening traditional tenure rights into effective fisheries co-management associations.
- Identify and promote alternative livelihoods to broaden fisher communities' economic basis, bringing benefits for income, the long-term sustainability of their fish stocks, and food and livelihood security.

EJF and Hen Mpoano will work with 59 communities across 10 districts in Ghana's Central Region and in the Volta Estuary supporting over 260 000 people - including those most at risk from the impacts of illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. In doing this, it is hoped that vital marine resources will be safeguarded for future generations and that Ghana will become a model for sustainable fisheries in the West African region.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The main activities implemented by the EULGP CI to date include:

- Consultations organized to gather input from fishing communities as part of the ongoing legal review process. A total of 10 were held covering 15 communities across the 9 coastal districts of the Central Region, reaching 464 artisanal male fishers and female fish processors and traders. The results of these were validated by all the chief fishermen and Konkohemaa from all the communities in the Central Region and were consolidated in a 10-point communiqué.
- In April 2018, a roundtable discussion was held on the relevance of the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines for addressing the challenges facing Ghana's small-scale fisheries sector. It 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.

- In May 2018, a three-day training was organized for 11 journalists specialized in fisheries reportage in a bid to build their capacity to report effectively on the fisheries sector.
- A campaign for ending the illegal fishing practice known as 'Saiko' was made during the first half of 2018. Saiko is a key driver in the collapse of Ghana's inshore fisheries, on which millions of Ghanaians rely for food security and income.
- A briefing was released explaining the seriousness of this threat, and a film titled "Ghana: a fishing nation in crisis" was produced and broadcasted on national prime time television on 5 June, to coincide with the International Day for the fight against IUU fishing. This was followed by a panel discussion including the chairman of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, the Director for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of MOFAD, and a representative from Hen Mpoano.
- The implementation team and FAO collaborated to use the FAO Open Tenure application to document clam fishing and farming grounds in the Volta Estuary, capturing the use, type, name, gender, and boundaries of the area concerned. After a pilot exercise supported by a FAO expert in early 2018, the implementation team used Open Tenure to map all the clam farms in the Volta estuary. To date, 127 farms have been mapped with communities participating throughout the process.
- Completed the mapping of all 125 landing sites in the Central Region and the Volta Estuary, with the support of local communities and chief fishermen. 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 led to the development of a database of all the mapped areas, with key characteristics for each landing site. It will serve as the basis for multi-stakeholder consultations to address conflicts and secure landing sites and processing areas.
- A mobile application is being developed to allow local fishers to document industrial illegal fishing and conflicts at sea.



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