



GHANA FAR BAN BO

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

The fisheries sector plays an essential role in the government of Ghana's national development objectives in relation to employment, livelihood support, poverty reduction and food security. The contribution of the fishing subsector to GDP declined from 3.1 percent in 2016 to -1.4 percent in 2017. The sector provides livelihoods for an estimated 10 percent of Ghana's population, with women involved in post-harvest activities such as fish processing and marketing.

A series of reforms in the fisheries sector was prompted by the European Commission (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 Project (WARFP) led to the intervention, which will influence 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 Far Ban Bo EULGP CI (which means "protecting fishing livelihoods") is to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources.

It was designed to address the challenges of overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices also known as IUU, weak capacity of Fisheries Associations to actively participate in fisheries governance, support stakeholders in monitoring and enforcing relevant laws, and lack of secure tenure rights and grievances mechanisms.

Name of the EULGP CI*	<i>Far Ban Bo – Protecting Fisheries Livelihoods</i>
Implementer	CARE DENMARK FONDEN FOR FRIVILLIG U LANDSBISTAND, Care International in Ghana
Implementer partners	Friends of Nation and Oxfam
Target areas	30 districts in Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta regions
Political entities involved	Ghanaian Government represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD); Marine Police, Enforcement Unit of the Fisheries Commission
Budget	EUR 2 062 495
Length of the EULGP CI	January 2017 – December 2020

The specific objective looks for smallholder fishers and processors to benefit from equitable and sustainable rights-based fisheries resources management.

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The *Far Ban Bo* EULGP CI is a 4-year fisheries governance intervention to contribute to the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of fishing (dependent) communities in Ghana. The EULGP CI is 80 percent funded by the European Union, and 20 percent through contributions from consortium members comprising of CARE, Oxfam and Friends of the Nation. The EULGP CI is expected to deliver results to achieve the following objectives:

- Empower smallholder fishery associations and CSO alliances (25 CSO members) to take an active part in fisheries governance, focusing on strengthening the capacities of targeted smallholder fishery associations. The intervention seeks to ensure that fishery associations, including women members and leaders, will have the capacity to engage with the Fisheries Commission and key stakeholders, and participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and laws, as well as in multi-stakeholder meetings to review and provide feedback on enforcement activities and general fisheries' governance. The EULGP CI also focuses on strengthening the Fisheries Alliance (CSO members) to engage in fisheries sector governance processes. It will enable CSOs to plan and carry out joint evidence-based advocacy campaigns and engage constructively with government and private sector duty bearers.

*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).

- Effective IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms piloted with the view to scaling up and institutionalizing the mechanisms, to ensure the equity, inclusion and tenure rights of smallholder fishers.
- The intervention will ensure the institutionalization of IUU multi-stakeholder platforms, functioning community-based monitoring mechanisms, and timely responses by authorities to reported grievances. In addition, the activity will ensure an Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) based IUU reporting system for more accurate and real time information. It will lead to better evidence collection as a basis for follow up and prosecution.
- Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and the nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. The EULGP CI will assist in the development of sustainable livelihood models along the fishery value chain, analyse alternative livelihood options, and enable fishers to save and invest in new livelihood strategies through savings and loan groups. The activity will contribute towards ensuring that smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources, among them women and vulnerable groups, are safeguarded in the context of capacity reductions and have access to sustainable fishery and alternative livelihood strategies to ensure food and nutrition security for themselves and their families. Social accountability mechanisms will be used to ensure improved service delivery to poor and vulnerable smallholder fishers from the relevant government service providers. The strengthened capacity of fishery associations to analyse their situation and advocate for equitable co-management models and demand services, including fishery extension services as well as health, nutrition and education related services, will ensure sustainability beyond this intervention. The EULGP CI will link fishery groups and associations to existing democratic mechanisms, such as the district annual planning cycle, to enable rights claiming and constructive dialogue with authorities after the intervention ends, ensuring the sustainability of the EULGP CI impacts.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The expected outcomes of the EULGP CI are to empower smallholder fishery associations and CSO alliances to take an active part in fisheries' governance; to build effective IUU monitoring and to pilot a grievance mechanism; to make sure that social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and the nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources.

The current progress includes:

- The launch of five zonal interventions.
- A baseline survey.
- A national orientation meeting.
- Training on the VGGT and the IUU (reaching 30 journalists, 1 200 direct community members (50 000 indirect) and over 500 CSOs).
- 100 people engaged in the fisheries legal review forum at national level.
- Fisheries dialogue, its creation and support:
 - National fisheries dialogues
 - National CSO Natural Resource and Environment (NRE) sector review
- Stakeholders trained on IUU and Closed Season:
 - 89 judges selected from the Supreme Court to Circuit (Western 23 and Eastern Zones 66)
 - 50 Zonal Officers, Marine Police, National Fish Processors and Trader Associations (NAFPTA)
- Five IUU Community Monitoring Groups and five local IUU grievance committees formed and trained to immediately follow up on reported cases. Coordinated meetings with the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) on the development of the IUU platform tool.
- The assessed background information for the development of ICT platforms (base maps produced to track trawler infractions in the Inshore Exclusive Zone (IEZ).
- Initiating IUU-multi stakeholder platform dialogue sections.
- Mapping and documenting 2 fishing landing sites:
 - Collaboration with state and non-state actors, such as CSO (FAO and EJF), Sustainable Fisheries Management Program (SFMP) and the Government (the Fisheries Commission, MoFAD, the Marine Police, and the Enforcement Unit of the Fisheries Commission)
- Training five IUU groups (96 participants) with the Marine Police and FEU.
- CSO – Government engagements:
 - Fisheries Initiative coordination meeting
 - EU fisheries and SFMP engagement with the Fisheries Commission Board
 - Zonal Officers and FEU personnel trained by the FBB engaged at the community level fisheries management and IUU, including Closed Season
- Increased media coverage of the fisheries issues.
- Capacity of Ghana National Canon Fishermen Council (GNCF) and NAFPTA enhanced (ongoing).
- Fisheries associations more involved in fisheries governance:
 - Media Engagement
 - Government Engagement
 - Internal Strengthening
- Core community groups support the monitoring of IUU.
- Increased understanding of the effect of the IUU on fisheries livelihoods.
- Mapping of landing sites and demarcation completed with full community participation.
- Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) established, including 12 groups and 349 members (20.9 percent males, 79.1 percent females).



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



AFRICAN LAND POLICY CENTRE



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence