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## Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conservation Planning Retreat for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands

Theme:

***‘Ye aza ne mo, ye kenlebie’  
‘Our wetlands, our future’***

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**June 5 & 6, 2013 @ Kikam Royal Beach Resort.**

Compiled by: Richard Adupong and Balertey Gormey



COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER  
GHANA



Friends of the Nation

This publication is available electronically on Coastal Resources Center's website at <http://www.crc.uri.edu> and Friends of the Nation's website at <http://fonghana.org/>.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AWG	Amanzule Working Group
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
DA	District Assemblies
ECHNTS	Esiama Community Health Nursing Training School
EDA	Ellembelle District Assembly
FoN	Friends of the Nation
FP	Family Planning
GACCC	Greater Amanzule Community Conservation Committee
GADCC	Greater Amanzule District Conservation Committee
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GWS	Ghana Wildlife Society
JDA	Jomoro District Assembly
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
NEMA	Nzema East Municipal Assembly
PCV	Peace Corp Volunteers
PHE	Population Health and Environment
PMC	Project Management Committee
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
ToR	Terms of Reference
WD	Wildlife Division
YPE	Youth Peer Educator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first Amanzule Planning Retreat held in 2012 resulted in the creation of the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) which was subsequently tasked with designing the preferred conservation scenario for the Greater Amanzule Landscape. The AWG comprising traditional authorities, people in government and civil society completed this task after series of discussions, studies and consultations. Consequently, June 5 & 6 2013 witnessed the second Amanzule Planning Retreat under the theme, '*ye aza ne mo, ye kenlebie*' (*our wetlands, our future*). The retreat was attended by over 50 stakeholders including paramount Chiefs, divisional Chiefs, Municipal and District Chief Executives, District Coordinating Directors, Presiding Members, District Development Planners, Fishermen, Fishmongers, Fish processors, Farmers, Civil Society Groups, other government agencies and youth groups. The main objective of the retreat was to have a formal endorsement of the conservation scenario by stakeholders present.

Discussions centered on diverse seascape and landscape issues. These included green-green in the marine waters, customary laws and practices in wetland areas, the proposed conservation management model, bamboo inventory assessment, recent satellite imagery of the wetland areas and its implications as well as Population Health and Environment (PHE) issues and interventions in the Ellembelle and Jomoro District.

The Greater Amanzule Wetlands stretches from the Ankobra River estuary to the Ivory Coast border and covers the coastal plains of the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts and to a little extent, the Nzema East District but is yet to have a formal conservation status.

At the end of the two day retreat, not only did stakeholders endorse the Conservation Scenario document but also passed and signed a Resolution for the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Hen Mpoano Initiative held a two-day conservation planning retreat on June 5 & 6, 2013 at Kikam Royal Beach Resort in the Ellembele District under the theme, '*ye aza ne mo, ye kenlebie*' (*our wetlands, our future*). It was held to discuss a proposed conservation management model / scenario developed by the Amanzule Working Group (AWG)<sup>1</sup> for the management of the Greater Amanzule Wetlands.

Participants of the workshop totaling 52 included paramount Chiefs, divisional Chiefs, Municipal and District Chief Executives, District Coordinating Directors, Presiding members, Development Planners, Fishermen, Fishmongers & processors, Farmers, Civil Society, Government agencies and youth groups. The detailed list of participants is attached as *Annex B*.

This report therefore describes the proceeding of the two day workshop.

## **DETAILED SESSION DELIVERY**

### **DAY ONE**

The first day of the retreat involved an opening session of brief remarks by the Chairman and Chief of Party of Coastal Resources Center (CRC) as well as four power-point presentations and interactive discussions on the presentations as detailed below.

### **OPENING SESSION**

The entire day one sessions were chaired by the President of Nzema Manle<sup>2</sup>, Awulae Annor Adjaye III (Paramount Chief of Western Nzema Traditional Area). In his opening remarks, he was grateful for the activities carried out by the Hen Mpoano Initiative in the six coastal districts and urged all stakeholders to ensure their sustainability. Specifically, he called on participants to play active part in the retreat to ensure that the key objectives were achieved at the end of the workshop.

On his part, the Coastal Resources Center Chief of Party, Mr. Kofi Agbogah welcomed participants to the two-day retreat and noted that the Hen Mpoano Initiative would officially

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<sup>1</sup> The AWG is the outcome of the first conservation planning retreat held in 2012. They were tasked to identify the preferred scenario for management and conservation landscape of the greater Amanzule wetlands that ensures the wise use of the benefits for local communities within the resources areas. The group (composed of representatives each of 3 traditional councils, 3 district assemblies, Wildlife Division, civil society groups and private sector) meets monthly. It is chaired by Mr. Jonathan Gokah of Ghana Wildlife Society (Beyin) and Nana Takilik VII, chief of the famous stilt village (Nzulezo) as the Patron with Mrs. Exorm A. Erskine of Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission as Secretary.

<sup>2</sup> The highest Traditional Council in the Nzemaland

close out in September 2013. He was appreciative of the constituencies established and the commitment from stakeholders since the inception of the project. Mr. Agbogah highlighted the core activities and impact of the Initiative's actions in the six coastal districts and more details on the districts forming the Greater Amanzule Focal Area. He touched on the impacts of several studies / assessment carried in the area, lessons from study tours, Population Health and Environment Interventions among others.



Figure 1 Cross section of participants

## **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

### **CUSTOMARY LAWS AND PRACTICES IN GREATER AMANZULE WETLAND AREAS BY RICHARD ADUPONG, PROJECT OFFICER-FRIENDS OF THE NATION**

Mr. Adupong noted that though the Amanzule wetlands was without a formal conservation status, customary laws had contributed to the conservation of the wetlands in the past as communities in the past showed deep reverence for the gods and obeyed traditional norms and practices because they regarded wetlands as the dwelling place of the gods. However as most of the norms remain undocumented, a 7-day study was commissioned by the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) to ascertain and document the customary laws and practices in the Greater Amanzule wetland areas.

#### Highlights of key findings:

- Ownership of wetlands rest with the entire community and seen as ‘a gift by nature’ but with various myths surrounding its origin. Most wetlands are tagged either as male or female and such a belief has been handed over to generations by oral tradition.
- Traditionally, wetlands have provided communities both economic and spiritual benefits and customs / norms surrounding these wetlands were respected in the past.
- Certain persons, animals and items such as tenth child, women in their period of menstruation, goats, pigs and ducks among others were restricted from going near wetlands. Refuse dumping and defecation at wetland areas were prohibited as the place was regarded as the abode of the gods.
- Fishing expedition was/is not allowed on certain days as the gods were/are believed to be spending precious time with their children on such days and needed privacy.
- There are shrines for the wetlands and the fetish priests / priestess acts as the mouthpiece of the gods and thereby perform all necessary rituals to pacify and honour the gods

It was revealed that factors such as modern religious beliefs, formal education, modernization, civilization and technology have rendered most customary laws obsolete, useless and less respected and remain major threats to the use of customary practices in the conservation of wetlands. As such, stakeholders especially custodians of tradition were tasked to revisit the past and integrate the good part of our traditions and customs with modern ones to ensure proper conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands.



## **PROPOSED CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SCENARIO BY JONATHAN GOKAH, CHAIRMAN AMANZULE WORKING GROUP**

The AWG Chairman, Mr. Gokah noted that the outcome of the first Amanzule Planning Retreat was the formation of the AWG. The initial 10-member group, comprising traditional authorities, people in government and civil society was expanded to include some members of the Spatial Planning Advisory Groups (SPAGs)<sup>3</sup> in the Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts. In line with its Terms of Reference (ToR), the group was tasked with designing the preferred conservation scenario for the Greater Amanzule Landscape. The AWG, he noted, embarked on a series of discussions, studies and consultations and had developed a draft document for discussion. Key highlights of the proposed conservation model include:

- The new scenario is a merger of the CREMA and PMC models.
- The new model is **Greater Amanzule Conservation Area (GACC)**
- The **GACC** would be managed at the Community level by the **Greater Amanzule Community Conservation Committee (GACCC)** and at the District level by the **Greater Amanzule District Conservation Committee (GADCC)**
- Whilst the GACCC would report to the GADCC, the GADCC would report to the Nzema Manle (the highest traditional Council in the three districts)
- The GADCC and the GACCC would perform specific roles and functions towards the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands
- Devolution should be ensured by the Wildlife Division, who are members at the GADCC level
- The GADCC and the GACCC requires the active support, blessing and benediction of the three District Assemblies and the Nzema Manle

The Chairman of the working group noted that the model once endorsed, would be further socialized with communities in the Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts.

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<sup>3</sup> Revived by the Hen Mpoano Initiative but created by Spatial Dimensions: the consulting firm contracted by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Jubilee Partners to develop spatial plans for three of the districts fronting the Gulf of Guinea-Ellembelle, Jomoro and Nzema East.

## **BAMBOO ENERGY CROP PLANTATIONS BY MARK QUIAN, DARLOW COMPANY LTD**

His presentation centered mainly on the various uses of bamboo and the efforts being made to ensure the sustainability of the industry in Ghana. He mentioned some of the uses as: production of boards for the construction industry, cutlery, paper and clothes.

On the production of energy he said bamboo could be used in combustion stem with efficiency ranging from 60% to 80% mostly on moisture content, gasification- heating biomass oxygen to produce synthesis gas to replace natural gas, pelletization by compressing wood chips to solid format and as liquid biofuels.

He said that to ensure sustainability of the industry, his company started engaging in the following activities

- Tissue culture to micro-propagate saplings that can yield 65 tonnes of bamboo per acre within 4 years
- Established a nursery in Tarkwa with bamboo saplings from India and Ethiopia that have very high density

He concluded by indicating that his company planned to establish a plant that would produce electricity locally by using local bamboo instead of exporting the raw material abroad.

## **EMPOWERING THE COASTAL CITIZENRY THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING BY AWULAE ANNOR ADJAYE III, PRESIDENT, NZEMA MANLE**

The Nzema Manle President and Chair/ Convener of Platform for Coastal Communities, Awulae Annor Adjaye III, highlighted the challenges in the current governance system and emphasized that such problems necessitated the creation of the Platform for Coastal Communities (PCC). The PCC, he stressed, is one of the arms of the governance architecture (CSO) that sought to empower the coastal citizenry- from New Town (Avolienu) to Shama- through education and training, to exercise their democratic rights and obligations under the present dispensation by taking the proactive actions under the principles of self-help, self-determination and popular control.

The Paramount Chief noted that when the citizenry were empowered, they would show keen interest and participation in the decision – making process affecting planned activities and development of their community, district, municipal and metropolitan assemblies and their impact on social cohesion and inclusion.

Key actions taken so far include:

- Exhibiting keen interest in the Local Governance architecture
- Educating the citizenry to rise up to their Tax obligations
- Empowering the citizenry to cultivate the spirit of self-help and self-determination
- Employing the strategies of Advocacy, Lobbying, Networking, Collaboration and Activism to ensure that duty bearers rise up to their responsibilities
- Participating in the decision-making processes on composite budgeting and strategic planning and development of our communities, Districts, Municipalities and Metropolitan Assemblies.



Figure 2 Awulae Annor Adjaye III listening to comments after his presentation

## DISCUSSIONS

The table below presents summary of discussions that ensued after the presentations

**Table 1 Comments, Questions & answers after Presentation**

Question	Response
Why are people destroying such traditions and practices which have over the years conserved our wetlands?	Modern forms of religion, technology, modernization among others are the reasons most people / communities are not obeying customs and traditions
In which ways can we make the traditions effective and working?	Traditional rulers and all stakeholders concerned about the society and the environment ought to take proactive steps to let the youth in particular, be aware of the values of such traditional practices
Is Nzema East considered as part of the Greater Amanzule?	By definition, the Greater Amanzule wetlands cover the Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro District.
<b>Comments</b>  <b>Chief of Ampain (Nana Nyamekeh Fofole II)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Amanzule helped fishermen to get more fish catch</li> <li>• Certain days were declared as non-fishing days in the lagoon and rivers</li> <li>• A new born child was shown to the wetland god for protection</li> <li>• We should protect our wetlands and the environment in general from activities of illegal small-scale miners (<i>galamsey operators</i>)</li> </ul> <b>Chief Fisherman-Asanta (Mr. Ebambey)</b>	

- The name *Nzema Manle Wetlands* should be considered instead of the *Amanzule wetlands*
- The proposed Conservation management structure should be well analyzed and modified as and when necessary

**DCE-Ellembelle District (Hon. Daniel Eshun)**

- All the three District Assemblies (Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro) should make sure their bye-laws reflect / incorporate the recommendations by the AWG and further ensure the GADCC and GACCC get the needed legal support/ backing.
- Spatial planning should be well promoted and accepted to avoid haphazard development in the wake of the oil and gas production in the coastal districts
- The District Assemblies can make budget allocations to support education/ sensitization of the values of wetlands and the need for conservation.
- Hen Mpoano should collaborate with all relevant state and non-state institutions to achieve the desired objectives and goals.

**Presiding Member-Nzema East Municipal Assembly (Hon. Kwofie)**

- There should be legal backing for the GADCC and the GACCC
- The Nzema Manle should ensure the GADCC and the GACCC function effectively and has their support at all times

**Chief of Ampain (Nana Nyamekeh Fofole II)**

- The spatial development framework, if properly done and implemented would help development in the districts
- All the District Assemblies should consider spatial plans to help improve on the level of physical development

**Paramount Chief-Gwira (Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan)**

- The District Assemblies should share their Medium Term Development Plans (MTDP) with traditional rulers. This will enable Chiefs to know which specific role (s) they have to play to ensure the full realization of the plans.



Figure 3 Gender Desk Officer of Jomoro District Assembly making a comment

## END OF DAY ONE

At the end of the day's proceeding, the Chairman, Awulae Annor Adjaye summarized the presentations and key issues discussed and tasked participants to make use of the lessons. The day finally ended with a prayer by a member of the Amanzule Working Group.

## DAY TWO



Figure 4 A section of traditional Chiefs at the Retreat



## **OPENING SESSION**

As customs demand, the day began with a short prayer. This was followed with a recap of the previous day's discussions by the session's facilitator, Richard Adupong. The Chairperson for the day's sessions, Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan was introduced to participants. In his remarks, the Chairman, who is also the Paramount Chief of Gwira Traditional Area & Vice President of Nzema Manle, thanked participants for the fruitful discussions that ensued the previous day and called on them for another productive session.



Figure 5 Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan addressing participants

## **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

Similar to the first day, four Power-point presentations were made on the second day. The presentations focused on green-green issues, recent satellite imagery of the Amanzule wetland areas and its implications, Population Health and Environment interventions by the Hen Mpoano Initiative and Bamboo Inventory Assessment carried out in the area.



## **GREEN-ALGAE, THE STORY SO FAR BY KOFI AGBOGAH, CHIEF OF PARTY, CRC-GHANA**

The CRC-Ghana Chief of Party began by distinguishing between two types of Algae: Enteromorpha (Ula) Clathrata and Enteromorpha (Iva) flexuosa. The algae, he observed have impacted communities from the Ankobra estuary in Ghana to Grand Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire with over 50 fishing communities directly affected in Ghana.

The Hen Mpoano Initiative according to him took several measures to assist both the Government of Ghana and the affected communities to understand the nature of the problem. This was done through interactions with the people affected to explain the issues to them. Hen Mpoano collaborated and indeed worked with international experts to study the problem in both Ghana and the Cote d'Ivoire.

The results obtained so far since 1993 show elevated nitrogen in sea water but does not explain why or the source of the bloom. Mr. Agbogah called for refined analysis of water, fish and algae using isotope analysis. He further noted that in the process certain assumptions were made; including: Nitrogen in water from oceanic sources (upwelling), nitrogen from agricultural fertilizers (NPK) and nitrogen from sewerage municipal sources.

The presentation ended with the facilitator mentioning that the outcome of the process so far is the willingness of two governments (Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire) to effectively cooperate to find a solution to the problem.

## **RECENT SATELLITE IMAGERY OF THE AMANZULE WETLAND AREAS AND IMPLICATIONS BY JUSTICE INKOOM & JUSTICE MENSAH**

The facilitators noted that from a few industrial and residential facilities scattered widely in the six coastal districts about a decade ago, the area is currently the home of several developments and promises to be the region's industrial and residential hub in the next decade. They observed that the spate of the proposed developments raises important questions about the availability of space and the fate of vulnerable coastal ecosystems with their associated services. It was revealed that remote sensing technology has been used to find answers to these questions in several regions around the world. Justice Mensah observed that the Hen Mpoano Initiative has embarked on two major remote sensing related activities to help decision makers find answers to relevant questions. The first activity, involved the use of 2012 Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery to produce a LULC map of the entire coastline to the west of Cape three points to have a baseline data of the area to facilitate future assessments. This was followed by field verification before the final maps were produce. The second activity, still ongoing, has been concentrated around the Amanzule wetland area and aims at mapping the current LULC for further change analysis and used a 2013 RapidEye satellite image for the image classification. They noted that field verification of the area has been conducted and the final LULC map is in progress; the completion of which would offer the opportunity to quantify the land classes and track changes in the LULC in the last decade.

Key implications especially in the face of recent impending infrastructural development in response to the booming oil market identified were;

- Land conversion from vegetative lands to bare lands- implication for food security, conversion of wetlands to industrial or residential use-implication for water quality and habitat loss.
- Identification of threatened plants and animal species
- Conservation and restoration of threatened habitats.
- Monitoring.

## **POPULATION HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT INTERVENTIONS IN THE AMANZULE FOCAL AREA BY ELVIS ADDAE, CRC-GHANA**

Mr. Elvis Addae made the presentation on behalf of Mr. Kwesi Johnson, the PHE Officer of the Hen Mpoano Initiative. He began by defining PHE as a community development model that links population, health, and environment (PHE) factors and supports cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination, particularly in biodiversity-rich areas (BALANCED). PHE goals among others are to facilitate improved access to Family Planning (FP) and Health service delivery, facilitate increase awareness in services that ecosystems provide (for sustainable utilization), increase pool of advocates for sustainable ecosystems management.

Among the core PHE objectives noted by Mr. Addae included: increase awareness in PHE, FP/RH, Child/Mother Nutrition, increase access and use of FP methods/services, increase knowledge and support of Local leaders & Youth to incorporate PHE activities into their existing agenda, activities and plans.

It was revealed that the PHE intervention in Ellembelle and Jomoro districts trained student nurses at Esiam Community Health Nursing Training School (ECHNTS) as PHE YPEs & staff PHE workshop, formed PHE student association at ECHNTS, facilitated adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) courses at ECHNTS through Peace Corp Volunteers (PCV) and facilitated establishment of PHE-SHEP clubs in 30 schools with support from Ghana Education Service (GES) and Ghana Health Service (GHS).

### **Lessons learned**

- frequent follow-up to ensure action; flexibility in schedules, enabling partnerships with NGOs, local government (possibility of cost share) ,
- program approach should be from community leaders (mobilization and action),
- start by teaching volunteerism to adults/leaders - youth willingly volunteer
- sustainability comes through youth
- YPEs well-respected and demonstrate leadership skills
- sought out by local leaders for input in community challenges,
- decisions and training school staff increased support and participation

## **BAMBOO LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVE BY BALERTEY GORMEY, CRC-GHANA**

Mr. Gormey stated that the Bamboo livelihood initiative was a partner project among three organizations namely; International Network of Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR-Ghana) based in Kumasi, Ankobra Beach Resort and the Coastal Resources Center-Ghana.

He noted that the central objective was to provide information on bamboo upon which a livelihood scheme could be based by way of location, size, type and spread. The initiative started in August 2012 and the following activities were carried out to achieve the set objective: capacity building and information sharing on bamboo and identification of bamboo forests in 19 communities in six districts including, Nzema East, Ellembelle, Jomoro, Tarkwa Nswaem, Aowim Swama and Mpohor Wassa. The latest was the field inventory exercise from May 13-17, 2013 in six communities in three districts namely Nzema East, Jomoro and Ellembelle. The communities were: Dominase A, Dominase B, Awukyire, Tanda, Mpatapa and Bamiankor.

### **Key findings:**

- The average clump size in the six communities is 30 per hectares ( a clump is a group of bamboo stands)
- Average height of bamboo is 22.3m- the highest is 25.4m and the lowest is 18.7m
- A total of 561, 857 culms ( a culm is a single bamboo tree) were counted making up 1,404.74 hectares

According to Mr. Gormey, the field team observed the following: bamboo forests are found along the rivers and streams in the three districts, the main species is *bambusa vulgaris* (green type), that bamboo can be transported on land and river and at the moment they are being underutilized and also wasted.

## DISCUSSIONS

The table below presents summary of discussions that ensued after the presentations

Question	Response
Was nitrogen not available in the past?	There was no use of fertilizer in the past
Does the <i>green-green</i> have any bad effect on humans?	They affect fishing livelihoods which can affect humans socially
How do chiefs and communities get access to the maps generated by Hen Mpoano as part of their studies?	Hen Mpoano will present an ICM tool kits which include all relevant maps to the Districts and traditional authorities
How can we prevent <i>galamsey operators</i> from destroying our bamboos?	Land owners (Chiefs and family heads) can prevent such practices.
<b>Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should help fishermen affected by the green-green</li> <li>• To prevent the cutting of mangroves, alternative source of fuel wood for smoking fish must be considered as Friends of the Nation in the late 90s did for communities in the Nzema East District; by providing gas cylinders.</li> <li>• People should know the values of wetlands and avoid cutting/destroying them</li> <li>• Communities must know that NGOs cannot provide gas cylinders for them on a sustainable basis because their projects are donor-funded and have end dates.</li> <li>• Increasing population growth is impacting the demand for land and as such the negative impact on wetlands and the environment in general.</li> <li>• Wetland reclamation should be avoided and appropriate measures taken to conserve wetlands for economic, social and cultural reasons /benefits</li> <li>• The Hen Mpoano Initiative has reached a ‘critical point’ that’s needs continuation of its activities and action. Therefore all stakeholders must ensure that the Initiative is sustained as communities need their guidance.</li> <li>• Our customs must be re-visited to protect the environment. The powers of local Chiefs are being taken over by the Central government and so local Chiefs are no longer</li> </ul>	

respected in the communities.

- We, the people of Nzema are gradually losing our identity because even now, we all speak the *Twi* language in our homes and at occasions.
- Local Chiefs should not be engaged in partisan politics. They should rather teach the youth the meaningful customs and traditions.
- The name Greater Amanzule wetlands should be looked at critically as the name has future implication.
- Illegal small-scale mining activities (*galamsey*) are destroying bamboo in the districts of Nzema East, Ellembele and Jomoro.
- Traditional birth practices and puberty rites should be re-visited to prevent the increasing rate of teenage pregnancy in our communities and its associated problems



Figure 6 District Chief Executive of Ellembele making a contribution

## **OUTCOME OF THE RETREAT-ENDORSEMENT OF CONSERVATION SCENARIO**

After deliberations and discussions on the various landscape and seascape issues within the two days, the stakeholders representing traditional authority, districts assemblies, other government agencies, fishers, farmers and civil society endorsed the Conservation Scenario document developed by the Amanzule Working Group. They further passed and signed a Resolution for the conservation of the Greater Amanzule wetlands. **A copy of the Resolution is attached as Annex A**



Figure 7 CRC Chief of Party, Kofi Agbogah making suggestions about the Resolution

## **CLOSING**

Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan tasked the participants to disseminate the information gathered from the two-day workshop to their communities to move forward the idea of the Hen Mpoano Initiative.

## ANNEX

### A. Resolution for the Conservation of Greater Amanzule Wetlands

We, the stakeholder group representing Traditional Authorities, District Assemblies, Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission, other government agencies and civil society having met from June 5-6, 2013 at Kikam Royal Beach Resort, to discuss the future of the Amanzule wetlands areas, stretching from the Mile 32 / Ankobra river (covering Nzema East, Ellembelle and Jomoro Districts) to the Tanoe basin / Ivory Coast border;

1. ACKNOWLEDGING International Conventions and Protocols such as the Ramsar 1971, Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-UNCED 1992) and Convention on Biological Diversity (*CBD* , Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992)
2. RECALLING the subsequent guidelines of the said Conventions and Protocols such as Resolution VIII.19: Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites (Ramsar, Iran, 1971, Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002); Convention of Parties (COP7): Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands (Resolution VII.8); and Article 8j (Indigenous Knowledge) of the Convention of Biological Diversity.
3. RECOGNIZING the ecological, cultural and economic importance of Amanzule wetlands
4. AWARE of the importance of wetlands to integrated Coastal Zone Management
5. CONSCIOUS of Hen Mpoano's proposed Nested System of Governance in the coastal zone of the Western Region

Further agreed on the following:

That the name AMANZULE should be noted as the correct spelling and not *Amansuri*;

That subject to any future development, the name of the wetlands under consideration shall be Greater Amanzule wetlands

That the Districts within which the wetlands are located should take necessary actions to conserve them



That the slogan for the Amanzule wetland is 'ye aza ne mo, ye kenlebie' (our wetlands, our future)

That the proposed Conservation Management Scenario developed by the Amanzule Working Group (AWG) for decentralized management of the conservation landscape of the greater Amanzule wetland is ACCEPTED and ENDORSED.

Signed:

Name	On behalf of	Position	Signature
ANULAE ANIMORAJAYE III	Nzema Manle	PRESIDENT	[Signature]
Felix KUDJOE NANI	Wildlife Division	PRINCIPAL WILDLIFE OFF.	[Signature]
Rev J.A. Cobbinah	Nzema East District Assembly	M.C.E.	[Signature]
ANDOH GABRIEL GEORGE	Ellembelle Jomoro District Assembly	DISTRICT DEV'T PLANNING OFF.	[Signature]
Joseph K. Armah	Jomoro District Assembly	District Coord. Director	[Signature]
Jonathan Gorkah	Civil Society	Change Wildlife Society (CWS) Project Officer	[Signature]
JUSTICE AGBOJON	Farmers	CHIEF FARMER - BORSE	[Signature]
JOSEPH F. FRAMBEY	Fishermen	CHIEF FISHERMAN ASHANTI	[Signature]
Helina Dickson	Fishmongers/processors	fishmonger - Kikam	[Signature]
Frank Cudjoe	Youth	Nzema Youth Association President	[Signature]
Kofi Agbogah	Hen Mpoano	Director, CRC/Ghana (Hen Mpoano)	[Signature]

## B. List of participants

No.	Name	Organization	Position	Phone number
1.	Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II	Paramount Chief Gwira Traditional Area	Vice President, Nzema Manle	0244983960/0208142922
2.	Awulae Annor Adjaye III	Paramount Chief-Western Nzema Traditional Area	President, Nzema Manle	0244758769
3.	Awulae Amihere Kpaniyinli	Paramount Chief	Eastern Nzema Traditional Area	0275387662
4.	Nana Nyamekeh Fofole II	Chief of Ampain	Divisional chief	0203006974s
5.	Nana Addo Nredah	Chief of Azulenoanu	Divisional Chief	0276173310
6.	Nana Takalilika VII	Chief of Nzulezo	Divisional Chief	0240462813
7.	Adupong Richard	Friends of the Nation (FoN)	Project Officer	0244865842
8.	Nana Gyan Koaman II	Nefahene	Nefahene (Chief)	0243217468
9.	Paul K. Dwukwah	Tufuhene (Chief)	Asanta	0201926861
10.	Hon. Edward Arthur	Ellembelle District Assembly	Works Sub-Committee Chairperson	05746389/0208866975
11.	Rev J. K. Cobbinah	Nzema East Municipal Assembly (NEMA)	Municipal Chief Executive (MCE)	0244811439
12.	Daniel K. Eshun	Ellembelle District Assembly (EDA)	District Chief Executive	0542485837
13.	Joseph F. Ebamsey	GNCFC	Chief fisherman Asanta	0249478819
14.	Emmanuel Armoo	Jomoro District Assembly (JDA)	Community Development	0249218325

			Officer	
15.	Justice Agbodjan	Amanzule Working Group/ Chief Farmer-Bonyere	Member	0245930912
16.	Andoh Gabriel George	Jomoro District Assembly (JDA)	Development Planning Officer	0242118520/0207656282
17.	Joseph K. Armah	Ellembelle District Assembly (EDA)	District Coordinating Director (DCD)	0244940429
18.	John Ekobu	JDA	Chair person-Environmental Sub-Committee	0542377949
19.	Anthony Arthur	NEMA	TCPD /S T O	0244949120
20.	M. B. Baidoo	Traditional Rep	Sec (Gwira Traditional Area)	0246881480
21.	Prudence Etisom	Fishmonger smoker	Fishmonger	0249658886
22.	Helena Dickson	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	0247283828
23.	Dominic Badu Agya-Boafo	Nzema East Municipal Ass.	Assist Director	0244572836
24.	Richard Fosu	EDA	Assist. Devt Planning Officer	0246964597
25.	Enoch Cudjoe	EDA	Registrar	0240622119
26.	Jonathan Gokah	Ghana Wildlife Society	TDO	0244936660
27.	Emmanuel Yankson Kwofie	Nzema East Mun. Assembly	Presiding Member	0244949057
28.	Comfort Ebambey	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	0249475819
29.	Joseph Binney	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	0245541396
30.	Leticia Homia	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	0201090048
31.	Theresa Amoah	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	0209660831
32.	Paul K Dwukwah	Farmer	Asanta	0201926861
33.	Adama A Jawaad	FON/Hen mpoano	Volunteer	0248050522
34.	John Blay	Eastern Nzema Traditional Area	Member-AWG	0207591943
35.	Akwasi Takyi	Ellembelle District Assembly (EDA)		0246234611

36.	Ali Issah	Coastal Resources Center (CRC)	Logistics	0265411111
37.	Exorm A Eskiue	Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission	WO	0265039118
38.	Emmanuel Ntiri	CRC	Conservation Planner	0208244574
39.	Felix Nani	CRC	PWO	0243129162
40.	Eddie Okyere	WD/FC	Driver	0542488955
41.	Balartey Gormey	CRC	Project Officer	0274349724
42.	Kofi Agbogah	CRC	Director	0244678007
43.	Sena Agbogah	CRC		0274488526
44.	James Ackah	Fisherman	Fisherman	
45.	Ivy Mensah	Fishmonger	Fishmonger	
46.	Yussif Mohammed	CRC	Driver	0243742532
47.	Emmanuel Kumah	IP	Project/Mobilizer	020058981
48.	Justice C. Mensah	CRC	Intern	0247087753
49.	Adiza Ama Owusu	CRC	Intern	0247087758
50.	Isaac Yankey	NEMA	Driver	
51.	Kofi Mensah	Friends of the Nation (FoN)	Driver	0205386516
52.	Justice Inkoom	Friends of the Nation (FoN)	MIS Officer	0243316492