



EUROPEAN UNION

FINAL REPORT

**Action Titled: Capacity Development for Improved and Sustained Fish Landing Sites
Tenure Security for Fishing Communities in Ghana.**



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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



Friends of the Nation

List of Acronyms

EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
FBB	Far Ban Bo
FoN	Friends of the Nation.
IEZ	Inshore Exclusive Zone
IUU	Illegal Unreported and unregulated fishing
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LUSPA	Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MTDF	Medium Term Development Policy Framework
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
PWD	People with Disabilities
SSF	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

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Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported Friends of the Nation (FoN) of Ghana through a Letter of Agreement (LoA) for the implementation of an Action titled: Capacity development to improve and sustain the tenure security for fishing communities in Ghana. The specific objective of the Action was to build national level capacities among policy makers, institutions and relevant stakeholders to improve governance of tenure in national fisheries policy formulation and implementation. The Action included organizing advocacy and sensitization activities to increase buy-in, ownership and protection for fish landing and processing sites by stakeholders. In addition, to document and disseminate success stories, lessons learned, experiences and knowledge gained in the implementation of the *Far Ban Bo* project to provide opportunities for learning and sustainability especially in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

This is the final report and narrates the background, objective of the Action, the key activities and outputs delivered under the Action.

Background

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), describe the governance of tenure as a crucial element in determining if and how people, communities and others are able to acquire rights, and associated duties, to use and control land, fisheries and forests. It further, describes that, many tenure problems arise because of weak tenure governance, and attempts to address tenure problems are affected by the quality of governance. It explains that, people can be condemned to a life of hunger and poverty if they lose the tenure rights to their homes, land, fisheries and forests and their livelihoods because of corrupt tenure practices or if implementing agencies fail to protect their tenure rights. The VGGT are the first globally negotiated document on governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. It provides more emphasis on bringing change in the governance of tenure of land and fisheries in the context of poverty reduction and food security through promoting participatory and all-inclusive, transparent and accountable tenure structures and administrations. The SSF Guidelines are the first international instrument dedicated entirely to the immensely important – but until now often neglected – small-scale fisheries sector. The SSF Guidelines represent a global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development. They were developed for small-scale fisheries in close collaboration with representatives of small-scale fisheries organizations in a process facilitated by FAO. They are directed at all those involved in the sector and intend to guide and encourage governments, fishing communities and other stakeholders to work together and ensure secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries for the benefit of small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities as well as for society at large.

In Ghana, the governance of tenure in artisanal small-scale fisheries is very important especially in the case of the contribution of fisheries to national development including food and nutrition security, employment, etc. Fishing communities and custodians of fish landing and processing sites in Ghana are useful entry points for participatory development planning because they are the geographical space where the majority of actions take place to promote fishery-based livelihoods.

Ghana has over 330 marine fish landing sites with two major fishing harbours (Tema and Sekondi). So far, Government has earmarked US\$235 million budget for the construction of 10 additional Modern Coastal Fishing Harbours and Landing Sites in communities including: Teshie in the Greater Accra Region, Axim and Dixcove in the Western Region, Elmina, Winneba, Mumford, Senya-Bereku, Fetteh-Gomoah and Moree in the Central Region and Keta in the Volta Region. These government fishing harbour projects are also aimed at creating and maintaining a hygienic environment for the processing and handling of fish, preventing and minimizing post-harvest losses and adding value to the fish caught by artisanal fishermen.

However, the problem with the government projects are that they involve too much money and therefore cannot be done for all the landing sites. The result is that over 94% i.e. 310 of the remaining marine fish landing sites in Ghana are unsecured and under threat from various interests such as demands for hospitality/tourism facilities, urban settlements, industrial and other commercial ventures, etc. The nature of unsecured landing sites for fishing has provided opportunities for irresponsible appropriation, litigations and other issues that affect access to and use of such landing sites by local artisanal fishers in some of the communities. The implications for the future for many of the existing fishing communities are even worrying as interest, demand and competition for coastal beach front tourism and real estate development is increasing. In addition, due to the huge budgets of the harbor construction, mechanism to generate income by levying fishers are used. This commercialization denies many poor fishers access to the facilities. Such fishers, who cannot access the harbor, have to move and land their fish in other communities but the distance traveled and the additional fuel used reduces their profits and makes them poorer. Furthermore, the women fishmongers and processors, who access the harbor also have to pay, reducing their meager profit margin, a situation that affects the women, their children and the other dependents they support. In the end, such harbors construction projects do not benefit the poor smallholder fishers.

The opportunity is that unsecured fish landing and processing sites could be secured through low cost but effective initiatives including application and mainstreaming of VGGT principles and SSF Guidelines into the tenure governance processes for small-scale fisheries. It is against this background that the '*Far Ban Bo*' (FBB) Project (meaning 'protecting fisheries livelihoods'), an EU funded 4-year (2017 – 2020) fisheries governance project was implemented by a consortium consisting of CARE (the lead), Friends of the Nation and Oxfam in collaboration with key fishery stakeholders, including smallholder fishery associations, the Fisheries Commission, Fisheries Alliance, etc. The project piloted actions for securing fish landing sites for five (5) community landings sites in Ghana. The processes for securing the landing site included community consultation, negotiation and boundary

setting, mapping and securing through ownership documentation and registration with the relevant institutions.

Against the VGGT background and the Ghana context, FoN under the LoA with FAO implemented an Action for capacity development for improved and sustained tenure security for fishing communities in Ghana in relation to securing fish landing site by applying VGGT and SSF guidelines. The overall objectives of the project include, to:

- Develop national level capacities to influence policy processes related to securing fish landing and processing sites for fisheries, their mapping and documentation in the face of increasing competition from urban land uses and tourism development.
- Advocate and sensitize key stakeholders and the media to increase buy-in, ownership and protection of fish landing and processing sites for small scale fishing communities.

The purpose of the action was to improve and sustain tenure security for more fishing communities in Ghana and build national level capacities among policy makers, institutions and relevant stakeholders to ensure mainstreaming of VGGT principles and SSF-Guidelines in national fisheries policy formulation and implementation.

The main expected outputs of the action were:

- i. Capacities of local communities, country-level teams, institutions and key stakeholders in responsible governance of tenure are further developed.
- ii. National level capacities of policy makers and key stakeholders are developed to influence policies related to securing and protecting fish landing and processing sites for small-scale fishers.
- iii. Sustained advocacy and support for improving the governance of tenure of fish landing and processing sites are realized.
- iv. Capacity of media personnel in fisheries reporting is developed.
- v. Success stories, lessons learned, experiences and knowledge exchange on governance of tenure are documented and disseminated.

Achievements of the Outputs

The action was successful as it achieved all expected outputs:

The action specifically developed the capacity of local communities, country-level teams, institutions and key stakeholders in responsible governance of tenure. This was achieved through capacity workshops and information sessions organized by the Action for the following beneficiaries:

- Local communities; fisher folks (men and women), Fisheries Associations including Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), women National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), etc. Traditional leaders (local chiefs, queen mothers, chief fishermen, family heads, Landowners, etc.),
- Country Level Team: Oxfam, Care, Friends of the Nation, Fisheries Alliance and other Civil Society Organizations
- The capacity of key national level policy stakeholders was developed to influence

policies related to securing and protecting fish landing and processing sites for small-scale fishers. This was achieved through the national policy dialogue that benefited Seventy-five (75) national level policy stakeholders. Beneficiary's institutions and key stakeholders included: Lands Commission, Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), District Assemblies, Fisheries Commission, Traditional Authorities, Media Organizations, Academia, Judiciary, etc.

The action developed the capacity of 36 Journalists and media personnel in VGGT and fisheries reporting and has contributed to increase in the number of accurate media reporting on fisheries and VGGT. The positive sign is that most participants of the media workshop have continued to report on fisheries and Landing sites securing issues in line with the VGGT and SSF.

The action used video documentary, policy brief production and sensitization & communication activities to successfully capture, document and disseminate success stories, lessons learned and experiences on VGGT and landing site securing.

The Action also has promoted knowledge exchange on governance of tenure through building communication linkages between stakeholders and FAO contacts to promote continuous interaction with the view to ensure access to accurate information to support and sustain advocacy for improving the governance of tenure of fish landing and processing sites.

Challenges

The main challenge encountered by the Action, was delays in implementation and reporting occasioned by restrictions to meetings and lock-downs imposed by Ghana Government as part of measures against the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In March 2020, Ghana experienced an increasing spread of COVID-19 and due to that the Government of Ghana introduced some preventive measures that included; National restrictions to meetings, workshops and groupings, imposition of partial lock-downs, etc. These restrictions affected the implementation of the Action as all face-to-face engagements were delayed for several months.

To cope with the challenge of COVID-19 on the Action, activities that did not require face-to face meetings were implemented during the period of the restrictions. Full implementation of activities under the Action continued after the restrictions were lifted. Also a request was made for extension of the period of the Action and same was granted by FAO and that allowed for completion of activities under the Action.

Activities Implemented Under the Action.

The activities under the Action were as follows:

- Organize media workshop to develop their capacity to support and continue advocacy for improved governance of tenure in fisheries using VGGT and SSF Guidelines.
- Produce video documentary to support communication and information sharing to inform and gain the active collaboration of stakeholders for the reforms in securing

landing sites with VGGT. An evidence-based video documentary for the project as a material for communication, stakeholder sensitization and engagement with Policy makers and convey key messages and used as the key engagement tools for the policy dialogue and stakeholder engagements.

- Organize national multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on securing landing and processing sites for small scale fishers with the theme: *Securing fish landing and processing sites for sustainable social and economic development, food security and eradication of poverty*. Participants for the dialogue drawn from; Policy Makers, Government institutions, community leaders, traditional authorities, fishers, Academia, CSOs, Private sector and media.
- Organize capacity strengthening workshop for fishing communities, government institutions at local level, traditional authorities, CSOs and media, to develop their capacity in responsible governance of tenure using VGGT and SSF-Guidelines approaches to secure fish landing and processing sites for small scale fishers.
- Organize advocacy and sensitization activities as mechanisms for mobilizing support to protect and defend the tenure rights of small-scale fishers and fish processors to their landing and processing sites and protect the same against increasing threat from land use change for the benefit of urban and tourism development.
- Document and disseminate experiences, success stories, lessons learnt and challenges in the implementation of the project.

Details of Activities Implemented

Below are details of activity implemented under the action.

Organize Media Workshop to develop their capacity to support and continue advocacy for improved governance of tenure in fisheries using VGGT and SSF Guidelines.

A 2-day media workshop was organized and used to strengthen the capacity of 36 Journalists with 15 females (representing 41.6%) in Ghana, towards improving media reporting on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) with application to securing fish landing sites.

The workshop was held at the Tomreick Hotel, East Legon, in Accra because most of the targeted participants were from the national media organizations based in Accra. The training targeted journalists including, news editors, reporters, political talk show hosts, investigative journalists and assignment editors. Participants were selected from the media organizations with national and local level coverage within Greater Accra, Central, Volta and Western Regions. The training employed participatory and interactive sessions which included the use of power-point presentation with pictures, illustrations, charts and images that helped participants to appreciate the presentations. The interactive session involved simulation exercises and discussions with the use of the adult learning approach that allowed participants to discuss, reflect and assimilated lessons learning. Resource persons were

selected from FAO, Fisheries Commission, District Assembly physical planners, FoN and partners from the EU funded project Far Ban Bo.

The mode of delivery for the media capacity-building workshop was through series of participatory and interactive sessions including power-point presentations via skype and group simulation exercises.



Figure 1: A picture of Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah presenting on VGGT issues in the fisheries sector at the media workshop.

Key Output of the Media Workshop

The workshop provided the platform to prepare the media participants to support the dissemination of the success stories, lessons learned, experiences, knowledge gained and achievements of the Far Ban Bo (FBB) project on fish landing sites documentation and securing.

The workshop further developed the capacity of journalists for reporting of fish landing sites issues and the necessity to protect the sites in the face of intense pressure for land-use change along the coastal belt.

The workshop also contributed to:

- Improve media understanding of VGGT and SSF guideline.
- Strengthen capacity for the journalist on reporting in line with VGGT and SSF.
- Increase knowledge of journalist to enable them to improve quality of stories on governance of tenure of fish landing sites securing.
- Improve partnership with journalists to support the project to achieve its overall objectives.
- Creating the enabling environment to increase reportage on governance of tenure of Fish landing sites in line with VGGT.

Recommendations from the Media Workshop

The participants at the media workshop recommended the need to improve communication of VGGT and SSF issues to promote information sharing via media platforms for public appreciation of VGGT and SSF. They also added the following recommendations:

- FoN and partners should produce and share with the media communication and information materials including short video documentaries on VGGT and SSF application in fish landing site mapping and disseminate to stakeholders.
- Partners should also organize regular capacity building workshops to equip more media personnel to get them abreast with issues of VGGT and SSF.
- Initiation of awards schemes for best fishery reporters or Journalist to generate more interest in the sector.
- Follow up on report promises, Political Party manifestos regarding the industry and demand full implementation of such policies.
- Partners must engage the media personnel in their activities to improve their appreciation of the VGGT and SSF issues.
- Partners must engage the media, provide resource persons to the media for discussions on VGGT and SSF issues in the fisheries sector.
- Partners should issue out press statement or release and communiqué to provide regular update to the media and the public.
- Partners should monitor media stories and provide feedback to the journalists with the view to improve the media reporting.
- Partners must promote media coverage and reporting on management of landing site using VGGT.
- On advocacy, the Media could collaborate with some CSO (Oxfam, FoN, etc) in highlighting the issues.

Please find the detail Media workshop report at Annex A of this report

Video Documentary

The production of an evidenced-based video documentary was done under the Action for the purpose of capturing video graphic information to inform and also used to develop the capacities of stakeholders to improve and sustain tenure security for fishing communities on fish landing sites in Ghana. The video aided documentation of experiences and lessons and was a tool used also for dissemination of the success stories, lessons learned, experiences and knowledge gained through actions implemented for the securing of fish landing and processing sites by FoN and partners implementing the *Far Ban Bo* (FBB) EU funded project, using the principles enshrined in the VGGT.

The video documentary was used to support advocacy and sensitization of stakeholders to understand and support the securing of fish landing sites and the application of VGGT.

The approach and methodology for the video documentary included capturing of practical application of the VGGT in fish landing site mapping. The video also captured field work including physical evidence at the community level of the landing site securing processes.

The methodology included evidenced-based interviews that generated evidence to produce key messaging for sensitization and engagement of policy makers and stakeholders with the aim to build their capacity to support landing site securing by mainstream VGGT principles.

As part of the overall communication, the documentary captured results, achievements and actions implemented by FoN and the FBB project partners for the securing of fish landing sites. The documentary also captured evidence of support of the European Union and FAO and their contribution to promoting sustainable fisheries governance, food security and nutrition.

The video documentary specifically captured field work on the implementation of activities by FoN and partners to secure fish landing sites in selected coastal communities in Ghana. The video document also captured practical application of the VGGT in fish landing site mapping. The video documentary interviewed key actors to capture messages on landing site securing applying VGGT at the District, regional and National level. The video used key tools for use to sensitize and engage policy makers and stakeholder with the aim of developing their capacity to advocate for support for securing landing sites by mainstreaming VGGT principles. The documentary also captured key messages for use as inputs into the policy processes for the fisheries sector.

Importantly, the documentary captured results, achievements and actions implemented for the securing of the landing sites by the FoN and the FBB project for communication with relevant target audiences. The documentary also showcased the European Union and FAO and their contribution to promoting sustainable fisheries governance, food security and nutrition.



Figure 2: Picture of Dr. Larbi of FAO being interviewed about the Principles of VGGT

The video documentary provided an amazing way to share the story of the participatory processes used for securing the landing sites. The documentary shared the effect and impact of securing the landing sites on the people and their livelihood. It presented a unique way of narration with visuals that provided the viewer with clear content of the application of the VGGT principles in community settings.

The benefits of video documentary were the use of simple video content to create a narrative that connected the audience to the actual processes of VGGT and the change stories catalysed by the actions of the project. The documentary is non-fiction and has been very good material for VGGT education material for awareness creation and sensitization of stakeholders including policy makers, community leaders, civil society actors and right holders at all levels. The documentary created the content to instigate reflection, celebration and commendation of the achievements of the project's landing sites securing processes.

It also reflected the principles and values of VGGT in promoting rights and responsibilities for landing sites ownership and access. The Video produced stories that has sharable content across digital platforms especially social media. The video offered human touch to VGGT and brought out the real issues in related to people-centre, environmental and social in nature. The video used the story-telling approach as a communication strategy to connect to audience and has been an important tool to reach out to policy makers and capture their attention to VGGT principles and how they could be applied to improve lives and property.

The link to the video is indicated below:

<https://youtu.be/ywFuxZOHD4>

Please find the detail Video Production report at Annex B of this report

National multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue on Improving Governance of Tenure in Fisheries, Securing Fish Landing Sites in line with VGGT and SSF Guidelines.

As part of the Action a national policy dialogue was organized in Accra to collate recommendations for incorporation of specific VGGT principles including mapping and documentation of landing sites in fisheries policies and laws. The theme of this National Policy Dialogue was: Securing fish landing and processing sites for sustainable social and economic development, food and nutrition security and eradication of poverty. Participants for the dialogue were drawn from; Policy makers, Government institutions, community leaders, traditional authorities, fishers, academia, CSOs, Private sector and media. Seventy-five (75) participants made up of 52 (69.3%) males and 23(30.7%) female participated in the policy dialogue. (Participants list is Attached at Appendix 3)

The dialogue involved the use of participatory processes, which included interaction sessions, illustrative presentations and stimulation sessions. This promoted participation and dissemination of information and also aided the collation of the policy recommendations.



Figure 1: Picture of Nana Kwesi Agyeman IX, Paramount Chief of Lower Dixcove Traditional Area, giving his initial comments on securing fish landing sites for coastal communities.

The policy dialogue created the platform to collate policy recommendations to contribute to improve governance of tenure in national fisheries policy formulation and implementation.

The policy dialogue also built national level capacities among policy makers, institutions and relevant stakeholders to appreciate the VGGT and the SSF-Guidelines.

Stakeholders at meeting recommended that the landing sites mapped under the Far Ban Bo Project could be transferred to the beneficiary communities through a **Customary Freehold Agreement** and registered at the Lands Commission to secure and sustain the tenure rights of Fisher folks in accordance with the VGGT SSF-Guidelines with particular application to the management and protection of fish landing and processing sites.

Policy Recommendation and Legal Reforms

The following were identified as policy recommendations and processes to enhance legal reforms to ensure integration of VGGT and SSF in Ghana's fisheries sector.

- Policy and legal Assessments in the fisheries sector to identify gaps and areas that require improvement in line with VGGT and SSF.
- Proposes legal provisions that recognize fish landing and processing sites as integral to the socio-economic development and sustainable livelihoods of small-scale fishers, fish processors, fish marketers and allied small scale businesses.
- Propose laws that use rights-based approaches to handle tenure governance issues on fish landing and processing sites.
- Fisheries policies and legislation should contain provisions and safeguards that secure the fish landing and processing sites and protect and preserve the land use by law against encroachment, deprivation and access.

- Smallholder fisheries should be linked to the wider socio-economic policies and programs, its value quantified and its role in food security and nutrition assessed.
- Spatial planning policies should be proposed to protect and preserve fish landing and processing sites.
- Policy and legal frameworks should integrate gender into all relevant policies and laws.

Institutional Reforms

The following institutional reforms were identified as some of the key areas to promote integration of VGGT and SSF in fisheries sector:

- Institutional assessments to assess institutional mandates, overlaps and gaps: Despite the many laws it is necessary to undertake institutional assessments to identify and resolve overlapping mandates as well as gaps and identify areas that require coordination.
- Assessment of national, regional, local customary institutions to identify areas for improvement and coordination.
- Institute stakeholder coordination mechanisms e.g. multi-stakeholder platforms to promote dialogue and stakeholder participation in land governance.
- Information sharing and dissemination of information with stakeholders, institutions and policy makers to promote appreciation of progress and necessary periodic review that ensures integration of VGGT and SSF in fisheries sector.

Stakeholder capacity strengthening workshop for government institutions and CSOs to develop their capacity to support and continue with advocacy on improving governance of tenure in fisheries using VGGT and SSF Guidelines.

As part of the Action a day's stakeholder capacity building workshop was organized in Accra, Ghana to develop the capacities to improved and sustained tenure security for fishing communities in Ghana in line with VGGT and SSF-Guidelines.

The workshop was organized to develop the capacity of stakeholders to improved and sustained tenure security for fishing communities in Ghana in line with the VGGT and the SSF-Guidelines.

Participants for the workshop were about 45 participants with about 24% female selected from National and Regional officers of relevant institutions including: Lands Commission, Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), Metro, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), Traditional Authorities (TAs) Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council (GNCFC), Civil Society Organizations and Media. (Participants list Attached Appendix 2)

The workshop was held in Accra to ensure proximity to targeted participants from the national stakeholder institutions based in Accra. The workshop employed participatory and interactive sessions which included the use of power-point presentation with pictures,

illustrative charts and images that helped participants to appreciate the presentations. The interactive sessions involved simulation exercises and discussions with the use of the adult learning approach, and this allowed participants to discuss, reflect and assimilate the information that were presented. Resource persons from FAO, the Fisheries Commission, selected physical planners, FoN and partners from the EU funded projects and *Far Ban Bo* project conducted the workshop and made various presentations in line with the subject matter.



Figure 4: A picture of Hon. Abu Mahama, Shama District Physical Planning Officer making his contribution to the discussions at the stakeholder capacity development workshop.

Output of Stakeholder Workshop

The workshop provided the platform to strengthen the capacity of participants from the stakeholder institutions to appreciate VGGT and SSF-Guidelines issues in relation to securing of fish landing sites. The workshop also provided information on improving the management and protection of fish landing and processing sites in the face of intense pressure for land-use changes along the coast of Ghana.

The workshop was used to prepare stakeholders to support and replicate the fish landing site mapping, documentation and securing with the application of VGGT and SSF guidelines. The workshop also provided the platform to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to support advocacy for policy reforms on fish landing site tenure. and share with them information, lessons learned, experiences, knowledge gained and achievements of the *Far Ban Bo* (FBB) projects on securing and documentation of fish landing sites.

Other key output of the workshop also included:

- Increased stakeholder understanding of VGGT and SSF guidelines and their application.

- Strengthened capacity to incorporate VGGT and SSF-Guidelines in the execution of land administration.
- Improved governance of tenure of fish landing sites in line with the VGGT and SSF-Guidelines
- Improved partnership and coordination among stakeholders for mainstreaming VGGT and SSF-Guidelines.

The workshop concluded that an integrated spatial planning of coastal zones was required to promote harmonious existence and complement fisheries and other activities. A comprehensive assessment (participatory planning) should be done to determine the form and interactions of coastal zones and fishing communities with other sectors. The assessment serves as the basis to achieving high security of tenure for the communities and safeguarding their livelihoods.

Stakeholders in the fisheries industry asked for the mapping of all fish landing sites across the country to protect the livelihoods of more than three million fisher folks. They maintained that the ongoing encroachment and sale of lands along the coast affecting fish landing sites were adversely affecting fishing activities.

It was observed that it was time for the government and relevant state agencies put in systems and policies to effectively enhance the operations of fishermen. The workshop created a platform for stakeholders to appreciate fisheries governance issues in relation to the VGGT and SSF-Guidelines.

Organize Communication and Sensitization Activities

The advocacy, communication, sensitization and community outreach activities undertaken under the Action were aimed at contributing to informed constituencies toward building national level capacities among relevant stakeholders towards improved governance of tenure of fish landing sites in national fisheries policy formulation and implementation.

The approach of the advocacy and outreach was the use of participatory and interactive communication tools which included:

Press engagements with traditional media and social media online platforms etc. Media workshop organized for journalist also helped to catalyze the interest of journalists to follow-up in improve reporting on fish landing site issues. Online and print articles were also used to advocate for the protection of the landing sites (see link to online articles on page 21 below). The activities also included the development and sharing of video documentary to promote awareness on VGGT and the essence of fish landing sites securing. Drama and theatrical performances were also used for face-to-face community engagements.

The activities were organized as mechanisms to mobilize support through information and communication to protect and defend the land rights of small-scale fishers and fish processors to their landing and processing sites and protect same against increasing threat from land use change for the benefit of urban and tourism development.

Press Engagements

Press engagements were organized with national and local media houses to communicate the relevance of applying the VGGT principles for fisheries governance particularly to secure and protect fish landing sites in Ghana. Both English and local language media groups were engaged to ensure dissemination of key messages to both local and national audience.

The traditional media organizations engaged were Television (TV) and radio and included but not limited to Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), GH One TV, Awake News, Adom TV, Joy News, Citi TV, Radio 360 in Takoradi, Jubilee Radio in Volta Region, The traditional media provided the platform to reach many targeted stakeholders at the local and national level.



Figure 5: Donkris Mevuta, Executive Director of FoN on GBC TV explaining the need for the Protection of fish landing sites for fisher folks.



Figure 6: Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah, Programs Manager of FoN granting media interview on VGGT and Fish Landing Site securing as part of the communication and sensitization activities.

Print Media

As part of the advocacy, communication, and sensitization activities several articles were published in print media including the Daily Heritage Newspaper, Business and Financial Times (B&FT), etc. The print media were used to target policy makers and the literate stakeholders and explained the VGGT and the need to secure landing sites for small scale fishers.



Figure 7: Article published in Daily Heritage Newspaper Published on 24th November 2020.

Drama and Theatrical Performance

The drama, cultural, theatrical performances were practical tools used as part of the community outreach activities to ensure proper information dissemination of VGGT to local stakeholders especially local fisher folks. The community-based drama and theatrical

performance were used to engage local authorities, traditional authorities, fisheries associations, and other key stakeholders. The drama was conducted through face-to face meetings and were used to inform and influence local stakeholders toward the integration of VGGT in local fisheri sector policies formulation and implementation. The drama was performed in local languages as required for the specific audience in the various locations e.g. in Western and Central regions the Fante language was used, Ga, Ewe and English were used for Greater Accra, and Volta regions for the different type of audience.



Figure 8: A picture of a scene of one of the Drama and Theatrical Performance on VGGT and landing site securing in the central region of Ghana.



Figure 9: A picture showing drama audience at Volta Region community meeting.

Document and Disseminate Lessons Learned

The projects documented the different success factors, experiences, lessons and challenges that ultimately impact on responsible governance of tenure, livelihoods, poverty reduction, sustainability and impact. The documentation enabled the lessons learnt to be shared with partners and stakeholders.

Lessons Learned

The EU-funded *Far Ban Bo* project made provisions for very limited budget and actions to initiate the process of piloting the mapping and documentation of five (5) landing sites to test the tools for participatory processes. The experience so far has been encouraging with communities and local government (District Assemblies) showing high interest in securing the landing sites for which other communities have expressed interest to benefit from and have requested for support.

The product of the exercise is to map, document and secure the landing sites for the small-scale fishers and processors and ensure security of tenure for them. On average a fish landing site range from one acre to several acres.

The processes for securing the fish landing sites should involve carefully planned out participatory process that will involve and carry along the relevant stakeholders and actual beneficiaries from the start to the end. This will contribute to building clear understanding of the processes, appreciation of the product and ownership of the processes.

Conflict and expectation management is also a key lesson for the FBB project experience. Issues surrounding the landing and processing sites raised concerns and demand for financial trade-offs. However, since the land is to be secured for the benefit of the entire community as a '*Communal Good*', financial compensation should be avoided and rather the general and specific benefits to the livelihood of the fishers should be discussed as the incentive for the securing the sites.

- 1) Proper and Effective Community Entry: key Community leaders and institution with the relevant mandate should be identified and consultations at the beginning of the process to ensure that they understand and support the action.
- 2) There is the need for clear and direct messaging and communication to inform them of the objective and purpose of the exercise and to secure their interest and ownership for the processes.
- 3) Negotiation and boundary setting should be very participatory especially it needs to be done with all interested parties to ensure that the boundaries are accepted and approved for the mapping.
- 4) Participatory mapping of the demarcated area is very important to build trust, ownership and appreciation.
- 5) Proper coordinates should be generated for the landing sites using appropriate mapping tool and GIS to generate the maps for the landing sites:

- 6) Documentation and registration with the relevant public institutions and traditional authorities.

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- 7) Proper custodianship of the data generated is required including keeping the data at the relevant institutions, also online saving systems could be used.
- 8) The lands documentation data should be updated when new information or additional land areas are agreed to be added.

The interest generated among the key stakeholders in Government and small-scale fisheries association for the process has increased demands for scaling up and expanding the scope of the pilots to the national level platforms for mainstreaming of VGGT and SSF-Guidelines into national policies.

Online Platforms

Online news platforms were also used to support the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned. This supported the advocacy, communication and sensitization activities.

Specific online publications on the Action included the following:

Summary of Online Publications

1. <https://newsghana.com.gh/fao-supports-training-of-media-personnel-on-vggt-and-ssf/>
2. <https://newsghana.com.gh/vggt-guidelines-to-address-challenges-in-the-fishing-sector/>
3. <https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/220350/FAO-Supports-training-of-media-personnel>
4. <https://newsghana.com.gh/fao-supports-training-of-media-personnel-on-vggt-and-ssf/>
5. <https://newsghana.com.gh/fon-advocates-gradual-phasing-out-of-premix-other-subsidies/>
6. <https://www.graphic.com.gh/business/business-news/integrate-responsible-governance-into-fisheries-regulations.html>
7. <https://www.graphic.com.gh/business/business-news/integrate-responsible-governance-into-fisheries-regulations.html>
8. <https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/220350/FAO-Supports-training-of-media-personnel>
9. <https://www.peacefmonline.com/pages/local/social/202008/422733.php>
10. <https://mobile.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Friends-of-the-Nation-FoN-secures-landing-sites-for-fishing-communities-in-Shama-1023490>
11. <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/ghanas-fish-landing-sites-under-threat-fon/>
12. <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.19222614>
13. <https://starrfm.com.gh/2020/11/fishery-experts-push-for-securing-mapping-of-fish-landing-sites/>
14. <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Fishery-experts-push-for-securing-mapping-of-fish-landing-sites-1113802>
15. <https://www.newssummedup.com/summary/Friends-of-the-Nation-FoN-secures-landing-sites-for-fishing-communities-in-Shama-xwmfh8>

Recommendation

Documentation of the landing and processing sites and securing same in line with the VGGT principles and SSF Guidelines was done but on a limited scale. Therefore, there is the urgent need to continue with national level scale up of the positive impact through advocacy, policy dialogue and effective communication, improving legal and institutional processes such as:

- Continue advocacy and sensitization of Policy makers and national level stakeholders and multi-sectorial actors for broader appreciation on mainstreaming VGGT and SSF-Guidelines in Ghana, on securing fish landing and processing sites, taking advantage of the ongoing review of the fisheries laws, which presents a major opportunity to influence the national level policy and laws. Especially, after national elections where new policy makers have been elected.
- Continue with community mobilization, animation and awareness raising to generate informed and supportive constituencies for the implementation of practical actions for the securing of fisher folk tenure rights at the community level. This will sustain the knowledge and activate continuous flow of information and contacts with fishing communities to ensure that they are engaged and remain actively involved in the land reform processes.
- Continue capacity development for local communities, Local government actors, physical development units and planning department, etc. on VGGT and SSF Guidelines. This will create regular activation of the knowledge, experience and will support the transfer of the knowledge among members or staff of the institutions.

Mainstreaming the VGGT and SSF Guidelines at the national level for securing landing sites would provide essential principles and ethics for improving responsible governance of tenure in fisheries by: Recognition and respect for all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights; Safeguarding legitimate tenure rights against threats and infringement; Promoting and facilitating the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights; Providing access to justice to deal with infringement; and preventing tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption. This would ensure achievements, greater impact and sustainability of overall projects objective of securing livelihoods of small-scale fishers.