



EUROPEAN UNION

FACT SHEET

Fish Landing Site Securing

FAR BAN BO PROJECT

(PROTECTING FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS)

Introduction: This factsheet provides information on promoting rights and livelihood security of small scale fisherfolks through fish landing sites securing with the application of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

Background: In Ghana, the governance of tenure in artisanal small-scale fisheries is important especially in the case of the enormous contribution of fisheries sector to national development including food and nutrition security, employment, etc. Fish landing sites are important space, in artisanal small-scale fisheries, where the majority of actions take place to promote fishery-based livelihoods, which includes landing of fish, sale, processing and marketing of the fish. The landing site is also the space where the canoes anchored are maintained and or are manufactured. The landing site also provide the space for other related services that supports for the fishing industry, this includes, mending of nets, preparation of fishing gears, fuel storage, etc. Fish landing sites is therefore a useful entry point for participatory development planning to support and promote the fisheries livelihoods.

Problem Statement: In Ghana, fish landing site is threatened by competing interest including but not limited to demand for citing of hospitality facilities, industrial facilities, residential structures, tourism amenities and other interests. As a result, many tenure problems and conflicts continue to arise that lead to fisher folks losing their landing sites because of lack of proper documentation of ownership.



Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) provides innovative participatory tool for securing landing sites and addressing the challenges on insecurity for fishers

VGGT and SSF-Guidelines has the following Application to Fisheries sector in Ghana and Provides:

- Framework for incorporating the international guidelines into the fisheries policy framework and the fisheries master plan
- Framework for protecting and securing the tenure rights and livelihoods of small-scale fishers and their dependents.
- Framework for improving the management of small-scale fishing industry through participatory co-management.
- Framework for planning, managing and securing landing sites for the small-scale fishing industry.
- Framework for developing the capacities of stakeholders in responsible governance of tenure.



Picture of a fish landing site in Ghana

Processes, Lessons and Recommendations for Far Ban Bo Project pilot securing of fish landing sites through the application of VGGT Principles.

Three key Process were involved: 1) Information gathering with community visits and stakeholder identification and engagements to gather basic information about the landing site(s) history, ownership, usage, etc. 2) Participatory Boundary setting, mapping and documentation of the landing sites. 3) Generation of final maps and accompanying community legal ownership documentations.



Lesson 1: Consult with community leaders, interest group and all relevant stakeholders to agree on the process for securing the landing sites.



Lesson 2: Involve Community member for Demarcation and Marking of boundaries with community.



Lesson 3: Involve Community members for Demarcation of boundaries of the land



Lesson 4 Develop maps and collate stakeholder inputs to validate the maps generated



Recommendations

Policy and Legal Reforms

Policy and Legal Assessments are needed that provide:

- Recognition of 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
- 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. Small holder 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 protect and preserve fish landing and processing sites. Integrate gender into all the policy and legal frameworks – gender sensitive policies and laws.

Institutional Reforms

Institutional assessments – mandates, overlaps and gaps: Despite the many laws it is necessary to undertake institutional assessments to identify and resolve overlapping mandates on land governance as well as gaps. Assessments should cover national, regional, local, customary institutions. Coordination mechanisms e.g. multi-stakeholder platforms. Information sharing and dissemination is very important to support the process. Capacity assessments across board – national, regional, local, customary Institutions on VGGT and improving land management is required. Develop gendered capacity development programs for all the key stakeholders is relevant particularly: Policy makers, Government officials, Local government structures, Civil Society including small-holder fishers, women and other vulnerable groups, Traditional authorities, etc.