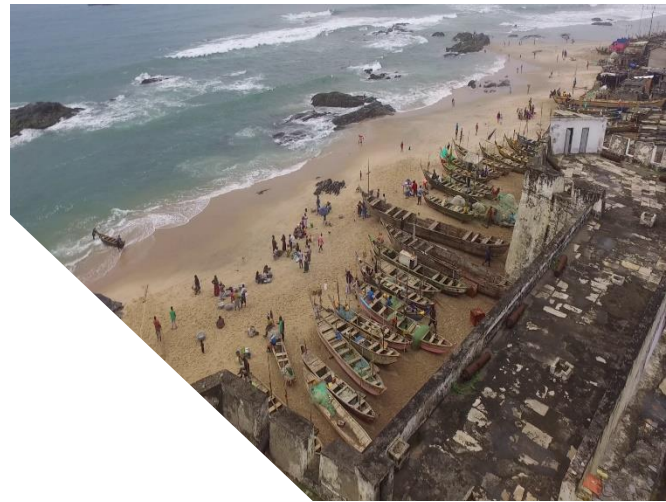




EUROPEAN UNION

POLICY BRIEF

Fish Landing Site Securing In Ghana



FAR BAN BO PROJECT

(PROTECTING FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS)

Definition: Fish landing site also covers the physical area including the infrastructure and physical spaces along the beach where technical, financial and social services are available to support the fishing livelihoods. Landing sites may range from a small settlement on a stretch of beach with hardly any infrastructure and facilities to larger artisanal fisheries areas that are part of bigger ports or harbors in or close to urban centers. Particularly, fish landing site provide the space for onshore fishing activities such as landing of the fish, sale and processing of the fish, storage of the canoes and the fishing gears including nets, float, ropes, etc. The landing sites is also the place where the fishing canoes and boats are manufactured and maintained, where fuel is stored, distributed and sold. It also serves as space for repair of fishing gears including outboard and inboard motors, fishing nets, etc. The landing site is thus an effective and efficient starting point to improve the livelihoods of a large variety and number of people engaged in fishing.

Problem: 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. One of the main challenges has been a lack of understanding of artisanal fisheries and the issues at stake. Governments and donor agencies have generally failed to effectively consult, collaborate or otherwise let landing site users participate in their projects, either because they did not feel the need or because they did not know how. Yet, the participation by landing site users is a key element in order to have a positive and lasting effect in development planning



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Behind the devastating coastal resources depletion that the country is suffering are several major driving forces affecting fisheries and fish landing sites, these forces include:

- High rates of population growth;
- Poverty exacerbated by dwindling resources, degraded fisheries habitats and lack of alternative livelihoods;
- Large-scale, quick-profit, commercial enterprises which degrade resources and conflict with interests of the local people;
- Lack of awareness about management for resource sustainability among local people and policy-makers;
- Lack of understanding of the economic contribution of coastal resources to society;
- Lack of serious government follow-up in support and enforcement of conservation programmes.

Until such forces are offset, there is little hope to accomplish landing site securing, environmental conservation, or resource sustainability.



Why the Need to Secure Landing Sites?

According to Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the governance of tenure is 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. Many tenure problems arise because of weak governance and attempts to address tenure problems are affected by the quality of governance. People can be condemned to a life of hunger and poverty if they lose their 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 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 their 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 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

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 small-scale fisheries 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.

Application of VGGT to Fish Landing Site Securing

Target Stakeholders: The target groups involved Fisher folks, smallholder fishery association, Fisheries Commission, Metropolitan, Municipal and District development and physical planning units, Lands Commission as well as various regional planning units.

However, Fishers are the primary beneficiaries of landing site securing, they know the prevailing situation best, and they can often identify weaknesses or impracticalities in proposed solutions. Nevertheless, expertise and stakeholder interests from individuals outside the landing site are also needed in development planning, as the detailed assessments to be made and decisions to be taken may fall outside the realm of experience and knowledge of landing site users.

Responsible governance of tenure conversely promotes sustainable social and economic development that can help eradicate poverty and food security, and encourages responsible investment.

Proper Community Entry:

Thorough engagements need to be held with the community leaders to discuss the processes for securing the landing site. Clear communication of the objective and expected output of the process should be thoroughly explained to the leaders for them to appreciate and voluntary support the process and grant permission.

Processes should involve;

1. Identification of and analysis of interest groups and stakeholders to understand their interest and roles.
2. Initial information gathering with community leaders to gather basic information about the landing site, use, physical state, ownership documentation, etc.
 - Interview community leaders: traditional leaders, chief fishermen, community leaders, land owners, etc
 - Conduct Transect walk along the beach to inspect the physical state of fish landing site.
 - Document uses; activities along the beach including what fisheries related activities are done on the landing sites i.e. canoe construction, fish processing and smoking, premix distribution, fish market, cold store, etc.
 - Gather information on existing boundaries of landing sites and request if there are any available land title documentation.
3. Follow up engagement with local government Institutions: district and regional physical and development planning units, Lands Commission, etc.
 - Engage physical and development planning officers to obtain copies of spatial plans (schemes)/layouts.
 - Engage Lands commission for information on landing sites ownership, etc.
 - Discuss with land officers the idea of securing proper documentation for the communities and seek their support.
4. Boundary setting, mapping and documentation of the landing sites.
 - Hold meetings with community stakeholders to agree on the actual boundary of the landing sites.
 - Set up a community committee to support the landing sites documentation and mapping.
 - Place visible pillars to demarcate the landing sites and to indicate the boundaries of the landing site.
 - Map out the landing sites; GPS coordinates of the boundaries of the landing sites to produce maps (cadastral).
 - Conduct validation meeting with communities and stakeholder on the draft maps developed to have a final agreed map.
 - Follow through with the registration and land ownership documentation.

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.

Policy and Management Mechanism: Integration and Benefits for all Parties in Coastal Zone

If coastal resource system are to remain productive, their management requires a holistic and comprehensive approach. It may be necessary to define a broad management zone - one extending from the coastal hinterlands and lowlands (the “dry side”) to the coastal waters and the deep sea (the “wet side”); and a multi-sector management programme must be devised so that all stakeholders and all affected government agencies should be involved. Another imperative stage is broad public support.

Planning and management of coastal zones and fishing communities can be carried out from these four areas:

- **Horizontal integration** of the same levels in different economic departments. The management of functions such as fisheries, urban planning, Land Management and tourism.
- **Vertical integration** of sectors of different grades, from national to local, in order to coordinate superior and inferior management.
- **Coordination** between different areas of coastlines to maintain necessary associations and transitions, and to promote neighborhood harmony.
- **An emphasis on the conformity** of the coastline and the entire city, as well as the association of different areas, so as to preserve the characteristic seashore city landscapes.



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