



**EUROPEAN UNION**

# REPORT

**MEDIA WORKSHOP ON VGGT AND LANDING SITE SECURING  
Under FAO's LoA with Friends of the Nation (FoN)**



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



**Friends of the Nation**

## List of Acronyms

EU	Eoruropean Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
FBB	Far Ban Bo
FoN	Friends of the Nation.
IUU	Illegal Unreported and unregulated fishing
LoA	Letter of Agreement
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**

This report covers a 2-day media capacity building workshop organized in Ghana as part of activities under FAO Letter of Agreement (LoA) with Friends of the Nation (FoN) under the project ‘Support to and Capitalization on the EU Land Governance Programme Phase II.

The media workshop was used to strengthen the capacity of 36 Journalists with 15 females (representing 41.6%) in Ghana and to improve 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 fish landing site securing.

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. Journalists.

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 journalist 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.

This report explains the background, objective and output of the media workshop, it also explains the methodology used for the workshop.

## **Background of VGGT**

The VGGT in the Context of National Food Security is the first global exhaustive tool on the tenure of land and natural resources developed through an open inter-governmental process with the full and effective participation of a vast array of relevant actors. The VGGT seeks to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. VGGT also 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. 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.

### **Ghana Context**

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 the 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 are anchored, 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.

### **Project Objective within the Ghana Context**

Against the VGGT background and the Ghana Context, FoN under an LoA with FAO is implementing Capacity development for improved and sustained tenure security for fishing communities in Ghana in relation to fish landing site securing 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 Theory of Change of the Media Workshop**

The theory of change for the Media workshop was that active and knowledgeable journalists could play critical role in helping inform and engage the public, citizen groups and policy makers and thus could help improve governance of tenure in fisheries in line with VGGT and SSF guidelines. Critical media that is well-informed about issues of VGGT with application to fish landing site securing, etc are in a better position to influence policies, programs and national budget decisions and planning that could contribute immensely to achievement of the overall goal of this project.

The power of the media / Journalists in influencing the policy process and Ghanaian society is enormous. Their role in shaping policies, changing public perception, and influencing policy making process is also seeing a steady growth in Ghana.

Therefore, the rationale of the workshop was to harness the potential of the media to support and influence positive policy reforms towards improving governance of tenure of fish landing sites.

### **The Objectives of the Media Workshop**

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Strengthen the capacity of media organizations and journalist on fisheries issues to improve the quality of stories and increase media publications on fisheries governance on key media platforms.
- Provide reliable information to increase the understanding journalist on fisheries and governance of tenure in fisheries in line with VGGT and SSF guidelines.
- Build partnership relations with media organization and journalist with the view to increase reportage on the fisheries sector and landing site securing in line with VGGT and SSF.
- Influence the journalists to actively participate and also provide media space to engage and influence policymakers on mainstreaming of VGGT and SSF guidelines for the fisheries sector.

### **Participation of the Media Workshop**

Thirty-six (36) Journalists with 15 females (representing 41.6%) participated in the workshop. The journalist included news editors, reporters, political talk show host, investigative journalists, and assignment editors from media organizations with national and local level coverage within Greater Accra, Central, Volta and Western Regions.

### **Methodology for the Media Workshop**

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 host, 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 conduct ed the workshop.

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.

### **Output of the Media Workshop**

The workshop strengthened the capacity of media organizations and journalists to improve reporting on 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) with particular application to the management and protection of fish landing and processing sites in the face of intense pressures for land-use changes along the coast of Ghana.

The media workshop was also used to develop the capacity of journalists to enable them to participate effectively in the advocacy for responsible governance of tenure in fisheries in Ghana. The workshop contributed to developing the reporting skills of journalist to enhance them improve communication to support the securing and protection of fish landing sites for small scale fisheries in line with the VGGT and SSF-Guidelines.

## **Detail Workshop Report**

The detailed session of the 2-day workshop is provided below.

### **Workshop Details Day 1**

The first day of the workshop took participants through the overview of the project, its background, objectives and expected outputs through series of power-point presentations. Participants also shared their expectations.

### **Brief Overview of Project (Fao-Loa)-Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah**

#### ***VGGT and SSF-Guidelines***

The presentation by Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah touched on and explained the key principles of the VGGT.

#### **VGGT Explained**

Mr. Yamoah explained that the VGGT which is an international instrument can be used by many different actors to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forest. He further stated that the VGGT was voluntary and not a legally binding instrument that served as a reference which sets out principles and internationally accepted standards for practices of responsible governance of tenure.

He said the purpose of the media engagement was to strengthen the capacity of media organizations and Journalist to improve reporting on:

- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).
- The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF-Guidelines) with particular application to the management and protection of fish landing and processing sites in the face of intense pressures for land-use changes along the coast of Ghana.

#### **Role of Journalist in operationalization of VGGT**

Mr. Yamoah said the workshop was important in order to prepare Journalist to support advocacy for policy reforms on securing and documentation of fish landing sites to contribute to sustainable fisheries livelihood.



*Figure 1: A picture of Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah presenting on the overview of the VGGT and SSF in fisheries governance.*

#### **Presentation on VGGT and SSF by FAO-Mr. Benjamin Adjei**

Mr Benjamin Adjei of Food and Agriculture Organization, Accra, Ghana, via skype, explained to the journalists that the VGGT is an international instrument intended to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests. The VGGT are set out principles and internationally accepted standards for practices for responsible governance of tenure. He noted that the VGGT is voluntary and not legally binding.

He said, "The VGGT objectives are to provide guidance to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests, with respect to national food security, to benefit all people especially the vulnerable and marginalized, and to achieve food security for all, to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

#### **Food Security under VGGT and SSF by FAO- Dr. Odame Larbi**

Contributing to the presentation Via Skype, Dr. Odame Larbi, Land Tenure Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa, Ethiopia, said Africa face a dire consequences food security if the issue of tenure is not addressed. He entreated journalist to continue in raising awareness of policymakers on the guidelines and their application to the situation in Ghana. He implored the Journalist to advocate in ensuring that the guidelines are adopted and used to improve governance of tenure, and effective communication among stakeholders for sustainable development and livelihoods.

Dr. Larbi observed that VGGT had an intrinsic value that targets the protection of tenure rights of women and children. He also informed the gathering that one cannot take Government to court for failure to implement the VGGT but the principles has strong persuasive appeal.

#### ***Questions and Answers***

Q. Does the VGGT and SSF make provision for sanitation and small-scale fish processors?

A: The VGGT is a holistic approach and takes into consideration any aspect of the fishing activity

Q: What was the role of FAO in the implementation of the Fishing Close Season in Ghana?

A: FAO conducts scientific research and advises Governments. In the case of Ghana, FAO recommended fishing close season to Government based on the research of Fridjoff Nansen.

Q: How does VGGT and SSF covers people with disabilities (PWD)?

A: VGGT and SSF actually identifies PWD as people who obviously are vulnerable and whose tenure rights are likely to be compromised and makes provisions for those people.

### **Overview of VGGT issues in the fisheries sector -Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah**

Mr. Yamoah highlighted the tenure issues that are often ignored in the fisheries sector. He noted that, recent competition between fishers, offshore and near shore oil, and gas installations for space hinges on tenure. He further recounted that fish landing sites, fish processing sites, access to fish, fish availability, lands for fish farming and damage to fish habitat directly affects the tenure rights of small-scale fishers, which the VGGT is, designed to address.

He noted that in Ghana, ownership of fish landing sites remains undocumented and that exposes the small-scale fishers to the risk of losing that space to other powerful industry players such as the hospitality industry and the development of oil and gas infrastructure. This, Mr. Yamoah said the loss of landing site to private development could lead to loss of livelihood and collapse of the social structure in fishing communities.

### ***Major Issues in the Fisheries Sector.***

Mr. Yamoah mentioned explained that the major issues in the fisheries sector included: Overcapitalization and open access, use of unapproved methods of fishing, Illegal Unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. He also explained the opportunities to address such issues through the VGGT and SSF.

### **Overcapitalization and open access**

In addressing issues in the fisheries sector, Mr. Yamoah mentioned that the increasing numbers of fishing fleet, lack of a licensing regime in the artisanal sector and subsidy on fishing inputs for artisanal fishers were counterproductive a key driver contributing to the collapse of the industry.

### **Use of unapproved methods of fishing.**

The use of undersized mesh and monofilaments nets, light fishing in addition to the use of explosives and chemical fishing continues to undermine stakeholders resolve to implementing measures to restock marine fisheries.

### **Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.**

Mr. Yamoah observed that the bane of fishing industry in Ghana was one replete with fishing for undersized/juvenile fish and protected species, unsupervised transshipment at sea and discard of fish at sea (as by catch). He cited official complicity and weak monitoring and enforcement regime as a key contributing factor to the decline of Ghana's fisheries.

### ***Opportunities***

Mr. Yamoah said the challenges in the fisheries sector also present opportunities key among which include

- Opportunity to include key principles of VGGT, participatory inclusion
- Legislation review for fisheries sector

- Fisheries Co-management policy development, Community participation in resource governance, and tenure rights.



*Figure 2: A picture of Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah presenting on issues in the fisheries sector*

### **End Of Workshop Day 1**

The day 1 of the workshop ended with participants discussing opportunities address the challenges in the fisheries sector and the role of the Media. Key recommendations presented included:

- Making VGGT and SSF guideline topical in the medial landscape.
- Ending policy making on the various media platform to advocacy for integration of VGGT and SFF guidelines in fisheries legislation reviews.
- Promoting VGGT and SSF issues based political dialogue with political parties to inform the content of their manifestoes.

### **Workshop Details Day 2**

The day 2 of the workshop provided opportunity for recap of the previous day's presentations. There were also power-point presentations on fish landing site mapping, group syndication presentations and questions and answer sessions.

Presentations for the day 2 of the workshop included;

- Securing Fish Landing Sites; Process of Landing Site Mapping.
- Applying VGGT in Fish Landing Site Mapping.
- Making landing site mapping and VGGT topical in the media space
- Group work session and group presentation summary report.

### **Securing Fish Landing Sites; Process of Landing Site Mapping Explained**

Mr. Philip Prah, FoN Project Officer in charge of the landing site mapping, took participants through the process of the landing site mapping. He explained the process involved ground trothing with the leadership of fishing Communities to conduct venerability assessment of the existing fish landing site to identify the key issues and stakeholders (landowners), followed by engaging the entire community

to ensure that all rights are recognized to build a sense of community ownership and support for implementation.

He explained that when all stakeholders have been engaged and the process explained, accurate data and shoreline analysis is obtained. He added that, with support of the community leaders the boundaries of the fish landing sites are identified and demarcated with painted bamboo sticks to create awareness and to limit encroachment. He added that drone images were captured to generate maps and the maps produced were then validated with community and socialized with the MMDAs for the process of documentation to commence.

### ***Applying VGGT in Fish Landing Site Mapping***

Mr. Prah observed that in Ghana, there was weak documentation of fish landing sites, hence ownership and tenure at the coasts are not well secured.

Mr. Prah noted that in applying the VGGT principles in fish landing site mapping was important to recognize and respect all legitimate tenure rights and the people who hold them. He said this was a crucial element in determining if, and how people, communities and others are able to acquire rights and associated duties to prevent tenure disputes, violent conflicts and opportunities for corruption.



*Figure 3: A picture of Mr. Philip Pra presenting on landing site mapping and tenure rights in fisheries;*

### **Questions and Answers**

Q: Who bears the cost of documentation?

A: The Far Ban Bo project bears the cost of documentation

Q: How would the FAO support after the expiration of the Far Ban Bo Project?

A: The FAO will always support if Government put in an expression of interest to the FAO. In the absence of that, the FAO cannot go out of its way to implement projects.

Q: Can Government acquire land that has already been secured by a private developer?

A: All rights that are not recognized in formal law or even where they are recognized, securing rights is important. As soon as an individual acquires lands, which hitherto served as a common good, it put pressure on the other landing site.

### **Making landing site mapping and VGGT topical in the media space**

In Ghana the application of VGGT and SSF for improved and sustained tenure security for fishing communities relative to mapping and documentation of the fish landing site have lost traction in national discourse and media coverage. As part of the capacity-building workshop, the Journalist were put into four groups to brainstorm to come out with designed strategies to making coverage and reporting on management of landing sites mapping and VGGT topical in the media space. Below are summary of the responses provided by the four groups.

### **Group work session and group presentation summary report**

The journalist deliberated on the issues at the group work sessions and outlined the following recommendations to make VGGT and Landing site mapping topical in the media landscape



*Figure 4: A picture of Journalist discussing strategies to mainstream VGGT and SSF in media reportage*

## **Recommendations**

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:

- FOA, 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 open up to 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 communicate to provide regular update to the media and the public.
- Partner should monitor media stories and provide feedback to the journalist 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.

## **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Larbi thanked the Journalist for their support. He intimated that more remains to be done especially in the management of Ghana's natural resources. He said responsible Journalism should begin to focus attention on natural resource management and hoped the media would continue to provide the space to highlight the issues discussed.

On his part, Mr. Kyei Yamoah noted that the fisheries sector played very important role in food security and the issues of fish landing site securing is essential. He said fish remained the cheapest source of protein and boost the local economy. He called on the Journalist to understand the right terminologies, frameworks and what the issues are and capture same in their reportage.

He explained that media stories on VGGT must focus their narrative from people-center approach therefore he encouraged the media to conduct periodic interviews with fishers and generated such people centered stories. He thanked all participants for their presence and encourage them follow-up on the landing sites securing exercises at the 5 pilot locations.