



EUROPEAN UNION

FAR BAN BO PROJECT

REPORT ON IUU-CMGs MEETING AT JAMES TOWN



SEPTEMBER 2019



ACRONYMS

EU	European Union
IEZ	Inshore Exclusive Zone
FBB	Far Ban Bo
FoN	Friends of the Nation
IUU	Illegal Unregulated Unreported
IUU-CMGs	Illegal Unregulated Unreported Community Monitoring Groups
AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly

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INTRODUCTION

'Far Ban Bo', which means 'protecting fisheries livelihoods' is an EU funded 4-year (2017 – 2021) fisheries governance project which is being 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 is designed to address the challenges of overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices including IUU fishing, low compliance, and weak capacity for enforcement within the fisheries sector. The project is working with 30 districts in the Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western regions working closely with marine and inland fisheries stakeholders.

The overall objective of the Far Ban Bo Project is to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. The project is expected to:

- Empower smallholder fisheries to take active part in fisheries governance.
- Pilot effective IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms and;
- Contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources through social and economic safeguards.

DETAIL SESSION

Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU) fishing occurs in virtually all fisheries, causing problems for people who are trying to manage fisheries properly and for people who depend on fisheries for food and jobs. IUU fishing can cause an entire fishery to collapse. Those who conduct IUU fishing do not behave responsibly. By ignoring fishing rules, they gain an unfair of advantage over responsible fishers – that is, those fishers who fish in accordance with the rules (FAO, 2002).

On the 11th of September,2019 the IUU-CMGs and Grievance Committee at James Town held a meeting.

The total number of people present at the meeting was,17(2 female and 15 male). In attendance were, the IUU-CMGs members, Grievance committee members (Chief fisher men from James Town and Chorkor, AMA Planning officer.

The purpose of the meeting was a decision taken by the IUU-CMGs themselves to meet on their own will and discuss how they can intensify their own reporting cases and draw action plan on how to make the IUU-CMG more effective.

Presentation on the Overview of the Far Ban Bo Project, IUU-CMGs and Grievance Committee

The Far Ban Bo Project is a 4-year fisheries governance project which is aimed at contributing to food security, nutrition and protecting livelihoods of fishing dependent communities in Ghana. He informed the participants that the Far Ban Bo Project is being funded by the European Union with Friends of the Nation, Care Ghana and OXFAM as implementing partners. He stated that 3 key outcomes were expected at the end of the project. These included;

- Empowered smallholder fishery Associations and CSO Alliances take active part in fisheries governance.
- Effective IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms piloted.
- Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fisheries resources.

The formation of the IUU- Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) is intended to advance and deliver on output 2 of the expected outcomes of the Far Ban Bo Project by ensuring that IUU CMGs contribute to effort at combating IUU through community led monitoring initiatives and ensure that fishing practices take place within the context of approved laws and regulations.



Figure 1: Diana Klu Presenting the overview of FBB and the role of IUU-CMGs

Presentation on the Role of the IUU CMGs

The FBB project partners are keen in making sure communities are part of ensuring that illegal fishing is stopped. Participants were made to avoid being confrontational with culprits of IUU as their role was to help us monitor IUU and not to carryout arrest. The CMGs role will be monitoring and reporting the high seas illegal fishing practised by industrial trawlers (fishing in the IEZ), and local IUU practices by local Ghanaian fishers. There will be series of training workshops where the CMGs will be trained on how to;

- Use of smart phones (provided by FBB) to capture and record evidence of IUU that they come across during their normal fishing activities.
- Monitor IUU activities including illegal trawling in the IEZ, illegal transshipment, dumping of fish at sea and other visible illegal practices by industrial fishing vessels.
- Document all infractions and report to Friends of the Nation and the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU)

CMG will also participate in multi-stakeholder IUU dialogue at the zonal and national level to share evidence gathered and demand for action from Government. He also advised that it is fully a voluntary work, and the CMG should not stop their fishing work and chase after vessels engaging in IUU.

ACTION PLANNING

Table 1: Action Plan

ISSUE	HOW	WHEN (DATE/TIME)	BUDGET/COST
1.To enhance on sensitizing community on type of IUU cases and its effect	Beat of Gongo in James Town Community on IUU Cases	Wednesday,18 th September at 10:AM	GHS 30.00
2. Use of community information center at Chorkor to intensify the message and extend it to Chorkor community	Use of Community information center at Chorkor to intensify IUU message and use the medium to ask people to stop IUU	Tuesday,17 th September,2019 at 9:OOAM	GHS 150.00
3.Selves sensitization	Continues sensitise friends and family members at the beach along side their normal duty	Starting from tomorrow	No cost
4.Use phone to capture fishing inflactions on the sea	Use of camera phone	-	-

5. Educate traditional leaders in fishing issues and educate them on IUU cases	Have elected the two chief fisher men to carry the message to the traditional chiefs	-	No cost
6. Use of information van of AMA for sensitization of fishers.	Arrange with A.M.A to secure van	September and October	Cost of Fuel



Figure 2: IUU-CMG Member making his contribution.



Figure 3: Mrs Vincentia from AMA (Grievance committee member making her contribution)