



NOAA FISHERIES

Improved Governance through Legal and Enforcement Capacity Building

Organization: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Web site (if you have one):

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/international_development/west_africa/africa_dev.html

Priorities identified by the project:

This project aims to assist African countries in prosecuting fisheries violations and strengthen and promote interagency, and regional collaboration to combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)¹ fishing.

Overview of the project – provide 1-3 sentences:

NOAA's [Office of General Counsel](#) and [Office of Law Enforcement](#) provide a number of legal and enforcement trainings and workshops focused on the general foundation and understanding of both domestic and international legal tools available to monitor and enforce fisheries regulations.

Relationship to security issues, if any:

IUU fishing is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and domestic and global economies. IUU products often come from fisheries lacking strong and effective conservation and management measures. IUU fishing thwarts attempts by nations and international organizations to manage fisheries in a responsible manner. It also affects the ability of governments to support sustainable livelihoods of fishermen to achieve food security as well as civil and criminal authority.

Relationship to governance issues, if any:

Flag, port and coastal States need effective accountable legal and enforcement institutions to fully implement measures to combat IUU fishing. Without these institutions, as well as robust legal and enforcement frameworks, IUU-related measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) will not have a meaningful impact on IUU fishing activities,

¹ The international community uses the term "IUU fishing" to describe activity that does not comply with national, regional, or global fisheries conservation and management obligations, wherever such fishing occurs. Unregulated or unreported fishing may also occur in international waters where no management authority or regulation is in place.



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undermining the effectiveness of management measures adopted at the domestic and international levels. NOAA works with domestic and regional partners to support and improve fisheries management and enforcement efforts globally.

Status of the project - timeline of the project:

Ongoing

Designated main contact and contact information:

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Historical context for the project (how project initiated, etc.):

In 2011, at the request of the Liberian Government and the World Bank, NOAA developed and conducted a first legal training program for Liberian government personnel. The training provided Liberian government personnel with a general foundation and understanding of the legal tools available to them to monitor and enforce fisheries violations. The training was a pilot upon which NOAA began developing a more comprehensive sub-regional, West Africa-wide legal training program in consultation with the World Bank's West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP). Since then, following trainings have aimed to build on the work of NOAA and WARFP to assist countries to prosecute fisheries violations and help strengthen and promote interagency and regional collaboration.

What kind of partnership do you have with Ghana? (partners/collaborators, funders, implementers, etc.):

Partners and collaborators. The workshops are developed working with different in-country representatives.

Who is your main Ghana partner(s)? (government, agency, local NGO, university etc.):

The Ministry of Fisheries, the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), Hen Mpoano (a local NGO), and Environmental Justice Foundation (NGO).

For questions about our international development efforts in Africa, please contact NOAA Fisheries / Oriana Villar (oriana.villar@noaa.gov).