



ACTIVITY REPORT

ON

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AT THE KETA LAGOON
RAMSAR SITE, GHANA, FOR BIRDS AND COMMUNITY CLIMATE
RESILIENCE**

**Activity Report on
Community Consultation**

Supported by:

1. Introduction

This report highlights community consultation meetings held to identify the conservation needs of communities (e.g. livelihood resources) and bird species for the Keta lagoon. The project employed the use of the Marine Governance Baseline approach tool to facilitate the discussions. The deployment of the governance baseline approach in Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) is part of a broader initiative to support marine protected area governance under the project titled “Conservation and Sustainable Management at the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site, Ghana, for Birds and Community Climate Resilience”

Good governance is critical for an ecosystem to thrive and to support adjacent communities in the long-term. Our project focusses on the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) managed by Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission with target communities being Tegbi, Afiadeniyigba, Keta and Fiakor.

This report is based upon applying the Governance Baseline methodology (Olsen et al., 2009) and the ‘Capabilities’ framework which recognises that poverty is more than inadequate material goods and must be addressed by strengthening the capabilities of marginal groups by involving them (Sen, 1999). The project is therefore especially concerned to make a stronger fit between marine protected area governance, migratory bird conservation and poverty alleviation through Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation technology adoptions. The emphasis is on improving capabilities of communities to contribute to the protection of Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site area governance through learning and knowledge exchange and creation of platforms for participation. Furthermore, it is to facilitate sharing of lessons learned across networks of practice operating at community and District/Municipal levels through exchanges.

1.1.General objective

The main objective was to support communities to identify conservation needs of communities (e.g. livelihood resources) and bird species for the Keta lagoon. The deployment and initial analysis of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Governance Baseline Tool was used specifically, to strengthen community understanding of marine ecosystem governance and to initiate participatory assessments of resource use, threats, and solutions in the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site.

1.2. Target Audience

An initial 2-day workshop was organized for 50 participants that were drawn from different communities (comprising: Afiadenyigba, Tegbi, Fiakor, Anloga, Horvi, Havedzi, Seva, Keta and Kedzi). This initial municipal-level discussion was the first point for the deployment of the marine governance tool.

Subsequently, an 8-day communal meeting was carried out for selected community members in four priority communities (Afiadenyigba, Tegbi, Fiakor and Keta). Recruited actors comprised of community members of various professions (farmers, fishermen and fishmongers, mangrove harvesters, mangrove and turtle conservation volunteers, and officers from the Wildlife division of the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site). In all, 200 people were trained using the marine governance tool (see details in the sensitization, mobilization and engagement report) with gender and age fully represented in the selection (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographics of participants for the training

Category	Number Represented
Youth Male	50
Youth Female	50
Adult Male	50
Adult Female	50
Total	200

1.3. The structure

The training comprised of three modules. The first module was a sensitization on marine and coastal resources. The second was on participants identifying and prioritizing their coastal resources, while the final module assessed the status of the coastal resources in the landscape.

1.4. The training tools

The training utilized the Governance Baseline Methodology (Olsen *et al.*, 2009) and the ‘Capabilities’ framework (Sen, 1999). The training utilized participatory and group activities to develop the marine governance baseline tool. This included:

- i. Group discussions and brainstorming
- ii. Participatory mapping of resource use and threats, and
- iii. Feedback sessions to validate findings with participants

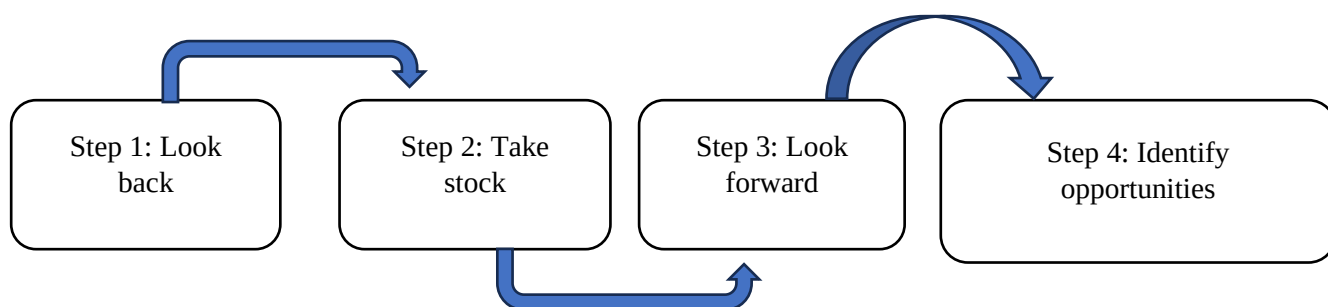


Figure 1. Methodology in rolling out the marine governance baseline tool (Olsen *et al*, 2009)

Module 1: Sensitization on Marine and Coastal Resources

Participants were introduced to the concepts of marine ecosystems and the importance of sustainable coastal resource management, highlighting links to biodiversity, climate resilience, and livelihoods. Through this interactive session, participants were able to view their landscape as a place that supports diverse organisms and their habitats.

Module 2: Identification and Prioritization of Coastal Resources

Participants were divided into groups and engaged in identifying and prioritizing natural resources within the landscape. Across groups, resources such as mangroves, lagoon, sea, land, birds, fish, turtles, clay, forest, and salt were consistently mentioned, with different groups assigning varying priorities. The assigning of priorities was mostly based on the profession and the community dominant in the group, as different professions had different priorities regarding coastal resources.

Top 5 Prioritized Resource identified by Groups during discussion

Groups	First 5 priority Resource
Group 1	Land, sea, fish, mangrove, forest
Group 2	Fish, mangrove, land, sea, bird

Group 3 Land, fish, mangrove, sea, lagoon

Group 4 Land, lagoon, fish, mangrove, sea

Group 5 Mangrove, fish, sea, land, forest

Module 3: Status Assessment of Coastal Resources

Each group then selected the top seven resources and assessed their current state (Increasing, Decreasing, or Stable). Most resources, especially mangroves, lagoon, birds, fish, and land; were identified as decreasing due to: climate change impacts, overexploitation and unsustainable harvesting, pollution (e.g., agricultural runoff, plastic waste) and population pressure and urbanization. Through this assessment, the groups were able to identify the top issues regarding coastal resources (Table 2) and proposed solutions and recommendations (Table 3).

Table 2. Top Issues Identified by Groups during discussion

Groups	Top Issues Identified
Group 1	Mangrove loss, pollution, climate change, lack of awareness
Group 2	Illegal sand mining, light/chemical fishing, deforestation, overfishing, climate change, pollution, overpopulation
Group 3	Land degradation, lagoon abuse (chemical use), mangrove deforestation, bird loss, sand winning
Group 4	Mangrove loss, climate change, pollution, unsustainable harvesting, lack of awareness
Group 5	Land degradation, lagoon pollution, forest overharvesting, bird habitat loss

Table 3. Proposed solutions and governance recommendations

Issue	Suggested Solutions
Deforestation	Education, alternative livelihoods, reforestation, communal planting, tree guards, alternative fuelwood

Illegal Sand Winning	Designated sites, youth education, community sensitization, enforcement units
Unsustainable Fishing	Strong law enforcement, traditional fishing methods, public education, equipment provision
Illegal Tree Cutting	Education, tree harvesting permits, alternative wood sources
Water Pollution	Education, media, by-laws, proper waste disposal, treatment plants

Key Outcomes

The MPA Governance Baseline Tool helped to:

- i. Facilitate community understanding of resource dynamics and governance gaps
- ii. Identify resource trends and underlying socio-ecological pressures
- iii. Capture local ecological knowledge in a participatory format
- iv. Promote community-owned action planning and governance reform

Appendix- Photos from Training Session



Plate 1: Introduction of the session by Mr. Prosper Antwi of A Rocha Ghana (left) and Mr. Lawrence Ocloo Kissi Tetteh of the Forestry Commission (right)



Plate 2: Participants undertaking a group discussion



Plate 3: Participants presenting on their results from the group discussion



Plate 4: Group picture with the entire team