











# **2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Hen Mpoano

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## Acronyms

VSLA Village Savings and Loans Association

**CRC** Coastal Resources Center

**CSLP** Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project

**Fic** Fisheries Commission

GAW Greater Amanzule Wetland

IUU Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated

SFMP Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

**URI** University of Rhode Island

UCC University of Cape Coast

**USAID** United States Agency for International Development

**USFS** United States Forest Service

**EJF** Environmental Justice Foundation

**CCC** Community Conservation Committee

**CLaT** Child Labour and Trafficking

GGV Goshen Global Vision

**F** Female

M Male

CREMA Community Resource Management Area

**EU** European Union

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## **Images from the Field**

















## **About Hen Mpoano**

Hen Mpoano (Our Coast) is a Ghanaian non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2013 to provide technical, policy and extension support to coastal communities, emerging civil society groups, traditional authorities, government institutions and the private sector to promote and sustain integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems in Ghana.

Hen Mpoano was conceived as a response to the critical need to sustain the gains of the 4-year–funded Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Initiative (ICFG) piloted in the Western Region of Ghana which ended on September 14, 2013. The ICFG Initiative is therefore the foundation upon which Hen Mpoano was established. The name **Hen Mpoano**, coincidentally, was the slogan of the 4-year initiative.

Hen Mpoano's work entails collaboration with the Government of Ghana through its Ministries, Departments and Agencies working on fisheries and coastal resources management; civil society groups, traditional authorities and the private sector.

The marine resources are made up of fisheries and minerals (oil and gas) and have been attracting huge investments. The fisheries sector, for example, contributes a significant portion of Ghana's Gross Domestic Products and provides direct and indirect employment to several thousands of people along the coast.

Despite their enormous contributions to Ghana's development, the coastal and fisheries resources have been experiencing major declines over the past 30 years due to many negative factors including

- inadequate legal and institutional framework
- inadequate capacity for planning and management of coastal and fisheries resources
- top-down-approach to management of resources
- unplanned developments in the coastal belt
- prevalence of illegal fishing methods
- limited knowledge about the importance of the coastal belt to economic development and growth among the general population and some key policy makers.

The emerging challenges in coastal Ghana provide a platform for all state and non-state actors to work towards sustainable resource management as a means to fighting poverty. This is the context within which **HEN MPOANO** works, that is, sustainable management of coastal and fisheries resources.

#### **Our Vision**

To support sound coastal and fisheries governance initiatives through collaboration with state and non-state actors in such areas as capacity building, advocacy, research, policy formulation and implementation.

#### **Our Mission**

To support sound coastal and fisheries governance initiatives through collaboration with state and non-state actors in such areas as capacity building, advocacy, research, policy formulation and implementation.

## **Objectives**

### Programs, Objectives and Strategies

Hen Mpoano pursues the following Programs, Objectives and Strategies

#### A. COASTAL GOVERNANCE

- 1. **Promote Sustainable Management of Coastal Ecosystems** through the development of ecosystem-based livelihood initiatives, conservation of wetlands, coastal forests, beaches and support for climate change mitigation actions.
- Building Resilient Coastal Communities through the promotion of participatory
  approaches for vulnerability assessments and planning, education and awareness
  creation and Population, Health and Environment (PHE) linkages in coastal
  communities.
- 3. **Promote Sustainable Planning for Coastal Landscapes/ Seascapes** by building technical capacity of districts to integrate coastal planning into Medium Term Development and Spatial plans, assist district assemblies to develop coastal area plans and provide GIS- based tools to support decision-making.

#### **B. FISHERIES GOVERNANCE**

- 1. Support the establishment of enabling environment for sustainable fisheries by assisting in advocacy and capacity building for fisheries co-management in partnership with governmental agencies and other civil society groups.
- 2. Strengthen Capacity for effective fisheries law enforcement in collaboration with national and international agencies through training, surveillance of the marine environment to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and enhancement of the fisheries prosecution chain
- 3. **Develop Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods** through the promotion of activities that enhance value addition and diversification of livelihoods in coastal communities

## **Quick Overview of Impact since Its Inception**

Number of years in operation

8

Communities reached through our projects in operation

116

Implemented and on-going projects:

16

Village Savings and Loans Associations beneficiaries

1050

Mangrove seedlings raised and planted

99000+

Beneficiaries with improved access to reproductive healthcare

947

Individuals (volunteers) engaged through our project

702

Beneficiaries reached through livelihood improvement programs

2234

Fishery Co-management Committees operationalized

2

Community Co-management Committees operationalized

24

Number of Landing Sites Mapped:

114

Area of coastal wetlands mapped (Greater Amanzule Wetlands)

8631.86 ha

## **Governing Board**

As a new and growing organization, Hen Mpoano is governed by a 5-member board constituted by the following personalities

## Mrs. Nana Esi Bema Adenu Mensah – Chairperson

Mrs Adenu Mensah is a business woman and a legal practioner with a long experience in the fisheries sector in Ghana.

#### Awulae Amihere Kpanyili II - Member

Awulae is the Paramount Chief of the Eastern Nzema Traditional Area.

#### Issa Ouerdraogo - Member

Issa is a social entrepreneur and the Chairman of BBOVID Group. He represents the Private sector on the Hen Mpoano Board.

#### Albert Tetteh-Entsie-Member

He is a financial expert

#### Madam Sarah Osei

She works at the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences

#### **Partners**















Shark
Conservation SUBSEA 7
Fund

















## **Message from HM Director**

Hen Mpoano, in keeping with its strategic objective of sustainable coastal and fisheries management, implemented a number of activities during the 2019-2020 reporting period. These activities built on and consolidated actions aimed at improving the living conditions in our beneficiary communities.

In the fisheries sector, HM concluded work on the sustainable management of clam fishery in the lower Volta estuary in both the Ada East and the South Tongu Districts under the EU and FAO funded projects. These led to the creation and registration of a co-management committee for clam fishery and the production of a draft co-management plan for clam fishery, which is the first of its kind in the country.

During this reporting period, HM also started implementing activities under the EU-funded SECRIFISE project which aims at fighting the child labor and trafficking menace in Ghana. In partnership with CEWEFIA and Challenging Heights- two local NGOs, succeeded in rescuing and integrating 31 children in addition to awareness and sensitizing activities.

In the area of coastal zones management, HM continued its partnership with the US Forest Service to strengthen the capacity of the CCC, develop livelihood options based on the natural resources in the Amanzule wetlands. HM also did substantial work in the Cape three Point area where a number of CREMAs were also strengthened to be able to reduce poaching and other illegal activities in the forest reserve there. Native tree species were also planted in addition to the establishment of livelihood options to reduce poverty in the beneficiary communities in the area.

Hen Mpoano also strengthened and increased the number of VSLAs from 34 to 46 with a total membership of 1050.

We faced many challenges during the ear under review, chief among them has been the COVID-19 pandemic which severely affected the smooth implementation of the activities.

Hen Mpoano is most grateful to our partners especially the EU, USAID, the United States Forest Service (USFS) – International Programs (IP), the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the Shark Conservation Fund for supporting our programs and activities during the year under review.

I would like to thank once again, the Hen Mpoano Board of Directors, the staff and all our donors and partners for their support and encouragement that made it possible for us to go through a very exciting but challenging year.

KOFI AGBOGAH HEN MPOANO DIRECTOR

## 2019-2020 Program Activities in Retrospect

Since its establishment, Hen Mpoano has undertaken a number of projects which fall within its core mandate. This report for the period 2019 to 2020 presents a summary of activities carried out in the areas of fisheries and coastal zones management.

#### **Fisheries**

During this reporting period, HM implemented three projects directly related to fisheries. There as follows.

#### Far Dwuma Nkordo

"Far Dwuma Nkordo" was a European Union funded project implemented in partnership with Environmental Justice Foundation.

The main aim was to contribute to greater environmental sustainability and social equity in Ghana's fisheries sector through a reduction of illegal fishing and strengthened capacity to support legal, sustainable and co-managed fisheries. The project was intended to empower small-scale fishers to secure their tenure rights, implement a co-management approach to fisheries, combat illegal fishing and promote alternative livelihoods to reduce dependence on the fishing sector.

The project's objectives among others were:

- a) to demonstrably improve sustainable fishing practices through strengthening, monitoring and reporting on illegal fishing practices.
- b) to empower small-scale fishers, vulnerable and marginalized groups to articulate their interests in fisheries tenure rights reforms and effectively implement fisheries comanagement.
- c) to identify key stakeholders and potential for fishers' associations to develop a comanagement program in the clam fishery of the Volta estuary.
- d) to carry out spatial mapping of main clam fishing areas and development and distribution of maps showing competing uses of the Volta estuary.

During the year under review, Hen Mpoano carried out activities that helped to complete outstanding work initiated in earlier years.



Photo credit: Hen Mpoano. 2020. Clam canoe with landing for the day

## A. Formation and Capacity Building of Co-management Committee

Hen Mpoano completed the formation as well as the capacity building of a Co-management Committee for the clam resource management in the Lower Volta Estuary at Ada East and the South Tongu districts. The committee was registered and issued with a certificate by the Ada East District Assembly.

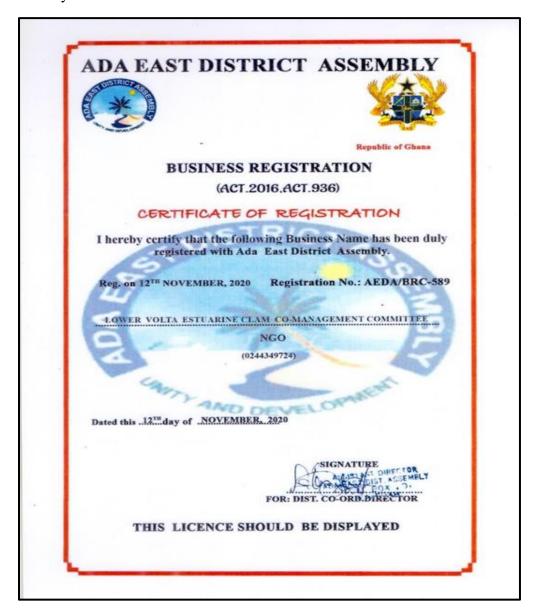
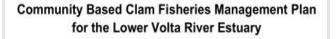


Photo credit; Hen Mpoano Production of a Draft Co-management Plan for Clam Fishery

We worked with the various Clam miners Associations to produce a raft Co-management plan for clam fishery which is the first of its kind. The plan contains bye-laws and other management actions for clam management in the Volta estuary communities.



Ada East District Assembly and South Tongu District
Assembly

Greater Accra and Volta Regions, Ghana



Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
Fisheries Commission

Photo credit; Hen Mpoano, cover page of the draft management plan for Volta Estuary

#### B. Consensus on Clam Close Season

Working with all stakeholders such as clam miners, traditional leaders, district assembly officials and Ministry of Fisheries officials, a consensus was reached to formally declare and implement a close season for clam fishery from December 25 to the third week of March. This is a key management action in the draft co-management plan.

#### C. Completion and Hand-over of shed

One of the main activities under the FDN project was the construction of three sheds for clam miners in Ada and Tsatsukope to enhance their work and also strengthen co-management of clam fishery. By the end of 2020 a shed at Kponkpo-panya in Ada had been completed and handed at Ada. The ceremony was attended by the European Union Ambassador to Ghana- Her Excellency Diana Acconcia, Ada Traditional Council as well as members of the eight clam resource user associations. The remaining two sheds will be completed in 2021.





(Left) handing-over of Kponkpo shed by EU Ambassador to Ghana

(Right) Inspection of shed by EU Ambassador and the chiefs

# Empowering Volta River estuary communities for collaborative management of Clam Fishery in Ghana.

Through a Letter of Agreement (LoA) dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, Hen Mpoano received supplementary funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the Transversal Project 'Support to and Capitalization on the European Union Land Governance Program – Phase II' to be used to implement specific activities within the Volta River estuary to further support the FDN project with the following objectives:

- (i) Sustained advocacy and support for improving the governance of tenure rights in clam fishery
- (ii) Develop capacities of local communities of clam producer groups, country-level teams, institutions and key stakeholders in responsible governance of tenure
- (iii) Conflict resolution, securing and promoting user rights of resource users
- (iv) Establishment of co-management structures for the clam fishery
- (v) Production of maps of clam fishing areas/farms, competing uses and landing sites.

Build capacity of fishers to monitor ecological parameters within the estuary.



Photo credit: Hen Mpoano. 2020. A co-management committee conducting ecological monitoring within the Volta estuary

## A. Advocacy

As part of the advocacy activities functional awareness of clam fishers and relevant stakeholders on VGGT principles and tenure rights was increased with discussions on holistic implementation of VGGT principles attained through stakeholder engagements involving fifty-five people including seventeen women. In addition to that a policy brief on VGGT and co-management relative to the clam fisheries was produced. Four hundred copies of the policy were printed and distributed.



Photo credit; Hen Mpoano. Front and back pages of the Issue Brief

#### **B.** Capacity Development

Under the project a number of capacity development activities were initiated. Ten clam fishers and community members were selected to be trained in value addition options (clam shell and clam meat processing, etc.).

Three Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) were formed at Tsatsukope, Agave and Agorme-Sogakope and introduced to the VSLA concept. Members were taken through training modules that focused on leadership and savings culture. The Agorme-Sogakope VSLA has twenty-eight (28) members (15 men and 13 women), Agave VSLA has 30 members (13 men and 17 women) and Tsatsukope 30 members (18 women and 12 men), with each having five (5) elected executives. Women occupy two of the executive positions in each group. They meet weekly and began their savings cycle before the end of the project.

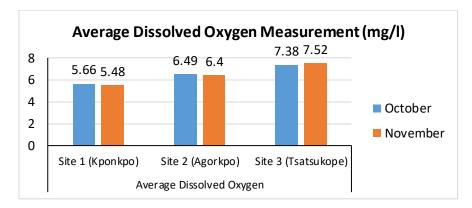


An Officer taking the groups; Sogakope (Left) and Agave (Right) through VSLA training modules.

#### C. Ecological Monitoring

An ecological monitoring tool was successfully designed and piloted. The tool was used to train local fishers who later demonstrated acquired skills in ecological monitoring. It was focused on areas in close proximity with clam fishing and farming sites





It was focused on areas in close proximity with clam fishing and farming sites to monitor areas experiencing salt intrusion for co-management planning.



Clam fishers conducting water quality monitoring

Some selected resource users were also trained on taking essential data on the clam resource and the aquatic environment to feed into the co-management planning. The data to be collected is to inform discussions on the implementation of actions under the co-management plan.

# Improving conservation of sharks and rays in Ghana through education and sensitization project

This project sought to improve shark and ray conservation in Ghana by addressing the following objectives;



fishermen to participate in voluntarily data collection.

- Improve public understanding on shark and ray conservation in Ghana
- Advocate inclusion in Ghana's fisheries policy and laws, adequate protection and conservation of sharks and rays
- Develop measures to enhance control and harvest of sharks with the Ministry of fisheries and Aquaculture Development.
- •Support improvement of shark and ray data collection through training local

In keeping with the objectives of the project, the following activities were implemented.

#### A. Stakeholder Consultative Engagement

The activities of the stakeholders directly impact the fishing, trade and law enforcement regimes which are important components of shark conservation. For this reason, a stakeholder consultative engagement was initiated to discuss the best way to implement project activities. This stakeholder engagement meeting was also used to officially launch the project.

## **B.** Outreach and Advocacy Program

An important part of the project was to initiate public discussions on issues bordering on shark fishing, regulations and the impact of irresponsible fishing on the eco-system. Four radio discussions were carried out on Radio 360. The radio shows had Chief Fishermen and the Western Regional Director of Fisheries Commission-Ghana discussing topics from the benefits of sustainably harvesting elasmobranchs, national and international regulations on shark fisheries and implications of current trends of overfishing sharks. Call-ins during the radio discussions had fishermen show concern on illegal practices within the fisheries and the heavy exports of shark fins.



Figure 1: T-Shirts and posters on shark conservation produced under Activity 3

As part of information communication, education materials such as shirts and posters were printed with important shark conservation messages. These were distributed within the communities to increase awareness on the need to sustainably utilize shark resources.

A total of 1500 picture books were also printed for distribution under this activity to aid in the identification of shark species and sensitization on the need to conserve them. It was also used to indicate their uniqueness and usefulness in the marine eco-system.

#### C. Draft Action plan for sharks

Production of a draft National Action Plan for shark was one of the project important milestone. The plan would provide a baseline of information for the next development of the Fisheries Management plan for the country. The plan was developed with support from the Director of Fisheries Commission in the Western Region, who was the former head of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Unit of the Fisheries Commission and with extensive knowledge in international fisheries protocol. Working with a consultant to ensure that the plan had all the useful components for the management of the country's shark fisheries and also in line with the Commission's guidelines such as branding and wording. The draft plan has been produced for possible adoption by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

#### **D.** Data collection tools

To effectively manage sharks in Ghana, it is important that data on landings are well documented using a standardized protocol for data collection at all landing sites where shark harvest is known in the over 300 landing sites that dot the country's 550km coastline. Hence this activity required effective consultation with the Fisheries Commission division in charge of fisheries data management, the Fisheries Statistical Survey Division (FSSD), and the leaders of resource users in the project communities. The project-initiated consultations with the head of the division and key staff to brief them on data collection pilot plan under the project and to ensure any data collection tool developed was in line with the data need of the division.

Also, consultations were initiated with fisher leaders in project communities (Dixcove, Axim and Shama-Apo) to socialize the idea of voluntary data collection by shark fishers. The consultation with both parties showed that fishermen were okay with the idea of shark conservation but were not willing to collect data on their harvest. They attributed this to possible prosecution by the Fisheries Commission and also the demanding nature of their fisheries which would not allow them to provide such information. The draft plan has been produced for possible adoption by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. The adoption process timeline has not been set because the current timeline for the review of the fisheries management plan.

#### Associated Fisheries Projects.

During this reporting period, Hen Mpoano implemented two projects associated with fishing activities in some coastal communities. The first one involved behaviour change communications campaign to prevent the spread of COVID-19 supported by the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. (SFMP). The second one, which is on-going is the SECRIFISE being funded by the European Union.

#### SFMP COVID-19 Response Project

Behaviour change communication was carried out at fish landing sites in six districts in the Western and Greater Accra regions. Coordinating with the landing beach PA system operators, the project initiated an awareness campaign aimed at providing education on the nature of the novel COVID 19 virus and how the spread of the virus could be prevented. Through the use of posters and the regular airplay of the COVID 19 jingles and song, the fishing communities were made aware of the COVID 19 prevention protocols of social distancing, regular hand washing and the

wearing of nose masks. In Jomoro, Nzema East, and Ellembelle districts, for instance, the jingles and song were played about 1200 times.

For landing sites, particularly in the Greater Accra region, where there were no community PA systems, arrangements were made for some selected Radio stations to support with the ongoing awareness raising campaigns.

## A. Establishment of Prizes and Award scheme for best Performing Landing Sites

As part of the Social Behavioural Change Communication strategy of the project, a mini competition was designed to serve as a form of motivation for fisher folk and the fisher folk community to adopt Ghana Health Service approved safety protocols. Using the Site Advocates daily monitoring data sheet and responses received from the phone polls, as well as local knowledge of the size and dynamics of the landing sites, all the district-level winners were identified for their prizes

#### B. Hand washing stations at 300 sites deployed and operational.

Over 300 hand washing stations were distributed and currently in use. The routine monitoring visits to the landing sites helped in facilitating the maintenance of the washing stations and the regular supply of consumables. In most cases minor issues such as leaking Veronica buckets, rusty metal joints and malfunctioning faucets were fixed during the visit. Issues which required the services of a plumber, however, were directed to local artisans to provide such services.



Figure 2: Picture of a hand washing station presented to a fish landing site

#### **SECRISFISE**

Hen Mpoano began the implementation of the project-"Securing Child Rights in the Fisheries Sector in the Central Region and along the Volta Lake of Ghana" (SECRIFISE). It is a 3-year project funded by the European Union and implemented by Hen Mpoano, CEWEFIA and Challenging Heights.

The overall objective is to secure child rights in the fisheries sector by increasing public support for eliminating child labour and trafficking, implementing community-based initiatives for integrating child labour and trafficking (CLaT) victims into mainstream society and supporting the enforcement for anti-CLaT legislation.

The project, in the first year, made progress towards the achievement of its outcome of reducing the prevalence of child labour and trafficking in its target geographical areas through the implementation of a number of activities.

#### A. Socioeconomic Profiles of Communities

To understand the socio-cultural and economic dynamics of the project's target communities, a rapid assessment was conducted to compile their socioeconomic profiles. It was done in eleven (11) districts in the central region and along the Volta Lake. The sociocultural profiles are useful for explaining the dynamics and nuances of the phenomenon of child labour and trafficking along socioeconomic lines that adds to knowledge for future research and actions in the subject area.

## **B.** Study Tour

As part of the activities, a three- day study tour to Kpando-Torkor was carried out, to gain knowledge, and share experiences and ideas from the Torkor Model for the creation of CLFZs established by General Agriculture Workers' Union (GAWU) of Trade Union Congress (TUC) to fight Child Labour in the Kpando-Torkor Community. Sixteen (16) participants embarked on the trip to Kpando-Torkor comprising stakeholders from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), fisher folk leaders, fish processors, traders and the media.







Left: project community leaders from central region and Kpando Torkor community listening to presentation at the workshop. Middle: components of the torkor model. Right: Mr. Andy Tagoe (GAWU) explaining the model to participants

#### C. Drama Performances

The project also organized street drama shows in all five project communities in the central region. The drama performances were organised in Moree, Komenda, Dago, Senya Breku and Winneba respectively. The drama attracted hundreds of community members, including children and youth, opinion and traditional leaders, and fish processors. The performances were used to communicate the concept of child rights to project beneficiaries and focused on the right to education. The title of the drama was "Our children, Our future".







Drama performances in Moree (left) Dago (middle) and Winneba(right)

#### D. World Day Against Child Labour

World Day Against Child Labour is an International Labour Organisation (ILO) day instituted to advocate for the elimination of child labour in the world. The SECRIFISE project marked the day to raise awareness about child labour on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with an indoor durbar at Pension House in Cape Coast.

The theme for the day was "COVID-19: "Protect children from Child Labour, Now more than Ever". The aim was to focus on the impact of the crisis on Child Labour, the COVID-19 health pandemic and the resulting economic and labour market shocks that were having a huge impact on peoples' lives and livelihoods. Prior to the durbar, there were radio discussions lasting an hour each on three radio stations; Darling FM 90.9, Eagle FM 87.7, Cape Coast and Nyce FM 90.7 in Winneba all in Central Region of Ghana to discuss the theme of the day.



A cross section of participants at WDACL displaying placards for the cameras

#### E. Rescue Operations

The rescue team worked with the Department of Social Welfare and the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service to conduct rescue operations in communities along the Volta Lake. They lasted two weeks within July 2020. The team with the presence of the Ghana Police Service were able to free thirty-one (31) children from their slave-masters. The slave-masters cooperated with the team in releasing the children whilst they were sent to the temporary shelter before being sent to the recovery centre for rehabilitation services. The age range for the children were between 5-17 years old and 80% of them were trafficked by their relatives, aunts and uncles.







Rescue team set out for survivors with their boat (left) negotiations with some slave masters on the lake to release a victim(circled) (middle) trafficked child rescued with other survivors (right)

All 31 children are currently at the Challenging Heights recovery centre receiving basic literacy and numeracy skills, medical treatment, psychosocial counselling and humanitarian support. Psychosocial support in the forms of art and narrative therapies are given to the children to help them recover.







CLaT survivors receiving different types of psychosocial support at the challenging Heights recovery centre at Swedru.

#### F. Child Protection Committees

Child protection committees were also brought together with relevant district level institutions to be trained on establishing CLFZs in their respective communities. The training was held in three towns in target districts for two days each. These are Cape Coast which hosted participants from KEEA and AAK, Winneba which hosted participants from Dago, Senya Breku and Winneba. In

Yeji, the training was held for participants from all six target communities along the volta lake. The concept of child labour free zone was introduced to participants for the first time. They were taken through some current national statistics on child labour, trail blazers of the CLFZ models such as the Torkor model, the 5\*5 stepping stones of creating CLFZs by the MV foundation and the P&Gs of CLFZs in Ghana by the MELR.

#### G. Stakeholder Training

CSOs and law enforcement agencies were engaged in participatory discourses to consolidate concerted efforts in the fight against CLaT. The training reached 110 participants from CSOs and governmental agencies working in the space of child trafficking and child rights protection. The objective of the training was to increase successful prosecution of trafficking cases through education on the legislative and investigative processes of CLaT. The training also covered how to secure victims and witness support before and during trials. The activity was organised in collaboration with Expertise France and the coalition of NGOs against child trafficking CNACT).







(Left) a particiapant making a submission at the Accra session. (Middle) contribution being made during the training at Cape Coast. (Right) Chief Supt. Mike Baah facilitating the Human trafficking legislation session during the Tamale training.

#### H. Access to Improved Household Income

The project also provided access to Hundred (100) women and men on improved household income through the concept of village savings and loans associations (VSLAs). These associations help women to cultivate a savings culture by saving a little bit of their income into a fund from which they may access small loans to run their businesses and households. Four (4) VSLA groups have been formed in target communities in the central region.

## **Coastal Zone Management**

During the year under review HM carried out two major activities under its coastal zone management program. These are described below.

## Cape Three Points Key Biodiversity Area.

During this reporting period Hen Mpoano completed the implementation of the Enhancing Participatory Planning and Management of Cape Three Points Key Biodiversity Area project. The overall objective of the project was to promote participatory planning and management of the Cape Three Points forest reserve and its adjoining wetland ecosystems. It was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund through the management of BirdLife International. The activities below were carried out to achieve the objectives of the project

## A. Preparation of Community Management Action Plan.

Working closely with community stakeholders and the Cape Three Points Joint Management Committee, a community management action plan was developed. The plan was the result of a series of stakeholder consultations and community engagements as well as a land use land cover assessment of Cape Three Points Forest and linked ecosystems. The plan was validated by stakeholders and endorsed by the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission.

## B. Organize sensitization meetings on wildlife and plant conservation.

The project made conscious efforts to sensitize CREMA members on the necessity of wildlife and plant conservation during every community gathering. The project also organized, at least one sensitization meeting in each of the 11 CREMA communities on plant and wildlife conservation.





#### C. Establishment of tree nursery and reforestation of fragmented areas

A total of 5,776 seedlings of native tree species such as African Mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*); Negro pepper (*Xulopia aethiopica*); Prekese (*Tetrapleura tetraptera*); Emeri (*Terminalia ivorensis*) and Ofram (*Terminalia superba*) were raised in a community nursery and planted in critical ecological sites which were identified and mapped out through a spatial assessment of existing satellite images and drone images. This included the reserve buffer and banks of rivers

and streams connecting the forest and adjacent wetland. Some of the trees were planted in the farms of CREMA members. Forest fringe communities were also trained on sustainable harvesting of forest resources.



Figure 3: Seedlings ready for transplanting

#### D. Formation and monitoring of village savings and loan associations (VSLAs)

The project formed five (5) Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) within two (2) of the communities fringing the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve (CTPFR). The main objective for establishing the VSLAs is to help diversify livelihood activities of local people who depend mostly on farming and the exploitation of natural resources. Members of the VSLAs invested their savings or loans into their businesses and food crop farms. Others used the money to take care of children school fees among other needs.



Figure 4: A VSLAs group receiving training

#### E. Training on ecosystem-based income generation

The project trained and support 78 (55male and 23 female) CREMA members with start-up inputs and resources for ecosystem -based income-based income generating activities, namely honey

production and organic vegetable production. The beneficiaries received vegetable seedling and some honey production kits. The project also established some linkages between beneficiary farmers and potential buyers in Agona Nkwanta and Takoradi.



Figure 5: Some beneficiaries receiving training in vegetable farming

# Enhancing Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation through Mangrove Ecosystem Monitoring and Management Planning.

This project among other objectives seeks to gather scientific data and the ecological health of GAW as well as related actions to influence policy makers in making informed decisions based on science. It forms part of Greater Amanzule Wetland Conservation Project which is a collaborative effort between Hen Mpoano (HM) and the United States Forest Service. Its aim is to establish a formal co-management process and improvement of management planning for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands (GAW) in Ghana's Western Region. It contributes to the achievement of the overarching goals of improved natural resources management and increased capacity for low greenhouse gas emissions development.

During this reporting period, Hen Mpoano undertook several activities that resulted in enhanced natural resource management and improved livelihood opportunities for inhabitants in the GAW area as described below.

#### A. Strengthening Governance Within GAW Communities

#### Monitoring on-going GAW CCC activities

Building community's awareness, interest and capacity is an important part of sustainable wetland planning and management. During this reporting period, HM paid monitoring visits to all community wetland conservation committees (CCC) in the 24 GAW communities. The purpose was to assess the activities of members of the CCCs towards wetland conservation. Furthermore, the visits provided the opportunity to provide advice to committee members regarding their role as conservation agents.



Figure 6: Photos showing CCC engagement at Sawoma

## Monitor compliance of community-initiated rules with CCCs

Building on the CSLP FY18 achievement, HM facilitated the incorporation of aspects of GAW rules and regulations into the Nzema East Municipal Assembly's bye-laws. Series of meetings were also held with the Ellembelle and Jomoro district assembly to also integrate community-initiated wetland rules into their bye-laws.

The bye-laws and sanctions have created the enabling legal environment and backing for local communities to manage their wetland resources. The laws also give legal backing to the community norms developed in FY18 as well as committing the District Assemblies to ensure sustainability of the gains made relative to GAW conservation.

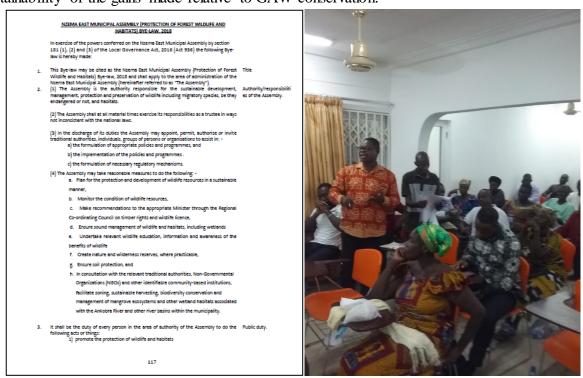


Figure 7: A page of the NEMA bye-law and a cross section of stakeholders at a district assembly dialogue meeting

## Radio education and sensitization on community agreed rules for wetland management

A GAW by-laws radio sensitization was developed and run on three major radio stations operating within the GAW area. The programs were organized to communicate and educate the resource users and the general public on the community-initiated by-laws. Selected CCC members were trained as communicators and radio panellists in disseminating and discussing the by-laws on radio. There was opportunity for call-in section for the listeners to contribute, make comments and questions during the program.



Figure 8: Radio program sections at New Day, West End and Ankobra FM

### Scaling up communication at national level to enhance policy change

During this reporting period, series of meetings were held with the acting Regional Manager of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to strategize how to move forward proposals to attain an official conservation status for the Greater Amanzule Wetlands. These meetings contributed to developing a clear roadmap to advocate official designation of the GAW landscape as a conservation area.

Following up on this, an effort was made to improve national level communications about the importance and benefits of the Greater Amanzule Wetlands and to advocate its official designation as conservation area. Hen Mpoano met with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry in Accra. The meeting discussed among others, evolution of the GAW conservation experience over the past decade and how the partnership with the Forest Service was supporting local level actions aimed at strengthening wetland management and livelihood development. Officials of the Wildlife Division shared insights regarding alignment of activities with government policies on natural resources management and recommended that the (CCC) be morphed into community resource management area (CREMA) associations to benefit from the authority provided by the natural resources management policies and legislations that establish them.





Figure 9: Hen Mpoano and GGV staff in a meeting with WD officials

### Package and disseminate information products on GAW conservation

Barriers to quality wetland communications are many. Wetlands are often poorly understood and complicated in terms of science, how they are regulated and their value to humans and the environment. National and district resources for developing wetland communications are usually limited. During the year, Hen Mpoano designed an atlas of the Greater Amanzule Wetland to aid wetland communication on the landscape. The atlas is a pictorial representation of the wetland and it attribute. At a glance, communities and individuals are able to know the wetlands and the extent to which they have been degraded.

### Provide market access and linkages for beneficiaries of livelihood interventions

Millions of smallholder farmers in developing countries face incredible challenges marketing their farm produce. During this reporting period, a stakeholder engagement was organized with the aim of linking enterprise group members and farmers who have benefitted from CSLP/HM's livelihood interventions to service providers and market. The expected outcome of this activity was for enterprise group members and farmers to have knowledge on where they could access products/ services related to vegetable and honey and have market linkages with potential buyers. The engagement brought together stakeholders such as ATS, Naweh catering services, Watampa hotel, Aya community center, Market Queens, Ankobra Beach and Farms, farmers, enterprise groups and seeds dealers etc.



Figure 10: Sections of market linkage meeting

They called for more investors and middle men to work with such farmers to aggregate the produce for more marketing opportunities. Farmers were also encouraged to form associations to be able to address some of the challenges highlighted.

#### B. VSLAS And Support for Ecosystem-Based Livelihood Development

## Workshop on using VSLA as a platform for Natural Resources Management

VSLAs have been an effective tool in bringing people together to manage their resources and build community capital to improve livelihoods. As a strategy to further strengthen conservation of the GAW, a five-hour workshop was organized for a total of 52 (m:29 f:23) VSLA members from 14 wetland communities in natural resources management. Specifically, the workshop focused on the importance and benefits of wetlands, natural and human-induced threats to wetland ecosystems and wetland management best practices. The VSLA members now have a better understanding of how healthy wetlands contribute to their livelihoods and are therefore motivated to support ongoing wetland conservation actions.

## Formation and Training of new Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

During the year under review, a new VSLA group was formed at Bobrama, bringing the total to thirteen (13) VSLAs formed by Hen Mpoano in the GAW landscape. The group is made up of 25 females and 2 males. The total VSLAs under the supervision of Hen Mpoano have a membership of 352, with 102M and 252F. The group has been introduced to training modules on "Group naming and Election, Policy formulation, Development of constitution and first share purchase", loan disbursement and repayment, conflict management and group dynamics in order to strengthen the group and help them in their activities. A unique thing about the formation of this particular group is that it was formed and trained by a village assistant (VA) and financed by an already existing group.

#### Monitoring of old and newly formed VSLAs

Four of the old VSLA groups successfully shared-out their VSLA Loan funds during the. The VLSA enabled members of the groups to save and invest in their livelihood activities to support their families and reduce the pressure on their natural resources and also build community cohesion

towards the management of their natural resources.

The groups included the Bobrama Koyele, Egbazo Nyame Nsa wo mu, Efaso Koyele and Anyanzinli Onza Nyamenle VSLA groups. (See table 1 below for details). "I am a fish processor; I will invest this money in buying fish to preserve so that I can sell it off during the lean season to help support the family upkeep."

Aunty Susanna Bewieka, Bobrama community VSLA member

All the four groups agreed to maintain their leadership for another year because they performed their duties well during the cycle. They also agreed to maintain their share value at GHC 2.00.

At the end of the cycle, the various groups agreed to invest their social funds in some kind of business, particularly canopy and chair rental. This is to help sustain the groups and to generate

more funds for the group. Canopy and chair rental have been seen to be a very lucrative business within these communities.



Figure 11: Share-out at Effaso and Egbazo respectively

## C. Pilot wetland ecosystem livelihood initiative

The ecosystem-based livelihood initiative seeks to support the development of best practices for conserving wetland ecosystem functions while ensuring sustainable harvesting of wetland resources. Hen Mpoano organized training sections for Periwinkle Harvesters Association in the GAW area to expose them to periwinkle value addition and related business management. A total of 40 (m:16 f:24) participants attended the training and gained knowledge about record and book keeping, marketing and product branding. The group has been assisted to for a VSLA to enhance their business.

In other for the Old Kablensuazo Periwinkle Harvester Association to effectively manage their business while ensuring the sustainable management of the mangroves in the area, Hen Mpoano also donated a canoe to them. The donation was in response to a plea by the association to support their business.





Figure 12: Donation of canoe to CCC and Ecosystem based Livelihood Association at Old Kablensuazo

#### D. Ecological Health Monitoring of Mangroves

This activity involved the training on measurement of height and diameter at breast height (DBH), laying of transect, setting of quadrants. This was followed by actual field measurements with selected trained CCCs members to test the protocols.

The aim of the exercise was to help obtain adequate scientific data to make informed decisions on the GAW. Three communities were selected as sampling sites to pilot this data gathering exercise. The communities are Ankobra and Anyanzinli in the Ellembelle District Assembly and Metika in the Jomoro Municipal Assembly

A total of 36 quadrants has been set for data collection. To help facilitate and effectively monitor this important exercise, a field officer was assigned to directly work with the data collectors in the field.



Figure 13: Ecological sampling and data collection training for CCC members at Metika

This pilot monitoring is to set the stage for scientific data collection under the Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP) funded project. Data collection was focused on three selected sites (Ankobra, Anyanzinli and Metika) and led by trained selected CCC members from these communities.

# E. Lessons Learned Workshop on Mangrove Monitoring and Utilization of Monitoring Data

Following up on the training on ecological sampling and monitoring and subsequent data collection on mangroves, a workshop was organized for selected community conservation

committee (CCC) members to share lessons and challenges in undertaking this activity. The workshop brought together 50 participants (m:22 f:28) from Ankobra, Anyanzinli and Metika. Community members now appreciate the importance of monitoring, data collection and proper record keeping of citizen science data. It was evident at the workshop that, even though monitoring the ecological health of mangrove

"I now harvest a lot of big sized periwinkles from the restored mangrove sites. In the past, I would not get them there. The replanting of mangroves in the degraded areas have really helped we the women. The men also get big fish these days."

Dorcas Kwofie – Shell fish harvester and Organizer of Anyanzinli CCC

ecosystems required additional efforts, members were ready and willing to help the progress because of the importance they attached to the ecosystem and the enormous benefits this unique system provide to their lives.

"I have been harvesting mangrove trees since age 15. I'm now 40 years old and I never knew we can plant mangroves. Thank you Hen Mpoano and US Forest Service."

Anthony k. Duah – Mangrove harvester and Chairman of Ankobra CCC

Community members now appreciate the fact that the number of surviving seedlings can be estimated through this exercise. The exercise also helped to identify areas where planted mangroves were doing well. The presence of fry, fingerlings and juvenile fish in replanted areas confirmed to community members the

role mangroves play as breeding, spawning and feeding grounds for fish. It was very clear that, with the right mind set, team work and dedication, the mangroves ecosystem of the GAW will be sustainably utilized to harness the ecological, socio-cultural and economic benefits.



Figure 14: Trained CCCs members from Anyanzinli

## Field Visit by USFS Technical Advisor

Hen Mpoano worked with Dr. Rupesh Bhomia (a technical advisor from the US Forest service) to develop a tool for mangrove ecosystem monitoring. Using the tool will help formalize on-going mangrove monitoring by CCCs and make available scientific data that will serve as the basis for any future mangrove monitoring activities or initiatives. The data will also help to monitor seedling survival of replanted mangrove areas.



Figure 15 Female CCC member and other team members taking measuring the DBH and height of a Rhizophora

## Improving Livelihoods through Vocational and Technical Skills Development in Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Coastal Communities Project.

In addition to the other livelihood activities mentioned earlier, Hen Mpoano also received financial support from Volta Sub Seven, an oil service company in Ghana to pilot a skills development initiative to address the current trend of rising poverty in the coastal communities of the Sekondi-Takoradi metropolitan area. The project focused on building youth entrepreneurs from the coastal communities in vocational and technical skill areas. Within the framework of Hen Mpoano's existing collaboration with Opportunities Industrialization Centre (OIC), a short-term vocational/skills training was organised for beneficiaries selected on the basis of a rigorous system that took into consideration their needs, interests and ability to continue to use the training to generate livelihood opportunities.

The overall goal of the project was to develop livelihoods in coastal communities by diversifying and generating equal socio-economic opportunities to benefit men, women and youth with the following specific objectives:

• Improved vocational and technical skills of selected youth (men and women) in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan coastal communities.

- Improved opportunities for gainful employment and job creation for selected youth (men and women) in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan coastal communities.
- Increased incomes of selected youth (men and women) in of vocational and technical skills.

As a pilot project, a total of Eight (8) youths were enrolled into the project. Below are the number of beneficiaries per skill area





Figure 16: Beneficiaries receiving their start-up kits

Table 1:Skill Areas of beneficiaries

SKILL AREA	Hair Braiding	Make Up Artistry	Tiling	Steel Bending	Soapmaking
NO. OF PERSONS	3	1	1	2	1

Beneficiaries actively participated in the training. Every trainee had time to practice topics taught and also had guidance from the trainer where there were difficulties. Attendance of trainees were taken in monthly registers. At the end of the training, the participants were awarded certificates.

## **Human Resource Development**

Hen Mpoano has a staff strength of 15 made up of varied technical expertise - . (See Table Y below) It is the policy of the organization to accept volunteers and interns (local and foreign) from universities to research, work and learn on our projects. When necessary short-term consultants are hired to help accomplish specific tasks. In this reporting year, 14 short term contractors were engaged while one local and one international intern benefitted from the opportunity Hen Mpoano offers.

Hen Mpoano Staff Roll

	Staff Name	Qualification	Designation
1	Kofi Agbogah	MSc., UNESCO-IHE, The Netherlands, 1996	Director
		PG Dip., UNESCO-IHE, 1995	
		B.Sc. (Hons) Zoology, UG, Legon, Ghana, 1986	
		Cert. Rem. Sens. for Envir. Mgt, IIRS, India, 1994	
2	Stephen Kankam	en Kankam MSc. Free University of Brussels, Belgium 2008	
		BSc. UCC, Ghana 2004	Coordinator
		Cert. Adaption to Climate Change, URI/USA. 2010	
		Fellow. IOC/UNESCO/CRC/URI 2011	
3	Robert Allou	MSc. Nha Trang University, Vietnam	Project Finance
		<b>BSc</b> Madison University USA	& Admin
		Adv. Dipl. Business Administration – Univ. of Mgt Studies,	
		Ghana	
4	Balertey Gormey	MPhil Univ. of Ghana Legon – 2004	Senior Prog.
		<b>Dipl.</b> Ghana Institute of Journalism - 1992	Officer
		<b>BA</b> . Univ, of Ghana, Legon - 1989	
		Cert. Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change, URI USA -	
		2011	
5	Justice Mensah	BA. UCC, Ghana - 2010	GIS Specialist
		MSC University of Rhode Island, USA - 2013	
6	Daniel Nortey	M. Phil UCC, Ghana 2013	Prog. Officer I
		BSc UCC, Ghana 2009	
		Cert. Rem. Sens for Marine/Coastal Envir Mgt. (UG) 2012	
		Cert. Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change (UCC) 2013	
7	Jemimah Fredericka	MA, Development Studies-Legon	Prog. Manager-
	Eminsang	BA, Sociology & Swahili -Legon	ClaT
8	Adiza Ama Owusu	MSc. Univ. Rhode Island, USA. – 2013	Envir. Comp./
		<b>BSc.</b> Univ, of Cape Coast, Ghana - 2010)	Gender Officer
		Cert Ecosys. Ecol. Cary Institute USA 2011	
9	Samuel-Richard Bogobley	<b>BSc.</b> Univ, of Cape Coast, Ghana (2016)	Project Officer
10	Emmanuel Obeng Dekyi	<b>BSc.</b> Univ, of Cape Coast, Ghana (2016)	Project Officer
		W. 1. W. 1. D. 1. W. 1. D. 1. G.	B
11	Caroline Hammond	Higher National Diploma. Takoradi Poly. Ghana	Receptionist/Off
			ice Assistant
12	Ali Issah	Junior high School Certificate	Driver /
			Logistics
13	Yusifu Mohammed	Junior High School Certificate	Driver
14	Fatima Abdullai	Junior High School	Janitor
15	Alex Mensah	Bsc. Takoradi Technical Universty (2018)	Accountant

## **Financial Statement**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Tangible: Property, plant and equipment	563,482	142,965
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Bank	183,059	315,043
Pre-Payment -		23,964
	183,059	339,007
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Auditfee	4,000	4,000
Payables	-	20,776
Staff Contribution (Plotter)	42,339	42,339
Deferred Income (Note 7)	461,231	-
	507,570	67,115
NET CURRENT ASSETS	(324,511)	271,892
NET ASSETS	238,971	414,857
EQUITY		
Accumulated Fund	155,837	155,837
Income Surplus	83,134	259,020
Total comprehensive Income	238,971	414,857

(All amounts are expressed in Ghana cedis)	NOTES	2020	2019
INCOME			
Grants	6	1,435,803	2,357,412
EXPENDITURE			
Less: Projects and Programs Expenses	8	1,611,689	2,547,302
Total comprehensive Income for the year		(175,886)	(189,890)
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#### WE THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT