

ENHANCING COASTAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WESTERN REGION OF GHANA

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Shama is a major fishing district located in the Western Region of Ghana with about 78% of inhabitants involved in fishing and farming. The fishing occupation is enhanced by the district's 19 km strip of coast. The annual fish catch is estimated to be about 34,000 metric tons, which includes species like sardinellas, tunas, marlins, sharks, sailfish, dolphins, burrito, barracuda, cassava fish, lobsters, shrimps, crabs and snappers.

The landing sites in the district are Aboadze, Abuesi and Anlo Beach. The district is endowed with coastal features such as beaches, dunes, rivers, estuaries, salt marshes, lagoons, wetlands and 3190 hectares of mangroves. The value chain in the Shama district includes fishermen, fish queens & traders, fish processors and retailers. The fishermen find catch from fishing expeditions whilst the fish queens & traders finance these fishing expeditions and determine prices of fish after landing. The fish processors constitute more than 50% of the chain, and are mainly involved in smoking as well as drying and salting. The fishery sector is an avenue for enhancing the livelihoods of women.

Unfortunately, the prospects of this district are under threat due to factors such as land use pressures, degradation of coastal ecosystems, and dwindling fish stock.



PROJECT GOAL

To enhance coastal resilience of fishing communities and ecosystems within the Shama district of Ghana

Duration: September 2019 - May 2020.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

- Engage stakeholders and value chain actors to disseminate information climate change and other contemporary issues affecting the fishery sector and coastal ecosystems.
- Facilitate knowledge and adoption of cost-effective fish- smoking technologies.
- Promote mangrove restoration in selected degraded mangrove sites.
- Enhance knowledge and access to social protection services for the target fisher folks.
- Implement monitoring and evaluation to support communication, learning and project assessment.

EXPECTED RESULTS/OUTCOMES

- Improved adoption of sustainable fish harvesting and fish processing practices.
- Restoration and avoided deforestation of mangrove resources in the district.
- Improved livelihoods of fisher folks in the project area.

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

This project is implemented by the Cerath Development Organization and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC) Program.