

Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Elmina advances fisheries co-management in Ghana

Elmina, Ghana | 28 September – 2 October 2026

The second session of the **Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Ghana** is bringing together **35 participants in Elmina from 28 September to 2 October 2026** to strengthen community leadership and lay the groundwork for more effective fisheries co-management along Ghana's coast.

Jointly organised by *Mundus maris* and the **Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG)**, with support from Blue Ventures and in collaboration with the Fisheries Commission and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Academy supports the implementation of Ghana's Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 (Act 1146).

At the heart of the initiative is a simple principle: **sustainable fisheries management requires fishing communities to be active partners in decision-making and the stewardship of marine resources**. Co-management brings communities and government institutions together to share responsibilities for fisheries governance, helping ensure that management measures respond to local realities while supporting the long-term health of marine ecosystems.

Building on the inaugural Academy held in Winneba in June 2026, the Elmina session strengthens participants' skills in community facilitation, dialogue, leadership and participatory planning. These skills will help local facilitators bring together different groups within fishing communities, including chief fishermen, canoe owners, women fish processors, traders, crew members and other fisheries professionals, to discuss fisheries challenges, identify shared priorities and co-create solutions.

From community dialogue to co-management committees

Over the next three months, the initiative plans to organise additional community meetings, reaching **20 fishing communities**. Through the *Sankofa Fisheries Dialogues*, these meetings will create the conditions for communities to organise, build trust among stakeholders, agree on common priorities and work towards establishing **community-level fisheries co-management committees**.

These dialogues are an important step towards more inclusive and collaborative fisheries governance. By creating spaces for local stakeholders to participate in decisions affecting their livelihoods and marine resources, the initiative aims to strengthen community ownership and collaboration with fisheries authorities.

The expected long-term impact is twofold: **improved livelihoods for fishing communities and better protection of marine resources**. Stronger community participation in fisheries

management can help promote responsible fishing practices, encourage compliance with regulations, address local conflicts and support the recovery and sustainability of fish stocks.

Complementary communication activities, including *FishTalks* — short audio messages shared through WhatsApp and Community Information Centres— will help make information on fisheries legislation and responsible practices more accessible to coastal communities.

By investing in local facilitation skills and creating spaces for dialogue, the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy seeks to help translate national fisheries policy into practical community action, strengthening collaboration and supporting sustainable fisheries and livelihoods across Ghana's coast.

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