



## REPORT ON THE GALO SOTA – GALOTSE CREMA ELECTION OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CRMC) AND CREMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CEC) ELECTION



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Published by AU-IBAR, Nairobi, Kenya

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

AU-IBAR with support from the Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is implementing a three-year project titled 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems in African Blue Economy' with the objective of enhancing the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU Member states and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

In line with the implementation of the project, AU-IBAR is collaborating with IUCN to support identified NGOs to develop gender-sensitive works plan to enhance the role of women in biodiversity protection and environmental governance.

This is being rolled out via the establishment of a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) mechanism in the Anlo-Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site, led by the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission to strengthen local communities' participation in mangrove conservation and restoration in Ghana.

It is against this backdrop that an election was conducted to select leaders to serve on the Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) and CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) of the GALO SOTA – GALOTSE Community Resource Management Area (CREMA). The CREMA consolidates five communities in the Anloga District of Ghana - Galo, Sota, Klonu, Korsikope and Galotse.

The one-day election process, organized by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana with support from AU-IBAR and ICUN, was facilitated by Mr. Senyo Yao Adzah.

**Venue:** Galotse Community, Anloga District of the Volta Region, Ghana

**Date:** 5th July, 2023

**Organizing Partners:** Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

### 1.2 Objective of the Election Meeting:

To select leaders of the 5 Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) and the consolidated Crema Executive Committee (CEC) for effective operationalization of the GALO SOTA – GALOTSE CREMA.

This was the first activity implemented under AU-IBAR / IUCN collaborative activity to support NGOs to develop gender-sensitive workplans to enhance the role of women and youth in biodiversity protection and environmental governance.

### 1.3 Participants:

The election meeting was attended by:

- Community members comprising local institutions and user groups working along the mangrove value chain, youth and women groups involved in fish-mongering and related activities and farmer groups from five beneficiary communities: Galo, Sota, Klonu, Korsikope and Galotse;
- Representatives of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana; and
- Representative from AU-IBAR
- Independent mangrove consultant who facilitated the elections



## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY/ STRATEGY ADOPTED TO CARRY OUT THE ELECTIONS

### **Pre-election preparations**

Ahead of the meeting, the facilitator and representatives from the Wildlife Division had arrangements with the community heads to announce the intended elections, the purpose and the day it will take place to their community members.

### **Meeting day**

- The election process was done in the local dialect (Ewe) to ensure that everyone understood what was going on.
- The voting exercise was preceded by a presentation delivered by the Facilitator on: the importance of resources within the area; the need to conserve and protect the resources; and the CREMA mechanism, its importance and the need for it. The facilitator stressed on the need for a committee to steer the affairs of CREMA in each community (i.e. CRMC).
- The Facilitator also introduced the various portfolios (Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Organizer and treasurer) for constituting the CRMC and CEC to the community members.
- The facilitator used tools like the score sheets to enable the record keeping and compilation of results openly for participants to see. Also, a projector and loud speaker were used to showcase results to audience and make sure everyone heard what was being communicated.

## 3.0 MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The meeting kicked off with an opening prayer and self-introduction of participants coordinated by the facilitator, Mr. Senyo Yao Adzah.

An opening remark was then delivered by Mr. Lawrence Ocloo from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana. He thanked the Chiefs and members of the five communities for committing to efforts to conserve mangrove ecosystems in the area for sustainable livelihoods and environment.

Thereafter, Dr. Alberta Sagoe, representative of AU-IBAR gave a welcome remark on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR and presented on the background and purpose of the meeting. She highlighted the importance of biodiversity and its conservation and the vision of the AU-IBAR with the IUCN for the CREMA. Finally, she thanked and encouraged everyone to get involved towards a successful process.

Mr. Adzah made technical presentations on the concept of CREMA and the various portfolios for constituting the CRMCs and CEC. The rules to guide the voting process were then spelt out to the participants for their inputs and acceptance.

Voting commenced after nominations were made for the various portfolios. Voters were made to vote once by thumb printing against their favorite candidates. Generally, the voting for each portfolio took about 1 hour 30 minutes, to accomplish. The list of CRMC and CEC leaders are attached at the annex.

Elected executives were presented formally to all participants for their acceptance. Headshots of the executives were then taken for publishing in all 5 communities.

At the end of the process, representatives from the Wildlife Division and AU-IBAR thanked all participants and informed them about the next steps of the CREMA process.



## 4.0 ACHIEVEMENT/RESULTS

At the end of the process, 25 participants comprising 5 per community have been selected as new CRMC leaders for the CREMA. Five (5) CEC members were elected out of the CRMC members and 2 additional ex-officio members were also elected. Names are attached in the annex.

## 5.0 CHALLENGES

The fear of aftermath conflicts gave rise to the adjustment of the original strategy for the election and that dragged the process. For example, to ensure gender inclusivity and representation of all the 5 communities on the CEC, voting was substituted with unanimous nominations for some of the positions.

## 6.0 LESSONS LEARNT

The mixed approach used for the election process chalked a considerable amount of success. The elected officials showed high enthusiasm after the election. This shows clearly they need varying forms of capacity building towards efficient delivery of their duties.

During the engagement, suggestions came out that the current name of the CREMA, GALO SOTA – GALOTSE CREMA should be changed to ANGAW LAGOON CREMA. The CRMC leaders suggested that the final name will be decided upon at their meeting later.

## 7.0 THE WAY FORWARD

The elected executive will converge again for the training working shop towards governance of the CREMA in the coming weeks. Proposed date for this activity is the 1st and 2nd of August, 2023.



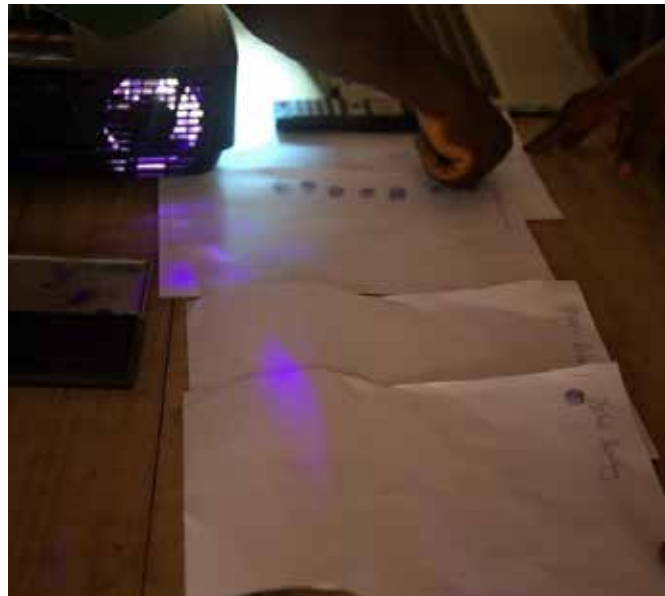
Elected Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC)



Elections facilitator, Mr. Adzah, introducing participants to the concept of CREMA



Voting process for the CREMA Executives



AU-IBAR Gender Expert delivering a speech on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR



Representative of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, Mr. Ocloo delivering the opening remarks.



## ANNEX

Annex 1: CRMC leaders from the five communities are as follows

Position	Name	Community
Chairman	Christopher Asilevi	GALO
Vice Chariman	Atsu Confident	GALO
Secretary	Gershon Asilevi	GALO
Organizer	Martin Dorglo	GALO
Treasurer	Glova Adika	GALO
Chairman	Gedzia Selasi Glormor	SOTA
Vice Chariman	Faustine Kuku	SOTA
Secretary	Kwame Duadze	SOTA
Organizer	Kwami Akpenyetsi	SOTA
Treasurer	Kwadzo Akpenyetsi	SOTA
Chairman	Moses Adzamli	KORSIKOPE
Vice Chariman	Fada Dorglo	KORSIKOPE
Secretary	Matilda Fiakorme	KORSIKOPE
Organizer	Augustine Adzamli	KORSIKOPE
Treasurer	Patience Yiborku	KORSIKOPE
Chairman	Jacob Adika	GALOTSE
Vice Chariman	Abotsi David	GALOTSE
Secretary	Thompson Martey	GALOTSE
Organizer	Ehpraim Eklu Agbolepa	GALOTSE
Treasurer	Tsatsu Eunice	GALOTSE
Chairman	John Boatrie	KLONU
Vice Chariman	Mary Boatrie	KLONU
Secretary	Akrong Godwin	KLONU
Organizer	Atsu Gershon wosornu	KLONU
Treasurer	Gladys Korsorku	KLONU

Positon	Name
Chairman	Christopher Asilevi
Vice Chariman	Jacob Adika
Secretary	John Boatri
Organizer	Kwami Akpenyetsi
Treasurer	Matilda Fiakorme
Ex- officio	Glormor Selasi Gedzia
	Eunice Tsatsu



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