



DECCMA Story of Change 4-Policy change in Ghana

Inclusion of expert advice into the Coastal Development Authority, creating a tighter link between science and decision-making.

What changed?

Ghana's Coastal Development Authority Bill 2017 changed. Based on submissions from DECCMA, made by the chair of DECCMA Ghana's National Expert Advisory Group, Honourable Clement Humado on 20th October 2017, the Bill had a clause added, that the governing body of the authority would have "two persons with relevant expertise nominated by the President at least one of whom is a woman" (Section 4.1(i)). Prior to this submission, there was no mention in the draft Bill of the need for coastal development expert advisory input. DECCMA's contribution here has thus been to create a tighter link between science and decision-making, thereby supporting evidence-informed policy in Ghana.

How did the change come about?

The DECCMA Ghana National Expert Advisory Group (NEAG) was inaugurated in May 2017, chaired by Member of Parliament for Anlo Constituency (part of Keta district, within the Volta delta), Honourable Clement Humado. Other members are representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and Hen Mpoano - a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which works to address the impact of development, natural hazards and climate change along Ghana's coast. The NEAG also comprises representatives from Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) where the project is being implemented. The motivation for the NEAG was strategic - to ensure ongoing engagement with key stakeholders the aim of identifying "bright spots"¹, or opportunities for emerging DECCMA research to influence policy and practice.

NEAG chair, Honourable Clement Humado, is also a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Science and Technology. During the NEAG meeting on 31st May 2017, he highlighted to the DECCMA Ghana team the opportunity to make inputs into the draft policy for the establishment of three development authorities in Ghana, namely the Northern, Middle Belt and Coastal Development authorities.

Given DECCMA's involvement in coastal work, Honourable Clement Humado requested the DECCMA Ghana team to draft inputs to the development of the Coastal Development Authority Bill ([Annex A](#)). The Bill seeks to establish a Coastal Development Authority to provide a framework for enhanced economic and social development of the districts and communities within the coastal areas of Ghana namely; the Greater Accra, Central, Western and Volta Regions. A major role of the Authority is to lead and coordinate local development initiatives within the targeted areas.

Honourable Clement Humado presented DECCMA Ghana's inputs to parliament on 20th October 2017. One part of the submission highlighted that, since there were experts in coastal development and

¹ "Bright spots" was coined by Cvitanovic and Hobday (2018) to refer to instances where science has successfully influenced policy and practice [Cvitanovic, C. and Hobday, A.J. 2018. Building optimism at the environmental science-policy-practice interface through the study of bright spots. Nature Communications 9: 3466.]

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population studies in the tertiary institutions (specifically the University of Ghana), it was necessary to include such people on the Authority's Board (Figure 1). Subsequently in section 4(1)(i) of the Act, passed by parliament and assented to by the President on January 2, 2018 (Act 961), it is required that "two persons with relevant expertise" in coastal development should be nominated as members of the Board (Figure 2).

We are hopeful that, during the actual implementation of the mandate of Coastal Development Authority and the nomination of its Board members, the DECCMA Ghana team will be consulted to provide empirical evidence for the development agenda.

Was the change positive or negative?

Positive

Was the change intended or unintended?

Intended

What triggered or contributed to the change?

- Evidence

The generation of scientific evidence highlighted the potential role of scientific expertise.

- Strategic partnerships

Involvement of a parliamentarian committed to science and technology on the NEAG was essential.



Evidence

Figure 1. Parliamentary debates 20th October 2017

1155 Coastal Dev. Authority: 20 October, 2017 Bill, 2017—Con. Stage 1156

[MRANYIMADU-ANTWI]

would be tying the hands of the Appointment Authority to which the President —

This is because, all the other appointments, though we are not sure of the traditional authorities representation to guarantee women in there, in all the other appointments, there could be women. That is why we cannot say that women representation is not guaranteed.

In the first one, the President can nominate a man or a woman as the chairperson. If you come to "one person from the National Development Planning Commission", that person could be a man or a woman, when we come to "one person from the Ministry of Finance", it could be a woman or the Board, one person from Civil Society Organisations could also be a woman.

Mr Speaker, when you come to clause 4(3), Mr Speaker, it states and with your permission, I beg to state:

"The President shall in appointing a member of the Board have regard to fair representation among the Coastal Development Zone."

Some Hon Members of the House thought that this was enough to ensure women or gender representation on the Board. That was why we did not consider that in the Middle Bel. Development Authority Bill.

So, I would urge Hon Members that this would not be the right place. If an Hon Member thinks that we still have to make an assurance double sure with women representation, then an amendment should be proposed for subclause (3) and not in subclause (1).

Thank you.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, the proposal is that, we flag the matter. So, I will bring proceedings to a close for the day.

Mr Agbodza: Mr Speaker, one of my Hon Colleagues would want to make a further amendment to paragraph (1).

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Is it not advertised? All right. We have not finished work on clause 4, so, we can wait till Tuesday. We would defer the other —

Mr Clement Kofi Humador: Mr Speaker, it is an easy one. Clause 4 (1) (f), I would like to make an amendment to paragraph (1), but before I do so, I would wish to give a little background.

Mr Speaker, when we talk about coastal development, in global terms now, we imply issues of climate change, high tidal movements and coastal erosion. We imply issues of destruction of communities and their relocations, migrations and livelihoods of the coastal communities that have to do with fishery stocks.

Mr Speaker, an important category of professionals that are missing from the governing authority are professionals that are studying oceanography, marine science and coastal management.

In Ghana, we have such bodies that are doing this. They have satellites on the coastal line which take records and statistics, and occasionally, drones are used in doing this.

So, I would like to propose that we replace paragraph (1), which is a little vague to me with the following:

"One person from a public university, teaching or researching into coastal management, marine science or oceanography."

Mr Speaker, this is my proposed amendment. I beg to move.

Figure 1. Coastal Development Authority Bill 2017

Coastal Development Authority Act, 2017 Act 961

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

Establishment of the Coastal Development Authority

1. Establishment of the Authority
2. Objects of the Authority
3. Functions of the Authority

Governance of the Authority

4. Governing body of the Authority
5. Functions of the Board
6. Duties and liabilities of a member of the Board
7. Tenure of office of members of the Board
8. Meetings of members of the Board
9. Disclosure of interest
10. Establishment of committees
11. Allowances
12. Ministerial directives

Administration of the Authority

13. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer
14. Functions of the Chief Executive Officer
15. Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive Officer
16. Functions of Deputy Chief Executive Officer
17. Secretary to the Board
18. Appointment of other staff
19. Departments of the Authority
20. Internal Audit Unit

Finances of the Authority

21. Funds of the Authority
22. Bank account
23. Expenses of the Authority
24. Borrowing powers
25. Exemption from taxes, duties, fees and other charges
26. Accounts and audit

Act 961 Coastal Development Authority Act, 2017

- (g) co-ordinate the planning and implementation of integrated development activities for the realisation of the short term to long term plans for the Coastal Development Zone;
- (r) adopt and implement measures necessary for funding the accelerated economic and social development of the Coastal Development Zone; and
- (s) perform any other functions under this Act or that are ancillary to the objects of the Authority.

Governance of the Authority

Governing body of the Authority

4. (1) The governing body of the Authority is a Board consisting of

- (a) a chairperson nominated by the President;
- (b) one person from the National Development Planning Commission not below the rank of a Director;
- (c) one representative each of traditional authorities nominated by the respective Regional Houses of Chiefs in the Coastal Development Zone;
- (d) one person from the Ministry of Finance not below the rank of a Director;
- (e) one person from the Office of the Minister responsible for special Development Initiatives not below the Rank of a Director;
- (f) one person from civil society organisations in the Coastal Development Zone;
- (g) one person from private sector organisations;
- (h) the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority; and
- (i) two persons with relevant expertise nominated by the President at least one of whom is a woman.

(2) The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

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Annex A

DECCMA GHANA INPUTS INTO THE DRAFT COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Page 4 under objects of the Authority, it should include 'Coastal Environmental Development

Under functions of the authority, it should include "Ensure sustainable management of the coastal environment"

Page 6 Section 4 Under governing body, it should include "one person from a public university teaching/researching into coastal management/marine science/oceanography.

Page 11 Section 16 (2) The Authority may engage the services of consultants and advisers on the recommendation of the Board

Comments: This looks simple but with practical experiences has the tendency of being abused at the expense of regular staff.

This clause also fails to mention the **number of years** that consultants shall be engaged, in some cases consultants have tended to become “permanent staff”

Thirdly, a consultant is hired sometimes based on the urgency of work in other words the need for more hands and not necessarily for lack of expertise. However, in classes where consultant/and or advisers are hired based on lack of expertise, it should be mandatory to be enshrined in their TOR to work with and train regular staff within a specified period of time. This then falls in line with the aspirations of building capacity through learning-by-doing.

Page 11 Section 17 (2) The establishment of the departments by the Board shall be subject to the approval in writing to the Minister.

Comment: We should be careful not to get into micro management. Approval by the Board on establishment of departments should be very much okay. The minister could be informed subsequently in a Status report.

Page 19 (f) Fees and charges due the Authority from services rendered by or through the Authority



Who renders the services, is it staff or through the consultants and the advisors?

If staff will provide the service, it appropriate we also determine the modalities for their fees and charges and percentages etc. Long

Page 15 27 (1) The authority shall grant and extend incentives.....

Comment: In which form is this should this incentive take? This need not be fiscal, it could be in the form of certification.

On **page 16 Section 30 (2)** We may want to add environment and coastal protection

Page 18 *District Assembly* refers to Metropolitan, Municipal and Districts (MMDAs)

The suggested 'professional expertise' indicated under **section (h)** of THE GOVERNANCE may read ' professional expertise on coastal matters"

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1. Wherein lies the authority to arrest and/or prosecute by the Authority?
2. It is not clear which Ministry the Authority will serve. If affirmative, this could thwart or slow down some deliberations. I suggest it reports directly to the PRESIDENT or the Vice President since it has a multi-disciplinary scope
3. THE DEFINITION OF 'COASTAL AREA' should be clearly made in this Act and possibly indicating the affected districts
4. How does the AUTHORITY ensure that functions do not overlap or re-invent existing roles of the districts?