



## Enhancing Alternative Livelihoods and Food Security through the Cultivation and Commercialisation of Sea Moss

### Background

In 2015, small-scale fisheries production in St. Kitts and Nevis was 454 metric tonnes, valued at US\$3,668,171. The fisheries also employed some 837 fishers. Over the last 10 years, however, anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a significant decline in fisheries resources as smaller catches of conch, lobster, pelagic and demersal fishes are being landed.

In March 2015, prompted by concern over fluctuations in production, and the likely negative impacts on the livelihoods of fisherfolk and national food security, the Department of Marine Resources implemented the Sea Moss Culture Pilot Project. The objective of the project was to build the capacity of fisherfolk to develop sea moss farming as an alternative livelihood, while reducing fishing pressure on the nearshore fisheries resources, and improving earnings of the fisherfolk, their organisations and communities. The pilot project achieved success in enhancing existing sea moss culture methods, including encouraging a change from *Eucheuma gracilaria* to the cultivation of a more viable species *Euचेuma cottonii*.

In an effort to build on lessons learnt and contribute to the sustainability of the results from the Sea Moss Culture Pilot Project, the CLME+ [Engaging Civil Society in CLME+ Strategic Action Programme Implementation](#)<sup>1</sup> project will provide technical assistance and small grant support to further build the capacity of fisherfolk and other key stakeholders in St. Kitts and Nevis in sea moss farming, as a demonstration of an alternative livelihoods initiative within the concept of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM).

### Target groups

The main beneficiaries of this project will be the fisherfolk (including women and youth), fisherfolk organisations and other related community based organisations in selected fishing communities, Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Agro-Processing Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis, Foundation for National Development Credit Union (FNDCU) and St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS).

### Specific objectives

The specific objectives are:

- to promote sea moss cultivation as a viable, alternative livelihood in selected fishing communities
- to build the capacity of the fisherfolk (including women and youth), fisherfolk organisations and other related community based organisations in selected fishing communities to sustainably cultivate and harvest sea moss
- to promote the commercialisation of sea moss through the development of community based small and micro enterprises (SMEs).

In keeping with the context of an ecosystem based approach to sea moss farming, the development of the SMEs will seek to encompass a blue economy's triple bottom line of providing economic, social and environmental benefits.

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<sup>1</sup> CANARI, as a co-executing partner under the five- year (2015-2020) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) [Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems project \(CLME+ Project\)](#), is implementing the action [Engaging Civil Society in CLME+ Strategic Action Programme Implementation](#). The objective of the action is to promote broader participation of, and contributions from civil society in implementing the 10-year CLME+ SAP. <http://www.canari.org/clme-csap>

Outcome	Activities
<p>Application of EBM strengthened for management of key fisheries for sustainable livelihoods in the CLME+ region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Facilitate a national consultation workshop in St. Kitts and Nevis with the fisherfolk (including women and youth), fisherfolk organisations and other related community based organisations from selected fishing communities, DMR, FNDCU and SKNBS to review the concept note <b>Enhancing Alternative Livelihoods and Food Security through the Cultivation and Commercialisation of Sea Moss</b> and develop a strategy and action plan for project implement,</li> <li>ii. Conduct a two-day capacity building workshop in sea moss mariculture and SME development for the fisherfolk (including women and youth), fisherfolk organisations and other related community based organisations in selected fishing communities, DMR, FNDCU and SKNBS.</li> <li>iii. Provide small grants to selected fisherfolk organisations and other related community based groups to undertake sea moss farming as a small or micro enterprise</li> <li>iv. Provide coaching and technical advice during project implementation to the fisherfolk (including women and youth), fisherfolk organisations and other related community based organisations in selected fishing communities, DMR, FNDCU and SKNBS.</li> <li>v. Conduct evaluation of project implementation and report on results and lessons learnt.</li> </ul>



The **Engaging Civil Society in CLME+ SAP Implementation** project is being executed by CANARI as a component of the **CLME+ Project**. The five year (2015 – 2020) CLME+ project is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).