



## Regional implementation of Climate Change Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs) in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector

### Background

#### **PROJECT IN BRIEF**

**Goal:** To improve understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for effective adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector through implementing VCAs in coastal and fishing communities.

**Lead:** Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

**Budget:** US \$164,800

**Duration:** October 2019 – November 2020 (phase 2)

**Project webpage:** <https://canari.org/vca-for-cc4fish/>

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs) are an important means to establish who and what is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and identify potential adaptation measures at the local level. They are particularly relevant given increasing climate change impacts due to extreme weather events, higher ocean temperatures, coral bleaching, ocean acidification and sea level rise, including loss of fish productivity and damage to boats and infrastructure critical to the fisheries sector. Coastal communities and fisherfolk (men and women involved in all aspects of the sector) are particularly vulnerable to these climate change impacts as they are dependent on the fisheries sector for food security, livelihoods and household income. However, at present, there is a fairly ad hoc approach to assessing the vulnerability of coastal and fishing communities that limits understanding of how to effectively adapt to climate change.

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has been contracted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to undertake the regional implementation of VCAs in coastal and fishing communities under the ***Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries Sector of the Eastern Caribbean Project (CC4FISH)***. CC4FISH aims to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts through introduction of adaptation measures in fisheries management and capacity building of fisherfolk and aquaculturists. CANARI's work will contribute to CC4FISH Component 1 on increasing understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability for effective adaptation in the fisheries sector.



*Photo: Fisherman at Calliaqua fishing village, Saint Vincent.*

CANARI is implementing this work in collaboration with the FAO/ Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) and national fisheries authorities in four target countries, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. CC4FISH is funded by the Global Environment Facility.

## Goal

The overall goal is to improve understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for effective adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector through implementation of VCAs in coastal and fishing communities in the region.

This work will build on an earlier phase from September 2017 to September 2018 to develop a regional framework and toolkit for conducting VCAs in coastal and fishing communities in the Eastern Caribbean and enable a harmonised approach to data collection on local level vulnerability to facilitate information exchanges and comparisons between countries.

## Project Outputs and Activities

CANARI will deliver the following outputs and activities to achieve the project goal:

Outputs	Activities
1. <b>Updated VCA toolkit</b> to guide local level VCAs for the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Update and design VCA toolkit</b> for conducting local level VCAs in coastal and fishing communities in the Eastern Caribbean, including case studies on the tools and lessons from applying VCAs in region</li><li>• <b>Prepare instructional materials</b> to accompany the VCA toolkit detailing the process and steps for applying the suite of tools</li></ul>
2. <b>VCAs carried out at local level in coastal and fishing communities</b> in four target countries, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, to inform climate change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identify 14 target communities and conduct a scoping analysis</b> to determine approach and relevant tools for VCAs</li><li>• <b>Establish local field team</b> in each of the four countries, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ conduct <b>in-country training</b> with field team on design and implementation of local level VCAs using the VCA toolkit</li><li>○ <b>develop country work plans</b> which detail the field activities and timelines for conducting VCAs</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Conduct fieldwork for VCAs</b> in target communities in four project countries</li><li>• <b>Prepare country reports</b> for the four project countries synthesizing results from VCAs and identifying priorities and measures for adaptation for inclusion in climate-smart fisheries management plans</li></ul>
3. <b>Improved outreach and awareness</b> on VCAs and their findings amongst stakeholders in the Eastern Caribbean.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Develop communication products</b> to disseminate results and lessons learned from VCAs in four project countries and improve awareness of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and possible adaptation measures</li></ul>

## For more information

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