



REPORT OF THE SMALL GRANT PROJECT: INCREASING SAFETY AT SEA AND STEWARDSHIP AMONG ANGUILLAN FISHERFOLK TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla And Montserrat



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Overview of small grant facility and the *Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat* Project

From April 2017 to March 2020, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) partnered with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources – Anguilla; the Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and Environment (MATLHE) – Montserrat; and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) to implement the project “**Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla And Montserrat**”.

The main objective of the project was to mainstream climate change adaptation into fisheries governance using an ecosystem approach to fisheries. This project was funded by the Darwin Initiative through the United Kingdom (UK) Government.

Overview of small grant facility and the *Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat* Project

Under the “Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat” project, CANARI implemented a US\$24,000 small grant facility, targeted at fisherfolk organisations in Anguilla and Montserrat, to support practical action projects on climate change adaptation and ecosystem stewardship for resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

The small grant facility formed part of CANARI’s Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF). CarSIF supports innovation and best practices by CSOs and community enterprises to address priority needs and actions in the Caribbean on marine and coastal governance and management.

In August 2019, the **Anguilla Fisherfolk Association (AFFA)** received a small grant of US\$12,000 from this small grant facility for their project, “Increasing safety at sea and stewardship among Anguillan fisherfolk to build climate change resilience”. The small grant project was implemented in collaboration with the **Anguilla Fishing Cooperative (AFC)**, over a 6-month period from August 15, 2019 to February 14, 2020.



Photo credit: DFMR

Overview of Anguilla fisherfolk organisations

About the AFFA

The AFFA was established and registered as an “exempted nonprofit organisation” on April 22, 2015. Its formation was one of the outcomes of the inaugural workshop of the Caribbean Fisherfolk Leaders Action Learning Group (FFALG), held in Trinidad and Tobago, in 2012, under the project “Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance” funded by the European Union (EU) EuropeAid programme.

The AFFA seeks to partner with local, regional and international agencies, to create an enabling and safe environment that would support and ensure the participation of fisherfolk in the local and global marketplace guaranteeing sustainable livelihoods.

The AFFA believes that fisheries resources are a common property that must be sustainably managed by fisherfolk and the Government of Anguilla for present and future generations.

About the AFC

The AFC was established in 2014. One of the main objectives for forming the AFC was to create a voice for the fishing community in Anguilla.

A key activity for the AFC is promoting the establishment of primary fisherfolk organisations in the various fishing villages around Anguilla.

The AFC is currently seeking resources to develop a strategic plan where it will also formally define its mission as an organisation.

Issues addressed by grant – Safety at sea

- There have been a number of incidents at sea involving Anguilla fishers, in some cases resulting in the loss of life
- Incidents at sea occur due to the fact that peak fishing times in Anguilla correspond with the Atlantic Hurricane season when sea conditions are at their worst. Anguilla's waters are also regularly affected by severe sea swells (locally known as "ground seas") as well as high winds.
- Safety-at-sea concerns have been exacerbated by more extreme weather, including high winds, rough seas, hurricanes, storms and storm surge, due to climate change.
- Warming of coastal waters due to climate change has also resulted in changes in fish distribution and abundance which has led to fishers having to venture farther out to sea, for longer periods, to catch fish. These factors have contributed to increased difficulties with navigation and damage to boats at sea, and increased incidents of fisherfolk and boats lost at sea.

TWO FISHERMEN SAVED, ONE LOST

anguillian By anguillian
February 3, 2012 10:35



Fishers can travel on average 25-35 nautical miles (45-65 km) into open sea to fishing grounds.

Issues addressed by grant – Degradation of marine habitats

- Human activities, including pollution and coastal development, have led to degradation of nearshore coastal and marine habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.
- This degradation is compounded by the impacts of coral bleaching, ocean acidification and coastal erosion due to sea level rise and storms due to climate change.
- Impacts on nearshore coastal and marine habitats, which are important fishing grounds and nurseries, affects fish abundance and distribution in nearshore areas and contributes to fishers having to venture farther out to sea to catch fish.



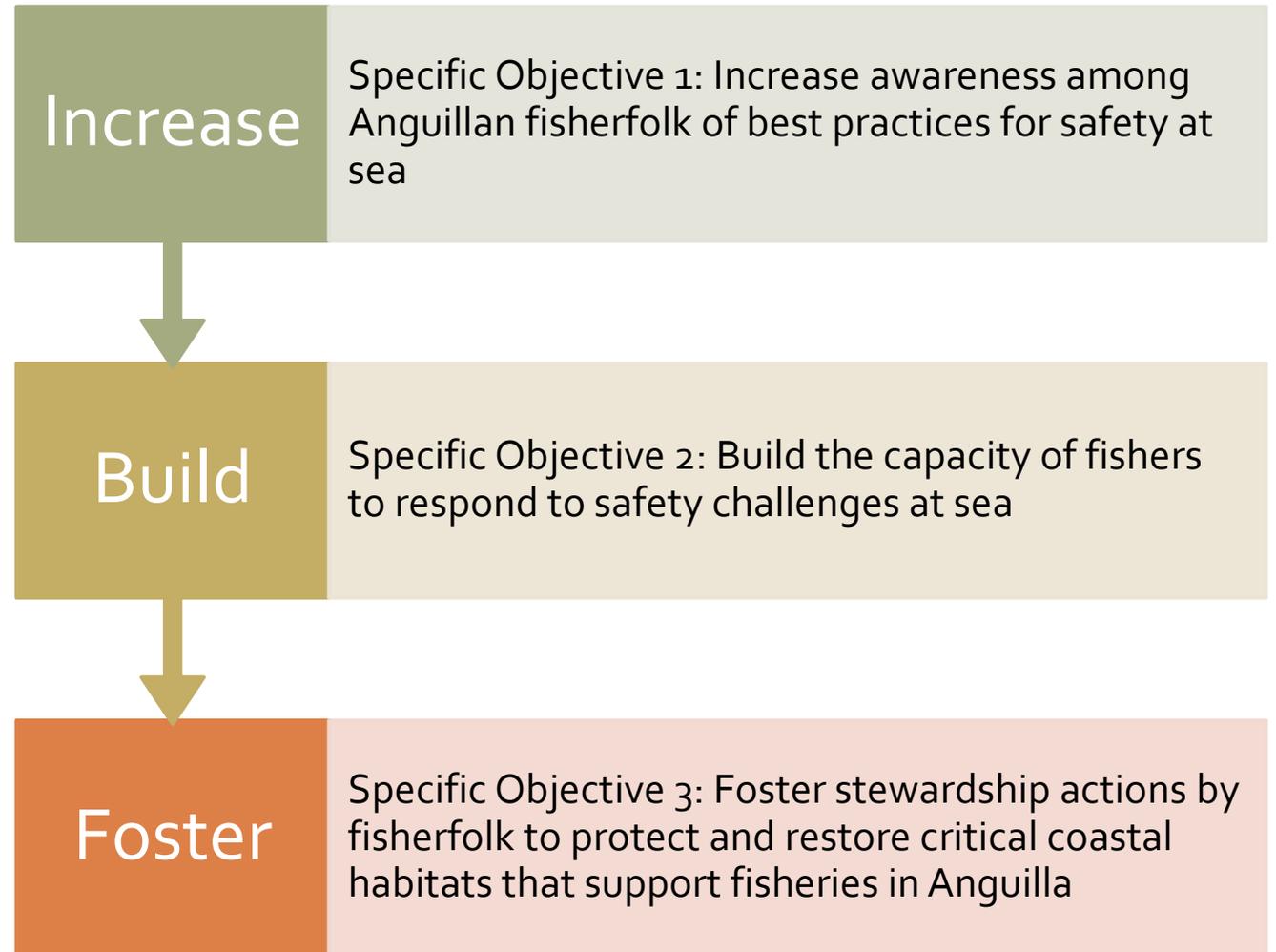
Photo credit: Anguilla National Trust

Project goal and specific objectives

The goal of the “**Increasing safety at sea and stewardship among Anguillan fisherfolk to build climate change resilience**” project was to to reduce the vulnerability of fisherfolk, their livelihoods and critical coastal ecosystems to climate change and variability in Anguilla’s small-scale fisheries sector.



Photo credit: AFFA



Result 1: Awareness increased among Anguillan fisherfolk of best practices for safety at sea

The AFFA and AFC collaborated with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to raise awareness about best practices for safety at sea.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted desk study research to collect data on reported accidents/incidents at sea in Anguilla
- Arranged and convened a one-day “Safety at Sea Workshop” to highlight and discussion solutions for the main climate and non-climate factors that have contributed to accidents/incidents at sea within Anguilla’s fisheries

Key outputs:

- Awareness raised about safety at sea among 35 persons including 17 fisherfolk and 5 wives and girlfriends of fisherfolk who participated in the “Safety at Sea” workshop
- Stakeholder input received for development of safety at sea posters and other products in the future



Photo credit: Ruiz Thomas

Result 2: Capacity built among fishers to respond to safety challenges at sea

The AFFA and AFC collaborated with the Anguilla Red Cross to provide First Aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Water Safety training to fisherfolk in Anguilla

Activities implemented:

- Arranged and convened a one-day practical training workshop on First Aid/CPR
- Arranged and convened a two-day practical training workshop on Water Safety
- Purchased life-saving safety equipment to loan to fishers venturing out to sea

Key outputs:

- First Aid/CPR skills improved among 16 persons, including spouses of fishers, who participated in the First Aid/ CPR workshop (15 out of 16 were certified)
- *Water safety skills improved among 15 fishers* who participated in the Water-Safety workshop (15 were certified)
- 30 life vests and 22 lights purchased for loan to fishers going out to sea



Photo credit: Ruiz Thomas

Result 3: Stewardship fostered by fisherfolk to protect and restore critical coastal habitats that support fisheries in Anguilla

The AFFA and AFC collaborated with the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) to support habitat rehabilitation for spiny lobster at the Prickly Pear Marine Park

Activities implemented:

- Arranged and convened a two-day lobster casita building workshop
- Deployed lobster casitas at the Prickly Pear Marine Park

Key outputs:

- 102 lobster casitas constructed and 22 deployed in the Prickly Pear Marine Park
- Improved habitat for the Caribbean Spiny lobster in the Prickly Pear Marine Park
- Awareness raised about ecological issues impacting Prickly Pear Marine Park among the 27 persons, including 12 fishers, 2 sport fishers and representatives of DFMR and ANT, who participated in the casita building workshop



Photo credit: Ruiz Thomas

Photo credit: Aristo Richardson

Challenges

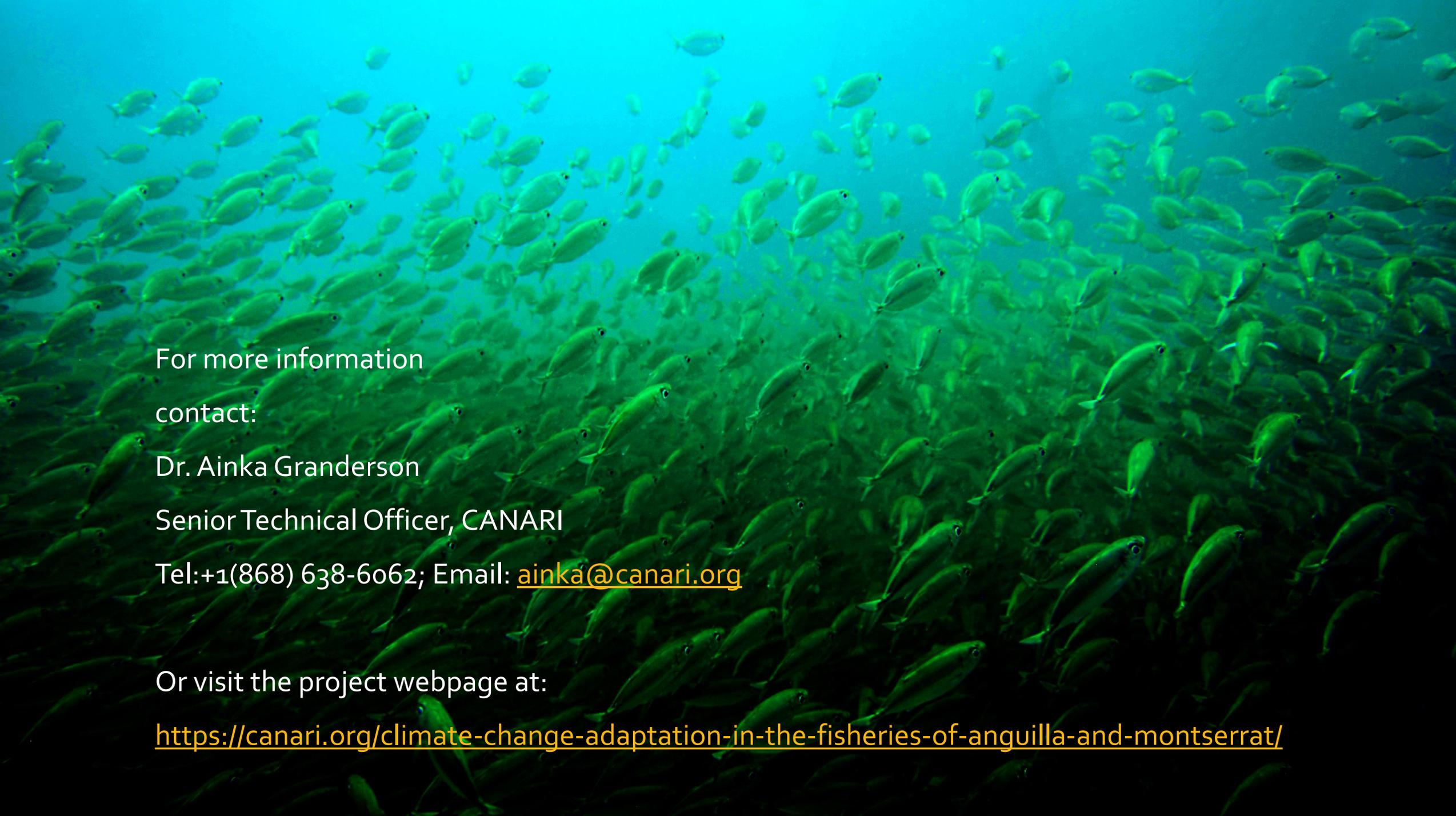
- **Engaging the membership of the fisherfolk associations, AFFA and AFC.** Meetings, which were called to develop the project proposal and keep the membership informed of progress on project activities, were poorly attended. The result was that a number of members had unrealistic expectations that the project would provide individual equipment for safety at sea, rather than just safety at sea training and awareness raising on climate change and its impacts on the fisheries sector.
- **Limited capacity for project management within the fisherfolk organisations, AFFA and AFC.** AFFA and AFC have limited experience in project management and reporting on small grants, and relied heavily on DDM and ANT to support their project activities as well as a local mobiliser paid by CANARI to help with stakeholder engagement.
- **Inclement weather.** Anguilla experiences 'ground seas' from November to March, which affected scheduling and implementation of safety at sea training. For example, on the day of the First-Aid/CPR training there was poor turnout as it was the first good fishing day after many days of not being able to fish due to 'ground seas'. In some cases, fisherfolk sent a member of their support network to attend the training and pass on the information instead.



Lessons learned

- Training is needed to help build the capacity of the AFFA and AFC in project management, and greater input is needed from the membership of AFFA and AFC in the design and implementation of projects to ensure it meets the various needs of fisherfolk.
- Partnerships between fisherfolk organisations and other key actors, such as the DFMR, DDM and ANT, can help mobilise resources and foster knowledge exchange and actions to scale up impacts to enhance climate resilience and ecosystem stewardship.
- Information and communication technology, such as a WhatsApp group of the key project partners including AFFA, AFC, ANT, DDM and the CANARI mentor, can provide a low-cost and useful means for enabling regular communication for coordinated and effective project planning and implementation.





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<https://canari.org/climate-change-adaptation-in-the-fisheries-of-anguilla-and-montserrat/>