



For Immediate Release

New case study highlights readiness of the Anguilla and Montserrat fisheries sectors to adapt to climate change

Port of Spain, July 22, 2019 – A new case study from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) highlights key findings and priorities for institutional strengthening to improve readiness to adapt to climate change in the fisheries sectors of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories, Anguilla and Montserrat.



The fisheries sectors in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) of Anguilla and Montserrat are important for livelihoods and national food security. However, the fisheries sectors in both UKOTs are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change. Increased sea surface temperatures, more intense storms, ocean acidification and rising sea levels are expected to have a series of biophysical and socio-economic impacts on fisheries resources and fisherfolk. Ensuring that the fisheries sectors of Anguilla and Montserrat are able to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate is therefore crucial.

Why assess “institutional readiness” to adapt to climate change?

Typically, when we think of climate change adaptation we focus on ecological measures, such as restoring the health of coral reef or mangrove ecosystems that support fisheries, or socio-economic measures, such as introducing alternative livelihoods like aquaculture. Less often do we think of our “institutional readiness” to undertake these adaptation actions.

Institutional readiness refers to the policies and plans, processes, mechanisms and resources that are in place to facilitate key functions for climate change adaptation in the fisheries sector. These functions include assessing the impacts of climate change, coordinating stakeholders and mobilising finance to implement

actions within the fisheries sector. Institutional readiness is therefore the foundation of effective adaptation planning. Without this foundation, adaptation would be ad hoc and likely not make the best use of limited resources or have strategic impact.

In 2018, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) assessed the institutional readiness for climate change adaptation of the fisheries sectors of Anguilla and Montserrat using desk reviews and interviews with key stakeholders. The World Resources Institute’s Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis (ARIA) toolkit was used to assess the sector’s ability to deliver five key functions:

- 1) Assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and relevant adaptation efforts.
- 2) Prioritisation to identify adaptation actions and channel finances to appropriate institutions or initiatives.
- 3) Coordination of adaptation via national and sectoral multi-stakeholder mechanisms.
- 4) Information management to ensure the availability of climate and adaptation-relevant information for actors.
- 5) Mainstreaming climate change risk and adaptation into planning.

Each key function was measured against specific indicators (see Table 1).

Table 1: Indicators for institutional readiness for climate change adaptation in the fisheries sector

Critical function	Indicators
Assessment	Vulnerability assessment - there is an assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities to help decision makers identify adaptation needs, priorities and options. Adaptation inventory - there is an inventory of existing and past adaptation efforts to facilitate institutional memory of past and ongoing programmes, projects and lessons learned.
Prioritisation	Prioritisation process - there is a process for prioritising adaptation activities. Budgetary process - there is a budgetary process to channel finance to adaptation institutions or initiatives.
Coordination	National mechanisms - multi-stakeholder committees or other coordinating mechanisms are operating at the national level to coordinate adaptation efforts that include the fisheries sector. Sectoral mechanisms - multi-stakeholder committees or other coordinating mechanisms are operating at the sectoral level to coordinate adaptation efforts.
Information management	Information accessibility - actors have access to adaptation-relevant information. Information platform - there is a platform for the exchange of climate information relevant to the sector.
Mainstreaming	Integrating process - there are processes or procedures for integrating climate change risks and adaptation into projects or sectoral planning. Identifying barriers - the institution(s) tasked with prioritisation and coordination has identified barriers for adaptation.

Fig 1. Case study on “Are we ready to adapt to climate change? An institutional assessment of the Anguilla and Montserrat fisheries sectors”

The fisheries sectors in Anguilla and Montserrat are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and sea surface temperatures, more intense storms and ocean acidification.

One key aspect in addressing these impacts is ensuring “institutional readiness” to adapt in the fisheries sectors. Institutional readiness refers to the policies and plans, processes, mechanisms and resources that are in place to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

CANARI assessed institutional readiness for adaptation to climate change in Anguilla’s and Montserrat’s fisheries sectors in 2018 using the World Resources Institute’s Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis (ARIA) toolkit. The toolkit focuses on the ability to deliver five key adaptation functions: 1) assessment of climate change impacts; 2) prioritisation of adaptation actions; 3) coordination of stakeholders and resources; 4) information management; and 5) mainstreaming into development planning.

The assessment involved a comprehensive desk review and consultations with representatives from key agencies responsible for fisheries and marine resources, environmental, climate and disaster risk management, development and finance, as well as fisherfolk and their organisations, to determine how well each of these functions are being carried out in Anguilla and Montserrat.

Priorities for institutional strengthening identified for both Overseas Territories include updating national fisheries management plans and legislation to integrate climate change and disaster

concerns, establishing national multi-stakeholder committees for better coordination and resource mobilisation, and improving access to climate information to guide decision-making.

CANARI conducted the institutional readiness assessments in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Anguilla and Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit - Montserrat as part of the Darwin Plus-funded project, ***Climate change adaptation in the fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat***. These assessments support mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in the fisheries sector for enhanced stewardship of marine resources and livelihood benefits in Anguilla and Montserrat.

To download the case study, visit: https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CANARI-Brief_Readiness-to-Adapt-in-Anguilla-Montserrat-Fisheries_June-2019.pdf

About the project: The *Climate Change Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat* project aims to mainstream climate change adaptation into fisheries governance using an ecosystem approach to fisheries. It is being jointly implemented by CANARI, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Anguilla, the Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Housing, Land and Environment (MATHLE) - Montserrat and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies from 2017-2020. The project is being funded by the Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Climate and Environment Fund. See here for more information: <http://www.canari.org/climate-change-adaptation-in-the-fisheries-of-anguilla-and-montserrat>.

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for 30 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on capacity building, policy planning and development, research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, and fostering regional partnerships. See here for more information on CANARI: <http://www.canari.org/>.

Connect with us:



For further information, please contact:

Ainka Granderson, Senior Technical Officer at CANARI at ainka@canari.org or call: +868 638 6062