



STEWARDFISH - Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries

Project Goal: The StewardFish project aims to empower fisherfolk throughout fisheries value-chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels.

Target countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Regional executing partner organisations: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West (UWI-CERMES), Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)

National executing partner organisations: *Fisheries Division(s) of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

Project term: May 2018 to April 2021

Background

The small-scale fisheries sector is an important driver of economies in the Caribbean region, and healthy fish stocks are vitally important for the sustainability of coastal communities and rural livelihoods.

In 2013, countries bordering and/or located within the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) adopted a 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP). The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 4 Sub-strategies. SAP strategies 1-3, with a focus on governance, are cross-cutting, while strategies 4-6 tackle the three main marine ecosystems (reef, pelagic and continental shelf) in the CLME+ region. The CLME+ SAP aims to contribute to the achievement of the regionally adopted long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region.”

However, there are several challenges that hinder the engagement of fisherfolk and their organisations in the sustainable management of fisheries in the region, including:

- Limited capacity of regional, national and local fisherfolk organisations to participate effectively in fisheries governance
- Fisherfolk have insufficient capacity and knowledge of ecosystem stewardship practices for fisheries sustainability
- Inadequate public awareness of ecosystem approaches to support best practices and ensure compliance
- Poor documentation of successful experiences and practices for sustainable fisheries livelihood strategies
- Inadequate management and collaboration mechanisms to support fisherfolk leaders in monitoring and evaluating projects.

In an effort to address these challenges, StewardFish will aim to implement the CLME+ SAP within seven Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) by empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value-chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels. This will be achieved through implementation of the four core project components: 1. Developing organisational capacity for fisheries governance; 2. Enhancing ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability; 3. Securing sustainable livelihoods for food and nutrition security; and 4. Project management, monitoring and evaluation, and communication.

CANARI's work under StewardFish will contribute to the outcomes of components 1-3 through the following specific outputs and key activities:

Output	Summary of key activities
Leaders with strengthened capacity in management, administration, planning, sustainable finance, leadership and other operational skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and train mentors from the 7 target project countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to conduct fisherfolk organisational capacity needs assessments using the PISCES organisational capacity assessment tool and provide fisherfolk organisational strengthening to the national fisherfolk organisations (NFOs) in their respective project countries • Develop a capacity building approach appropriate for the fisherfolk organisations (FFOs) • Design a mentoring programme to be delivered by the in-country mentors to address priorities identified in the organisational needs assessment • Provide support to FFOs in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines to implement pilot capacity building projects to address priority needs identified in their organisational needs assessments • Support virtual exchanges among the 7 target NFOs to share experiences in addressing selected common priority areas identified in the organisational needs assessments
State agency implementation gaps assessed regarding support for fisherfolk organisations and their role in stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct institutional analysis and organisational assessments including desk study, interviews and focus-groups with key fisheries-related state agencies and NFOs to assess gaps in support for FFOs and their role in stewardship in the 7 target countries • Facilitate national workshops to: (1) present and validate initial findings; (2) identify priorities for improvement • Report on findings of institutional analysis including recommended priorities for improvement
Fisherfolk engaged in the management of marine protected areas or other coastal uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select one geographic area that will be the focus of practical Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) application in a learning-by-doing approach to building capacity, in collaboration with NFO leaders in each of the 6 countries (Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) • Facilitate site visits with NFO leaders, in collaboration with civil society organisations and government agencies managing the areas, to jointly analyse the issues affecting small scale fisheries and to explore potential stewardship actions by fisherfolk • Work with the NFO leaders to develop local stewardship action plans, with input from other stakeholders, to guide stewardship actions in following years
Schemes for sustainable fisheries livelihoods reviewed in order to learn from them and adapt future activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct desk study and interviews to analyse data and information from past and current fisheries-related livelihoods and socio-economic projects in the Caribbean, with focus on Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in order to learn about achievements and issues from fisherfolk perspectives • Report on findings, identifying sustainable fisheries livelihood opportunities, and best practices for fisherfolk pursuing complementary or alternative livelihoods • Develop and disseminate a policy brief, PowerPoint presentation and one other audiovisual product highlighting best-practices of fisherfolk pursuing complementary or alternative livelihoods • Develop livelihood profiles and integrate into training for fisherfolk implementation of the EAF
Use of local fish in healthy diets promoted through public policies and private enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise, facilitate and report on national workshops in 2-3 selected target countries to undertake a participatory analysis of fisheries value chains (with fisherfolk, private sector agencies, and fisheries authorities) and map opportunities for additional marketing and distribution of current and new seafood products, especially consistent with childhood nutrition • Prepare brief national workshop reports, and overall summary synthesising opportunities

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