



National Diagnostic of the Functionality of Fisherfolk Organisations in Trinidad and Tobago

PROJECT IN BRIEF

Goal: To understand the self-governance capacity of small-scale fisherfolk organisations in Trinidad and Tobago by examining existing institutional arrangements of the small-scale fisheries sector and identifying areas for capacity development.

Lead (in Trinidad and Tobago): Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Project Partners: Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Duke University, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF) and Future Fishers.

Budget: \$210 886.00 TTD

Duration: May 2019 – March 2020

Project webpage:

<https://canari.org/national-diagnostic-of-the-functionality-of-fisherfolk-organisations-in-trinidad-and-tobago>

Background

According to the FAO, the fisheries sector is the main source of food and income to over 500 million people around the world. Over 90% of the fisheries sector, harvest and post-harvest, is represented by small-scale fisheries. Although engagement of the resource stakeholders in the sector is known to have a positive impact on local livelihoods and resource conditions, small-scale fishers have been excluded from some national policy development processes. As a result of this there is a need to evaluate current governance and institutional arrangements in the sector to address this issue and assist fisherfolk organisations in building their capacity to participate in these processes.



Photo credit: Natalie Boodram

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) provided technical assistance for the **‘National Diagnostic of the Functionality of Fisherfolk Organisations of Trinidad and Tobago’** sub-project which supported the implementation of the *Project on the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin*

Latin America and Caribbean Bottom Trawl Fisheries (REBYC-II LAC) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Reduction. This project aimed to understand the capacity needs of local and national level fisherfolk organisations in the small-scale fisheries sector using a self-evaluation diagnostic tool. The project was funded by the GEF and is being implemented by the FAO in Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. The tool was piloted by the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, which worked with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, and country partners, CANARI (in Trinidad and Tobago) and WWF-Guianas (in Suriname) to carry out this diagnostic survey for the shrimp and groundfish sector in both countries.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the project was implemented with support from the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Land and Agriculture, the Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF) and Future Fishers.

Project goal

The objective of the project was “to understand the self-governance capacity of small-scale fishing organisations by characterising and evaluating existing institutional arrangements of the small-scale fisheries sector and by identifying concrete areas of support to strengthen this capacity.”

Project deliverables

Key project deliverables achieved were:

- Inception workshop held with training of key stakeholders including staff of the Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago, TTUF, Future Fishers and CANARI
- Participatory development and piloting of the diagnostic tool
- Data collected from 19 active fisherfolk organisations across Trinidad, as well as engagement with five inactive organisations and the executive of TTUF
- Validation workshop held to present preliminary findings of study to key stakeholders
- Development of a slide pack on the project and field findings to disseminate to local fisherfolk organisations
- Input into the final technical report of the study being developed by Duke University

Project approach and activities

CANARI used a participatory approach to ensure the meaningful engagement and input of a wide range of stakeholders into the project, including field surveys and stakeholder training and validation workshops. The study targeted fisherfolk organisations which are members of the Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk, as well as non-members and inactive organisations, particularly those based on the west and south coasts of Trinidad involved in the shrimp and groundfish fishery sector.

Project outcomes

Activities for the project led to the following outcomes:

- The creation of useful data for fisherfolk organisations, government agencies and other civil society organisations, to aid in understanding the capacity needs of fisherfolk along with proposed strategies to strengthen institutional performance of the organisations.
- Trust among stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries sector was built using a participatory and cooperative methodological approach; strengthening inter-organisational relationships which can help facilitate feasible solutions to address the capacity gaps identified.
- Strengthened theoretical and methodological capacity of the in-country partners to undertake similar studies in the future and for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of fisherfolk organisations.

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