Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS OF ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

JUNE 2020
Cover photographs: Fish vendor cleaning fish at market (left); fisher out at sea (middle); and pirogues pulled on beach in St. Vincent (right) © Winsbert Harry and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Fisherfolk Organisation (SVGNFO).
CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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Acknowledgements

This institutional analysis and organisational assessment report is an output of the Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) project which is being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and executed by the Caribbean ICT Research Programme of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CIRP), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) with Fisheries Divisions/Departments in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. StewardFish is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Disclaimer:
This publication was produced by CANARI as an output of the StewardFish project. The views expressed herein are those of the authors, and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of Fisheries Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Global Environmental Facility, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or other co-executing partners of the StewardFish project.
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<td>ARIA</td>
<td>WRI’s Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANARI</td>
<td>Caribbean Natural Resources Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARIFICO</td>
<td>Caribbean Fisheries Co-Management Project</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Caribbean Conservation Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCCFP</td>
<td>Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNFO</td>
<td>Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLME+ SAP</td>
<td>Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMBP</td>
<td>Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRFM</td>
<td>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC4FISH</td>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAF</td>
<td>Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECMMAN</td>
<td>Climate -Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>FAD</td>
<td>Fishing Aggregating Devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMP</td>
<td>Fisheries Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environmental Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCAT</td>
<td>International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUU</td>
<td>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IWC</td>
<td>International Whaling Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIC</td>
<td>National Intersectoral Coordinating Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFO</td>
<td>National Fisherfolk Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOCC</td>
<td>National Ocean Coordination Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECS</td>
<td>Organization of Eastern Caribbean States</td>
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<tr>
<td>OGC</td>
<td>Ocean Governance Committee</td>
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<td>SusGren</td>
<td>Sustainable Grenadines Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARTFF</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry &amp; Labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCMP</td>
<td>Tobago Cays Marine Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCLOS</td>
<td>United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFSA</td>
<td>United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>UWI-CERMES</td>
<td>Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies</td>
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<tr>
<td>UWI CIRP</td>
<td>Caribbean ICT Research Programme of the University of the West Indies</td>
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<tr>
<td>WECAFC</td>
<td>FAO Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission</td>
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<td>WRI</td>
<td>World Resources Institute</td>
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Executive Summary

The Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in the Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) project is aimed at implementing the 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) within seven Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) member states (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines). The project aims to deliver enhanced stewardship of fisheries resources and livelihood benefits.

CANARI conducted an Institutional Analysis and Organisational Assessment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to contribute to Outcome 1.2 “Fisheries-related state agencies have capacity to support fishing industry stewardship” and Output 1.2.1 “State agency implementation gaps are assessed regarding support for fisherfolk organisations and their role in stewardship” of the project. The aim of the analysis was to identify current strengths, as well as opportunities for improvement in the fisheries-related state agencies of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in order to improve their capacity to support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations as it related to the following areas:

(i) policies, laws and plans;
(ii) advisory and/or decision-making mechanism;
(iii) fisheries related organisations; and
(iv) processes and practices.

The methods utilised included desk studies, interviews and validation webinars.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines’s fisheries institution includes a range of governmental, civil society, and private sector stakeholders with various roles, mandates, responsibilities and interests. Most fisherfolk organisations are formalised through the Cooperative Societies Act (2012) and are grouped according to the areas the fishers are from. It has been found that some of these fisherfolk organisations have inadequate capacity in the areas of management and accountability. It should be noted that there is no official fisherfolk organisation that represents the interests of fisherfolk in the Grenadines islands. Their representation is done through an informal group.

Laws, policies and plans in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were assessed to determine whether they were in line with the principles of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and if they were supporting or constraining ecosystem stewardship. Consideration was given to local laws such as the Fisheries Act (1986), Fisheries Regulations (1987), the recently approved National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2018) and the National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan, 2018 (Draft). Even though the Fisheries Regulations do not directly speak to socio-economic wellbeing of resource users, it is a supporting legislation to the Fisheries Act (1986) and so the principles of EAF can be considered as represented in all instruments identified. It is to be noted that the Fisheries Act and Regulations are currently being updated.

To determine the extent to which fisherfolk were being included in decision-making processes, the institutional analysis examined the existence, composition and functioning of current National Intersectoral Coordinating Mechanisms (NICs), which are essential to successfully implementing and achieving ecosystem-based management and EAF. Although the Fisheries Advisory Committee has not been established, there are opportunities for fisherfolk to engage in intersectoral decision making processes through the National Ocean Coordination Committee, National Taskforce on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and the Seaweed Invasion Task Force. However, on the National Ocean Coordination Committee, there is inadequate representation from the selected fisherfolk organisation. Once established, the Fisheries Advisory Committee would be the
main mechanism for engaging fisherfolk nationally in decision making matters directly related to their sector.

Projects, programmes and initiatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that have provided or are providing finances, technology and equipment and capacity building to fisherfolk and their organisations were examined to determine whether fisherfolk have adequate support and resources to undertake ecosystem stewardship activities. Support and resources for fisherfolk are available from a range of sources including government, civil society and international organisations. These can be accessed either through ongoing programmes, or ad hoc arrangements. Examples of support and resources provided include:

(i) loan and grant programmes facilitated by the Government;
(ii) capacity building of fishers in new fishing methods through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) programmes; and
(iii) training through programmes facilitated by Sustainable Grenadines Inc., such as training in quality assurance relating to fish and sea moss cultivation.

Partnerships and networks are important as they help to facilitate information flows, fill knowledge gaps, and strengthen expertise for ecosystem management, including stewardship. Generally, partnerships exist between fisherfolk and the Fisheries Division. For example, the Fisheries Division provides technical guidance to fishers as it relates to fish aggregating devices (FADs), and fisherfolk can in turn provide information on landings. Partnerships also exist between fisherfolk organisations and the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority for the preparation of zoning plans for the proposed South Coast Marine Conservation Area.

The extent to which providers of fisheries information were using communication strategies, tools and channels to communicate with fisherfolk, as well as their capacity to use the tools and channels effectively was examined. The Fisheries Division is the main provider of fisheries information in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with much of its communication efforts being embedded in its regular work programme through its extension unit. Regular meetings with the national umbrella fisherfolk organisation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Fisherfolks Cooperatives Limited (SVGNFO), are also convened to share information and to gain understanding of issues facing fisherfolk. Technical information on sustainable practices is mainly communicated to fisherfolk through the Fisheries Division and to the various fisherfolk organisations through the training sessions conducted for obtaining licenses. It was noted that communication with fisherfolk on the Grenadine islands is inadequate.

The vision, mandate and culture of the Fisheries Division are aligned with ecosystem stewardship values and is reflected through its practices of collaborating with fisherfolk and using external networks to secure resources for fisherfolk. Senior staff are well versed in the ecosystem approach to fisheries. However, skills in participatory approaches are at a basic level, with members having only limited knowledge.

Overall, from the analysis, the main enabling factor was found to be the strong partnerships between fisherfolk and Fisheries Division and other governmental agencies. These partnerships provided opportunities for fisherfolk and their organisations to benefit from capacity building and voice their issues. The major constraint was the inadequate capacity of fisherfolk to be involved in decision-making mechanisms. Major recommendations included the development of regular training sessions to build capacity of fisherfolk to better engage in decision making processes and allow for further engagement in ecosystem stewardship initiatives.
1 Introduction

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)\(^1\). The 10-year 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.” 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. One of the key strategies of the CLME+ SAP is to achieve sustainable fisheries, including small-scale fisheries which are important economic drivers for the sustainability of coastal communities and rural livelihoods; and a vital source of employment, food and income for Caribbean people.

The Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in the Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) project is therefore aimed at implementing 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) that have politically endorsed the CLME+ SAP. This is being done by empowering small-scale fisherfolk throughout fisheries value-chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels.\(^2\) The project aims to deliver enhanced stewardship of fisheries resources and livelihood benefits through the implementation of the four core project components (See Figure 1).

StewardFish recognises that there are several challenges that hinder the engagement of fisherfolk and their organisations in the sustainable use and management of fisheries in the region. These include fisheries-related state agencies not having adequate capacity to support fisherfolk and their organisations with ecosystem stewardship initiatives. Because state agencies, including fisheries authorities, vary widely in their support of fisherfolk organisations, a situation specific analysis is required. Such support varies for reasons within and outside of the control of these agencies.

In support of this, CANARI conducted an Institutional Analysis and Organisational Assessment in each of the project countries to contribute to Outcome 1.2 “Fisheries-related state agencies have capacity to support fishing industry stewardship” and Output 1.2.1 “State agency implementation gaps are assessed regarding support for fisherfolk organisations and their role in stewardship” of the project.

The aim of the analysis was to identify current strengths, as well as opportunities for improvement in each project country’s fisheries-related state agencies in order to improve their capacity to support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations.

The analysis included:

- Designing an institutional analysis tool adapted from the Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Assessment (ARIA) methodology, including an organisational assessment survey targeted at the fisheries authorities
- Conducting desk studies, online surveys, and virtual interviews with fisherfolk, fisheries authorities and other key state agencies in the project countries

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\(^1\) CLME+ Strategic Action Programme https://www.clmeproject.org/sap-overview/

• Facilitating national webinars to present, validate, refine and receive input on the preliminary findings and identify priorities for improvement, in each project country
• Producing country reports on findings, including recommended priorities for improvement

This report provides the findings and recommendations from the institutional analysis and organisational assessment that was conducted for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, between April and June 2020.

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Figure 1: StewardFish Project Framework. Credit: FAO

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3 National workshops were initially carded to be conducted in-country for all project countries, however, due to the Covid19 pandemic as declared by the World Health Organisation on March 11, 2020, and subsequent restrictions on air travel, all workshops following the declaration date were conducted virtually through webinars.
1.1 How strong institutions can support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk

Stewardship is a term related to rights and responsibilities in governance processes. Application in natural resource management has expanded the understanding of stewardship to explain that “stewards” are stakeholders with responsibility for proper resource use, who will “take care” of a resource under communal or public property rights. The term also importantly encompasses responsibility not only for proper use of resources but also right to life of other species and for future generations. The concept of ecosystem stewardship, particularly in the fisheries sector; includes reducing the vulnerability of the sector by promoting resilience and making use of opportunities to transform undesirable paths. Stewardship activities may range from actions targeted at species, habitats, ecosystems or even human-environment systems. Stewardship actions may include limiting or prohibiting harvest of vulnerable species, protecting or restoring degraded habitats, establishing protected areas and promoting alternate livelihoods to reduce dependency on limited – i.e., whether individuals or groups are able to steward their resources. Capacity, which is in part determined by broader governance, including systems and institutions—can either empower or constrain the sense of agency, available options and capacity of would-be stewards. These include laws and policies; formal and informal organisations; decision-making and structural processes related to power and politics (i.e. economic inequality, discrimination, exclusion from decision-making). The paper “Environmental Stewardship: A Conceptual Review and Analytical Framework” Bennet et. al noted that for the small-scale fisheries sector that stewardship efforts can be supported by national laws or policy frameworks that protect local fishers’ rights and tenure, formalise local fishers’ stewardship responsibilities, or that provide resources to support local community efforts to steward their own resources. Conversely, the paper notes that even when local small-scale fishers want to take action, the broader policy landscape may undermine their efforts by creating bureaucratic challenges.

Ensuring that the fisheries institution adequately enables ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations will not only contribute to sustainable fisheries, but will help to ease the burden of already under-resourced fisheries state agencies to monitor and enforce fisheries regulations.

Figure 2: Members of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), a regional fisherfolk organisation, at the StewardFish project Regional Fisherfolk Mentors training workshop Oct 28-Nov 1, 2019. Credit: CANARI

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“Local environmental stewardship refers to the actions taken by individuals, groups or networks of actors, with various motivations and levels of capacity, to protect, care for or responsibly use the environment in pursuit of environmental and/or social outcomes in diverse social-ecological contexts” – (Bennet et al. 2018)


LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
2 Institutional Analysis Framework

An institution is the set of arrangements for making decisions about the development, management, and use of a natural resource, including the stakeholders, as well as the laws, formal and informal policies, plans and structures that guide how these stakeholders interact with each other and with the resources.

To conduct the rapid analysis CANARI developed and piloted an institutional analysis tool which was adapted from the World Resources Institute’s (WRI) Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Assessment (ARIA) methodology, including an organisational assessment survey targeted at national fisheries authorities. The tool analyses the institutional and organisational capacity of fisheries-related state agencies to support stewardship in the small-scale fisheries sector. The tool was used to conduct a baseline assessment and can subsequently be used for monitoring and evaluation as part of an institutional strengthening process.

The tool examines four conceptual components: fisheries-related policies; laws and plans; advisory and/or decision-making mechanisms; fisheries-related organisations and processes and practises to determine the capacity of the fisheries institution to support the role of fisherfolk and their organisations in ecosystem stewardship. Refer to Table 2.1 for a description of each conceptual component. Appendix 1 includes more detailed definitions of conceptual components.

Table 2.1 The four conceptual components assessed in the rapid institutional analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conceptual component</th>
<th>Description of component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policies, laws and plans</td>
<td>Examined fisheries and fisheries-related policies, plans and legislation (including rules and regulations) to determine how they may be empowering or constraining the ability to integrate ecosystem stewardship practises within the country’s small-scale fisheries sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory and/or decision-making mechanisms</td>
<td>Examined the presence, composition and functioning of existing multi-stakeholder mechanisms (e.g., Fisheries Advisory Committee) established for advising or making decisions for fisheries management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries-related organisations</td>
<td>Examined the roles and responsibilities of fisheries-related state agencies; as well as other fisheries-related organisations (e.g. fisherfolk organisations, civil society organisations, private sector organisations and academia) which play a key role in the fisheries-related institutional arrangements of the project country. Additionally, an organisational capacity assessment was carried out to examine the current ability of the national fisheries authority to support ecosystem stewardship by small-scale fisherfolk; and included an examination of the authority’s:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Vision, mandate, culture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Knowledge and skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Resources</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Partnerships</td>
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7 WRI’s Rapid Institutional Analysis for Adaptation Tool. https://accessinitiative.org/resources/adaptation-rapid-institutional-analysis-phase-1-workbook
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processes and practices</th>
<th>Examined the various processes and practices in the country’s fisheries institution related to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Good governance</td>
<td>assessed the application of good governance practices, particularly fisherfolk inclusion in decision-making processes in the fisheries sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Collaborative management</td>
<td>assessed the extent to which collaborative management exists in practice between fisheries-related state agencies and small-scale fisherfolk and their organisations. The degree of stakeholder collaboration in management practices was also assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Effective communication</td>
<td>assessed the extent to which providers of fisheries information in the project country were using defined communication strategies, tools and channels to communicate with fisherfolk, as well as their capacity to use the tools and channels effectively; including the structures and systems in place for clear communication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tool was implemented using a variety of data collection methods (See Section 3 on Methodology) in order to capture a broad range of stakeholder perceptions and input, as well as to gather perspectives on the actual benefit of existing laws, rules, regulations, processes, practices and procedures of the fisheries institutions.

Based on the information collected, the institutional analysis and organisational assessment report will discuss the following key aspects regarding the capacity of the fisheries institution to support the role of fisherfolk and their organisations in ecosystem stewardship:

- Policy, legal and planning context for ecosystem stewardship;
- Mechanisms for fisherfolk participation in decision-making;
- Support and resources available to fisherfolk and their organisations for ecosystem stewardship;
- Partnerships and networks for ecosystem stewardship;
- Communication of information on sustainable practices for the use of fisheries resources
- Organisational capacity of the fisheries authority to support fisherfolk and their organisations in ecosystem stewardship

### 3 Methodology

A rapid analysis of the institutional and organisational capacity of fisheries-related state agencies to enable stewardship in the fisheries sector was conducted for St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the period April – June by CANARI (Refer to Section 2). The rapid analysis included the following key research methods:

- **Desk study**: CANARI collated and reviewed information readily available (e.g., through online sources and those referenced at workshops) on the project country’s small-scale fisheries sector and its institutional environment; particularly as it relates to their capacity to support ecosystem stewardship by small-scale fisherfolk and their organisations. This was carried out at an early stage of the analysis to inform and guide the subsequent methods.
- **Validation webinar**: Following the initial desk study; a validation webinar was held on June 3rd which included participants from government (e.g., Fisheries Division), civil society (e.g. Sustainable Grenadines Inc.) and a representative from Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. The full list of participants is attached at Appendix 2. The purpose of the webinar was to validate information collated during the desk study phase, as well as to acquire additional information from in-country sources.

- **Interviews**: Virtual interviews were conducted during the months of May and June with key government, fisherfolk and civil society stakeholders. A list of interviewees and associated organisations is attached at Appendix 3.

  **Survey**: an organisational capacity assessment survey was administered to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries Division to collect information on the organisation’s current ability to support ecosystem stewardship by small-scale fisherfolk. Online surveys were also sent to validation webinar participants before the session to collect information on policies, plans, laws and national decision-making mechanisms relevant to the fisheries sector; and after the webinar, to obtain information on the extent of support available to fisherfolk through various projects, programmes or initiatives; as well as recommendations for institutional strengthening.

4 **Background**

4.1 **Overview of fisheries sector**

The fishing industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is small-scale and artisanal, with most fishers operating close to shore. One distinction identified between near shore and deep-sea fisheries is the gears used. The former generally use nets, fish pots and some spear guns, while for deep sea fishers hooks and lines are preferred. Approximately three hundred and forty-six (346) vessels are involved in commercial capture fisheries, most of which are engine powered open vessels between 6-12m in length. These include fibreglass pirogues, open boats, and longliners. Annual marine fish production for the period 2005 – 2016 averaged 881 tonnes (live weight). The value of marine capture fish in 2016 was estimated at USD $3.5 million for an estimated 892 tonnes. The fisheries resources harvested include coastal and offshore pelagics, shallow shelf and reef finfish and lobster, conch, turtles and whales. The most common coastal species are balahoo, jacks, and robins; while deep water species include dolphin, snapper, tuna and cavalli. Fishers in Barrouallie are known for catching pilot whales or blackfish, which forms part of the celebration of a community event. The blackfish industry includes production of meat, oil and crisps. There has been a decline in fish caught by beach seines due to coastal development.

There are 36 landing sites (20 on mainland and 16 on the Grenadines), most of which lack modern processing facilities; and those facilities that are developed are underutilised due to the limited demand for processed fish. As a result, most fish are sold unprocessed to consumers. Lobster and conch are primarily exported and the remainder sold mainly to restaurants and hotels. Fishing communities to the north of St. Vincent are farthest away from the economic centres of the island.

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8 National Institutional Analysis and Organisational Assessment Validation workshops were initially carded to be conducted in-country for all project countries, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic as declared by the World Health Organisation on March 11, 2020, and subsequent restrictions on air travel and in-person gatherings, all workshops following the declaration date were conducted virtually through webinars.

9 CRFM. 2018. CRFM Statistics and Information Report - 2016. 82pp

However, communities closer to the economic centres, have multiple sources of income apart from fishing.  

Even though the contribution of the fisheries sector to GDP was 0.5% in 2016, fishing provides employment, food security and serves as a safety net for fisherfolk in the country. Country estimates put employment at 1,642 jobs in the fisheries sector for the period 2015-2016 (2.9% of the labour force). FAO estimates for the same period are 4,568 jobs (8% of the labour force). Total fish consumption for 2016 was estimated at 11 kg per capita. While an important source of protein, the per capita consumption is among the lowest within the OECS region for that particular year. Although, distribution of catch is uneven throughout the country, supply often meets local demand through imports. There is also a trade deficit, as in 2016, 642 tonnes of fish were imported at a value of USD $2.4 million, while export only accounted for 105 tonnes at a value of USD $0.6 million. The most popular fisheries exported are lobster, conch and other fin fish.

There are no commercial aquaculture operations; and sport fishing is limited, as the main purpose for fishing is often to support livelihoods. Challenges in the fisheries sector include land-based pollution, unsustainable harvesting methods, limitations in quality assurance for export markets, institutional frameworks, conflict over resource use, limited capacity and limited financial resources.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines’s primary fisheries legislation includes the Fisheries Act (1986) and Regulations (1987) (part of the OECS harmonised legislation), which promotes management and development of fisheries to ensure optimum utilisation of fisheries resources in fisheries waters. Management of the sector falls under the Fisheries Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour. The legislation includes conservation measures for lobster, turtle, conch, shark, parrotfish and coral with restrictions on gear such as spear guns and nets.

The legislation makes provisions for a Fisheries Advisory Committee, which acts as a National Inter-sectoral Coordinating Mechanism (NIC), that is aimed at managing and improving the fishing industry in the country. However, up to 2020 a Fisheries Advisory Committee had not been established. Despite not having a Fisheries Advisory Committee, participatory fisheries management is practiced.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a member of several international and regional fisheries organisations / bodies such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). The country is party to the following fisheries-related multi-lateral agreements:

- United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea
- United Nations Fish Stocks Agreements
- Convention on Biological Diversity

4.2 Stakeholder involvement in the fisheries institution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ fisheries institution includes a range of governmental, civil society, and private sector stakeholders with various roles, mandates, responsibilities and interests. As part of the institutional analysis, key stakeholders were briefly identified and evaluated to get an understanding of the range of stakeholders involved in the sector. The stakeholder identification was informed by the desk study. Appendix 4 provides a list of key stakeholders involved in the fisheries sector.

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institution in St. Vincent and the Grenadines The list provided in the appendix is not exhaustive, but gives the reader some insight into the various stakeholder groups that are likely to benefit from improved ecosystems stewardship among fisherfolk.

Regarding fisherfolk organisations, there are six legally registered primary fisherfolk cooperatives (Barrouallie Fisheries Development Cooperative Society Ltd., Calliaqua Fisherfolk Cooperative Society, FAD Fishers Cooperative, Fish Vendors Cooperative, Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society and Union Island Fishing Cooperative) and one informal fisherfolk organisation (Southern Grenadines Fisherfolk Organisation) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The FAD Fishers Cooperative and the Fish Vendors Cooperative (comprising mostly women who are engaged in marketing and processing) are relatively new.

The fishing cooperatives are legally registered with the Cooperatives Division under the Cooperative Societies Act, 2012, and are members of the umbrella organisation of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Fisherfolk Cooperatives Limited (SVGNFO). The SVGNFO’s Board of Directors are voted in by members and guided by the organisation’s by-laws. The main objectives among the six cooperatives include the promotion of socio-economic wellbeing, trading in fishing equipment and supplies, seeking training for members and other fishermen, partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour to promote local self-sufficiency in fish and to ensure compliance with international standards as it relates to harvesting, processing and marketing of fish.  

5 Policy, legal and planning context for ecosystem stewardship

National policies, plans or laws can either encourage ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk or undermine it. To determine whether existing fisheries and coastal and marine related policies, laws and plans in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were supporting or constraining ecosystem stewardship, selected priority policies, laws and plans were assessed to determine whether they were adequately in line with the principles of EAF, namely whether they considered:

- **human well-being**: a condition in which all members of society are able to determine and meet their needs and have a large range of choices to meet their potential; and
- **ecosystem well-being**: a condition in which the ecosystem maintains its diversity and quality — and thus its capacity to support people and the rest of life — and its potential to adapt to change and provide a viable range of choices and opportunities for the future.
- **good governance**: governance arrangements that enable broad stakeholder participation are similarly expected to confer support for management and foster stewardship among fisherfolk and other resource users.

EAF recognises the need to maintain the productivity of ecosystems for present and future generations, conserving critical habitats, reducing pollution and degradation, minimising waste and protecting endangered species. It also recognises that this will not be achieved without the cooperation of people, i.e. unless the ecosystem contributes to human well-being, providing sustainable goods, services and sources of livelihood. Consideration of the latter is likely to encourage fisherfolk and other resource users to sustainably use, protect and conserve the resources on which they depend for livelihoods. A holistic governance framework which considers the reader some insight into the various stakeholder groups that are likely to benefit from improved ecosystems stewardship among fisherfolk.

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the importance of the ecological well-being of fisheries resources as well as the socio-economic well-being of fishery resource users and encourages collaborative management mechanisms in the approach to fishery resources management, will increase the likelihood of ecosystem stewardship from fisherfolk in the small-scale fisheries industry.

5.1 Findings for policy, legal and planning context for ecosystem stewardship in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Table 5.1 identifies some of the national fisheries and coastal and marine related policies, laws and plans within the fisheries institution in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Policies, plans and laws identified are either directly related to the fisheries sector, for example the Fisheries Act (1986) which promotes and manages fisheries resources in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, or indirectly related to the fisheries sector, for example the St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development 2012-2018, which seeks to enhance efforts for sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, including the fisheries sub-sector, and increase investment to ensure more productive agriculture.

Table 5.1 Policies, laws and plans related to the fisheries institution in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laws</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries Act (1986)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fisheries Regulations (1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries (Prevention of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) Regulations (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Maritime Areas Act (1983) Act No. 15 of 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fish Processing Regulations (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High Seas Fishing Act (2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High Seas Fishing Regulations (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries (Fish and Fish Products) Regulations 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Beach Protection Act (1981)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mustique Conservation Act (1989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tobago Cays Marine Parks Act (1999)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marine Parks Act, 1997 (No. 9 of 1977).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Regulations (1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cooperative Societies Act (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Town and Country Planning Act (1992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Central Water and Sewerage Authority Act (1978)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forestry Act (1945)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mustique Conservation Act (1989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Parks Act (2002)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing 2018-2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Sargassum Management Plan (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North Atlantic Swordfish Management Plan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shark Management Plan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Adaptation Plan (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2015 – 2020,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected key national policies, laws and/or plans were prioritised for deeper analysis. Instruments were selected based on their relevance to the fisheries sector and identified through desk-study as well as through the pre-webinar survey in which respondents were asked to select the national policies, laws and/or plans that they felt were most relevant to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Participants were informed that the policies, laws and plans identified and selected did not have to be directly related to the fisheries sector but could be broad and cross cutting such as a national climate change policy or biodiversity management plan. The following instruments were identified and analysed against the principles of EAF in Table 5.2.

- Fisheries Act (1986)
- Fisheries Regulations (1987)
- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2018)
- Fisheries (Fish and Fish Products) Regulations (2006)

Discussions at the webinar focused on desk study analysis of the National Ocean Policy – Discussion Document (2013). There was no access to the draft National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan, 2018 until after the webinar. The draft policy references the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025) and considers the wider policy framework. Monitoring and evaluation of the policy is assigned to the National Ocean Coordination Committee (NOCC). The policy also includes a strategic action plan with goals and associated timelines.

The Fisheries Act and Regulations are currently being reviewed and updated under a FAO funded project with a timeline of three years, until 2022. There is currently no approved fisheries management plan, though one exists in draft. The Fisheries Act mandates that a management plan must be prepared by the Chief Fisheries Officer through consultations. Preparation of a fisheries management plan is identified as a goal under the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy.

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy gives an overview of the consultative process that was used in its formulation and highlights consultations with fisherfolk. It also details the legal instruments guiding the policy (inclusive of major fisheries legislation listed above) and is based on the Government’s international and regional obligations for sustainable fisheries development. The policy also considers national overarching policies such as the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development 2012-2018 and the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013 – 2025. The policy states that its performance will be monitored and evaluated regularly, and that resources would be made available when improvements are identified. The policy will be monitored and evaluated through audit of investments, and evaluation of the impacts of new initiatives through well-defined information systems and monitoring of indicators. The policy has a twenty-year life cycle with regular monitoring and evaluations, including a midterm review, and proposes the development of three-year action plans, which will also be monitored and evaluated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Policy, Law, Plan</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>The policy/law/plan considers the ecological well-being of fisheries resources</th>
<th>The policy/law/plan considers socio-economic well-being of resource users including fisherfolk</th>
<th>The policy/law/plan considers collaborative management and inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fisheries Act (1986)      | Primary fisheries legislation aimed at promoting and managing fisheries | Part II of the Act speaks to Marine Reserves and Conservation Measures as it relates to the declaration of protected areas and prohibition of destructive fishing practices and gears. It notes the following:  
  - Minister may declare any area of fishery water, a marine reserve for protecting species, and habitats – Section 22(1)  
  - Offences and fines for activities with marine reserves without obtaining Minister’s permission e.g., fishing and construction Section 22(2)  
  - Offences and fines for use of explosives or noxious substances to kill/catch fish.  
  - Offences and fines for prohibited gear  
  Minister can make regulations to support fisheries management through licensing, marine reserves regulations, fishing priority areas, protection of species (lobster, conch, turtles) and conservation measures (relating to gear, area, species and temporal restrictions) – Section 45(1) | The Act considers socio-economic wellbeing of resource users, by supporting their access to fishing resources, including through the following:  
  - No application for a license shall be refused unless determined by a licensing programme – Section 11(4)  
  - Minister may grant licenses to operate a fish processing establishment - 17(1)  
  - Minister may declare any area a fishing priority area for approved unimpeded fishing – Section 20  
  - Foreshore and sea-bed land may be leased for aquaculture | The Act notes that the:  
  - Chief Fisheries Officer (CFO) shall consult with fishermen in preparation of a fisheries management plan – Section 3  
  - The Minister may appoint a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) to advise on fisheries management and shall include the CFO and other persons deemed capable by Minister – Section 5  
  - Minister may designate local fisheries management area giving management authority to any local fisheries related group, and the CFO shall provide assistance to such a group. This local authority shall make bye-laws consistent |
| Fisheries Regulations (1987) | Secondary fisheries legislation that supports management and regulation of fisheries | Part VI of the Regulations considers Fishery Conservation Measures as it briefly relates to:  
- Restrictions on lobsters, conch, turtles, coral including closed seasons and gear used.  
- Restrictions on gear spear-gun (requires permission; prohibited in conservation areas) and nets (mesh sizes; tangled nets prohibited) | Socio-economic well-being of resource users is not specifically considered, except as it relates to the non-refusal of licences for fishing and fish processing establishments | with the Act - Section 18(1), Section 19(1)  
Section 2 of the Regulations speaks to the composition of the Fisheries Advisory Committee, noting that it shall include 3 persons chosen from professional fishermen and appointed by the Minister |
| Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2018 | Sets out measures for management, conservation and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources to ensure socio-economic benefits in collaboration with stakeholders  
The Policy identifies 7 goals and an action plan to achieve its objectives. | Goal 2 speaks to ensuring sustainable use and protection of the natural environment by improving marine and coastal ecosystem management through monitoring and reducing pollution, developing a network of Protected Areas and developing research activities  
- Goal 3.1 speaks to development and implementation of a fisheries management plan using traditional knowledge (collaborative aspect) and ecosystem-based approaches with species specific management. Also speaks to adopting conservation measures as it relates to sustainable fish stocks, along with prohibiting Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities | Goal 1 focuses on developing climate change resilience within the sector as it relates to improving resilience of fisherfolk and coastal communities and reducing risk through implementation of fisherfolk insurance schemes to potentially safeguard fisherfolk from socioeconomic risks  
- Goal 3.3 covers training of fisherfolk to increase capacity; and working with fisherfolk cooperatives towards achieving sustainable livelihood opportunities  
- Goal 4.1 speaks to increasing the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable rural livelihoods  
- Goal 5 speaks to the contribution of fisheries to food and nutrition | Goal 3.1 speaks to adopting traditional knowledge in fisheries management plan  
Goal 4.2 speaks to integrating fisheries in community development across sectors supporting co-management approach and participatory approach  
Goal 7.1 speaks to increasing female participation in management through decision-making, for example |
| National Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2018) (Draft) | Guides the intersectoral planning and development of ocean activities in a sustainable manner for socio-economic development. Consists of 10 policy goals and 11 strategic action plans. | Policy 4 speaks to conserving and managing marine coastal ecosystems to increase resilience and reduce the impacts of environmental change in coastal areas through development of information management systems, marine zoning and multi-use spatial plans; and establishing protected areas. | Policy 7 speaks to developing the blue economy through improving productivity and sustainability of marine living resources and optimising economic opportunities from coastal and marine resources through supporting facilities for small-scale fisheries, adding value to outputs and accessing regional and international markets for small-scale fisheries products. | Policy 3 aims to promote and increase stakeholder participation in coastal and marine management through identifying stakeholders and strengthening partnerships. |
| Fisheries (Fish and Fish Products) Regulations (2006) | Regulation to ensure hygienic standards are maintained from point of catching to processing. | Regulations ensure hygienic conditions are maintained at all stages so as not to pose a threat to public health and to ensure that the best quality is available for sale. | Persons can apply for a license to operate a fish processing establishment from the Competent Authority (Fisheries Division). |
6 Mechanisms for fisherfolk participation in decision-making

Taking action is a fundamental part of ecosystem stewardship. Stewardship actions include a range of approaches, activities, behaviours, and technologies that are applied to protect, restore or sustainably use the environment. In the case of small-scale fisheries, stewardship actions by fisherfolk and their organisations are influenced by formal and informal decision-making processes about the use of fisheries resources that may or may not involve fisherfolk. Participatory decision-making, however, allows the views and knowledge of fisherfolk to be considered. This includes decisions that would facilitate cooperation by fisherfolk which would lead to them becoming better stewards. It gives voice to an often-marginalised group and mitigates the overshadowing of their opinions by more powerful or influential stakeholders. To determine the extent to which fisherfolk were being included in decision-making processes related to the management of fisheries and other coastal and marine resources, the institutional analysis examined the existence, composition and functioning of current NICs.

The CLME+ SAP identified interactive governance arrangements such as NICs, essential to successfully implementing and achieving ecosystem-based management and EAF. In the CLME+ region NICs can be broad or narrow, based on the scope and ecosystem approach being applied. Examples of NICs, include Fisheries Advisory Committees or Councils, Ocean Governance Committees, sustainable development commissions, integrated coastal management institutions and climate change bodies. NICs operate within the policy cycle and involves interactions across multiple scales, stakeholders, sectors and levels of governance (local, national, regional and international). A NIC can be considered as the operational arm of good and effective governance or policy processes.

Through past engagements in decision making processes, fisherfolk perceive that their feedback is not considered. Fisherfolk have therefore been reluctant to attend meetings and consultations based on these perceptions. They feel strongly that they would be left out of decision making and that their ideas may not be taken on board, or conversely, that their ideas would be used without acknowledgement. During the consultations of the National Ocean Policy, the perception from fishers was that the consultation process did not allow for meaningful feedback from fisherfolk, as they were only engaged during the later stages of the process and were mainly provided with an overview of the policy. Also, decisions were made quickly before fisherfolk are allowed an opportunity to engage in the consultative process.

6.1 Findings for mechanisms for fisherfolk participation in decision-making in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

During the validation webinar, participants were asked to validate current NICs identified during the desk study and pre-webinar survey. They were also asked to identify any additional current NICs related to the coastal and marine sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Participants were also asked to note whether the NICs identified included fisherfolk or not, or if this information was unknown, to share where additional information could be sourced for further analysis. Table 6.1 shows the NICs that were identified during the desk study and by participants during the pre-webinar survey. Additional information on selected mechanisms from Table 6.1 as well as other mechanisms that were identified during the desk study but not expanded on in Table 6.1 is provided below.

Fisheries Advisory Committee

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The analysis found that the mechanism which would allow fisherfolk a substantial voice at the national level, the Fishery Advisory Committee, has not been established. While the Fisheries Advisory Committee is not legally mandated since the Fisheries Act (1986) states that the Minister ‘may’ appoint a Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Fisheries Regulations (1987) states that, if established, the Fisheries Advisory Committee shall include three professional fishermen appointed by the Minister. During the validation webinar, it was noted that the Fisheries Advisory Committee is still at a ‘conversational’ stage, suggesting that no substantial steps toward its establishment have yet been made. It was further noted that fisherfolk organisations have been feeling the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with additional challenges from climate change, and are calling for a platform to support their call to have a stronger voice in the decision-making processes, as it has been noted before that fisherfolk organisations perceive that their concerns are not taken seriously.18

**National Oceans Coordination Committee**

While it does not solely address matters related to the fisheries sector, the recently established National Oceans Coordination Committee makes provisions for a representative from a fisherfolk organisation, selected by the Cabinet. However, it was noted at the validation webinar that the identified fisherfolk cooperative is yet to name a representative to sit on the Committee, and has not attended any meetings despite invitations being sent. There also seemed to be lack of communication among fisherfolk as other fisherfolk organisations were not aware of the existence of the Committee.

**National Climate Change Committee**

The National Climate Change Committee was also partially established. It should comprise representatives delegated by Permanent Secretaries in the public service, civil society, private sector and academia; and is to be chaired by the Sustainable Development Unit. The purpose being to develop an annual climate change plan. This committee would be supported by a technical arm.19

**Task forces**

There are Cabinet appointed task forces to focus on issues related to Sargassum and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Both these task forces include the SVGNFO.

**Biodiversity Committees**

Respondents made reference to a ‘Biodiversity Committee’ during the pre-webinar survey. During the desk study two committees fitting this description were identified – the National Biological Strategic Action Plan Steering Committee and an inter-ministerial action committee whose responsibility was to ‘oversee national transformation through sound, sustainable biodiversity practices’.

The National Biological Strategic Action Plan Steering Committee oversees the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and consists of the Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, National Parks, Rivers, and Beaches Authority, Physical Planning Unit and Forestry Department. An inter-ministerial action committee to ‘oversee national transformation through sound, sustainable biodiversity practices’ was recommended; and will be formed from the steering committee which is involved in preparation of the sixth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Suggestions for the composition of this inter-ministerial committee, include agencies such as the

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Ministries of Agriculture and Tourism, Fisheries Division, Forestry Division, National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority and National Trust, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing, Energy Unit, Ministry of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government (Grenadines representatives) and the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit.

**Network of Marine Protected Areas**

Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren) organises annual meetings within an informal network of marine protected area (MPA) managers from the Grenadine Islands. This is a support network that has the ability to share resources, knowledge and experiences with each other. Representatives of the MPAs sign certificates of agreement to be part of the network. SusGren assists the various MPAs in writing proposals for small grants and facilitates training. Within the last couple of years, the importance of incorporating fisherfolk into the network has been considered. SusGren is currently liaising with the SVGNFO to establish a mechanism that could incorporate fisherfolk into the network.

**National Environmental Advisory Board**

The National Environmental Advisory Board is a dormant multi-disciplinary Cabinet appointed committee which has not been in operation since the early 2000s. The purpose of the Board was to coordinate multi-sectoral environmental activities and oversee implementation of the National Environmental Strategy Action Plan. Though its effectiveness was questioned regarding the implementation of its duties, it was suggested at the validation webinar that, if the Board were to become active again, it would require restructuring due to changes in institutional arrangements.

**Agriculture – Tourism Linkage Committee**

The now dormant Agriculture – Tourism Linkage Committee was established to develop sustainable linkages between agriculture and tourism; and coordinate an agro-tourism linkage programme that would diversify tourism and agriculture products and enhance rural livelihoods through initiatives such as farm tours, establishing agro-tourism action alliances and developing proposals for seafood festivals. There are plans to re-establish the Committee which will be supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Agriculture, Finance and Trade and the Inter-American Institute for Corporation on Agriculture (IICA).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of NIC</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Are fisherfolk members of the mechanism?</th>
<th>Functioning (Active/Inactive)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fisheries Advisory Committee | To advise Minister on fisheries management as it relates to fisheries planning, amendment of legislation, coordination of policies, projects and joint ventures or proposals for access agreements within the fisheries sector (Section 5, Fisheries Regulations, 1987) | • Permanent Secretary of line Ministry  
• Chief Fisheries Officer  
• 3 professional fishermen  
• Other persons deemed suitable by the Minister | Yes                                                                                                                   | To be established                       |
| Maritime Commission         | To manage the Department of Maritime Administration which is responsible for all matters under the Shipping Act, 2004                                                                                      | • Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security who shall be the Chairperson;  
• Registrar of Ships who shall be the Secretary;  
• Director for Maritime Administration;  
• Registrar of Seafarers;  
• Commander Coast Guard;  
• Director General Finance and Planning or his nominee;  
• Commissioner of Maritime Affairs;  
• Harbour Master;  
• Port Manager;  
• Solicitor General or his nominee;  
• Comptroller of Customs and Excise Department;  
• Permanent Secretary Ministry of Telecommunications or his nominee;  
• Chief Fisheries Officer;  
• Chief Environmental Co-ordinator or his nominee; | No                                                                                                                   | Active                                       |

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26 Fisheries Regulations, 2013  
27 Shipping Act, 2004  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Active Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Environmental Days Commemoration Committee (NEDCC)</td>
<td>To raise awareness on global environmental days</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary Ministry of Transport Works and Housing or his nominee; Forestry Services; Fisheries Division; Public Health Department; Department of Labour; Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture; Caribbean Youth Environment Network; Sustainable Development Unit; National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority;</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Ocean Coordination Committee(^{29,30})</td>
<td>To implement and monitor and evaluate the National Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plan and cross-cutting policies and actions including:</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology; Maritime Administration; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade; Attorney General’s Chambers; Fisheries Division; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment; Customs and Excise Division; Port Authority; Coast Guard; Physical Planning Unit; National Parks; SVG National Trust; Barrouallie Fisheries Development Cooperative Society Ltd.; SusGren; SVG Hotel and Tourism Association;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\(^{30}\) Compton, S. n.d. NOCC Committee.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Parks Board under the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority</th>
<th>• To advise the Minister on policy relating to National Parks (including marine managed/protected areas) • To monitor conditions of National Parks and advise on improvement of facilities</th>
<th>• Director of National Parks • Director General of Finance and Planning, or nominee; • Head of Physical Planning Department; • Chairman of SVG National Trust; • Medical Officer of Health; • Director of Forestry; • Commissioner of Police, or nominee; • Chief Executive Officer of the SVG Tourism Authority; • Chamber of Industry and Commerce; • Rural Community non-governmental organisation; • Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture, or nominee;</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Seaweed Invasion Task Force</td>
<td>Established by Cabinet to share information on sargassum influxes and promote best management practices</td>
<td>• Ministry of Transport and Works (Minister is the chairman); • The Building, Roads and General Services Authority (BRAGSA - Executing Agency); • Ministry of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Land and Surveys, and Physical Planning; • Ministry of Agriculture (including the Fisheries Division); • Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture (Represented by the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority);</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Active; mainly mobilised during sargassum influxes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority. 2020. Personal Communication – Email. 23rd June.
34 National Sargassum Management Plan 2018 (Draft)
35 Fisheries Division. 2020. Personal Communication via email. 18th June.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Taskforce on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing</th>
<th>To develop the National Plan for IUU and advise Government on related policy actions</th>
<th>Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment; The SVG Tourism and Hotel Association; SVG National Fisherfolk Organisation; National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO); Office of Grenadines Affairs;</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Tobago Cays Marine Park Board\textsuperscript{36, 37} | To govern management of the Tobago Cay Marine Park | Fisheries Division; Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism; Department of Maritime Administration; Royal SVG Coastguard; Ministry of Legal Affairs; Ministry of Economic Planning and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce; SVG National Fisherfolk Organisation; | Though a fisherman sits on the Board, it is not in the capacity of representing any fisherfolk organisation or informal fishing groups, but rather as a representative of the nearby Mayreau community | Active |

\textsuperscript{36} Tobago Cays Marine Park. 2020. Personal Communication. 12th May

\textsuperscript{37} Tobago Cays Marine Park. 2020. Personal Communication via email. 19th June
7 Support and resources available to fisherfolk and their organisations for ecosystem stewardship

To undertake ecosystem stewardship, would-be stewards must have the support and resources to do so. In this case “support and resources” refer to the finances, technology, equipment, education, skills and knowledge needed to effectively undertake ecosystem stewardship activities. Access to these resources may also ensure that certain aspects of fisherfolk’s well-being (e.g. access to training to ensure safety at sea) are considered by support agencies and may provide motivation for engagement in stewardship actions.

To determine whether fisherfolk have adequate support and resources to undertake ecosystem stewardship actions, the institutional analysis examined some projects, programmes and initiatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that have provided or are providing finances, technology, equipment and capacity building (e.g. education, skills and knowledge) to fisherfolk and their organisations.

7.1 Findings for support and resources for ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations

Through desk study, interviews and the national validation webinar, various projects, programmes and initiatives aimed at providing support and resources to fisherfolk and fisherfolk organisations, set out in Appendix 5, were identified by stakeholders. While what is stated is not meant to be a comprehensive list, it provides some general insight into the type of support and resources that are available to fisherfolk and their organisations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The findings in Appendix 5 show that support and resources for fisherfolk in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are available from a range of sources; including the government, civil society and intergovernmental organisations. This is facilitated either through ongoing programmes, or ad hoc efforts in response to projects. Support and resources provided include technical support in proposal writing; training in quality assurance; loan and grant programmes; training in management (as it relates to cooperatives) and support in transitioning to alternative livelihoods.

In terms of government programmes, a main source of technical support is provided through the Fisheries Division, and financial support to upgrade gear is available to fisherfolk organisations through loans from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour.

Projects implemented by civil society and international organisations are an important source of support and resources for fisherfolk in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. For example, the Caribbean Fisheries Co-management Project (CARIFICO) project, which was implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) built capacity of FAD fishers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines by providing training in the construction and deployment of FADs, leading to an increase in catches of more resilient offshore pelagic fish stock and reduction of pressure on nearshore fisheries. As a result of this project, and due to the increased interest in FAD Fishing, a FAD Fishers Cooperative was developed. The Fisheries Division is supporting the newly formed cooperative through consultations with fishers and regularly monitoring FAD components.

A fisher exchange programme under CARIFICO facilitated knowledge sharing between fishers in Union Island and Mayreau, and led to the preparation of a FADs management plan for Carriacou. As part of JICA Country Assistance Policy, there is a programme to support fisheries and fishing community

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development to small-scale artisanal fishermen and fishing villages, through issue-based training in the fisheries sector as well as dispatching volunteers to assist. 40

Other projects, such as the ongoing FAO/GEF ‘Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries (CC4Fish)’ project, are making efforts to build capacity and improve the resilience of fisheries in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the effects of climate change. Activities under CC4Fish that sought to increase fisherfolk resilience included building capacity in business skills, and training of vendors and handlers in food safety and hygiene.41 42 However, there was a perception among fisherfolk that there was little on the ground capacity building for local beneficiaries and that project partners seemed to have benefitted more from the project. 12

Civil society organisations like SusGren have supported fisherfolk through training programmes in quality assurance. SusGren has also informally supported fisherfolk in the Grenadines islands. Fisherfolk in these islands are not organised into cooperatives, so SusGren often takes the lead in convening meetings for fisherfolk, and in assisting them with developing project proposals. SusGren provides financial support for fisherfolk from the Grenadines to attend fisheries-related meetings in mainland St. Vincent, since the cost of participation for Grenadines participants is usually higher due to the need for inter-island transport and accommodation in St. Vincent depending on the length of the meeting or workshop. When possible, SusGren, through their projects, provides support for fishers to attend regional training, meetings or programmes.

The recently formed, non-profit company, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund Inc. supports work related to biodiversity conservation within protected areas. They also fund projects that are related to training on climate change adaptation, coral reef monitoring, control of invasive species, and community awareness for Protected Areas. A recent call for proposal was opened for fisherfolk organisations to apply. 43 The National Development Foundation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines also provides loans to small and micro entrepreneurs as self-help mechanisms, these loans are available to fisherfolk. 44

Additional examples of projects, programmes and initiatives that provide support and resources to fisherfolk and fisherfolk organisations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are set out in Table 7.1.

8 Partnerships and networks for ecosystem stewardship

Partnerships and networks connect institutions and organisations across levels and scales. For fisherfolk organisations seeking to engage in ecosystem stewardship, partnerships and networks are important, as these arrangements help to facilitate information flows, fill knowledge gaps, and strengthen expertise for ecosystem management, including stewardship. This section discusses a few current and past partnerships or networks in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that included fisherfolk organisations and how these have impacted ecosystem management.

8.1 Findings for partnerships and networks for ecosystem stewardship

Fisherfolk organisations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines engage in partnerships with government, and civil society organisations for various initiatives related to ecosystem management including livelihood development.

As an umbrella organisation the SVGNFO provides a structured framework for networking and partnership amongst fisherfolk cooperatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Fisherfolk organisations each choose someone to represent their cooperative on the national fisherfolk organisation. Despite having a strong regulatory framework, in the past some cooperatives have only focused on sale of gas, oil and tackle; and have not promoted growth, profitability and membership growth. Past issues within cooperatives have generally been connected to the Board of Directors. These issues ranged from having members without fishing experience; communication issues between Board members and fisherfolk and overall management and accountability challenges at the Board level. For example, Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society Limited located in Kingstown was responsible for the majority of fisherfolk. Its main function was supplying gas to fishers. However, due to inadequate management skills, lack of accountability and improper documentation, its operations were halted in previous years.

Although, fisherfolk require capacity building to partner effectively in ecosystem stewardship initiatives, this perceived inability to engage in such partnerships did not deter the Fisheries Division and others from providing opportunities for fisherfolk to participate in various initiatives. One such initiative was the leasing of fisheries complexes to fishing cooperatives. Through the lease agreement, it was agreed that certain fisheries related information would be shared with Fisheries Division.

Several examples of partnerships between fisherfolk and other stakeholders in areas related to ecosystem management are highlighted in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Examples of partnerships between fisherfolk and other stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description of partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and enforcement</td>
<td>Fisherfolk share information with the Fisheries Division on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td>The Fisheries Division receives support from fishers in data collection on fish catch. Fishing information on landings is collected by fisheries officers at different landing sites. Data is also provided by some fisherfolk cooperatives as part of the requirement of their lease agreements with the Government for the use of state-owned fisheries complexes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

45 Building Transformative Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship in Social–Ecological Systems
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226922986_Building_Transformative_Capacity_for_Ecosystem_Stewardship_in_Social-Ecological_Systems

46 Fisheries Division. 2020. Validation Webinar. 3rd June.
| Awareness building/Information sharing | o Fisherfolk share knowledge through their involvement on Cabinet-appointed task forces dealing with sargassum and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.  
   o The Fisheries Division collaborates with fisherfolk organisations in the annual month long “Fisherman’s Day Celebrations, which showcases the fishing industry in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.” |
| Collaborative management and management planning | o As part of previous plans to increase community involvement and familiarise board members with the local fishing community, a representative from the Mayreau fishing village was selected to be a member of the Board of the Tobago Cay Marine Park (TCMP). This became necessary due to a lack of fishing cooperatives in surrounding islands. Fishers on Union Island benefited from training in resource conservation through the TCMP.  
   o The National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority is currently working in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation and Industry, and the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture on designating the South Coast Marine Conservation Area as a Marine Park. Public meetings are being held with fisherfolk organisations which operate in the area, to collaborate on zoning plans to designate areas for seine and bait fishing. The main group is the Calliaqua Fisherfolk Cooperative Society. Work is also being done on development of management framework plans to encourage stakeholder representation in decision making. It is hopeful that this partnership model can be transferred to another proposed marine park on the leeward coast and engage stakeholders such as the Barrouallie Fisheries Development Cooperative Society Ltd. |
| Sustainable livelihood development | o The Fisheries Division collaborated with FAD fishers to establish the FAD Fishers Cooperative. The Fisheries Division provides regular support to the cooperative by offering technical guidance  
   o Through engaging with SusGren on various projects, fisherfolk have been able to contribute to the lobster pot project by providing recommendations on the most appropriate type of materials to be used in lobster pots, for the reefs and to attract lobsters. Fisherfolk were able to experiment with different types of trees to develop suitable lobster pots. |

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9 Communication of information on sustainable practices for fisheries resources use

Communication is the means by which information on best practices, lessons learnt, available support and resources, training, networking, and opportunities for participatory decision-making that can support effective ecosystem stewardship is shared. The institutional analysis examined the extent to which providers of fisheries information in the project country were using defined communication strategies, tools and channels to communicate with fisherfolk. It also assessed their capacity to use the tools and channels effectively; and examined the structures and systems in place to ensure clear communication.

The Fisheries Division is one of the key providers of fisheries information including information on closed seasons and invasive species. While the Division does not have an official communication strategy, efforts are made to communicate regularly with fisherfolk, including through its extension and public education unit. The Division utilises both in-person and online communication methods.

In-person engagement for the purpose of sharing information is often done through field extension activities, meetings, consultations and events.

Much of the communication of information between the Fisheries Division and fisherfolk is carried out by extension officers, who engage with fisherfolk regularly for data collection at landing sites. Through these engagements, extension officers can share important fisheries information with fisherfolk in “layman” terms, and fisherfolk in turn are able to share their issues and concerns with officers who pass this information on to technical staff at the Division. It was noted that there is need for improvement in integration of fisherfolk’s traditional knowledge into management strategies.49

More formal in-person engagement is facilitated through focused meetings and consultations. The Fisheries Division convenes monthly meetings with the SVGNFO to discuss any issues affecting fisherfolk. The SVGNFO communicates key discussions from these meetings back to its wider membership, during regular meetings of its primary cooperatives. Additionally, consultations are held through special stakeholder meetings to gain feedback directly from fisherfolk on certain policy and management decisions being considered. These consultations make provisions for participants as they are held at a suitable time (e.g. in the evening periods when fisherfolk have completed fishing for the day) to ensure fisherfolk participation. Days are chosen when fisherfolk are more accessible and stakeholder meetings are also decentralised through various communities. For larger stakeholder meetings, the Fisheries Division covers the cost of transportation to limit personal expenses of fishers attending the meetings.

The Division’s public education unit spearheads information sharing at events such as agricultural expositions and career days 50. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour also has a communication department and broadcasts television and radio programmes which the Fisheries Division uses to share information on the fisheries sector. Print media (See Figure 3) such as informative flyers are available at Fisheries Division.

In terms of online communication, while the Division does not have a dedicated website, email and social media platforms (e.g. Instagram and Facebook) are also used for sharing relevant information. WhatsApp groups also allow for ease of communication and information sharing between Fisheries Division and fisherfolk. However, the Division has found that the most effective way to communicate information to fisherfolk has been through face-to-face engagement.

49 Fisheries Division.2020. Personal Communications. 8th May.
It was noted that communication with fisherfolk on the Grenadine islands is inadequate and that it is often difficult for fisherfolk there to attend meetings on the mainland due to issues with transportation.\textsuperscript{12, 21}

![Image of Lionfish quick facts]

Figure 3 Example of printed material shared by the public education outreach unit of the Fisheries Division. Credit: St. Vincent and The Grenadines Fisheries Division Facebook Page

10 Organisational assessment of the fisheries authority in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

While fisheries authorities have adopted EAF principles as an approach, evidenced by their inclusion in policies and plans (see Table 5.2), many have not yet adopted these principles within their administrative procedures and/or do not currently possess the capacity to facilitate effective collaborative management procedures.

As part of the institutional analysis, an organisational assessment of the of the state agency with direct responsibility for fisheries management was conducted in each country to identify gaps and develop recommendations to better adopt the EAF approach; and subsequently support fisherfolk and their organisations in actioning ecosystem stewardship. The assessment was conducted via survey to provide a rapid assessment of the state agency’s internal capacity to support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. The questions in the survey examined the following four capacity areas to explore the organisational motivation and capacity for supporting ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk:

1. Vision, mandate and culture
2. Practices
3. Knowledge and skills
4. Resources

The assessment was conducted as an organisational self-assessment, where the selected agency, either through a small focus group (including relevant and knowledgeable staff members) or via an elected representative, completed the survey. It should be noted that while organisational self-assessments are often a great opportunity for organisations to critically consider and document their capacity in key areas, these types of assessments are largely subjective, and respondents may over
or under evaluate their organisation’s capacity. The findings nonetheless provide useful insights into how the organisation views itself and can be used to compare how external stakeholders view the capacity of the organisation. Such comparisons may result in agreement with or contradiction of the organisation’s self-perspective.

In the case of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the organisational assessment focused on the Fisheries Division. The assessment was completed by a team consisting of the Chief Fisheries Officer, Senior Fisheries Officers and a Senior Fisheries Assistant. Appendix 6 provides a synthesis of the organisational assessment survey findings for the Fisheries Division, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and recommendations for addressing gaps related in the four capacity areas evaluated. The findings of the survey, as well as recommendations, are summarised below.

10.1 Findings from organisational assessment of the fisheries authority in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Vision, mandate and culture

The Fisheries Division is guided by the vision statement set out in the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2018, which is “a well-managed fisheries and aquaculture sector, fully integrated into the wider economic development, to secure optimum benefits from those resources for the people of SVG for present and future generations.” Ecosystem stewardship is supported by the policy’s recognition that well managed fisheries can sustainably secure benefits for all stakeholders. The core values of the Division reflect the EAF principles and importance of fisherfolk as it relates to ecosystem stewardship, participatory processes and traditional knowledge.

Overall, the vision, mandate, and culture of the Division effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. Though the vision statement, as guided by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, can further expound on EAF principles, this is reflected in policy goals. The Division’s core values / beliefs are in line with valuing traditional knowledge, EAF principles, ecosystem stewardship, and viewing fisherfolk as effective stewards who should be part of decision-making processes to ensure sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources.

Practices

Overall, the practices of the Division effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations, as the Division has a clear process for regularly and systematically including fisherfolk in management decisions about fisheries and marine resources, through consultations, regular meetings, extension services and workshops. The Division also partners with fisherfolk and their organisations for fisheries management initiatives as well as facilitates collaboration between fisherfolk and other fisheries and marine stakeholders. Examples of such practices include collaboration between fisherfolk and other stakeholders which was facilitated by the Fisheries Division through the ‘Fisherman’s Day month of celebration,’ and the formation of the FAD Fisherfolk Cooperative. However, information sharing by the Fisheries Division can be strengthened through the development of a communication strategy. Despite not having a formal communication strategy to engage with fisherfolk, information and guidance regarding sustainable fishing practices and initiatives for stewardship activities is provided to fisherfolk. These processes are mentioned in Section 9.

Knowledge and skills

In general, the knowledge and skills of the Division’s staff effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. The technical staff of the Fisheries Division are knowledgeable on EAF principles, ecosystem functions and changes, the socioeconomic context of fisheries, alternative livelihood options, and the functioning of fisherfolk organisations. Technical staff also possess the skills related to training fisherfolk, assisting in mobilisation of funds for ecosystem stewardship activities, and effective stakeholder communication. The organisation also provides or accesses training and other kinds of capacity building for staff to regularly improve their technical
knowledge and skills. However, one recommendation is that the capacity of technical staff in participatory processes, such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory planning, participatory management, and facilitation, should be built to improve engagement with fisherfolk and their organisations.

Resources

The analysis revealed that resources provided to fisherfolk, through the Division, only adequately support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. The Division has access to tools, methods and good practices that support fisherfolk with stewardship activities and initiatives. The Division also provides access to, or assists fisherfolk organisation with, accessing networks or resources outside of itself. Funding assistance for ecosystem stewardship activities is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour (the line Ministry of the Fisheries Division) and the Division assists fisherfolk in applying for said funds. Materials, equipment and technology are provided to fisherfolk mainly through projects or bilateral assistance from donor countries/agencies and not directly from the Division. One recommendation suggested, was the development of a dedicated website that can complement the sharing of information with fisherfolk on social media platforms. A website can also facilitate online document management to make key documents easily available to fisherfolk. These documents include reports, policies and plans relevant to the fisheries sector.

11 Enabling and constraining factors and recommendations for strengthening fisheries institution to support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk

Table 11.1 sets out some of the key enabling and constraining factors based on the findings from the institutional analysis and organisational assessment. It also provides recommendations to improve strengthening of the fisheries institution in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to better support fisheries ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. Enabling and constraining factors and recommendations are presented below under the categories of:

- Policy, legal and planning context for ecosystem stewardship;
- Mechanisms for fisherfolk participation in decision-making;
- Support and resources available to fisherfolk and their organisations for ecosystem stewardship;
- Partnerships and networks for ecosystem stewardship;
- Communication of information on sustainable practices for the use of fisheries resources
- Organisational capacity of the fisheries authority to support fisherfolk and their organisations with ecosystem stewardship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Enabling factors</th>
<th>Constraining factors</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Policy, legal and planning context for ecosystem stewardship         | • Laws and policies related to the fisheries sector reflect EAF principles, covering ecological wellbeing, socio-economic wellbeing and collaborative management.  
• The Fisheries Act and legislation are being updated, and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy has a defined policy life cycle, with plans to develop a fisheries management plan. | Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of fisheries and fisheries related policies and plans                                                                                                                      | Improve participatory monitoring and evaluation of key fisheries and fisheries related policies.           |
| Mechanisms for fisherfolk participation in decision-making          | Fisherfolk are engaged in various inter-sectoral decision-making mechanisms related to ocean governance, sargassum, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                      | • There is currently no decision-making mechanism directly related to the fisheries sector on which fisherfolk are represented. For example, there is no Fisheries Advisory Committee in place to support participatory decision-making with fisherfolk. The selection of members on the Fisheries Advisory Committee is heavily dependent on the Minister; and most of the decision-making power lies with the Minister/Cabinet in the decision-making framework  
• Decision making mechanisms are available to fisherfolk organisations to have representation, but they may not be engaging them meaningfully, as in the case of the National Ocean |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | • Through updating the current fisheries legislation, amendments can be suggested to the process for selection of representatives on the Fisheries Advisory Committee to ensure that fisherfolk have a say in determining who would be their representative on the committee. This would present an opportunity for the selection of a capable representative who understands the views of the fisherfolk to be involved in decision-making.  
• In the absence of a Fisheries Advisory Committee, a sub-committee on fisheries can be established within the National Oceans Coordination Committee to |
Coordination Committee. This, coupled with the limited capacity of fisherfolk to participate in governance, may be an indication of weak stakeholder engagement in decision-making.

- There is inadequate inclusion of Grenadine fishers in decision-making processes, which may be due in part to the lower number of legally registered fishing organisations among the Grenadine islands.
- Limited application of participatory decision-making; as decisions related to the fisheries sector are often made hurriedly without ample opportunity for proper consultation with fisherfolk for useful feedback.

- Although provisions are made for a fisherfolk representative to sit on the National Oceans Coordination Committee, there is need to ensure that this representative is willing to, and capable of, meaningfully representing fisherfolk in this capacity. Ideally, this representative should be voted in by fisherfolk rather than chosen by Cabinet, as is the current process.
- Either a formalised umbrella fisherfolk organisation can be formed to represent the collective views of the Grenadines fishers or, one formal cooperative for the fisherfolk from the Grenadine Islands can be formed to strengthen the involvement of the Grenadines fisherfolk in decision-making.
- Adequate time and resources should be factored into consultative processes to allow for meaningful participatory engagement of fisherfolk and other key stakeholders in decision making.
| Support and resources available to fisherfolk and their organisations for ecosystem stewardship | Support and resources are available to fisherfolk from local government agencies, civil society organisations and regional projects involving training, provision of equipment and financial aid | • Despite having a strong regulatory framework, fishing cooperatives have faced management issues in the past. Currently, there is no continuous training programme available to build capacity in Cooperatives. | • Build fisherfolk capacity to operate well managed cooperatives through regular training/workshops covering topics such as management, leadership and awareness of legislation, policies and plans. • Build capacity of fisherfolk organisations for virtual communication and engagement (e.g. through the use of information and communication technology and e-learning platforms. The need for which was highlighted during COVID-19 pandemic [12]) This training can form part of a larger communication strategy and action plan developed for the NFO to build capacity for virtual communication. |
| Partnerships and networks for ecosystem stewardship | Efforts are made by government agencies to engage fisherfolk in partnerships, particularly through projects, on coastal and marine protection and conservation initiatives. | Fishing cooperatives/organisations need to build capacity to engage in long term partnerships | • Provide support for experience-based learning on projects to develop capacity of fisherfolk to engage in ecosystem stewardship partnerships |
| Communication of information on sustainable practices for fisheries resources use | Regular meetings between the Fisheries Division and the umbrella fisherfolk organisation, SVGNFO, provide a clear channel for communication along with the day-to-day engagement of extension |
| • Inadequate communication channels between the Fisheries Division and fisherfolk in the Grenadine islands for sharing fisheries-related information. This has contributed to a lack of familiarity with legislation, and access | Develop a communication strategy and action plan for engaging and sharing information with fisherfolk from the Grenadine islands. This is especially important to ensure their meaningful participation in |
| Organisational capacity of the fisheries authority to support fisherfolk and their organisations with ecosystem stewardship | to information on fisheries related decisions among fisherfolk in the Grenadine islands.  
- Outcomes from consultations and workshops are not communicated back to fisherfolk.  
- Traditional knowledge is not adequately integrated into management decisions. | decision-making processes and management planning activities such as consultations. This can also include aspects to develop capacity for virtual communication and engagement as mentioned above. Communicate outputs from consultations and workshops back to fisherfolk in a timely manner.  
- Develop an effective strategy to capture and include traditional knowledge from fisherfolk in management decisions. |  
| Organisational capacity of the fisheries authority to support fisherfolk and their organisations with ecosystem stewardship | The vision, mandate, and culture of the Division effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations.  
- The Division’s practices effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations, as the Division has a clear process for regularly and systematically including fisherfolk in management decisions about fisheries and marine resources, through consultations, regular meetings, extension services and workshops.  
- The knowledge and skills of the Division’s staff effectively support ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations. The Division does not have a formal communication strategy to engage with fisherfolk.  
- Technical staff needs to improve capacity in participatory processes, such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory planning, participatory management, and facilitation.  
- The Division does not have a dedicated website which can facilitate information sharing. | Develop a communication strategy for the Fisheries Division.  
- Build capacity of technical staff in participatory processes, such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory planning, participatory management, and facilitation, to improve engagement with fisherfolk and their organisations.  
- Create a dedicated website for the Fisheries Division that can be used to complement the sharing of information with fisherfolk on social media platforms. A website can also facilitate online document management to make key documents including reports, |
| technical staff of the Fisheries Division are knowledgeable about EAF principles, ecosystem functions and changes, the socioeconomic context of fisheries, alternative livelihood options, and the functioning of fisherfolk organisations. | • The Division has access to tools, methods and good practices that support fisherfolk with stewardship activities and initiatives. The Division also provides access to, or assists fisherfolk organisation with, accessing networks or resources outside of itself. | policies and plans relevant to the fisheries sector easily available to fisherfolk and other stakeholders. |
12 References


CRFM. 2018. CRFM Statistics and Information Report - 2016. 82pp


The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGC). 2019. Call for Proposal – Protect and Enhance Ecosystems and Educate and Create Responsible Communities


### 13 Appendices

**Appendix 1—Definitions of conceptual components for the institutional analysis framework**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conceptual component</th>
<th>Worksheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Policies, Laws and plans</strong></td>
<td>This component focuses on the existing legal framework within the target country to address and guide fisheries management and planning. It involves the formal governance of a nation’s fisheries management which can either empower or constrain the ability to integrate ecosystem stewardship(^51) practises within small-scale fisheries. The assessment of this component also involves regulations, rules and management plans that resulted from the policies and legislation identified. This can be used as an indicator of fisheries-related state agencies’ capacity to support fishing industry stewardship. For example, to determine whether legislation is adequate, as Stewardship is an evolving concept for management of natural resources such as fisheries. Policy and legislation need to be assessed in order to identify potential barriers at the institutional level that may hinder the promotion of ecosystem stewardship. This component is divided into: A.1 Fisheries Policy A.2 Fisheries Management Plan A.3 Fisheries Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Advisory and/or decision-making mechanisms</strong></td>
<td>Institutional arrangements - examine the institutional frameworks and mechanisms established for governing fisheries management and fostering ecosystem stewardship. This includes the establishment of multi-stakeholder committees or similar structures, which play an advisory or decision-making role in resource management. The relationship between these mechanisms and the agencies/stakeholders involved will also be analysed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Fisheries-related Organisations</strong></td>
<td>This conceptual component will map the fisheries-related state agencies as well as other fisheries-related organisations which play a key role in the fishery-related institutional arrangements of each country. This includes the core fisheries management organisations such as Fisheries Divisions/Departments/Authorities/Agencies and other associated departments, such as Environment, Coastal Management, Agriculture, Cooperatives, Markets and others. It will also include non-state organisations such as fisherfolk organisations, civil society organisation, private sector and academia, where relevant. Given that the level of involvement in the fisheries sector will differ within and among project countries. This section will investigate agencies’ roles and particularly, their mandated role in fisheries management. Furthermore, an organisational capacity assessment will be carried out to examine the core fisheries state agencies’ current ability to support stewardship activity.</td>
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\(^51\) *Ecosystem Stewardship* is understood as “a strategy to respond to and shape social-ecological systems under conditions of uncertainty and change to sustain the supply and opportunities for use of ecosystem services to support human well-being”.

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**Organisational Capacity Assessment:**
Under this key conceptual component, core capacities of fisheries-related state agencies’ capacity to support and enable ecosystem stewardship will be assessed. The capacities to be examined are:

I. **Vision, mandate, culture** - this section looks at the organisation’s visions and goals, its operational culture and its internal governance mechanisms and how they promote ecosystem stewardship. It is reflected in the everyday organisational culture, how they communicate with fisherfolk and their organisations and the relationships they build.

II. **Knowledge and skills** - this focuses on assessing the fisheries-related state agency’s capacity to provide fisherfolk and fisherfolk organisations with the relevant knowledge and skills support required for improved stewardship actions. This section assesses the capacity in technical knowledge, skills and ability related to ecosystem stewardship.

III. **Resources** - assesses the capacity, availability, and efficient access to resources related to organisations, in particular the resource support made available to fisherfolk organisations from the state agency, as well as resources provided for execution of any ecosystem stewardship actions and practices.

IV. **Partnerships** - is an assessment of the organisations capacity to foster partnerships and link activities, plans, projects and initiatives which involves ecosystem stewardship. It will look at their ability to build networks, and assist in building the networks of fisherfolk organisations, as resource users and ecosystem stewards.

**D. Processes and practices**
For this conceptual component, the operational procedures for fisheries-related state agencies will be examined more closely. The processes and practices will be assessed in three sub-components. These are:

C.1 **Promotion of good governance** - This is determined by probing the inclusivity of the decision-making process in fisheries governance. The system of institution (i.e. the decision-making process applied) determines the relative success of the structural processes to a certain degree in institutional capacity for improved fisheries management that integrates ecosystem stewardship (i.e. levels of exclusion, discrimination). This also assesses the ability of organisations through their internal structures and systems to create an environment that encourages and facilitates stewardship. It includes the channels of communication for sharing or receiving information from fisherfolk, and transparent and accountable systems. This will also assess the structures and systems in place for clear communication, involvement and integration within and among fisheries-related state agencies.

C.2 **Collaborative management** - This sub-component focuses on the extent of cooperative management that exists in practice between fisheries-related state agencies and small-scale fisheries.
groups such as fisherfolk organisations, as well as individual fisherfolk and the local communities. It also identifies the extent of stakeholder collaboration in management practices (government, private sector and civil society/local communities).

C.3 Adaptive management This assesses the ability of the fisheries-related state agencies to budget, manage and implement activities, using internal structures and mechanisms which are flexible and adaptive to internal or external changes, changes in the resources, or changes in the resource users. This looks at the organisations’ ability to learn actively, develop practices and policies for promoting stewardship; and to implement, monitor and evaluate plans, projects, programmes of work for actions or systems to enable stewardship.

C.4 Communication This sub-component assesses the extent to which fisheries information providers in StewardFish project countries are using communication tools/channels to communicate with fisherfolk, as well as their capacity to use the tools/channels effectively. It includes the channels of communication for sharing or receiving information from fisherfolk, and transparent and accountable systems. This will also assess the structures and systems in place for clear communication, involvement and integration within and among fisheries-related state agencies.
## Appendix 2 - National validation webinar participants and other in-country key informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Position/Title</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kris Isaacs</td>
<td>Fisheries Division, Ministry Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour</td>
<td>Senior Fisheries Officers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fishdiv@gov.vc">fishdiv@gov.vc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Searles</td>
<td>Fisheries Division, Ministry Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour</td>
<td>Senior Fisheries Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fishdiv@gov.vc">fishdiv@gov.vc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesroy Noel</td>
<td>Tobago Cay Marine Park</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brangurgon Glasgow</td>
<td>Coast Guard Service</td>
<td>Chief Petty Officer SVG Coast Guard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:svgcoguard@vincysurf.com">svgcoguard@vincysurf.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calliaqua, St. Vincent</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:svgcg@coastguard.gov.vc">svgcg@coastguard.gov.vc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldon Ogarro</td>
<td>Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society Limited</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audwin Andrews</td>
<td>Sustainable Grenadines Inc.</td>
<td>Senior Technical Officer, Fisheries Coordinator</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasa Belmar Jenny (Surname not recorded)</td>
<td>Conservation and Sustainable Development Unit – Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment</td>
<td>- Sustainable Development Unit Economic Planning and Sustainable Development Division</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emdsvg@gmail.com">emdsvg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Jackson (No first name recorded) Phillips</td>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><a href="mailto:svgntrust@vincysurf.com">svgntrust@vincysurf.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:svgtrust@gmail.com">svgtrust@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanya Compton</td>
<td>Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES)</td>
<td>PhD. Student</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly-Ann Cox</td>
<td>UWI-CERMES</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aditi Thanoo</td>
<td>Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)</td>
<td>Junior Consultant</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Andrews</td>
<td>CANARI</td>
<td>Technical Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:melanie@canari.org">melanie@canari.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Position/Title</td>
<td>Email Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Masters</td>
<td>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)</td>
<td>Statistics and Information Analyst</td>
<td><a href="mailto:june.masters@crfm.net">june.masters@crfm.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maren Headley</td>
<td>CRFM Secretariat</td>
<td>Programme Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maren.headley@crfm.int">maren.headley@crfm.int</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrence Phillips</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)</td>
<td>Regional Project Coordinator – StewardFish Project</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Terrence.Phillips@fao.org">Terrence.Phillips@fao.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix 3- List of key informant interviewees**

Representatives from the following organisations were interviewed as part of this analysis

- Fisheries Division
- Tobago Caye Marine Park
- Sustainable Grenadines Inc.
- National Fisherfolk Organisation
- National Parks, Rivers and Beaches
## Appendix 4- Analysis of Key Stakeholders in the Fisheries Institution in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder type</th>
<th>Role/Interests</th>
<th>How will they benefit from improved ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk/fisherfolk organisations?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour 53</td>
<td>Lead agency responsible for management of the fisheries sector</td>
<td>Collaborative co-management improves partnership between Fisheries Department and resource users (i.e. fisherfolk), creating a sustainable environment for resource conservation alongside development of the fisheries industry, as stakeholders will share aligned goals (makes use of opportunities to transform undesirable paths i.e. unsustainable exploitation of resources). Efficient utilisation of Division’s resources by ‘sharing the burden’ of management alongside ecosystem stewards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Cooperative Division, Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth 54 | • Responsible for regulation and management of cooperatives  
• Interest in achieving viable and sustainable cooperatives | Fishing cooperatives that adopt and promote more sustainable fishing practices among their membership are likely to have more sustainable and viable business enterprises. A positive reputation in this regard can potentially create opportunities for these cooperatives to form new partnerships with other organisations having similar values and willing to provide capacity building and other resources to support development of these cooperatives. These partnerships may reduce the financial and administrative burden of the Department of Cooperatives and help to provide support to such fishing cooperatives. These partnerships can also serve to strengthen the enabling environment for these cooperatives, and as such, support the Department of Cooperatives in achieving its mission of having viable and sustainable cooperatives. |

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52 This list is not exhaustive, but meant to give insight into the various stakeholders in stakeholder categories of government, civil society, academia and private sector that will be affected by improved ecosystems stewardship
| **Conservation and Sustainable Development Unit**  
Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment | • Responsible for implementing multilateral environmental agreements, dealing with climate change adaptation  
• Role in ensuring sustainability and conservation of biological resources.  
Greater support and understanding by fisherfolk for marine management decisions particularly for marine protected areas and zonation policies.  
Greater support by fisherfolk for marine management decisions, particularly for protected areas |  
National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority  
Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture | Responsible for the preservation and management of ecological, cultural and historical resources through protected area system management.  
Greater support by fisherfolk for conservation-based initiatives |  
St. Vincent National Trust  
Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture | Responsible for preservation of culture, architectural and natural heritage in St. Vincent |  
Maritime Administration  
Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development | Responsible for the management of maritime affairs |  
Tobago Cays Marine Park Board | Responsible for the protection, conservation and improvement of natural resources in the Tobago Cays | • Greater support and understanding by fisherfolk for marine environment management decisions  
• Assistance with monitoring by fisherfolk through increased reporting of illegal activities  
• Increased willingness by fisherfolk to contribute to management objectives  
Coast Guard Service  
Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development | • Role in enforcement of fisheries legislation | • Reduced need for monitoring and enforcement due to increased compliance of fisherfolk with regulations  
• Assistance with monitoring through increased reporting of illegal activities |

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| Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force | • Role in enforcement of fisheries legislation |
| Tobago Cay Wardens | • Responsible for enforcing rules in Tobago Cays Marine Park |

**Civil society**

**Fisherfolk organisations** e.g.
- SVGNFO (Umbrella organisation for most cooperatives)
- Barrouallie Fisheries Development Cooperative Society Ltd.
- Calliaqua Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Ltd.
- FAD Fishers Cooperative
- Fish Vendors Cooperative
- Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd
- Union Island Fishing Cooperative
- Southern Grenadines Fisherfolk Organisation
- (Informal organisation. Not a member of the SVGNFO)

- Interest in long-term sustainability of fish stocks to support livelihoods, including sustainable business enterprises
- Represent the interests of fisherfolk
- Fishing cooperatives that adopt and promote more sustainable fishing practices among their membership are likely to have more sustainable and viable business enterprises. A positive reputation in this regard can potentially create opportunities for these cooperatives to form new partnerships with other organisations, having similar values, willing to provide capacity building and other resources to support development of these cooperatives.
- More sustainable fish stocks

**Mayreau Explorers Cooperative**

Role in improving socio-economic conditions in Mayreau through providing alternative livelihoods in vertical seamoss farming to fisherfolk, youth and women\(^59\)

Increased interest / support by fisherfolk for potential alternative livelihood options provided by the Mayreau Explorers Cooperative

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National civil society organisations</th>
<th>Fish vendors</th>
<th>Exporters e.g., Rainforest Seafoods</th>
<th>Fish retailers e.g. Markets / Supermarkets, Hotels and Restaurants, Fish Retail Outlets</th>
<th>Fish processors e.g., Rainforest Seafoods</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>with a focus on supporting marine/coastal conservation e.g.</td>
<td>o Involved in processing and marketing of fish and fish products</td>
<td>o Interest in long-term supply of fish and fish products for livelihoods and revenue generation</td>
<td>o Markets / Supermarkets</td>
<td>o Hotels and Restaurants</td>
<td>o Fish Retail Outlets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren)</td>
<td>o Interest/role in conservation of coastal and marine environment and sustainable livelihoods for people in the Grenadine islands 60</td>
<td>o Role in supporting sustainable livelihood initiatives and promoting natural value of islands. 61</td>
<td>• Increased support and interest by fisherfolk to be more involved in the organisation’s work with increased participation in sustainable livelihood initiatives</td>
<td>• Increased partnerships with fisherfolk organisations for conservation projects</td>
<td>Increased revenues from improved long-term sustainable supply to market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Environment Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional and international organisations</th>
<th>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism</th>
<th>Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter-governmental organisation facilitating sustainable use of fisheries resources for socio-economic benefit of the region</td>
<td>Regional network of small-scale fisherfolk.</td>
<td>Support for organisation work, capacity building and advocacy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Appendix 5- Projects, programmes and initiatives providing support and resources to fisherfolk and fisherfolk organisations in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of project/programme/initiative</th>
<th>Description of programme/initiative</th>
<th>Type of support/resources provided</th>
<th>Organisation delivering programme/initiative</th>
<th>Organisation type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers Support Fund (ongoing) 63, 64</td>
<td>Concessionary loans to farmers and fishers at two percent interest. It is a soft loan, so over time, less is paid as compared to banks. Money returned is put back into the fisheries industry. Loan approval requires a fisherman identification card to prove that they are registered fishers. During Covid-19 pandemic, $1million from the Fund, was used to provide pirogues and gear to fishers.</td>
<td>• Financial loans to fishers to upgrade gear</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour through grant provided by the Venezuela-based Petro Caribe initiative</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Work Programme of the Fisheries Division (ongoing)</td>
<td>Technical and equipment support for fisherfolk</td>
<td>• Information on fisheries e.g. as it relates to species information • Support with business management • Fishing gear • Assistance with writing project proposals: this assistance is often provided with support from other agencies including the National Parks and Beach</td>
<td>Fisheries Division</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

63 Fisheries Division.2020. Personal Communications. 8th May.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Key Partners/Supporters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seamoss farming in Mayreau (ongoing)</td>
<td>Initiative aimed at supporting alternative livelihoods for fisheries by building capacity in seamoss production and value-added products</td>
<td>Mayreau Explorers Cooperative supported by SusGren through GEF funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Training for fisherfolk in vertical sea moss farming Mayreau as an alternative livelihood.</td>
<td>Civil Society (national), International Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECS Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AGRICOM)</td>
<td>Project aimed at promoting agro-market development to decrease rural poverty, reduce the import bill, and increase rural employment</td>
<td>Co-funded by the World Bank and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Regional project with St. Vincent and the Grenadines as one of its target countries)</td>
<td>Government and International Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate -Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project</td>
<td>Project aimed at establishing a network of marine management areas which would also provide for improved livelihood opportunities within the project countries.</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Funder); The Nature Conservancy (Funding recipient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Regional project with St. Vincent and the Grenadines as one of its target countries)</td>
<td>Other Partners: OECS Commission, Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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68 National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority. 2020. Personal Communications. 27th May.
| Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program (CMBP) | Support with setting up a fish fry event and tackle shop to generate income for the Calliaqua Fishers Cooperative  
Diving certification was also provided to fishers so that they can be employed in the South Coast Marine Conservation Area  
Mentoring in business management | (CaMPAM), the U.N. Environment Program/SPAW-RAC, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and PCI Media Impact  
Local Partner: National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project aimed at achieving sustained biodiversity conservation, maintaining and restoring critical ecosystems and realising tangible improvements in human and community wellbeing.  
The project sought to provide the tools needed for effective management of the Grenadines seascape, in order to protect marine habitats, promote sustainable fisheries and support alternative tourism-based livelihoods (Regional project with St. Vincent and  
Due to requests from fisherfolk to have as a continuous programme, training initiatives are incorporated into) | Training of fishers in the Grenadines islands in post-harvest handling of fish and seamoss, using the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) method (ongoing)  
Equipment – Fishers from Bequia and Carriacou were supplied with ice boxes for their boats as they utilise smaller boats which do not have storage capacity.  
Training in bookkeeping for fisherfolk  
Peer training - Mayreau fishers received training in assembling lobster pots from fishers in other Grenadine Islands e.g., Bequia  
Training in sustainable lobster fishing  
Awareness building of lobster fishing regulations | Sustainable Grenadines Inc. in collaboration with the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and the Fisheries Divisions of Grenada and SVG  
Civil Society (national and international) and Government, Bilateral Development Agency |


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Support Details</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Support (ongoing)</td>
<td>Initiatives supporting farming and fishing communities to ensure public safety during COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Personal protective equipment - local non-profit organisation in the Grenadines, Bequia Threadworks, was commissioned to make 1000 masks to distribute to fishers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan programme from the National Development Foundation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (ongoing)</td>
<td>Loan programme targeted toward small and micro enterprises</td>
<td>Loans to small and micro entrepreneurs as self-help mechanisms. Loans are available to fisherfolk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whale and dolphin conservation (2014 – unsure)</td>
<td>Initiative supporting whale and dolphin conservation in Bequia and Barrouallie transitioning fisherfolk from whaling practices</td>
<td>Grant provided to Fundacion Cethus, in partnership with the Barrouallie Heritage and Tourism Organisation, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation and the Animal Welfare Institute to facilitate training to assist humpback whales in transitioning to sustainable community-based whale watching enterprises as well as supported sustainable livelihood alternatives for small cetacean fishers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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| Training programme: Promoting Good Practices in Service Delivery by Fisheries Cooperatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.¹³ (2013: 2day training) | Programme to develop leadership and management capacity in fisherfolk organisations | Training on good practices in management of cooperatives including:  
- Understanding cooperative principles and practices  
- Management  
- Leadership  
- Working with groups  
- Customer service  
- Record keeping | Funded by European Union, through its “Programme for strengthening Fisheries Management in African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of states (ACP) Countries (ACP Fish II)” project by a consultant Dougal James | Bilateral |
| Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance project⁷⁵ (2013- 2017) | Project aimed at building capacity of fisherfolk organisations to be engaged in fisheries governance *(Regional project with St. Vincent and the Grenadines as one of its target countries)* | Funding - the project included a small grant facility, the Fisherfolk Strengthening Fund, targeted at fisherfolk organisations to support fisherfolk organisational strengthening project. The SVGNFO applied to and were rewarded grants from this fund.  
- Capacity building in governance – the project included several capacity building workshops aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of fisherfolk leaders to better participate in governance  

The President of the SVGNFO stated that the fisherfolk who participated in this project were now operating in leadership roles within their respective cooperatives ¹², ⁷⁶ | The Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance project was implemented by CANARI in partnership with UWI-CERMES, Panos Caribbean, CNFO and CRFM. The project was funded by the European Union | Civil Society (regional) Academia, Regional and Bilateral Development Agencies. |
| The Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project | Project intended to improve resilience and decrease vulnerability of climate impacts on the fisheries sector of the Eastern | Training provided to fishers on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and training planned for business skill training.  
- Regional training held in Grenada was provided to seamoss farmers in order to strengthen resilience the | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Government, International Development Agencies |

| (CC4Fish, 2017-2020) | Caribbean islands through adaptation measures and including climate change into fisheries governance. | aquaculture sector through exchange of knowledge and experiences.  
- 200 VHF radio, 200 surface mount compasses and 200 life jackets were purchased through project to improve safety as sea. | Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission and Fisheries Division |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| StewardFish - Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (2018-2021) | The project aims to empower fisherfolk in resource management, decision making and, sustainable livelihoods | Develop leadership capacity of fisherfolk organisations  
Assess state agency implementation gaps to support fisherfolk organisations  
Review schemes for sustainable fisheries livelihoods  
Promote use of local fish in healthy diets. | 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), Fisheries Division Antigua and Barbuda. |
| | | | Regional, Academia and Government |


## Appendix 6- Organisational assessment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries Division

Each capacity area is given an overall ranking based on the findings using a traffic light rating system, where:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Indicates that the agency is effectively supporting ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations in the capacity area, with non-critical gaps to be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Indicates that the agency is adequately supporting ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations in the capacity area, but there are some critical gaps to be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Indicates that the agency is not adequately supporting ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk and their organisations in the capacity area and there are critical gaps to be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity area</td>
<td>Evaluation question and explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision, Mandate and Culture</td>
<td>Division has a vision statement that is supportive of/promotes ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division’s mandate supports ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | Explanatory notes provided by agency:  
  • Division’s vision is “A well-managed fisheries and aquaculture sector, fully integrated into the wider economic development, to secure optimum benefits from those resources for the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for present and future generations.”  
  • Division’s mandate is guided by its specific policy goals to ensure sustainable use and protection of the “natural environment and biodiversity utilising precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches along with species-specific management strategies and strengthening institutions and enabling environment for integrated and responsible fisheries and aquaculture development and management, pursuant to agreed international standards. This includes developing stakeholders’, such as fisherfolk, capacity and skills.”  
  • Core values/beliefs that the Division identifies as its culture are:  
    o belief that ecosystem stewardship by fisherfolk is important for sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources;  
    o belief that fisherfolk can be effective ecosystem stewards;  
    o belief that fisherfolk should be included in decision-making in management;  
    o values, local and/or traditional knowledge; and  
    o believes in EAF | | |
| Practices | Division has a clear process for including opinions of fisherfolk in decisions made about fisheries and marine resources | Yes | | Information sharing can be strengthened through the development of a communication strategy |
| | Division regularly and systematically includes fisherfolk’s input in decisions about how fisheries and marine resources are managed | Yes | | |
| | Division regularly partners/collaborates with fisherfolk and their organisations for fisheries management initiatives | Yes | | |
| | Division regularly facilitates collaboration/partnerships between fisherfolk and other fisheries and marine stakeholders | Yes | | |
organisation, outreach by the extension unit/field workers or through special workshops

- While decisions are finalised by policy makers i.e., Cabinet, the Division regularly includes the input of fisherfolk in its policy advice to policy makers
- Fisheries Division is viewed as both a collaborative partner (participatory approach) and an enforcer of fisheries management guidelines/regulations (top-down relationship)
- Collaboration on a fisheries management initiative can be shown through the formation of the FAD Fisherfolk Cooperative. Collaboration between fisherfolk and other stakeholders is facilitated by the Fisheries Division through the ‘Fisherman’s Day month of celebration.’
- The Division collects and uses fisherfolk traditional knowledge to inform management decisions. The Division also records and shares best practices related to sustainable use with fisherfolk. Despite not having a formal communication strategy to engage with fisherfolk, information and guidance is provided to fisherfolk as it relates to sustainable fishing practices and initiatives for stewardship activities through processes mentioned in Section 9. Out of the various communication strategies used to engage with fisherfolk, face-to-face consultations have been the most effective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Skills</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Capacity of technical staff in participatory processes, such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory planning, participatory management, and facilitation should be built to improve engagement with fisherfolk and their organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff have knowledge of EAF</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff have specialist knowledge on ecosystems, their functions and ecosystem changes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff understand socio-economic context of fisheries and marine resource use by fisherfolk and other stakeholders</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff have knowledge of aquaculture and other alternative or complementary livelihood options for which fisherfolk may be well suited</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff have knowledge of how fisherfolk organisations function, including key challenges that they may face and how they can be supported to resolve them</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation has the capacity to provide training for fisherfolk in different technical areas and organisational strengthening (these may include soft skills such as facilitation, development of training material, etc.)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical staff has the skills to assist fisherfolk with mobilising funding for ecosystem stewardship activities and initiatives</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical staff have skills in participatory approaches (e.g. participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory planning, participatory management etc.) | Somewhat
---|---
Technical staff have communication skills needed to effectively communicate with a range of stakeholders including fisherfolk | Yes
Organisation provides or accesses training and other kinds of capacity building for staff to regularly improve their technical knowledge and skills | Yes

**Explanatory notes provided by agency:**
- Division’s technical staff have:
  - relevant knowledge of EAF;
  - knowledge on ecosystems due to trained marine biologists on staff;
  - been exposed to socioeconomic context of the Caribbean region’s fishing industry and the ability to conduct socioeconomic assessments, with some staff exposed to the concept of Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management (SocMon);
  - knowledge of aquaculture and livelihood options through institutional training or workshops;
  - knowledge of fisherfolk organisations and how they function;
  - communication skills to effectively communicate with stakeholders through its public education unit’s outreach activities;
  - access to training and capacity building through workshops and seminars.
- At present, staff’s skills in participatory approaches is currently basic and limited to exposure through workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division provides funding assistance to fisherfolk to support ecosystem stewardship activities or initiatives</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Development of a dedicated website can complement sharing fisheries information with fisherfolk on social media platforms. A website can facilitate online document management to make key documents including reports, policies and plans relevant to the fisheries sector easily available to fisherfolk. This can form part of an overall communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division provides materials, equipment or technology to fisherfolk to support ecosystem stewardship activities or initiatives</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division has access to tools, methods and good practices that can be used to support fisherfolk with ecosystem stewardship activities and initiatives</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division provides access to or assists fisherfolk organisation with accessing networks or resources outside of itself (such as technical experts, funding, projects, etc.)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Division has a dedicated website which can be used to share information and resources on ecosystem stewardship practices with fisherfolk</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Explanatory notes provided by agency:

- Funds are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour (the line Ministry of the Fisheries Division) for ecosystem stewardship activities and the Division assists fisherfolk in applying for said funds.
- Materials, equipment or technology is provided to fisherfolk, mainly through projects or bilateral assistance from donor countries/agencies.
- The Division assists with networking fisherfolk organisations with national and regional projects, regional/international fisheries bodies and donor agencies outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Though the Division has access to tools, methods and good practices to support fisherfolk, there is need to strengthen this access to meet current demands during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Division does not have a dedicated website but utilises its social media platforms to share information with fisherfolk.