CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHALLOW AND DEEP SLOPE REEF FISHERIES IN COASTAL WATERS OF BARBADOS - BASELINE DATA ASSESSMENT

PROJECT REPORT

Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries
Overview of the Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) Project

Overview of Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF) - Microgrants Scheme for Caribbean Fisherfolk Organisations

About the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations

Issue addressed by grant

Project goal and objectives

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OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY FOR ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP AND LIVELIHOODS IN CARIBBEAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES (STEWARDFISH) PROJECT

- From September 2019 to July 2021, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) collaborated with the Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat (CRFM), Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West (UWI-CERMES) and the fisheries authorities of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to execute the Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) project.

- The main objective of the StewardFish project was to empower fisherfolk throughout fisheries value-chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels.

- StewardFish was implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
Under the StewardFish project, CANARI implemented a US$24,000 microgrant facility to provide support to Caribbean fisherfolk organisations to implement practical ecosystem stewardship pilot projects that would enhance their capacity to be ecosystem stewards and contribute to fisheries sustainability.

This microgrant facility formed part of CANARI’s Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF). CarSIF supports innovation and best practices by civil society and community enterprises to address priority needs and actions in the Caribbean on marine and coastal resources governance and management.

In July 2021, the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) was awarded a microgrant of US$4,000 from this microgrant facility for their project, “Conservation and management of shallow and deep slope reef fisheries in coastal waters of Barbados - Baseline Data Assessment”. The project was implemented in partnership with the Fisheries Division from July 20 – 31, 2021.
The Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) is a secondary, or umbrella, fishing industry organisation. It is not a trade union, but an alliance or federation. BARNUFO’s mission, according to its written constitution, is to fulfil the requirements of its member fisherfolk organisations with a view to improving their socio-economic conditions based on sustainable development of fisheries “from the hook to the cook”.

BARNUFO was officially formed on March 10, 1999 when it replaced an informal fisherfolk organisation coordinating council. Both bodies were outputs of the Fisheries Division’s Fisherfolk Organisation Development Project. The organisation originally comprised only primary (local) level site-based fisherfolk groups in Barbados, but now is open to individuals. BARNUFO is also a member of the regional Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).
Information on catch and effort is limited for the shallow and deep slope reef fisheries in Barbados. Catch is not recorded to species level and effort is only available as numbers of vessels and trap fishers registered with Fisheries Division. A history of poor compliance and weak enforcement of fisheries regulations also exists for the fishery.
### PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal**

- Fisherfolk practicing stewardship by taking a more active role in reef fish conservation and management

**Objectives**

- Fisherfolk collaborating with the Fisheries Division to:
  - collect baseline information to species level for snappers, groupers and conch
  - map locations of fishing grounds, fish spawning areas by species, season and lunar period
  - conduct outreach and education of trap and dive/spear fishers to relevant sections of the Fisheries Management Regulations 2021
1. COLLECTED BASELINE INFORMATION TO SPECIES LEVEL FOR SNAPPERS, GROUPERS AND CONCH

Surveys to acquire baseline information for the snapper, grouper and conch fisheries were conducted at Pile Bay Fish Landing Facility and Oistins Fish Market. Descriptions of fishing grounds were given in the fishers' local names which were correlated with geospatial location. One female vendor from each site conducted the surveys.

Key outputs:

- Baseline information for the snapper, grouper and conch fisheries collected
- 2 female fisherfolk participated in the data collection using survey instruments
- Local fisherfolk knowledge on fishing grounds collected
This objective was not fully achieved. The project team had intended to identify and engage with fishers operating in Oistins on the south coast and Pile Bay on the west coast to conduct at-sea mapping exercises using nautical maps to pinpoint fishing grounds and fish spawning aggregations and at sea fixing of locations to latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates. However, only one main fisher was able to be fully engaged at Pile Bay to conduct sea mapping using Global Positioning System (GPS).

**Key outputs:**
- Sea mapping using GPS equipment conducted at Pile Bay
- 1 fisher engaged in sea mapping exercise
- Local fisherfolk knowledge on fishing grounds collected
Within the project timeframe two Zoom meetings were conducted with 30 persons to raise awareness of the (Draft) Fisheries Management Regulations 2021 as it relates to trap and dive/spear fishing. Opportunistic meetings were also conducted at the Oistins Fish Market with 5 persons by a Fisheries Officer.

The sessions helped to improve stakeholders understanding of the fisheries regulations and promoted stewardship among fisherfolk and the need for better co-management among fishers and the Fisheries Division.

**Key outputs:**

- Outreach and education sessions conducted with 35 stakeholders in the trap and dive/spear fisheries
The major challenges faced in implementing the project were the closure of the fish market due to COVID-19 and the officer leading the project being ill. A few of the interviews had to be done online with the fishers.

The project timeframe was very ambitious to complete all the activities proposed.
It is important for the Fisheries Division and BARNUFO to have a good and trusting relationship with the fishers. Due to issues of trust some of the fishers were willing to give information while others were a bit reluctant to offer all of the information required.

The strength of BARNUFO and the Fisheries Division lies in their ability to engage with the fishers and encourage them to participate in the project. This led to 39 fishers becoming interested in gaining more knowledge and information on data collection for fisheries.

BARNUFO and the Fisheries Division set a very ambitious goal to implement and complete the project in very short timeframe. As a result, the project team was unable to complete all the activities outlined in the project proposal. Engaging more fisherfolk would have achieved greater success.
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