

Who in the blue economy is drowning?

COVID-19 impacts on Caribbean local blue enterprises

UNCTAD-UNITAR Webinar: Blue entrepreneurship and MSMEs resurgence

May 27, 2021

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Community-based informal micro-enterprises are a pathway to an inclusive blue economy

Agriculture in mangroves



Credit: FoProBiM, Haiti

Community-based ecotourism



Credit: Eco South Tours, Saint Lucia

Mariculture farming 'seamoss' at sea



Credit: La Baye Alternative Livelihood Org, Grenada



Illustration: Barbara Kelley, WSJ Opinion

**“We are not all
the same boat
We are all in the
same storm.”**

*– Damian Barr, writer and
broadcaster*

Challenges faced by Caribbean local blue enterprises

tions are disconnected from needs of local blue enterprises

I, regulatory and fiscal framework not in place to support mid social-green/blue community enterprises

ited existence of micro-finance inaccessible by informal micro-entrepreneurs

ness support services do not meet/accommodate local blue enterprises



Biodiversity loss and climate change are impacting along value chain

- Coastal mangroves, coral reefs and other ecosystems are being lost and degraded
- Climate change impacts along the value chain: sea level rise and warming, more intense storms and hurricanes, higher storm surge, droughts

COVID-19 impacts on local blue enterprises

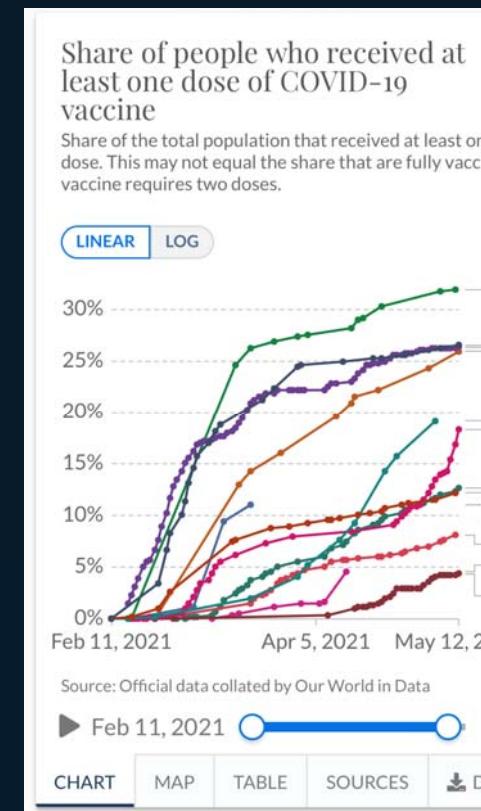
stricted operations and access to customers due to local lockdowns

sure of access to international markets – borders closed to international tourists; international shipping reduced

competition and unsustainable use by coastal communities seeking subsistence and survival

aucracy blocked access to social safety nets and COVID-relief

ited access to health services and vaccines in the Caribbean mean risk aversion and long-term worries



Local blue enterprises responses to COVID-19

Innovating to reach local markets

Exploring value-added products

Developing capacity to use ICTs for marketing and promotion

Partnerships among enterprises within and across countries



Credit: Indian Castle Fisherfolk Association, St. Kitts and Nevis



Credit: Mayreau Explorers, St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Credit: Capisterre Fishermen's Co-operative, Dieppe Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis



Credit: East Grand Bahama Fly Fishermen, Bahamas

Good practices in capacity building supporting local blue enterprises

Building capacity in marketing, business management and organizational strengthening

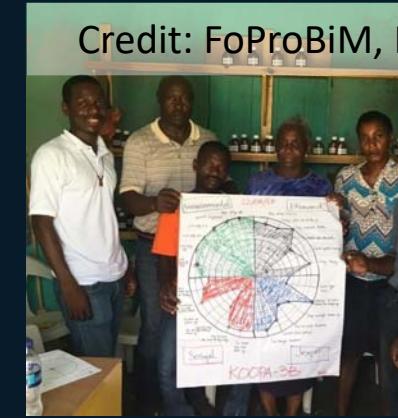
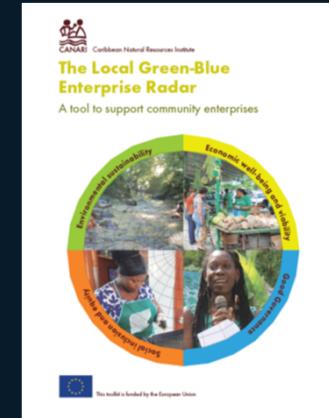
Strengthening delivery of triple bottom-line benefits

Providing access to micro-finance with mentoring

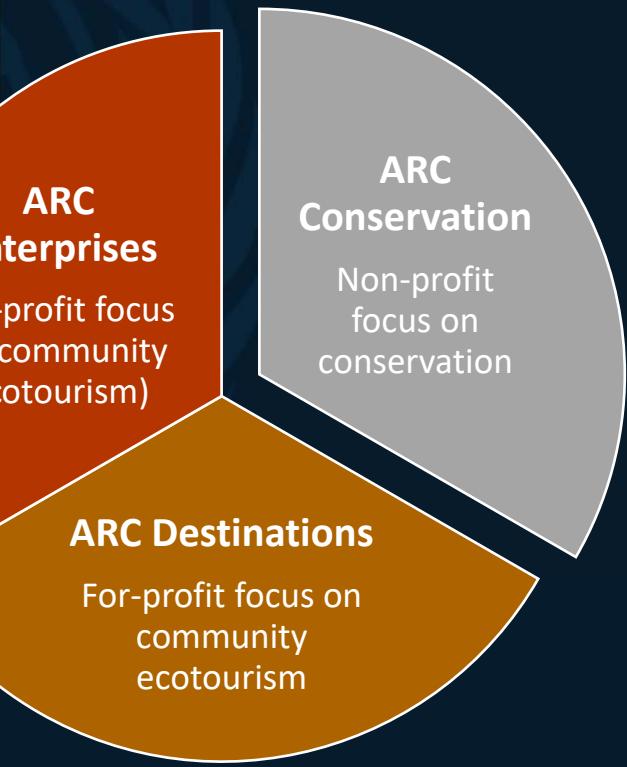
Building capacity to use ICT tools to access digital markets and support

Climate proofing along their value chains

Fostering partnerships among enterprises and up the value chain



Good practices in partnerships supporting local blue enterprises



New organisational models fostering partnerships among enterprises and up the value chain

<https://bit.ly/3wKV4nr>



Credit: Alliance of Rural Communities
Trinidad and Tobago

Recommendations to support local blue enterprises for a just and resilient COVID-19 recovery

Access to healthy ecosystems

Allocate resources to civil society organisations and other intermediaries
scale out on-the-ground support to community enterprises and channel
micro-finance

Invest in protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems as the
“blue capital” supporting local livelihoods and for climate adaptation

Build awareness of local products to develop local/national markets

Develop targeted policy, legislation, regulations, capacity building and
micro-financing programmes

Measure (micro and informal are invisible) and communicate impact to
pull in additional support and partners

Enhance coordination and synergies

Protect local enterprises from investment in “big” blue economy initiatives
that push them out of access to resources and the market

