

Advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for Resilient Caribbean Coastal Communities and Livelihoods

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Background

Coastal communities, including fisherfolk, in Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climatic hazards. These include coastal erosion, storms, storm surge and flash flooding. The frequency and intensity of such events are projected to increase with climate change and climate-related impacts are increasingly being made worse by existing stresses related to pollution and habitat degradation.

Our approach

The project will promote mainstreaming of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) to support ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). EAF recognises that fisheries are social-ecological systems and pursues sustainability by balancing ecological and human well-being through good governance. Using EAF, the project will design and deliver adaptation and stewardship actions to address risks from climate change and ecosystem degradation in six target communities and their surrounding coastal ecosystems. It will also enable conservation and sustainable management of the key mangrove, seagrass and coral reef ecosystems that local fisheries and related livelihoods depend upon and ensure sustainable fisheries and local livelihoods. This will involve strengthening capacity and coordination among fisheries and other coastal resource managers and users to integrate EAF in their management planning and implementation and to support local stewardship. Knowledge mobilisation on best practices and innovations for EAF will further support scale-up and replication.

PROJECT IN BRIEF

- **Goal:** To enhance climate change adaptation, conservation and sustainable management of small-scale fisheries using EAF.
- **Lead:** Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- **Target countries:** Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)
- **Target communities:** Dennery and Soufriere (Saint Lucia); Barrouallie and Calliaqua (SVG); Blanchisseuse and Moruga (T&T)
- **Partners:** University of the West Indies – Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES); Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO); Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, Saint Lucia; Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago. .
- **Donor:** This is a project of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
- **Budget:** US\$ 897,913
- **Duration:** January 2024- July 2026

Project webpage: <https://canari.org/advancing-the-ecosystem-approach-to-fisheries-for-resilient-caribbean-coastal-communities-and-livelihoods/>

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES



Component 1: Enhancing knowledge and skills among fisherfolk and other coastal community stakeholders to design and deliver adaptation and stewardship actions using EAF

- Review and update vulnerability and capacity assessments for the six target communities.
- Train fisherfolk and other coastal community stakeholders on adaptation and ecosystem stewardship using EAF based on vulnerabilities and capacity gaps identified in assessments.
- Facilitate action planning with target communities to identify priority needs and actions based on vulnerability and capacity assessments.
- Support target communities with developing community action plans to guide local adaptation and stewardship actions.
- Support target communities with the design and execution of adaptation and ecosystem stewardship actions.



Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity to mainstream EAF for resilient, sustainable and inclusive small-scale fisheries and related livelihoods

- Conduct institutional mapping and needs assessment to identify existing capacities among key management organisations operating nationally and in the six target communities and key needs for institutional capacity building for EAF.
- Design and facilitate national EAF training workshops with national fisheries authorities, other key management agencies, fisherfolk and local community stakeholders to address the capacity needs identified in the assessment.



Component 3: Mobilising knowledge of EAF principles, best practices and practical applications for adaptation in the Caribbean small-scale fisheries sector

- Conduct a technical review to identify and assess results, lessons and best practices from the application of EAF for adaptation and stewardship across the Caribbean over the last 10 years.
- Design and host 2 regional fisherfolk learning exchanges on EAF and stewardship in collaboration with CNFO's Leadership Institute.
- Convene an EbA learning exchange, including a focus on EAF, with CBF EbA Facility grantees to support knowledge sharing, networking and scaling-up of actions
- Document and disseminate lessons and best practices.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Enhanced knowledge and skills among fisherfolk and other coastal community stakeholders on designing and delivering EAF and stewardship actions.
- Increased extent and health of coastal ecosystems to enhance their ability to deliver ecosystem services, including coastal protection for resilience and natural habitat for fisheries and socio-economic development.
- Improved governance for resilient, sustainable and inclusive small-scale fisheries and related livelihoods.
- Improved understanding of EAF principles, best practices and practical applications for adaptation in the Caribbean small-scale fisheries sector.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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