

# REPORT

# CONSULTANCY ON MEDIA WORK AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN ON FISHERFOLKS’ POSITIONS ON CRITICAL ISSUES CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL POLICIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

CRFM Secretariat

Belize

2013

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Correct Citation:

Roopchand, A. Z. 2013. Report of consultancy on media work and advocacy campaign on fisherfolks’ positions on critical issues concerning implementation of regional policies in the Caribbean. CRFM, Belize City. p89

Published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat

Belize

This document has been produced with financial assistance of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Coordination (CTA) which funded the Consultancy. However, the views expressed herein are those of the author and CRFM Secretariat, and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of CTA.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A special thank you to José Filipe Fonseca, former Senior Programme Coordinator, Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, Technical Centre for Agricultural Development and Rural Cooperation (CTA) ACP-EU who believe that all aspects of agriculture and fisheries should include a media as a key stakeholder in the process of sustainable development for food and nutrition security. To Mr Terrence Phillips, former Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development in the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, for his dedication and willingness to understand and support the media entity in the process and to Mr Milton Haughton, Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat for taking up the challenge to see the project through to a level of success of the CRFM/CTA Project: *Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and engaging fisherfolk organizations*.

To all others who have contributed to the media work of this project, my sincerest thank you.

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

1. **BACKGROUND**  1

About the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy 3

About the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing 3

About Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) 4

Purpose of the Advocacy 5

1. **OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS 5**
2. **METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS 5**
3. **PROJECT OUTPUTS 5**

Outputs and Deliverables Methodology for reporting 6

1. Participation in the CTA/CRFM/CNFO Consultation 6
2. Design of an advocacy campaign strategy and plan 6

SWOT Analysis for Implementation of the Advocacy Plan 7

Strategy Goals 11

1. Regional Media List 12
2. Collating Media Outputs 12
3. Media Outreach 13
4. Interviews 13
5. Profiling CNFO 13
6. Media Monitoring 14

Media Work 15

Achievements 15

1. **CHALLENGES 16**
2. **RECOMMENDATIONS 17**
3. **REFERENCES 17**
4. **ANNEXES LIST 19**
5. Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan 20
6. Media List 21
7. Press Releases and Articles 32
8. Media Monitoring 40
9. Vignette - DVD 79
10. Acronyms 80
11. Glossary 81
12. **BACKGROUND**

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Network for Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) have been involved in collaborative activities to engage and maintain the interest of the various stakeholder groups in fisheries and agriculture, to influence policy agenda for policy formation and implementation at local, nationally and regionally.

Based on activities such as regional meetings, capacity developmental workshops, fish-tank exercises, and more by the CNFO with the support of the CRFM for the strengthening of the Fisherfolks both at organisational and individual levels, as well as, to position itself within the region to be sustainably viable within the industry; the Organisations have been lobbying for appropriate policy agenda throughout the region to benefit the sector. CRFM through the support by multi-international organisations, have exposed the CNFO to policy influence and planning through workshops, as well as, involvement in the CRFM Special Forum on the Common Fisheries Policy [and Regime] and many more activities. Fisherfolk leaders have recognised the need to stay informed and to share information about current fisheries policy and related matters, being critical to making informed contributions and decisions to fisheries policy development at local, national and regional levels.

The CNFO has been able to make policy representation on behalf of its members at the Forum level of the CRFM since 2009. It remains engaged in the discussions/negotiations on the elaboration and implementation of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP); operationalizing the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; as well as matters related to the trade in fish and fish products at the national, regional and international levels, among other key issues. Its representatives are also participating in the implementation of the EU-ACP Fish II Project, which is aimed at assisting in fisheries policy development and execution in the CARIFORUM region and other parts of the ACP, and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Project which has had a focus on governance of fisheries at the wider Caribbean regional, national and local levels using an Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

A project under the support of the Technical Centre for Agricultural Development and Rural Cooperation (CTA) ACP-EU, entitled *“Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: positioning and engaging Fisherfolk organizations”*, was undertaken by the CRFM and the CNFO with one of its specific task to design and conduct an advocacy campaign regional which includes media work for the final adoption and implementation of the Draft Agreement establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

Through this project, the CRFM, CTA, CANARI and UWI-CERMES have been partnering with, and providing support to the CNFO on advocacy Fisherfolk’s positions on critical issues concerning implementation of regional fisheries policies in the Caribbean.

The advocacy campaign strategy and plan has been developed to deal with advocacy in a manner that is inter-related and inclusive of preparation of specific policy proposals, communication, education and training, even though each aspect requires specific approaches. The strategy is meant to provide a framework for contributing to policy dialogues while promoting sustainable fisheries development and Fisherfolk priorities, and to foster ways for collaboration with a wide number of policy makers from governments, regional institutions, the developmental community and other NGOs. It is also meant to strengthen the partnership of the CNFO and the NFOs and local communities policy and advocacy efficiency and to develop, through education and training a wider audience in the Caribbean who cares about fisheries and the resources of the sea, along with those audiences who are capable of advocating at a higher level.

The key policy areas of focus under the current strategy are:

1. Adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

2. Operationalization of the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing

3. Mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in small-scale fisheries governance and management.

4. Adoption and implementation of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).

The CCCFP and the Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing are instruments which seek to benefit the twelve member countries of the CNFO and put legislation in place to safeguard the fishing industry throughout the Region. The CNFO member countries are:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Bahamas
3. Barbados
4. Belize
5. The Commonwealth of Dominica
6. Grenada
7. Guyana
8. Jamaica
9. St Lucia
10. St Vincent and the Grenadines
11. Suriname
12. Trinidad and Tobago

The engagement at the Forum level allows the CNFO to interact with the main advisors on fisheries policy development and execution in the CRFM and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region. It also provides the Organization with an opportunity to influence policy development and implementation in the region as well as gain access to the Ministerial Council by way of request to the Forum as the COTED through the CRFM.

**About the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)**

The CCCFP seeks to establish, within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, appropriate measures for the conservation, management, sustainable utilization and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimization of the social and economic returns from the fisheries; and the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions.

**About the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing**

The *Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing* demonstrates the Region’s determination and commitment to protect the economic interests of CARICOM Member States and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance at the national and regional levels by creating and sustaining the necessary harmonized and contemporary legislative and regulatory regimes. The Declaration also serves as a useful tool in the mobilization of resources to develop and implement the national and regional plans of actions to combat IUU fishing.

**About Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM)**

While the fisheries sector has demonstrated considerable resilience to climate variability in the past, factors such as lack of good governance and political support, access to capital on reasonable terms, weak Fisherfolk and other stakeholder organizations and consequently low bargaining power will compromise adaptation capacity in the future.

Climate change is likely to have profound effects on fishing and fish farming communities in the region. Species distributions are likely to be changed with some species moving more towards the poles. Ecosystem productivity in the tropical waters is likely to be reduced because of surface water temperature increases which will have feedback effects on food chains. Increased temperatures are likely to adversely affect coral reefs with greater incidences of coral bleaching occurring, especially in the wider Caribbean. Changes in sea temperature will also affect fish physiology with implications for both capture fisheries and fish farming. Increasing ocean acidification is also likely to affect reef structures and a wide array of other marine organisms with calcium carbonate structures.

Storms are likely to damage fishing boats, fish processing facilities, landing infrastructure and houses. Sea level rise is likely to increase coastal flooding and the ingress of salt water into coastal areas will affect agricultural production and fish farming. Sea level rise, although it may take place slowly, will make coastal fisheries and aquaculture communities more exposed to storms and tsunamis.

It should be noted that the circumstances surrounding the livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers, particularly disaster-related interruptions to their productive ability, have serious implications for fish consumers throughout the Caribbean region. But, fisheries also have the capacity to play a significant role in recovery from disasters by being one of the few productive activities that can be restarted fairly quickly with a limited lead-in time. The lack of public awareness on the full extent of the risks involved in fishing and for Fisherfolks, to be able to furnish the markets and maintain a livelihood are also contributors to the implications for consumers.

The CRFM, with funding from FAO and in coordination with partner agencies (CDEMA, CCCCC, UWI-CERMES), have been working on a CCA and DRM project to strengthen regional and national cooperation and develop capacity to address the issues of climate change impacts and disasters in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The following outputs have been approved by the 7th Meeting of the Ministerial Council and are currently being implemented:

1. Assessment study on the interface between DRM, CCA and fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region, with a focus on small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture
2. A Regional Strategy and action plan for integrating DRM, CCA and fisheries and aquaculture, with a focus on small-scale fisheries (SSF) and small-scale aquaculture (SSA)
3. Results-based programme proposal with supporting project concept notes towards implementation and resource mobilization. (<http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/ClimateChangeAdaptationandDRM/tabid/225/Default.aspx>).

**Purpose of the Advocacy**

Based on the foregoing, the fisheries sector in the Caribbean has been recognised by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and related Governments as a major source of protein for food and nutrition security in the Region. The purpose of the advocacy campaign by the CNFO is to bring about changes in regional policies so as to contribute to the development of a sustainable and profitable regional industry; improvement of the quality of Fisherfolk lives in the CRFM/CARIFORUM Region both inland and at high seas. The work seeks to enforce the final adoption of the CCCFP and aspects of the Castries Declaration IUU aim to target national and regional policy makers at the highest level, including Heads of Government, ministers responsible for fisheries and related sectors, executives of the CARICOM Secretariat and other regional bodies as well as senior technocrats involved in the final adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, and the implementation of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing. The advocacy campaign as proposed by the project comprises a media campaign and a web-based campaign will be used to influence responsible small scale fisheries.

1. **OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

The objective of the project’s communication entity is to contribute to the final adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; implementation of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing; and mainstreaming of EAF, CCA and DRM in small-scale fisheries governance and management.

1. **METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS**

The consultancy was guided under close collaboration with the CRFM’s Executive Director and the Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development (PM, FM&D) for the delivery of the assignment with support by CTA’s Senior Programme Coordinator. The Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, Members of the CNFO Coordinating Unit and other partners assisted the Consultant with research materials for key messages for the CNFO advocacy work on the policy issues covered und this project specifically to the CCCFP, Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for adoption in a timely manner taking into consideration small fisher’s interests and recommendations. The advocacy messages outlined must adopt the roles, needs requirements of policy-makers’ and other audiences to ensure sustainable outcomes from the strategic implementation.

The advocacy strategy and plan will allow the CNFO to adopt a multi-channel and integrated communication approach aimed at informing and mobilizing the Network members, attracting and maximizing attention of stakeholders, like-minded organisations, decisions-makers and specific segments of the general public, and influencing policy agenda and policy formation nationally and regionally.

1. **PROJECT OUTPUTS**

The media component of the project’s consultancy was designed to support the CNFO to reach decision-makers on critical policy aspects for review and adaptation of the CCCFP and the implementation of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, and EAF, CCA and DRM. Through the development of an advocacy campaign strategy and plan, the CNFO in its locality could implement communication activities to sensitise Fisherfolks’ and the general publics on their concerns and views on the various policies and issues which are crucial for the sustainability of the fishing stock, livelihood and the industry.

**Outputs and Deliverables: Methodology for reporting**

The format for reporting is in keeping with the sequence within the Outputs listed in the Terms of Reference for the media consultancy, page 11 of the Contract, bullet point 5.0 Approach and will follow accordingly for ease of reference hereunder:

**(i) Participation in the CTA/CRFM/CNFO Consultation**

The participation in the CTA/CRFM/CNFO Consultation on the Implementation and Mainstreaming of Regional Fisheries Policies into Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements in the Caribbean, Guyana, 25 February - 1 March 2013, provided the basis for the preparation of the deliverables by allowing for deeper understanding into what was required for the project specifically the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan. This proved useful to the preparation of the advocacy campaign documents.

**(ii) Design an advocacy campaign strategy and plan on Fisherfolks’ positions on Critical Issues concerning Implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing and Mainstreaming of EAF, CCA and DRM in Small-scale Fisheries Governance and Management.**

**Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan**

The design of an advocacy campaign strategy and plan was developed on the Fisherfolks’ position on critical issues for the adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing and Mainstreaming of EAF, CCA and DRM in Small-scale Fisheries Governance and Management.

The initial design was developed after a four-day National Fisheries Organisations (NFO) consultation was facilitated by the CRFM through the support of CTA between February 25 and 28, 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana. This meeting engaged 25 NFO representatives from 14 Caribbean countries on the policy processes from ideas to decision making and implementation of regional fisheries policies. The meeting provided the Fisherfolk representatives with a deeper understanding of policy development and how advocacy works to be able to target national and regional policy makers at the highest level including Heads of Government, ministers responsible for fisheries and related sectors.

Coming out of the workshop in Guyana entitled, “Consultation on the Implementation and Mainstreaming of Regional Fisheries Policies into Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements in the Caribbean”, (25-28 February 2013), hereinafter referred to as the ‘Guyana February 2013 Workshop’, the CNFO factored into discussion the major internal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for the development of the advocacy strategy and plan, which proved critical for planning for and operational plan. This factors articulated policy issues and positions in order to influence the finalization and/or implementation of the fisheries policies mentioned above.

**Implementation SWOT Analysis – Advocacy Strategy and Plan**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Strengths | Weaknesses |
| 1. Strong messages by Fisherfolk on policies 2. Fisherfolk Networking platform at Regional, National and Sub-National 3. Community and social obligation 4. Membership Increasing 5. Can rely on collective NFOs 6. Strong leadership at CNFO and NFO 7. Partnership formation among urban and rural fisheries stakeholders and actors 8. Building on existing partnerships 9. Improved capacity to advocate better governance for fisheries 10. Strong commitment to follow the campaign through to the implementation stage | 1. Limited human capacities in Fisherfolk organizations for advocacy, including ineffective communication within the Fisherfolk organisation 2. Limited capacities for policy development and advocacy and resource mobilisation 3. Insufficient understanding of policy process including legislative process at NFO level 4. Inadequate support at NFO and PFO/Cooperative level 5. Environmental issues not always adequately dealt with in project design 6. Health and security issues not adequately dealt with in project design 7. Lack of finance and inadequate management of finance 8. Limited commitment from individual Fisherfolk to NFO, not all fishers are members of the NFO 9. NFOs may not be taken seriously due to action already taken at community level 10. Not all stakeholders have been clearly identified and engaged as well as, limited collaboration between Fisherfolk and potential allies |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| 1. Fisheries issues are higher on the development agenda eg.: under the Blue Economy considerations resulting in the availability of funds and donor support including technical support 2. Training opportunities with respect to advocacy work 3. New partnerships are available 4. Scope for closer coordination with CARICOM and its organs (COTED, Council of Ministers, ALLIANCE, CARICOM Secretariat) 5. New economically sustainable fisheries initiatives for food and nutrition security 6. Participatory legislative process 7. Growing relationship with National Ministries’ Officials 8. Conducive media landscape and growing relationship with media 9. Scope for technical advice from partner agencies 10. Availability of dialogue space about fisheries issues at community and national levels 11. Potential partnerships between government, NGO and communities to manage resources, increase compliance with regulations, provide a means of gathering and monitoring information and engender sense of ownership 12. To successfully brand the CNFO 13. Telecommunications coverage and availability of applications of internet to use open applications as Viber, Skype, Whatsapp to communicate | 1. Limited access to ICTs and time effective management of information sharing 2. Small scale Fisherfolk views and interest need not be taken into full account 3. Low level of implementation of approved policies - Political will exists but a lack of instrument prevents implementation. The stigma aligned with Fisherfolk in contrast with other professionals and business folk 4. Financial instability so resources not available to continue projects 5. High vulnerability to climate change, desertification for both marine and inland fishing, and pollution 6. Limited activities and insufficient coherence in the implementation of regional activities 7. Poor integration of national framework mechanism of Fisherfolk policies into regional policies 8. Insufficient consultation between Fisherfolks and actors in other economic sectors which results in risks of fish resources - eg.: industrial drilling in fishing waters (environmental pollution) 9. Regulations to be reviewed to ensure that the impact of industries pollutants are reduced on the fishing sector 10. Lack of fishing consultation 11. Insufficient evidence from research and developmental work in the sector and limited integration of Fisherfolk in discussion on poverty reduction and food nutrition and security 12. Aging population of Fisherfolk and less interest by youth in fishing |

The CNFO under immense support from the CRFM have been able to utilise multi-channels communication hardware including the internet to transmit and receive information to and from a wider audience, including the media and Governments specifically through media releases prepared by the CRFM Headquarters.

The advocacy campaign strategy and plan took over eight months to develop and finalise than originally intended over six weeks. The implementation phase is expected over the period of 2013 to 2015. The CRFM and CTA have been key to the development of the document specifically Terrence Phillip and Jose Fonseca respectively to aid the analysis for the development of the strategy and plan to be able to proceed with the assessment of crucial areas as availability of infrastructure, manpower and capacity at local levels, administration, financial support for the CNFO as it also the people on the ground.

The CNFO with the support of the CRFM have begun operationalizing the strategy and plan and over the next twelve to eighteen months will complete the strategic objective as set out in the plan with the assistance of the consultant. The strategy and plan has a direct and grass-root advocacy approach for the Fisherfolks at national levels to collaborate with the media – press, radio, television and other forms – to get information out to the public as issues occur on the ground to bring media on board to gap the link for a transformative process in the policy agenda making for the improvement in the quality of life for the Fisherfolk and by extension the community on a whole through ‘food for all’.

Through combined collaboration between donors, the CNFO has been able to produce a number of products as press releases, vignettes showing the current life of Fisherfolk and how the CCCFP could impact on the livelihood of Fisherfolks.

Geographical approach to advocacy work was taken into consideration for effective advocacy for sound regional small-scale fisheries policies requires that interventions are integrated with each other at all geographical levels under a comprehensive and coordinated approach to inform the national and local on the interests and positions, including with regard to cross-boundary issues e.g. related to fish harvesting, natural hazards, climate change mitigation and adaptation, IUU fishing. The advocacy took into consideration the science and practice-based evidence generated within and outside the Region, as well as, the how policies made at the global level (e.g. on IUU, EAF, International SSF Guidelines) and the Caribbean region speaks with one voice at international fora and debates.

The idea of the geographical approach helps to translate the Fisherfolk issues into national public policies (once they have discussed and adopted), in terms of country-specific priorities, objectives and instruments (laws, regulations, economic and fiscal incentives, financing, provision of public goods, etc.), for their implementation.

The advocacy campaign areas of intervention were derived directly from the strategic goals of the CNFO for:

1. Policy development

2. Advocacy

3. Resource mobilization

4. Capacity strengthening

5. Role of Media

It was recognised that for **policy development** many aspects of evidence based material had to be collated, repacked for grass-root development and understanding, as well as, to be generated for the policy-making process. At the Caribbean level through the CRFM, experience with the policy making processes provided avenues for the CNFO to get its messages across to the policy makers, however, the need exists for the man on the ground to understand the process and how decision making takes place through the appropriate channels involving ministries, parliament and the executive offices. The strategy and plan has built-in the policy analysis to be undertaken by policy analyst and subject matter specialists as CRFM and the inclusiveness of Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, e.g. CANARI, community-based organizations, youth-based organizations.

The issues which brought about the **advocacy** are deeply rooted in the communication process for outreach to stakeholders for better understanding on the assessment of policies, preparation of advocacy tools e.g.: fact sheets, issues papers, policy briefs, advocacy newsletter, brochures, etc., internal communications within the CNFO and CRFM and at local levels. The advocacy campaign maintains at the pinnacle a high level of effective communications with all stakeholders and decision makers as well as the media, bearing in mind that the media are the eyes and ears for responsible, transparent and accountable policy makers.

The campaign is dependent on the development of a mid-term **resource mobilization** strategy and plan for CNFO to attract technical, scientific, financial, lobbying, and other types of support for the implementation of policies. As with all campaigns, branding and profiling an organisation are key to building and implementing successful strategies. By profiling the Fisherfolk and the issues, the identity becomes critical for not only regional collaboration but globally, linking the issues on a greater scale to improve the viability of the industry and forging towards the sustainability of key human interest on the global minds for food and nutrition security for all.

One of the crucial areas the advocacy strategy and plan looked at was the **capacity strengthening** of the CNFO. Based on the SWOT analysis, it was realised that much work is required to build on the existing abilities at the national and local levels to strengthen the regional capacity. Currently, the CRFM is the backbone of the CNFO and is providing the majority of the support to the CNFO to manage its messages and outreach. The CNFO has been attending numerous workshops, conferences and global meetings, as recent as ICT4Ag hosted by the CTA in Rwanda, November 2013 - where the plight of the CNFO was highlight the experiences of the CNFO in fisheries. This was an exchange of experiences and best practices for Fisherfolk from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to utilise the knowledge and take back what could work in each region.

The advocacy campaign strategy and plan is set out in a useable format for the CNFO, NFOs and PFOs to be able to use the key messages utilising the various channels and tools from Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to word on the street mechanics to get information out and gain feedback to establish sound grounds for the final adoption of the CCCFP and all other policies for implementation. It was devised so that the CNFO could identify key messages, channels, products and actions within the plan which are adaptable in each of the member countries and could prove to be effective to bring about the end result of the key strategic objectives of the campaign strategy.

The strategy goes into details on how Fisherfolk could go about various elements within the advocacy campaign to maximise and reap the benefits for the betterment of the industry at all levels of the fishing industry namely PFOs, NFOs and CNFO.

The **media** in the advocacy campaign takes on an important element of the mass media communications in advancing democratic discussion around policy debates and effectively set the public agenda for discussion on fisheries issues which reaches not only the man on the street but the parliamentarians and all other politicians which ultimately evokes a sense or an opinion, which under current debate on food nutrition and security – policy makers cannot ignore.

Using the media as an advocacy tool, messages and issues could be framed to reach target audience (s) from a public policy perspective. This provides the CNFO with leverage to apply pressure strategically to key decision makers to make any required changes in the CCCFP and Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing in the Region.

To develop the advocacy campaign strategy and plan, some principles were applied to guide the planning. These included the basic on which the CNFO found a necessity for their contribution to the sector and it included basic human elements as enhancing livelihood to achieve an improved quality of life, improvement to the safety and security of the Fisherfolk in and out of the sea throughout the Region. Other guiding principles included the support necessary from allies and partnering agencies required to implement the campaign strategy and plan; being able to strengthen capacity of the Fisherfolk organisations at all levels to fulfil the objectives of the advocacy campaign; Inclusiveness of youth and women in the process to be part of the solution; and by no means least including science-based knowledge and keeping the traditional knowledge as the foundation for policy influence, as well as enhancing partnerships.

Target audiences for this campaign were identified through previous meetings of the NFOs and it was felt that while the Policy and decision makers at the national and political levels were critical, the people on the ground who the policies affects at the end of the day are crucial to the process. The necessity for inclusive community discussion was decided crucial to any policy making agenda. A detailed listing of the audiences could be found in the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan.

In defining the Strategic Goals and Objectives of the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan, the CNFO at the Guyana February 2013 Workshop, the following were number of strategic goals and objectives were highlighted by the CNFO for Governments to address. A brief overview is as follows:

**Strategy Goals**

**Strategy Goal 1: Ensure that appropriate regional fisheries policies are formulated, adopted and implemented.**

**Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policies**

It was agreed by the CNFO that the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy should be signed by all CARICOM countries with the exception of Bahamas, as well as by third party countries. Protocols on EAF, CCA and DRM in SSF and on sustainable SSF development (incorporating the SSF guidelines) should be adopted under the CCCFP and that CRFM be designated as the competent agency in the CCCFP. Furthermore, that legislation should be amended at the national level to enable the implementation of the new regional fisheries policies adopted.

**In relations to the Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fisheries**

The CNFO agreed that the Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing being implemented by all CARICOM members and that legislation enabling policy adoption and implementation at the national level should be enacted along with trade of legally harvested fish through the appropriate channels encouraged. Also, inclusive fisheries value chain should be encouraged to ensure equitable returns.

**Strategy Goal 2: Mobilise resources for the implementation of the policies at national and regional levels**

The CNFO agreed that financial resources must be made accessible for the development and management of national fisheries and research findings and recommendations be made available to Fisherfolk organizations and their partners and allies who use them as evidence for policy advocacy and decision-making regarding the ecological, economic and social dimensions of fishing industry. Furthermore, additional technical expertise must be mobilized to assist PFOs, NFOs, CNFO as well as small scale fisheries enterprises to prepare and put into practice their development plans and activities and strengthen their capabilities in order to implement approved policies at the national and regional levels.

**Strategy Goal 3: Strengthen the capacity of the Fisherfolk organisation to undertake advocacy.**

The CNFO agreed that the capacities of the PFOs, NFOs and CNFO must be enhanced for policy and advocacy influence at local, national and regional levels relating to the key priority areas identified by their membership and the CNFO. Internal and external communication for policy purposes and resource mobilisation has been taken into consideration.

**Strategy Goal 4: Cross-Cutting Communication and work with Media**

The CNFO agreed that to ensure the general public, stakeholders and policy-makers are aware of key fisheries development issues and policy responses are triggered, implemented and monitored. Media is a cross cutting medium for information sharing between and among stakeholders and actors for setting the regional fisheries policies agenda. The use of ICTs to mobilise people and attract attention must be part of the process as well as to mobilise external resources for advocacy purposes.

**(iii) Develop a Regional Media List**

A detailed media list for regional outlets was updated and provided to the CRFM/CNFO for sharing of information as press releases, written material and any additional news on the Fisherfolks’ position on critical issues concerning the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing and Mainstreaming of EAF, CCA and DRM in Small-scale Fisheries Governance and Management. Through the list, the possibility for networking exists to build relationships with media to foster buying-in of media as stakeholders. (See Annex).

**(iv) Collating media outputs from the activities under the CRFM / CNFO / CTA project on “Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: positioning and engaging Fisherfolk organizations”**

The media outputs were identified by then Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager, being the media releases and articles published which are noted in the media monitoring in the following section. Another aspect being to ensure that the relevant materials were forwarded to the consultant for the preparation of the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan. A list of the documents is referred to in the Reference section herein.

**(v) Media Outreach on Fisherfolks’ positions on critical issues concerning implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing and Mainstreaming of EAF, CCA and DRM in Small-scale Fisheries Governance and Management.**

Material generated out of CRFM was passed on to the consultant for distribution which was sent throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Material was not presented on a timely basis to produce outreach material for news or press releases.

It was agreed in August 2013 between CRFM and the consultant that focus would be given to CRFM activities for the period of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2013 and thereafter as the project reaches it second phase. Press releases were prepared and posted to over 500 media persons throughout the ACP during the CWA.

**(vi) Interviews with policy-makers and stakeholders regarding fisherfolks’ positions on critical issues concerning implementation of regional fisheries policies in the Caribbean.**

Interviews were done on video during the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture and vignettes were produced under my supervision. Copies of the vignettes were forwarded to CRFM for posting to the website and they have been posted on facebook. Copy is attached on DVD for reporting purposes.



**Dr Susan Singh-Renton- Deputy Executive Director – CRFM at CWA 2013**

**(vii) Seek opportunities in the media for profiling CNFO, its association with the CRFM and the other organizers.**

Lobby for opinion editorials, interviews were done and articles were published in regional media. Copies of the OpEds and articles are enclosed in the media monitoring section.



CNFO Head, Mitchell Lay meets donor CTA, Director, Michael Hailu at CWA 2013 (R-L)

**(viii) Provide media monitoring related to the CRFM/CTA/CNFO Project.**

Media can be monitored to create awareness within the Fisherfolk organizations on what is being said about fisher folk and policy advocacy. Media monitoring is a critical element in any event especially when held over a period of time. It allows for knowledge management on what is being said about Fisherfolks and policy advocacy as in the case of this project. The signs of whether the news is positive or negative could be gauged, if negative the CRFM/CNFO could strategize to alleviate the negative impact on the network or organisations as needed, and, if positive, to champion the cause and build on the experience.

It was agreed to do the media monitoring for the period of CWA 2013 between the period of September to October 2013 over two months to capture the mentions of what was being said in the media about fisheries in the Caribbean. Articles related to the fishing issues and policy agenda in the Caribbean were included in the monitoring attached in the Annexes.

The choice of using online media was feasible since access to hard copy newspaper from the region was not practical due to budget and time constraint, similarly for monitoring broadcast since the consultant is based in Trinidad. It should be noted that due to the lack of information from the CNFO to report on, the idea behind the media monitoring was not a useful tool to assess impact of profiling in the media and the policy agenda over such a short period of time. It gave an idea of the mentions in the online media.

In the coming months as the advocacy campaign gets on the way, the media monitoring will allow for compiling and assessing how well received the issues of the Fisherfolks are met with by policy makers, media, stakeholders and people on the ground. Two articles on policy development in the Caribbean were produced under the consultancy which were the only ones found online during the routine search using media alerts and online searches.

**Media Work**

The CNFO has the opportunity in each of the member countries to utilise the “free” media (when organizations get space for their news without having to pay) for the advocacy campaign, through lobbying media houses and journalists to become champions of their cause and struggle. Developing close working relationships with journalists and editors will prove beneficial to the CNFO.

The media thrives on exclusive stories and the CNFO could manipulate on this through legitimate cause to gain access to spreading the word for policy agenda. Developing a specific media group of selected media persons (media cluster) to share information could help get the messages out effectively since the media cluster will have access to the Fisherfolk at most times to clarify details. As part of the strategy, press releases will be written ahead of time to provide facts on the policy issue and objectives in two to three paragraphs using key points to address the issue.

The advocacy campaign strategy includes aspects for media collaboration tp improve their knowledge on fisheries issues, this is seen as a gradual process to incorporate media to becoming full-fledged fisheries stakeholders. Through the media the CNFO and the NFOs can enhance participation and gain power with information sharing. It is possible to shift power to a community by cultivating skills that can enhance and raise the network’s voice. By partnering with the media, the CNFO can provide the network with an independent voice to lend visibility, legitimacy and credibility to the issues of the Network

**Achievements from the Communications planning**

* One of the key outputs of the strategy is to be part of forum where the CNFO’s issues could be heard, and insofar, the CNFO through the guidance of the CTA and the support of the CRFM has been able to obtain ‘Observer Status’ at the Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, CARICOM in 2013, for the first time during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Guyana. Through this observer status, the CRFM acted on its behalf as well as the CNFO to raise the issues of Fisherfolk and the industry at the meetings in keeping with policy agenda.
* CNFO met with one of its donors and was able to discuss some of the good work being done through the support of CTA and CRFM.
* During the CWA Guyana 2013, media met with the CRFM and CNFO to gain an understanding of some of the issues the Fisherfolks are faced with in the region. Many of the journalists are ready to champion the cause, which is a benefit to the CNFO and CRFM.
* Through the CRFM efforts at the COTED meeting in Guyana 2013, the bid for the adoption of the CCCFP by Governments is advancing once the CRFM meet certain requirements within a given period of time.
* CRFM and CTA signs Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation for fisheries development in the Caribbean.



CTA, Director, Michael Hailu and CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton signs MOU at CWA 2013

In presence of Guyana’s Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy (L-R)

1. **CHALLENGES**
2. In preparation of the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan, the timeframe of one month was too short a time for the production of a first draft which was meant to be a comprehensive draft.
3. For the preparation of the first draft of the Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan, documents containing over 800 pages were sent by CRFM and CNFO to the consultant without direction on what was relevant which created a delay for the consultant to review every document sent.
4. The reporting officer at CRFM demitted office in the middle of the draft Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan which proved to create a gap in reporting to by the consultant which caused a delay in the finalizing of the document.
5. Lack of information created gaps to preparing outreach material.
6. There is need for greater synergy between the CRFM, the CNFO and the consultant.
7. There were gaps in the communication process which lead to several delay in outputs.
8. No responsiveness and late response from the CNFO to clarify information and detail.
9. More content needs to be generated for outreach eg. Articles and public information releases.
10. No responsiveness from the CNFO to identify what media works best in its country to develop implementation plan.
11. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
12. The Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan is a comprehensive document which requires the CNFO and the CRFM to meet to determine what from the implementation plan could work in each member country since communication, media and public relations vary from country to country.
13. Communication protocol to be developed for weekly updates and collaboration on outputs among the CNFO/CRFM and possible consultant.
14. Strengthen coordination for organization and consultant public outreach.
15. Preparing Strategies and Plans specifically for campaigns require at least six months.
16. More time required to effectively implement strategy and plan with CNFO/NFOs.
17. CNFO and NFOs require more insight into media related activities and follow up.
18. Need for a country communications consultant to work with NFOs.
19. Media Workshop is proposed for the Fisherfolk to understand the role media has to play in advocacy.
20. For product development, focused content or research material should be sent to consultant for use to ‘develop specific products’.
21. Designate more than one person within an organization who could follow up on projects using project management techniques.
22. Media monitoring should be continued for the duration of the Advocacy Campaign to measure impact.
23. **REFERENCES**

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• Population of the Caribbean 2009

https://www.google.tt/webhp?source=search\_app#hl=en&gs\_rn=8&gs\_ri=psy-ab&tok=y\_FtIvZ294bJbi81OungkQ&cp=20&gs\_id=2a&xhr=t&q=population+of+the+caribbean&es\_nrs=true&pf=p&sclient=psy-ab&oq=population+of+the+ca&gs\_l=&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r\_cp.r\_qf.&bvm=bv.44697112,d.eWU&fp=4372f53a4ca1d3b0&biw=1778&bih=812

• Technical assistance funded under the CTA (ACP-EU) Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and engaging fisherfolk organizations project through a contract with CRFM to facilitate a workshop for the design of an advocacy campaign, including media work, for the final adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries Declaration.

• Technical assistance funded under the ACP Fish II project through a contract with CANARI to facilitate a workshop to build the capacity of the CNFO to participate in decision-making about the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and climate change (CC) adaptation (see YouTube link). Findings from the workshop were used to revise the 2011 Communication Strategy

1. **ANNEXES LIST**
2. Advocacy Campaign Strategy and Plan (published by CRFM)
3. Media List
4. Press Releases and Articles
5. Media Monitoring (articles and links)
6. Vignettes (DVD)
7. Acronyms
8. Glossary

**ANNEXES**

* + - 1. **Advocacy Strategy and Plan (published by CRFM under separate cover)**

**2. Media List**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTRY** | **ORGANISATION** | **SURNAME** | **NAME** | **BUSINESS PHONE** | **PERSONNAL EMAIL** |
| **ANGUILLA** | Anguilla News |  |  |  | [editor@anguillanews.com](mailto:editor@anguillanews.com) |
|  | The Anguillian Newspaper |  |  | 1 264 497 3823 | [theanguillian@anguillanet.com](mailto:theanguillian@anguillanet.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ANTIGUA/BARBUDA** | Independent Journalists | Rogers | Julian |  | [mediarogers@gmail.com](mailto:mediarogers@gmail.com) |
|  | Antigua and Barbuda News Services | Corneilus | Tracelyn |  | [ctracelyn05@yahoo.com](mailto:ctracelyn05@yahoo.com) |
|  | Observer Radio |  |  |  | [pcs@actol.net](mailto:pcs@actol.net) |
|  | Radio 91.1 FM |  |  |  | [news@radio911fm.com](mailto:news@radio911fm.com) |
|  | Radio 91.1 FM |  |  |  | [lawrencem70@hotmail.com](mailto:lawrencem70@hotmail.com) |
|  | Carib Arena |  |  |  | [info@caribarena.com](mailto:info@caribarena.com) |
|  | Antigua Sun | Campbell | Patricia | 1-268-764-5174 | [pcampbell@antiguasun.com](mailto:pcampbell@antiguasun.com) |
|  | Associated Press - Antigua (stringer) | James | Colin |  | [colinajames@yahoo.com](mailto:colinajames@yahoo.com) |
|  | CANA News Online |  |  | online form | [www.cananews.net](http://www.cananews.net/) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ARUBA** | Bon Dia Aruba/Aruba Today | newsroom |  |  | [noticia@bondia.com](mailto:noticia@bondia.com) |
|  | Diario Aruba |  |  |  | [noticia@diario.aw](mailto:noticia@diario.aw) |
|  | AWE24 | Lacie |  |  | [r.lacie@awe24.com](mailto:r.lacie@awe24.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BAHAMAS** | Bahamas Information Service | Thompson-Knowles | Lindsay | +242 326 5803 | lindsaydthompson@hotmail.com |
|  | The Bahamas Journal |  |  |  | [www.jonesbahamas.com](http://www.jonesbahamas.com/) |
|  | Guardian |  |  | 12423022353 | [yasmin@bluenotesinc.com](mailto:yasmin@bluenotesinc.com) |
|  | The Tribune Media |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Adderley | Scieska | 12423251111 | [scieska.add@gmail.com](mailto:scieska.add@gmail.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BARBADOS** | Caribbean Media Corporation | Ifill | Lester | +264 467 1000 | lesterifill@gmail.com |
|  | Caribbean Media Corporation | Jordan | Kaymar | +246 467 1006 | kaymar.jordan@cmccaribbean.com |
|  | Caribbean Media Corporation | Meade | Reuben | +246 467 1006 | ben.meade@cmccaribbean.com |
|  | CANA News Online | Richards | Peter | 868 764-5745 | peter.richards@cmccaribbean.com |
|  | CANA News Online | Skeeta | Loretta | 12464671000 | [loretta.skeeta@cmccaribbean.com](mailto:loretta.skeeta@cmccaribbean.com) |
|  | CaribPix- Caribbean News Photo Agency | Crichlow | David | 00246 268 3816 |  |
|  | Starcom Network Inc | Beaubrun | Dominic |  | dbeaubs@yahoo.com |
|  | The Barbados Advocate | Clarke | S. | 12464672024 | [sclarke@barbadosadvocate.com](mailto:sclarke@barbadosadvocate.com) |
|  | The Nation News | Madden | Marlon |  | [marlonmadden@nationnews.com](mailto:marlonmadden@nationnews.com) |
|  | The Broad Street Journal |  |  | 12462305687 | [bsi@caribsurf.com](mailto:bsi@caribsurf.com) |
|  | Voice of Barbados |  |  | 12464307300 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BELIZE** | Great Belize Television | Ellis | Alexander | 00501 227 7781 |  |
|  | Great Belize Television | Neal | William | 00501 227 3146 |  |
|  | Independent journalist (community news) | Efunyemi | Ifasina |  | [ifawfun@yahoo.com](mailto:ifawfun@yahoo.com) |
|  | Amandala |  |  | 5012024476 | [amandalpress@gmail.com](mailto:amandalpress@gmail.com) |
|  | The San Pedro Sun |  |  | 5012262070 | [info@sanpedrosun.com](mailto:info@sanpedrosun.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BERMUDA** | Bermuda Sun | Williams | TC | 14412953902 | [tmcwilliams@bermudasun.bm](mailto:tmcwilliams@bermudasun.bm) |
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| **CAYMAN ISLANDS** | Cayman Net News |  |  |  | [news@caymannetnews.com](mailto:news@caymannetnews.com) |
|  | Cayman I News |  |  |  | [info@ieyenews.com](mailto:info@ieyenews.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **DOMINICA** | Dominica Times | Laurent | Malaika | 767-277-7412 |  |
|  | SAT Television | Alexander | Marlon |  | [media@sat.dm](mailto:media@sat.dm) |
|  | Government Information Service | Paul | Mervin |  | [gis@dominica.gov.dm](mailto:gis@dominica.gov.dm) |
|  | Government Information Service | Paul | Mervin |  | [gisdominica@cwdom.dm](mailto:gisdominica@cwdom.dm) |
|  | The Dominica Chronicle |  |  |  | [chronicleeditor@cwdom.dm](mailto:chronicleeditor@cwdom.dm) |
|  | Dominica News Online |  |  |  | [dominicanewsonline@gmail.com](mailto:dominicanewsonline@gmail.com) |
|  | Independent Journalist | Peltier | Matt | 767-276-1758 | [matlove12@hotmail.com](mailto:matlove12@hotmail.com) |
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|  | Office of the President- Guyana Press and Publicity Unit | Ram | Amarnath | +592 223 7502 | amarnath@yahoo.com |
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|  | Stabroek News |  |  |  | [editor@stabroeknews.com](mailto:editor@stabroeknews.com) |
|  | Guyana Times | Gildharei | Ravena | +592 225 8697 | ravenag87@gmail.com |
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|  | Kaiteur News | Harris | Adam |  | [adameharris@yahoo.com](mailto:adameharris@yahoo.com) |
|  | Prime News | Johnson | Julia |  | [jajdoublej@yahoo.com](mailto:jajdoublej@yahoo.com) |
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|  | Haiti en Marche |  |  |  | [elsietheart@gmail.com](mailto:elsietheart@gmail.com) |
|  | Le Matin | Clarens |  |  | [info@lematinhaiti.com](mailto:info@lematinhaiti.com) |
|  | Online contact through forms only |  |  |  |  |
|  | La Nouvelliste |  |  | 509 224 2059 | <http://lenouvelliste.com/contact/contactez.php> |
|  | Haiti News Net |  |  |  | http://www.haitinews.net/index.php/nav/contactform |
|  | Haiti Media | listing of all media |  |  | <http://www.abyznewslinks.com/haiti.htm> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Jamaica Gleaner | Campbell | Jenni |  | [jenni.campbell@gleanerjm.com](mailto:jenni.campbell@gleanerjm.com) |
|  | NewsTalk 93FM | Elliott | Stephanie | 876-977-455 |  |
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|  | Spirit of Monsterrat |  |  |  | [zjb@gov.ms](mailto:zjb@gov.ms) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | WINN FM 98 | Frederick | Antoinette |  | [toni@winnfm.com](mailto:toni@winnfm.com) |
|  | The St Kitts Observer |  |  |  | [observernv@sisterisles.com](mailto:observernv@sisterisles.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ST VINCENT/GRENADINES** | Government Information Service | Prince | Jimmy |  | [office.api@mail.gov.vc](mailto:office.api@mail.gov.vc) |
|  | Searchlight Newspaper | Jarvis | Junior | 784-456-1558 | [kjackson@searchlightnewspaper.com](mailto:kjackson@searchlightnewspaper.com) |
|  | Independent Journalist | Trotman | Jeff |  | [jefftrot@hotmail.com](mailto:jefftrot@hotmail.com) |
|  | Associated Press | Daniel | Theresa |  | [vincelonian@yahoo.com](mailto:vincelonian@yahoo.com) |
|  | The St Vincent News |  |  |  | [info@thevincentian.com](mailto:info@thevincentian.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **SURINAME** | De Ware Tijd | Troon | Edward |  | [ewardtroon@gmail.com](mailto:ewardtroon@gmail.com) |
|  | Thera's Publications | Vander Kooye | Rachel |  | [rvanderkooye@yahoo.com](mailto:rvanderkooye@yahoo.com) |
|  | Surinamese Union of Journalist |  |  |  | [suriverjournal@gmail.com](mailto:suriverjournal@gmail.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Demerara Waves |  |  |  | [dchabrol@gmail.com](mailto:dchabrol@gmail.com) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **BLOGS MEDIA** |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  | <http://jyoticommunication.blogspot.com/> |
|  | WesleyGibbings Blog | Gibbings | Wesley |  | <http://wesleygibbings.blogspot.com/> |
|  |  |  |  |  | [wgibbings@tstt.net.tt](mailto:wgibbings@tstt.net.tt) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTRY** | **ORGANISATION** | **SURNAME** | **NAME** | **BUSINESS PHONE** | **PERSONNAL EMAIL** |
| **Trinidad and Tobago** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 103FM | Saith | Hemant | 1868 628-9222 | hsaith@yahoo.com |
|  | 103FM | Rahaman | Yaseen | 1868 628-9222 | yrahaman@gmail.com |
|  | Beyond Video Solutions Ltd. | Pilgrim | Errol | 1868 676-1776 | errol\_pilgrim@yahoo.com |
|  | Boom Champions 94.1FM | Balfour | Brandice | 868 224-4941 | brandicebalfour@gmail.com |
|  | Bridge Magazine | Beckles | Adele | 868 674-1534 | adeleb5673@msn.com |
|  | Caribbean Communication Network-Trinidad Express | Taitt | Ria |  | rtaitt@trinidadexpress.com |
|  | C.L Communications Ltd. | Seerattan | Anil | 1868 622-9797 | anilseerattan@gmail.com |
|  | Cameraworks Productions Limited | Sampath | Reddy | 1868 625-4285 | reddy@cameraworksint.com |
|  | CCN TV 6 | KALIPERSAD | DOMINIC | 1868 623-5337 | dkalipersad@trinidadexpress.com |
|  | Che Magazine | Richards-Liburd | Claudia | 868 469-0749 | chemagazine@gmail.com |
|  | Che Magazine | Mills | Omodara |  | omomills@gmail.com |
|  | Tobago House of Assembly | Dalrymple-Watts | Donna | 1868 639-3720 | dd\_watts@live.com |
|  | Tobago House of Assembly | James | Isaac | 868 639-3421 | isaacdultimate@hotmail.com |
|  | Tobago House of Assembly | Clarke | Kevin | 1868 639-3720 | kevin\_clarke440@hotmail.com |
|  | Citadel Ltd. | Enoch | Dale |  | daleenoch@yahoo.com |
|  | CNC 3 | Georges | Khamal | 868 627-5996 | khamlal87@gmail.com |
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**3. Press Releases and articles**

PRESS RELEASE 1

1.  CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 642, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize, C.A.

Tel: 501-223-4443 Fax: 501-223-4446

e-mail: crfm@btl.net

**[12th CWA 2013, Georgetown, 7 October 2013] –**The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations will launch a Video on **“Local Voices in Climate Change Adaptation: Marine Resources and Fisheries”** in the Caribbean at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Liliendall, during the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture **on Monday 7th October 2013**  at **5:30 pm.**

See attached the background and programme for the Launch of the video to be held in Room 4.

**The media is invited to attend and cover.**

BACKGROUND

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean are susceptible to the impacts of climate change and extreme climatic events. Historically, hurricanes and floods have had the most disastrous impact in the region resulting in the loss of life and property. These events have caused the diversion of limited resources from other development priorities towards relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. Some of the impacts of climate change include the rising sea levels, increasing ocean temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns which affect the livelihood of Fisherfolk and fishing stock.

These have a significant economic and social impact. Threats from climate change and extreme climatic events are exacerbated by the ongoing problems caused by human development, including inappropriate land use and poorly planned physical development, inappropriate agricultural practices on slopes, point and non-point source of pollution including from improper disposal of solid wastes.

This film, “Local Voices in Climate Change Adaptation: Marine Resources and Fisheries” was shot on Union Island in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is the second video filmed in the Caribbean under the theme ‘Working with people and nature to find solutions to climate change’. It gives a glimpse into the good and difficulties of the people as they participate in a unique mapping process, led by a local NGO, Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren) with support from The Nature Conservancy and CTA.

**Ends**

You can follow the events on the following:

**CWA Official Website**: [**www.cwa.caricom.org**](http://www.cwa.caricom.org)

**Radio streaming:**

**[www.caribnewsdesk.com](http://www.caribnewsdesk.com    www.demwaves.com)**

**[www.demwaves.com](http://www.caribnewsdesk.com    www.demwaves.com)**

**Mobile Phone** on [**http://www.shoutcheap.com/mobile/cndradio/**](http://www.shoutcheap.com/mobile/cndradio/)

**CRFM contact:** **Milton Haughton, Executive Director**

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**Media contacts:**

Adelle Roopchand

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PRESS RELEASE 2

1.  CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 642, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize, C.A.

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**CRFM and CTA strengthen cooperation on fisheries development**

**Georgetown, 10 October 2013**--During the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in Guyana, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides an overall framework for cooperation between the two organizations on projects and other activities for the ultimate benefit of fisheries development in CARICOM/CARIFORUM countries.

The MoU was signed by Mr Milton Haughton, Executive Director of CRFM and Mr Michael Hailu, CTA Director. Based on the mandates and comparative advantages of the two institutions the MoU covers cooperation areas related to: development and implementation of policies and strategies in fisheries aquaculture and related sector; climate change adaptation and disaster risk management; strategies for mainstreaming precautionary and ecosystem approaches in fisheries and aquaculture management; review, adoption and implementation of the International Guidelines in Securing Small-Scale Fisheries; development of fisheries value chains, including intra-regional trading in fish and fish products; combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Other areas include maximizing the potential of ICTs for information and knowledge management, capacity building as well as facilitation of joint learning and strengthening inter-regional cooperation between the Caribbean States and the ACP regions.

CTA and CRFM agree to work with third party organizations, including government agencies of member countries of both organisations, in addition to private entities so as to improve adoption and use of research findings, resources mobilization, access to sources of relevant information and knowledge, and outreach and impact The signing took place in the presence of ministerial and technical officials from CARIFORUM countries, as well as, the executives of key agricultural institutions who are attending the 12th CWA.



Caption L-R: Michael Hailu, Director, CTA, Milton Haughton, Executive Director CRFM

CRFM contact: Milton Haughton, Executive Director

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PRESS RELEASE 3

 CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

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P.O. Box 642, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize, C.A.

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**[24 October 2013] –** The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) expresses concern over the future of the region’s seafood reserves saying that climate change has a rippling effect on the fisheries sector.

Climate change will affect not only the fish and their habitats, but also industry performance and all the human social and economic benefits derived from this, according to the CRFM’s Deputy Director, Dr Susan Singh-Renton. She said, “The direct, more immediate impacts that we can expect to see are deterioration in the quality of the marine habitats and accompanying declines in local marine resources through effects on their production and availability.”

Dr Singh-Renton outlined that there will be ripple-on impacts for industry livelihoods and the contribution of fresh fish in meeting the region’s food and nutrition security demands. She added, “The tourism industry will also take a big hit, as the typical Caribbean vacation will offer poorer sand and sea recreational activities .”

“Caribbean marine life is being threatened throughout the range of supporting habitats. Sea grass beds, mangrove swamps, coral reefs and the open ocean will face changed conditions, affecting sea life in both nursery grounds and adult living areas,” according to Dr Singh-Renton.

The coral reefs are being affected by ocean acidification, increased sea temperatures that are known to cause coral bleaching, excessive sedimentation from land-based sources usually through flooding. Dr Singh-Renton emphasized that the region’s coral reefs are described as among “the ‘richest ecosystems on earth’, and should be carefully monitored and conserved.”

Other factors which have the potential to affect Caribbean fisheries include changes to ocean current patterns (which influence the migration patterns of larger fish) and riverine inputs, which provide much needed nutrients to local fish stocks. Dr. Singh-Renton noted that riverine inputs of nutrients are also at risk from climate change, which can alter the flow and volume of riverine material in coastal waters.

Dr Singh-Renton was speaking at a forum on “Inclusive Evidence Based Coverage of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Caribbean” at the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture which took place in Guyana in October 2013.

**CRFM contact:** **Milton Haughton, Executive Director**

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ARTICLES 1

By Adelle Roopchand

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) expresses concern over the future of the region’s seafood reserves saying that climate change has a rippling effect on the fisheries sector.

The CRFM’s Deputy Director, Dr Susan Singh-Renton said, climate change is not only affecting the Caribbean’s fisheries but the sector itself, “Once local marine species numbers declines, resources such as production, recruitment and availability will be the initial direct effects.”

Dr Singh-Renton outlined that the livelihoods of the fisherfolk and the nutrition as part of the secondary effects of climate change on the sector. She added, “The tourism industry is also set to take a big hit, as reef snorkelling and marine life are facing the effects of the increase in rising sea temperatures.”

“Caribbean fish populations are threatened in many different areas and the habitats as sea grass beds, where species including lobsters and conch live and breed; mangrove swamps; coral reefs and the open ocean are facing the threats of depleted fish stock,” according to Dr Singh-Renton.

The coral reefs are being affected by perceived changes to pH and temperature, sedimentation, nutrients, bleaching and flooding. Dr Singh-Renton added that the Caribbean’s coral reefs is described among “the ‘richest eco- systems on earth’, and should be more carefully monitored and conserved.”

Other factors which have the potential to affect Caribbean fisheries include changes to ocean current patterns (which influence the migration patterns of larger fish) and river inputs, which provide much needed nutrients to local fish stocks. Dr. Singh-Renton emphasized that river input of nutrients is also at risk from climate change, which may alter the volume and nutrient dispersal patterns of important fresh water sources.

Dr Singh-Renton was speaking at a forum on “Inclusive Evidence Based Coverage of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Caribbean” at the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture which took place in Guyana in October 2013.

ARTICLE 2

Draft Caribbean Fisheries Policy to be review by CARICOM Member States – COTED

By Adelle Roopchand

The Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has  reiterated its support for the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and calls on CARICOM Member States to ensure that their internal consultations are expedited to facilitate this approval.

The call was made at the 4th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen, Guyana in October 2013.

Milton Haughton, Executive Director of CRFM said the council recognises the important role of fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM Region and its contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, and the economic and social well-being of the people of the region.

According to Guyana’s Agriculture Minister Dr Leslie Ramsammy, “The Ministers of Agriculture and COTED endorsed the Common Fisheries Policy and commended it for approval. At this stage the Common Fisheries Policy will be sent through the Legal Affairs Committee of CARICOM.” Dr Ramsammy added that the ministers are committed to urge their Attorneys General to complete the internal reviews and move the draft policy on for approval. Member states have up to the end of January 2014 to complete the vetting process.

CARICOM’s Officer-in-Charge of Trade and Economic Integration Desiree Field-Ridley said subsequent to approval at the country level, the CCCFP will be sent to the region’s Council for Foreign and Community Relations and then the CARICOM Heads for their approval to takes effect in 2014.

Dr Ramsammy added, “Our hope is that that process can be completed in time that it will move to the Heads for signature so let’s just say 2014.”

The CCCFP seeks to establish, within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, appropriate measures for the conservation, management, sustainable utilization and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimization of the social and economic returns from the fisheries; and the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions.

The CCCFP was formulated and then unanimously endorsed by the 4th Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM on 20 May 2011, supported by the 38th Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) held on 14 October 2011.

**4. Media Monitoring (articles and links)**

MEDIA MONITORING

CRFM/CNFO/CTA

*Theguardian.com*

Tuesday 26 November 2013

**EU to ban fish imports from Belize, Guinea and Cambodia**

Three countries banned and three more warned in first major sanction against nations that allow illegal fishing operations

* [Fiona Harvey](http://www.theguardian.com/profile/fiona-harvey), environment correspondent
* [theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com/), Tuesday 26 November 2013 16.14 GMT



Maria Damanaki, the EU’s fisheries commissioner, said the three countries could not claim that 'the fish caught under their flag or in their coastal waters is sustainable.' Photograph: Julien Warnand/EPA

Fish imports from [Belize](http://www.theguardian.com/world/belize), [Guinea](http://www.theguardian.com/world/guinea) and [Cambodia](http://www.theguardian.com/world/cambodia) are to be banned from the European Union, and three more countries have been warned their imports are in danger, in the first major sanction against countries that allow illegal [fishing](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/fishing) operations to carry on under their countries' flags.

The three countries to be banned [were warned last year](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-859_en.htm) that the European commission was preparing to end imports of their fish and fish products, because of concerns that they had failed to take action over piracy and illegal fishing. It is the first time imports have been banned as a result of the widespread global trade in landing fish for which vessels do not have the correct fishing permits. EU vessels will also be banned in fishing in the waters of the three offending nations.

On Tuesday, the commission also showed a "yellow card" South Korea, Ghana and Curaçao. The three countries will have to show progress on tackling pirate fishing in the next six months, or their imports will also be banned.

The sanctions, announced by the European commission on Tuesday, will have to be ratified by the EU's council before they come into force next year.

Maria Damanaki, the EU's fisheries commissioner, said: "The heart of the problem is the lack of effective control on their fleet. How can they claim in these circumstances that the fish caught under their flag or in their coastal waters is sustainable?"

Countries are able to license vessels from other nations to fly under their flags – the so-called "flags of convenience", which can mask the real origin of a vessel. [Belize has long been targeted by critics of the "flag of convenience" rules](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/sep/26/paulbrown). The EU's willingness to tackle these opaque rules has sent a warning to countries that have lax rules on flags of convenience that their vessels will no longer be able to operate with impunity, green campaigners said.

Tony Long, director of the Ending Illegal Fishing Programme at the Pew Charitable Trusts, said: "The EU is a huge market for seafood, so it is critical that the council should act to ensure that only legally caught fish are reaching consumers. While the three countries cited do not represent the whole picture, we are pleased that the European commission is continuing to investigate other countries known for their lax enforcement of illegal fishing."

The EU imports around 65% of the seafood consumed. Its imports from three countries to be banned amount to less than €10m a year, on official figures, but the three "yellow card" countries amount to well over €200m a year.

Steve Trent, executive director of the Environmental Justice Foundation, said the EU's move showed "leadership". He said: "[This] sends an unequivocal message to pirate fishing operators that the EU will leverage its unique legislation to prevent their wilful and illegal actions that are damaging marine environments, depleting fish stocks, undermining legitimate operators and destroying the livelihoods of many poor coastal communities."

He said that unless there was a "dramatic" improvement in Korea's operations, its imports should also be banned.

Green MEPs welcomed the targeting of Korea, which they said had played "a very obstructive role" in negotiations over ending illegal fishing.

EU to ban fish imports from Belize, Guinea and Cambodia

Three countries banned and three more warned in first major sanction against nations that allow illegal fishing operations

Maria Damanaki, the EU’s fisheries commissioner, said the three countries could not claim that 'the fish caught under their flag or in their coastal waters is sustainable.' Photograph: Julien Warnand/EPA

Fish imports from Belize, Guinea and Cambodia are to be banned from the European Union, and three more countries have been warned their imports are in danger, in the first major sanction against countries that allow illegal fishing operations to carry on under their countries' flags.

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[**http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/26/eu-ban-fish-import-belize-guinea-cambodia-illegal-fishing**](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/26/eu-ban-fish-import-belize-guinea-cambodia-illegal-fishing)

*The Fish Site*

**Concern Over Status of Aggregating Fish Species in the Caribbean**

26 November 2013

CARIBBEAN - The spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers in the Caribbean - the reproductive gatherings necessary to create the next generation - help maintain healthy stocks of these species, but are currently being heavily fished, causing significant reductions.

Stocks of many aggregating species and particularly groupers in the Wider Caribbean Region continue to decline.

A joint Working Group of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), on Spawning Aggregations, which met in Miami, USA (29-31 October 2013), recorded reduced numbers of fish in many aggregations and the relatively smaller size of most remaining aggregations.

Smaller aggregations of adults are producing fewer and fewer fish to replenish the region’s fisheries.

Using scientific methods and the best scientific information available, the status of Nassau Grouper (along with Goliath Grouper and several other species) stocks in the Wider Caribbean Region can be considered “overexploited” and some stocks can even be regarded as “depleted”. The two groupers are already observed to be threatened with extinction if such trends continue, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Flora and Fauna.

The actual number of fishers targeting spawning aggregations (as opposed to species that have the aggregating habit but are fished outside of their aggregations) is low. Consequently, while management aimed to conserve spawning aggregations may reduce short-term profits for few fishers, it should ensure long-term sustainable fisheries for the great many other fishers that fish outside of aggregations.

The Working Group asserted that it is vital to maintain healthy groupers and snapper fisheries in support of food security and to recognize the social and economic value of these fisheries for coastal communities in the region. And the Working Group calls for a regional closed season and concerted action by the range states of these fish species and recommends to WECAFC, CFMC and the SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Protocol action to stop further declines.

*TheFishSite News Desk*

- See more at: http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/21858/concern-over-status-of-aggregating-fish-species-in-the-caribbean#sthash.PH3necMt.dpuf

[**http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/21858/concern-over-status-of-aggregating-fish-species-in-the-caribbean**](http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/21858/concern-over-status-of-aggregating-fish-species-in-the-caribbean)

*MSN News*

**EU threat of sanctions for illegal fishing**

02:36 Wed Nov 27 2013

The European Commission has urged EU governments to hit Belize, Cambodia and Guinea with trade sanctions over illegal fishing, while warning South Korea, Ghana and Curacao they may be next.

The European Union executive on Tuesday called for action against the first three with no 'credible progress' made since hitting them with so-called 'yellow cards' last year along with five others.

Once placed on an official list of "non-cooperating countries" in the fight against illegal fishing, related products from those territories will find themselves all-but shut out of the EU market of half a billion consumers.

The Commission also flagged up a new round of 'yellow cards' which puts key free-trade partner South Korea, Ghana and Caribbean island Curacao under mounting pressure to meet international obligations.

"West Africa was identified as a major source of illegal fishing and my intention is now take the same thorough approach in the Pacific," said EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki.

Damanaki told a press conference that for South Korea, Ghana and Curacao, "this is not about EU legislation -- we are implementing international rules."

"We are very much willing to give them more time."

She said the "right to fish as they want" had to be set against the EU's "right to protect consumers."

The EU says at least 15 percent of all landings around the world are done illegally, between 11 and 16 million tonnes each year, with international rules agreed in 2001 routinely flouted.

Five countries made sufficient progress this year to avoid being expelled from EU markets at least until March next year: Fiji, Panama, Sri Lanka, Togo and Vanuatu.

The EU imports 65 percent of its fishing consumption.

Campaigners Greenpeace said the decisions announced would "motivate all six countries to improve fisheries management and help create a better future for their seas and fishermen."

http://news.msn.co.nz/img/AAP_small_rgb.jpg

[**http://news.msn.co.nz/worldnews/8761759/eu-threat-of-sanctions-for-illegal-fishing**](http://news.msn.co.nz/worldnews/8761759/eu-threat-of-sanctions-for-illegal-fishing)

*The Bahamas Weekly*

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [NEWS](http://www.thebahamasweekly.com/publish/news/index.shtml) : [INTERNATIONAL](http://www.thebahamasweekly.com/publish/international/index.shtml) : [CARIBBEAN NEWS](http://www.thebahamasweekly.com/publish/caribbean-news/index.shtml) |  | | **ACP FISH II lays foundation for future fisheries initiatives** By ACP FISH II Programme Nov 26, 2013 - 12:07:25 PM |  |  |  | | --- | | 10473189703_298ca33d22.jpg |   BELIZE CITY-  The ACP Fish II Programme—a 30.00 million Euro programme funded by the European Union (EU) through the European Development Fund (EDF), which has focused for the past four-and-a-half years on strengthening fisheries management, improving food security and alleviating poverty in 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, including 15 in the Caribbean—draws to a close this month. With the foundation laid by this programme, new regional initiatives will help ensure that the region's fisheries serve the needs of the 15 million people who depended on them.  Caribbean Projects 1 regional fisheries policy 5 national fisheries policies 2 fisheries legislations 4 fisheries management plans 3 aquaculture strategies 5 monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) projects 5 national conch assessments 1 training in underwater visual conch survey 8 training for fisher folks 2 websites updated/developed 4 awareness campaigns  In October 2009, The ACP Fish II Programme opened its Regional Facilitation Unit, Caribbean Office in Belize City, Belize, and it culminated with the Fourth and final Programme Monitoring Workshop and Sixth and final Steering Committee Meeting in The Bahamas.  According to Sandra Grant, ACP Fish II's Regional Manager for the Caribbean, 184 capacity-building projects were planned and implemented throughout the ACP region. Of these, 36 projects (including regional and inter-regional projects) were successfully implemented in the Caribbean. One very important outcome for the region was the finalization of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and a supporting public awareness campaign to sensitize fisheries stakeholders and the general public on the importance of our fisheries sector (see HERE). The Policy is still awaiting final approval and signature by the CARICOM Heads of Government.  The programme's results include improved fisheries policies and management plans, reinforced control and enforcement capabilities, reinforced research strategies and initiatives, new business supportive regulatory frameworks and private sector investments, and increased knowledge sharing on fisheries management and trade.   |  | | --- | | 10473191853_842c83c0b4.jpg |   Gustavo Miranda, Programme Coordinator of the ACP Fish II Programme, noted that the projects supported by ACP Fish II covered a wide range of sector concerns and priorities, among them the role of fisher folk organizations in the region, as well as regional and national policies and legal frameworks, the strengthening of control and enforcement mechanisms, and the training staff across various fisheries administrations. Central to the outputs is improved information-sharing for the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and its Member States.  “In a nutshell, ACP Fish II proved that it is possible to create enabling conditions for further implementation of common fisheries policies in Caribbean countries. The region is now armed with the relevant instruments to develop sound fisheries management and control mechanisms, which it can deploy to bolster aquaculture development,” Miranda said.  At the final Steering Committee meeting participants reflected on the achievements and shortcomings of the Programme:  Nisa Surujbally, CARICOM Secretariat Programme Manager - Agriculture and Industry, said, "The body of work that has been produced by the ACP Fish II Programme will support the implementation of the ACP Strategic Action Plan, which was adopted in 2012 by our ministers of fisheries. Both initiatives, once again, underscore the value of ACP Cooperation and the work of the ACP Secretariat in Brussels in securing the interests of our group. We may be geographically apart but our main objective [is] sustainable development and poverty reduction within our member states, as well as our greater integration into the world’s economy... There is clear consistency with the objectives of the ACP Fish II Programme and that of the ACP Groups as a whole."  Antonio Recca, Head of Section, Agriculture/Rural Development from the EU Commission in Brussels, stated: "ACP Fish II has been a complex program that went beyond national and regional levels. In spite of its difficulties and inherent limitations, it has permitted important innovative initiatives, and has generated a wide reflection on future sectoral needs and solutions. We should consider it an element on which to congratulate each other. Looking back today, we can say we’ve come a long way from the beginning of ACP Fish II Programme. All three programme estimates add up to some 184 projects in six different regions."  Recca added that the implementation ratio of the programme is around 84%, and such a result, looking back to the start of the project, and even to the last Steering Committee meeting, can be considered as an excellent performance.  Meeting future fisheries sector needs   It is clear that more needs to be done to support fisheries activities in the region; hence the call for a follow-up programme to succeed ACP Fish II. Such a programme would allow finalization of project results, especially policy and legal framework proposals that still need to be implemented.  Miranda notes that the ACP Fisheries Mechanism: Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012-2016 is the framework for future programs. He expressed the need for a centralized approach to future initiatives and the need to give regional economic organizations and regional fisheries bodies a role in the implementation and management of future programs. He said that any unspent funds from the ACP Fish II should be used to support immediate follow-up initiatives.  Caribbean beneficiaries:      Antigua and Barbuda,     Bahamas,     Barbados,     Belize,     Dominica,     Dominican Republic,     Grenada,     Guyana,     Haiti,     Jamaica,     St. Kitts & Nevis,     St. Lucia,     St. Vincent & the Grenadines,     Suriname     Trinidad and Tobago  Achille Bassilekin III, Assistant Secretary General in charge of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade at the ACP Secretariat, said, “It is clear from [our] discussions the need to implement, in a very efficient way, the strategic plan of action as adopted by our ministers last year. We need to carry out the recommendations in the programming exercise under the 11th EDF which is about to start. So you can rest assured of the fact that we in Brussels at the ACP Secretariat are going to do the utmost to ensure that these genuine concerns are addressed. This is the message of hope that I would like you to go back home with, and once again the future is in our hands and the future is precisely what we want it to be."  Milton Haughton, Executive Director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), lauded the EU and ACP Secretariat, as well as the ACP Fish II Coordinating Unit and the Regional Coordinating Unit, for the invaluable work done in the region over the past 4 years. Haughton said that the region looks forward to strengthened collaboration, as it moves forward to address the development challenges to propel Caribbean fisheries forward.  The staff of the Coordinating Unit in Brussels and the RFU -- Caribbean Office in Belize would like to thank all 15 CARIFORUM countries and regional fisheries bodies for their support and cooperation over the years. Our many successes were due to the efforts that you have put into ensuring that our targets were met. | |

[**http://www.thebahamasweekly.com/publish/caribbean-news/ACP\_FISH\_II\_lays\_foundation\_for\_future\_fisheries\_initiatives31841.shtml**](http://www.thebahamasweekly.com/publish/caribbean-news/ACP_FISH_II_lays_foundation_for_future_fisheries_initiatives31841.shtml)

**Reject Queen Conch Petition: CRFM urges   
US-CARICOM Council on Trade**

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013--The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), has made a formal request on behalf of the Caribbean Community to the United States-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, to reject the petition of WildEarth Guardians, an environmental NGO based in Denver, Colarado, USA, calling on US authorities to list the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) as a “threatened” or “endangered” species under the USA Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Speaking at a meeting of the Council held in Washington, D.C., on Friday, November 15, CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton said: “We oppose the petition to list the Queen Conch as an endangered or threatened species on the ground that the petitioner’s information is unreliable and obsolete.”  
   
The Queen Conch is a high-value species, in high demand on the international market. Haughton noted that such a listing could restrict or prohibit Caribbean imports of Queen Conch to the US.  
   
At the meeting of the US-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, senior officials discussed, among other things, the removal of barriers to bilateral trade as important work to be done under the recently inaugurated US-CARICOM Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).  
   
“If Queen Conch is listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, conch exports from the CARICOM States to the United States market would be prohibited,” Haughton noted. “This would result in significant social and economic hardship for thousands of Caribbean fishermen, fish processors/exporters and their families, and fishing communities, and undermine peace and stability in coastal communities that rely on the Queen Conch resource, because it will effectively deprive them of their source of income and livelihoods.”  
   
Most of the information presented in the WildEarth Guardians petition in respect of CRFM States is outdated and simply incorrect, the CRFM Executive Director added.  
   
WildEarth Guardians recently threatened suit against US authorities, after it claimed a number of deadlines for action on the petition were missed. The NGO filed the petition in March 2012, and the 12-month finding was due in March of 2013. A decision on the petition is still pending.  
   
The CRFM Secretariat has consulted with its Member States, and in October 2012, it submitted a response to the US Department of Commerce, rebutting the WildEarth Guardians Petition and asking the US Government to reject the petition.  
   
Meanwhile, WildEarth has filed a legal challenge against the US National Marine Fisheries Service, over the delayed petition decision.  
   
The Queen Conch petition states that the species is declining and threatened with extinction due to habitat degradation, specifically, water pollution and destruction of sea grass nursery habitat; overutilization resulting from commercial harvest, inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, and other natural and manmade factors such as biological vulnerability, human population growth, and other synergistic effects.  
   
Haughton told the US-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, though, that the CRFM states disagree with the claim that Queen Conch is being harvested at unsustainable levels, resulting in population declines, stock collapses, as well as recruitment and reproductive failure.  
   
Haughton acknowledged that, “Concerns about the health and long-term survival of Queen Conch and accompanying evidence of population declines in some countries led to the inclusion of Queen Conch on Appendix II of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1992.”  
   
He explained that the Appendix II listing is used for species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but may become so unless international trade in the species is regulated, to avoid utilization incompatible with the survival of the species.  
   
“Since 1992, CITES has been monitoring and regulating international trade and by extension, management, protection and conservation of Queen Conch to ensure sustainable trade and sustainable use more generally,” Haughton said.  
   
According to the CRFM, “the petitioner made no effort to obtain current, readily available information regarding the conservation status and management systems for the Queen Conch fisheries in the 17 CARICOM / CRFM Member States before submitting its petition.”  
   
Haughton said that the listing would be “unreasonable, disproportionate, unfair, inequitable, and inappropriate” in addressing the issues in question. It is an unnecessary and unreasonable barrier to trade in the species, he stated.  
   
The petition should be rejected, as the available evidence does not support the claim that the Queen Conch is a threatened or endangered species, in the context of the Endangered Species Act, Haughton told the US-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment.

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Milton Haughton,  
CRFM Executive Director

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*Inter Press Service News Agency (IP)*

Nov 15, 2013

**Fishing Communities Will Face Warmer, Acid Oceans**

By [Desmond Brown](http://www.ipsnews.net/author/desmond-brown/)



A vendor selling fish at a market in Grenada. Credit: Desmond Brown/IPS

WARSAW, Nov 15 2013 (IPS) - Eating fish has been an integral part of the Caribbean’s cultural traditions for centuries. Fish is also a major source of food and essential nutrients, especially in rural areas where there are scores of small coastal communities.

“That is the protein that they have to put in their pot, and sometimes it has to stretch for very many mouths,” Dr. Susan Singh-Renton, deputy executive director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), told IPS.

"Globally we have to be prepared for significant economic and ecosystem service losses." -- Ulf Riebesell

For people who rely on the ocean’s ecosystem services – often in developing countries like those of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) – a [major new international report on the world’s oceans](http://www.igbp.net/publications/summariesforpolicymakers/summariesforpolicymakers/oceanacidificationsummaryforpolicymakers2013.5.30566fc6142425d6c9111f4.html) is particularly worrying.

Experts warn that the acidity of the world’s oceans may increase by 170 percent by the end of the century, bringing significant economic losses. People who rely on the ocean’s ecosystem services – often in developing countries – are especially vulnerable.

The group of experts has agreed on “levels of confidence” in relation to ocean acidification statements summarising the state of knowledge.

The summary was led by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and results from the world’s largest gathering of experts on ocean acidification ever convened. The Third Symposium on the Ocean in a High CO2 World was held in Monterey, California in September 2012, and attended by 540 experts from 37 countries. For the benefit of policymakers, the summary will be launched on Nov. 18, at the U.N. climate negotiations known as COP19 under way here at the national stadium of Poland.

Scientists say that marine ecosystems and biodiversity are likely to change as a result of ocean acidification, with far-reaching consequences for humans. Economic losses from declines in shellfish aquaculture and the degradation of tropical coral reefs may be substantial owing to the sensitivity of molluscs and corals to ocean acidification.

Related IPS Articles

* [No Safe Havens in Increasingly Acid Oceans](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/10/no-safe-havens-in-increasingly-acid-oceans/)
* [Ocean Acidification Leaves Mollusks Naked and Confused](http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/10/ocean-acidification-leaves-mollusks-naked-and-confused/)
* [Local Control Revives Depleted Fisheries](http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/07/local-control-revives-depleted-fisheries/)

“What we can now say with high levels of confidence about ocean acidification sends a clear message. Globally we have to be prepared for significant economic and ecosystem service losses,” said one of the lead authors of the summary and chair of the symposium, Ulf Riebesell of GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research.

“But we also know that reducing the rate of carbon dioxide emissions will slow acidification. That has to be the major message for the COP19 meeting,” he said.

Singh-Renton told IPS that the socioeconomic impacts for the Caribbean region from this and other climate-related activities would be on two fronts – revenues and costs.

“In terms of revenues, this is linked of course to provision of incomes and livelihoods. It’s linked to food security at the consumer end,” she explained. “If you are normally taking 1,000 tonnes a year as a fisherman, you could be taking much less than that and that will decrease your catch rates and also your food supply to the local population and the revenues associated with that.”

Antiguans, for example, annually consume more fish per capita (46 kg) per year than any other nation or territory in the Caribbean.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade for Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Colin Murdoch, said a decrease in fish stocks could also see small island states missing out on significant amounts of potential foreign exchange from the fisheries sector.

“We are geographically close to some very large markets for fisheries products,” he said of his home country.

“If we look at, let’s say, Martinique and Guadeloupe, they are very large consumers of fisheries products and are the gateway into Europe, they are actually European territories, being part of France. And so that is the gateway into a market of 400 million people and once you meet the required standards you can export fisheries products into these markets.

“We are close to Puerto Rico. That’s a large market that consumes fisheries products and it’s also a gateway into the United States and they also consume large amounts of fisheries products and that’s a market of 300 million people,” Murdoch said.

The main fishing waters are near shore or between Antigua and Barbuda. The government has encouraged modern fishing methods and supported mechanisation and the building of new boats. Exports of fish commodities is valued at 1.5 million million dollars per year.

One outcome emphasised by experts in the report is that if society continues on the current high emissions trajectory, cold water coral reefs, located in the deep sea, may be unsustainable and tropical coral reef erosion is likely to outpace reef building this century. However, significant emissions reductions to meet the two-degree target by 2100 could ensure that half of surface waters presently occupied by tropical coral reefs remain favourable for their growth.

“Emissions reductions may protect some reefs and marine organisms but we know that the ocean is subject to many other stresses such as warming, deoxygenation, pollution and overfishing,” said author Wendy Broadgate, deputy director at the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme.

“Warming and deoxygenation are also caused by rising carbon dioxide emissions, underlining the importance of reducing fossil fuel emissions. Reducing other stressors such as pollution and overfishing, and the introduction of large scale marine protected areas, may help build some resilience to ocean acidification.”

The CFRM deputy executive director said storms and windy conditions have also been taking a toll on the vital fishing sector in the Caribbean and climate change impacts in other sectors have in the past caused increased dependence on the fishing sector.

“We have been seeing less fishing days so instead of being able to fish 200 days a year you might be able to fish for only 150 days in a year,” she told IPS.

“In terms of the impacts, Caribbean fishing boats and coastal infrastructure are vulnerable to storm damage hence it can disrupt industry operations. The rural poor are going to be directly affected by this [because] artisanal, small-scale fishing employ and feed much of the world’s rural poor.

“If we really care about poverty eradication and lifting the quality of livelihoods, we have to take care of what is accessible to the poor man in terms of food supply and quality, not just what he gets but the quality of it,” Singh-Renton added.[**http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/11/fishing-communities-will-face-warmer-acid-oceans/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/11/fishing-communities-will-face-warmer-acid-oceans/)

*CRFM Communications*

 Thursday, 21 November 2013 23:07

[**Reject Queen Conch Petition: CRFM urges US-CARICOM Council on Trade**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/255-reject-queen-conch-petition-crfm-tells-us-caricom-council-on-trade.html)

[](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/255-reject-queen-conch-petition-crfm-tells-us-caricom-council-on-trade.html)

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Published in [Press release](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release.html) Website URL**:**[**http://www.crfm.net**](http://www.crfm.net/)

*Anguilla News – Spice Media Group*

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

10/30/2013

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) expresses concern over the future of the region’s seafood reserves saying that climate change has a rippling effect on the fisheries sector.

Climate change will affect not only the fish and their habitats, but also industry performance and all the human social and  economic benefits  derived from  this, according to the  CRFM’s  Deputy Director, Dr Susan Singh-Renton. She said, “The direct, more immediate impacts that we can expect to see are deterioration in the quality of the marine habitats and accompanying declines in local marine resources through effects on their production and availability.”  
  
Dr Singh-Renton outlined that there will be ripple-on impacts for industry livelihoods and the contribution of fresh fish in meeting the region’s food and nutrition security demands.  She added, “The tourism industry will also take a big hit, as the typical Caribbean vacation will offer poorer sand and sea recreational activities .”  
  
“Caribbean marine life is being threatened throughout the range of supporting habitats. Sea grass beds,  mangrove swamps, coral reefs and the open ocean will face changed conditions, affecting sea life in both nursery grounds and adult living areas,” according to Dr Singh-Renton.  
  
The coral reefs are being affected by ocean acidification, increased sea temperatures that are known to cause coral bleaching, excessive sedimentation from land-based sources usually through flooding.  Dr Singh-Renton emphasized that the region’s coral reefs are described as among “the ‘richest ecosystems on earth’, and should be carefully monitored and conserved.”  
  
Other factors which have the potential to affect Caribbean fisheries include changes to ocean current patterns (which influence the migration patterns of larger fish) and riverine inputs, which provide much needed nutrients to local fish stocks.  Dr. Singh-Renton noted that riverine inputs of nutrients are also at risk from climate change, which can alter the flow and volume of riverine material in coastal waters.  
  
Dr Singh-Renton was speaking at a forum on “Inclusive Evidence Based Coverage of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Caribbean” at the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture which took place in Guyana in October 2013.

[**http://www.anguillanews.com/enews/index.php/permalink/4650.html**](http://www.anguillanews.com/enews/index.php/permalink/4650.html)

**CRFM concerned over future of region's seafood**

Thursday, 24 October 2013 22:28 - CRFM

[](http://www.crfm.net/media/k2/items/cache/4047dc2f08c422a43c6430815243ead6_XL.jpg)

Dr. Singh-Renton (left) with CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton*CRFM*

GUYANA, 24 October 2013--The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) expresses concern over the future of the region’s seafood reserves saying that climate change has a rippling effect on the fisheries sector.

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[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html)

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/246-climate-change-warning.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/246-climate-change-warning.html)

Wednesday, 23 October 2013 22:27

[**Regional Fisheries Dialogue Approaches Climax**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/245-bahamas-fisheries-dialogue-approaches-climax-crfm-acp-fish-ii.html)

[](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/245-bahamas-fisheries-dialogue-approaches-climax-crfm-acp-fish-ii.html)

Nassau, Bahamas; Wednesday, October 23, 2013--Fisheries administrations from countries across the Caribbean are being hosted in The Bahamas this week, as a part of a series of discussions which will culminate with a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Friday, to chart future support for the region's initiatives to alleviate poverty while ensuring the sustainable management and development of shared fisheries resources.

As a part of the week's activities, the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the ACP Fish II Programme will be convened under the auspices of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community) at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Beach Tower Hotel, Atlantis, Paradise Island, New Providence.  
The choice of The Bahamas to hold this meeting will allow for greater ownership by all permanent members of the Steering, and to decentralize the decision-making process of the programme.

Representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, the ACP Fish II Programme, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Bahamas Fisheries Administration, the European Commission, and the ACP Group of States Secretariat will speak at the opening of Thursday's Steering Committee meeting.

Caribbean countries have benefited from close to €3 million in program funding since the ACP Fish II Programme began in June 2009. To date, 18 of 32 regional, fisheries and aquaculture projects are completed. The remaining 14 projects are at various levels of development or close to being completed.

The ACP Fish II Programme has provided technical assistance, training and facilitation of workshops or meetings to beneficiary countries.

This 6th Steering Committee meeting has a special meaning for the Programme, since it will provide an opportunity for regional and extra-regional partners to conduct an overall evaluation of the performance of ACP Fish II, and analyze results and outputs achieved to date. More specifically, regional fisheries experts will assess the execution and implementation of the projects which target Caribbean States and Regional Fisheries Bodies, and they will furthermore reflect on the lessons learned throughout the Programme execution.

The ACP Fish II Steering Committee provides direction and validates the overall policy and program. Eight regional economic organizations (REOs) are the permanent members which constitute the Steering Committee: CARICOM,the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

“Future support to fisheries sector in the ACP Group” will be the subject of a round table discussion which will be convened at the Atlantis in Nassau on Friday, October 25. At this event, Programme officials will meet with the permanent members of the Steering Committee and local stakeholders to discuss the current situation facing fisheries in the programme regions and to discuss how the ACP Secretariat is positioned to support countries and regions to address priority areas requiring assistance.

Speakers at the round table will include Nisa Surujbally of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat; Milton Haughton of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); Gustavo Miranda - ACP Fish II Programme Coordinator; Michel Batty of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Vivian Iwar of The Economic Community Of West African States / Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ECOWAS/CEDEAO in French); Maria Louisa Ferreira of Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (UEMOA); Hélène Massan Fiagan and Achilles Bassilekin of the ACP Secretariat; and Aurélien Mofouma of the Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC).

The Steering Committee meeting and Round Table follow the Fourth and Final ACP Fish II Programme Regional Monitoring Workshop, held since Monday at the same venue to conduct detailed appraisals of past and pending projects.

The ACP Fish II Programme, which is financed by the European Development Fund on behalf of ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of states) countries, endeavours to improve fisheries management in ACP countries to ensure sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources under the jurisdiction of member countries. The four-and-one-half-year programme concludes next month.

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html)

**Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)**

NEWS RELEASE

Caribbean fisherfolk develop recommendations to address climate change

Basseterre (Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations) 19 October 2012–Fisherfolk

representatives from eleven Caribbean countries met in St. Kitts and Nevis 16-19 October 2012

to discuss how climate change is affecting their livelihoods and to identify adaptation measures

that can be implemented by them and by national governments.

Climate change is very real in the Caribbean, and the fisherfolk reported that they have been

observing impacts such as rising sea levels, increased storms and hurricanes and changing and

unpredictable weather patterns and seasons.

This is already negatively affecting fisheries in the Caribbean. It is one of the major factors

affecting fisheries, adding to existing problems including pollution, overfishing and habitat loss

and degradation.

Coastal erosion is wreaking havoc on coastal fishing facilities. Fisherfolk are recommending

that fishing facilities may need to be relocated, or sea walls or other protective structures built.

Beaches are being lost. In St. Kitts, for example, some beaches have been completely eroded

hence fisherfolk have been forced to stop beach seining and have had to switch to other

methods.

[**http://www.canari.org/documents/CNFOnewsreleaseTT.pdf**](http://www.canari.org/documents/CNFOnewsreleaseTT.pdf)

 Friday, 18 October 2013 14:17

**Bahamas hosts evaluation meetings as ACP Fish II draws to a close**

[](http://www.crfm.net/media/k2/items/cache/fedea746cd0ecb257a1249d3a2a80bb1_XL.jpg)

Conch Assessment undertaken in CRFM States through ACP Fish II*ACP Fish II*

Nassau, Bahamas; Friday, 18 October 2013—Since the inception of the ACP Fish II Programme in June 2009, Caribbean countries have benefited from close to €3 million allocated for 32 national and regional, fisheries and aquaculture projects. To date, 18 of these projects are completed, while the remaining 14 projects are at various levels of development or close to being completed.

Starting next Monday, October 21, a team of regional officials, including eighteen (18) participating Fisheries Administrations and Organisations in the Caribbean, will meet in the Bahamas for a week of events that will review the progress of the programme and chart a future course that will build on the successes to date.

The first of the three events will be the Fourth and Final ACP Fish II Programme Regional Monitoring Workshop, to be held at the Beach Tower Hotel Atlantis in Nassau, Bahamas, from Monday, October 21 to Wednesday, October 23.

At this workshop, the Caribbean projects implemented under ACP Fish II will be reviewed. There will also be an assessment of the outcomes and impacts of the implemented projects, after which a discussion on the way forward will ensue.

This workshop will be followed by the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ACP Fish II Programme, to be held at the same venue on Thursday, October 24. The Steering Committee will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the programme’s performance, as well as achieved outputs. Furthermore, projects targeting the Caribbean States and Regional Fisheries Bodies will be reviewed and lessons learned will be discussed.

The week of activities culminates on Friday, October 25 with a roundtable discussion to be hosted by the CARICOM Secretariat. During the Roundtable event, the Permanent Members of the Steering Committee and other local stakeholders will deliberate on the current situation facing fisheries in the programme regions and propose how the ACP Secretariat can provide support to address priority areas requiring assistance.

The ACP Fish II Programme draws to a close in November, after 4.5 years of operational activities. It encompasses over 180 projects under the five components of the Programme, covering fisheries policy formulation and management planning, enforcement, research, business support and private sector investment, and knowledge sharing on management and trade.

Please note that participants in the first workshop will be the Programme Focal Points from the eighteen participating Fisheries Administrations in countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica ,  Cuba,  The Dominican Republic , Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines , Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Regional Fisheries Bodies such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as representatives from producer associations, and network agencies (such as the Regional Beach Management Unit Network) will attend the event.

Representatives from other related development agencies in Uganda have been invited to join the Focal Points during the presentations of the Working Group findings on lessons learned in programme implementation, and priority areas for future support to fisheries and aquaculture in the Region, on the third day of the Workshop.

The Workshop is jointly organised by the Regional Facilitation Unit for Caribbean (RFU-CAR) and Italtrend. It is coordinated by ACP Fish II staff: the Regional Manager for the Caribbean in Belize, Dr. Sandra Grant; the Fisheries Policy Expert at the Programme Coordination Unit (CU) in Brussels, Belgium, Mr. John Purvis; and the Programme Manager at the CU, Ms. Catherine Nguema Adjowa.

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/242-bahamas-hosts-evaluation-meetings-as-acp-fish-ii-draws-to-a-close.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/242-bahamas-hosts-evaluation-meetings-as-acp-fish-ii-draws-to-a-close.html)

*Jyoti Communications (Canada)*

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Feature: **CARICOM Member States to review Draft Caribbean Fisheries Policy – COTED**

By Adelle Roopchand  
adelleroopchand@gmail.com

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| [http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-fyGdD-pCUUY/UmYIJViJWXI/AAAAAAAAq30/Nvm7jXfBscI/s400/agr.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-fyGdD-pCUUY/UmYIJViJWXI/AAAAAAAAq30/Nvm7jXfBscI/s1600/agr.jpg) |
| At the COTED and ALLIANCE closing media conference at the close of CWA 2013 in Guyana From L-R: Chairman of the Alliance (2011-2013) - Minister Mathew Walters (Dominica), Chairman of the COTED - Minister Roland Bhola (Grenada), Host of CWA 2013 - Minister  Dr Leslie Ramsammy (Guyana) and CARICOM’s Officer-in-Charge of Trade and Economic Integration Desiree Field-Ridley |

The Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has reiterated its support for the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and has called on CARICOM Member States to ensure that they expedie their internal consultations to facilitate this approval.

The Council made the call at the 4th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen, Guyana earlier this month.  
  
Milton Haughton, Executive Director of CRFM, said the Council recognises the important role of fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM Region and its contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, and the economic and social well-being of the people of the region.  
  
According to Guyana’s Agriculture Minister Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, “The Ministers of Agriculture and COTED endorsed the Common Fisheries Policy and commended it for approval. At this stage the Common Fisheries Policy will be sent through the Legal Affairs Committee of CARICOM.”

Dr. Ramsammy added that the ministers are committed to urge their Attorneys General to complete the internal reviews and move the draft policy on for approval. Member states have up to the end of January 2014 to complete the vetting process.

CARICOM’s Officer-in-Charge of Trade and Economic Integration, Desiree Field-Ridley, said subsequent to approval at the country level, the CCCFP will be sent to the region’s Council for Foreign and Community Relations and then the CARICOM Heads for their approval to take effect in 2014.   
  
Dr. Ramsammy added, “Our hope is that that process can be completed in time that it will move to the Heads for signature so let’s just say 2014.”  
  
The CCCFP seeks to establish, within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, appropriate measures for the conservation, management, sustainable utilization and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimization of the social and economic returns from the fisheries; and the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions.  
  
The CCCFP was formulated and then unanimously endorsed by the 4th Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM on 20 May 2011, supported by the 38th Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) held on 14 October 2011.

[**http://jyoticommunication.blogspot.com/2013/10/feature-caricom-member-states-to-review.html**](http://jyoticommunication.blogspot.com/2013/10/feature-caricom-member-states-to-review.html)

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**F**[**eature: CARICOM Member States to review Draft Caribbean Fisheries Policy – COTED**](http://islandepic.com/node/5662)

Submitted by jyoticommunication on Tue, 2013-10-22 08:00

By Adelle Roopchand  
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* [Read moreabout Feature: CARICOM Member States to review Draft Caribbean Fisheries Policy – COTED](http://islandepic.com/node/5662)

[**http://islandepic.com/node/1331/feed-items?page=12**](http://islandepic.com/node/1331/feed-items?page=12)

 Wednesday, 16 October 2013 21:32

[**CRFM Ministerial Council urges expedited approval of Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/238-crfm-ministerial-council-urges-expedited-approval-of-caribbean-community-common-fisheries-policy.html)

[](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/238-crfm-ministerial-council-urges-expedited-approval-of-caribbean-community-common-fisheries-policy.html)

Georgetown, Guyana, October 15, 2013--The 4th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, on Thursday, October 10, 2013.

At the meeting, chaired by St. Lucia’s Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Production, Hon. Moses Jn. Baptiste, the CRFM Ministerial Council underscored the important role of fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM Region and its contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, and the economic and social well-being of the people of the region.

The Council recalled that the Fourteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government held more than 10 years ago in Trinidad and Tobago issued a call for the preparation of a common fisheries policy and regime for the region.

Consequently, the Draft Agreement establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) was formulated and then unanimously endorsed by the 4th Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM on 20 May 2011, supported by the 38th Special Meeting of the COTED held on 14 October 2011.

Later, the 7th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council called on all Member States and the CARICOM Secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy is opened for signature by the Conference of Heads of Government at their next meeting.



The Ministerial Council now reiterates its support for the CCCFP and calls on Member States to ensure that their internal consultations are expedited to facilitate this approval.

The Council also discussed a request from the International Tribunal on Law of the Sea for a statement from the CRFM on Case 21, dealing with the issue of IUU fishing, submitted by the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission, Africa.

The case was lodged to look into issues such as the obligations of the flag State in cases where IUU fishing is perpetrated within the Exclusive Economic Zone of third party States, and the extent of the flag State's liability.

The ministers view this request as indicative of the high regard with which the international community holds the CRFM and its work.

According to the Council, this provides the region with an opportunity to influence international jurisprudence on the question of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

In this regard, the CRFM Secretariat had secured the services of Professor Pieter Bekker, Chair of International Law, Dundee University, UK, and a partner in the international law firm, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, to assist with the preparation of the brief on behalf of the CRFM on a pro bono basis.

The Ministerial Council also underlined how important it is for CFRM Member States to participate in the negotiations on the Smallscale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, being formulated through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), when the workshop resumes in February 2014.

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html)

*Jyoti Communications (Canada)*

Friday, October 25, 2013

Feature: **Regional seafood reserves, tourism under threat**



by Adelle Roopchand

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has expressed concern over the future of the region’s seafood reserves saying that climate change has a rippling effect on the fisheries sector.

Climate change will affect not only the fish and their habitats, but also industry performance and all the human social and economic benefits derived from this, according to the CRFM’s Deputy Director, Dr Susan Singh-Renton.

She said, “The direct, more immediate impacts that we can expect to see are deterioration in the quality of the marine habitats and accompanying declines in local marine resources through effects on their production and availability.”

Dr Singh-Renton outlined that there will be ripple-on impacts for industry livelihoods and the contribution of fresh fish in meeting the region’s food and nutrition security demands.

She added, “The tourism industry will also take a big hit, as the typical Caribbean vacation will offer poorer sand and sea recreational activities.”

According to Dr Singh-Renton, "Caribbean marine life is being threatened throughout the range of supporting habitats. Sea grass beds, mangrove swamps, coral reefs and the open ocean will face changed conditions, affecting sea life in both nursery grounds and adult living areas."

The coral reefs are being affected by ocean acidification, increased sea temperatures that are known to cause coral bleaching, excessive sedimentation from land-based sources usually through flooding. Dr Singh-Renton emphasized that the region’s coral reefs are described as among “the ‘richest ecosystems on earth’, and should be carefully monitored and conserved.”

Other factors which have the potential to affect Caribbean fisheries include changes to ocean current patterns (which influence the migration patterns of larger fish) and riverine inputs, which provide much needed nutrients to local fish stocks. Dr. Singh-Renton noted that riverine inputs of nutrients are also at risk from climate change, which can alter the flow and volume of riverine material in coastal waters.

Dr Singh-Renton was speaking at a forum on “Inclusive Evidence Based Coverage of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Caribbean” at the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture which took place in Guyana in October 2013.CRFM contact: Milton Haughton, Executive Director

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[**http://jyoticommunication.blogspot.com/2013/10/feature-regional-seafood-reserves.html**](http://jyoticommunication.blogspot.com/2013/10/feature-regional-seafood-reserves.html)

Wednesday, 13 November 2013 09:13

**Advocacy Strategy and Plan on Fisherfolk’s Positions on Critical Issues concerning the Implementation of Regional Fisheries Policies in the Caribbean**

This Advocacy Strategy and Plan is based on the CNFO’s Communications Strategy which was developed in 2012, with a focus on the adoption and implementation of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, operationalization of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, and mainstreaming EAF, CCA and DRM in SSF governance and management. This Advocacy Strategy and Plan will be used by the CNFO and its members – the National Fisherfolk Organization (NFOs) and the Primary Fisherfolk Organization (PFOs) - at the regional, national and local levels.

The Strategy has scope for adaptation at the national and local levels and can be refined for future use.

Additional Info

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ISBNISBN: 978-976-8165-75-6

Publication dateJuly 2013

SeriesCRFM Technical & advisory – Number 2013 / 06

PublisherCRFM

Read 58 times

Published in Technical and advisory documents

Tagged under cnfo crfm caribbean

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 Friday, 11 October 2013 09:29

[**CRFM and CTA strengthen cooperation on fisheries development**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/211-crfm-and-cta-strengthen-cooperation-on-fisheries-development.html)

[](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/211-crfm-and-cta-strengthen-cooperation-on-fisheries-development.html)

Georgetown, Guyana, 10 October 2013--During the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in Guyana, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides an overall framework for cooperation between the two organizations on projects and other activities for the ultimate benefit of fisheries development in CARICOM/CARIFORUM countries.

The MoU was signed by Mr Milton Haughton, Executive Director of CRFM and Mr Michael Hailu, CTA Director. Based on the mandates and comparative advantages of the two institutions the MoU covers cooperation areas related to: development and implementation of policies and strategies in fisheries aquaculture and related sector; climate change adaptation and disaster risk management; strategies for mainstreaming precautionary and ecosystem approaches in fisheries and aquaculture management; review, adoption and implementation of the International Guidelines in Securing Small-Scale Fisheries; development of fisheries value chains, including intra-regional trading in fish and fish products; combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Other areas include maximizing the potential of ICTs for information and knowledge management, capacity building as well as facilitation of joint learning and strengthening inter-regional cooperation between the Caribbean States and the ACP regions.

CTA and CRFM agree to work with third party organizations, including government agencies of member countries of both organisations, in addition to private entities so as to improve adoption and use of research findings, resources mobilization, access to sources of relevant information and knowledge, and outreach and impact The signing took place in the presence of ministerial and technical officials from CARIFORUM countries, as well as, the executives of key agricultural institutions who are attending the 12thCWA.

Published in [Press release](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release.html)

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html)

**Caribbean fisheries agency signs MOU with CTA development**

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[**http://www.cta.int/en/article/caribbean-fisheries-agency-signs-mou-with-cta-development.html**](http://www.cta.int/en/article/caribbean-fisheries-agency-signs-mou-with-cta-development.html)

Friday, 11 October 2013

[**Caribbean getting ready to tackle IUU fishing**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/210-caribbean-getting-ready-to-tackle-iuu-fishing.html)

[](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/item/210-caribbean-getting-ready-to-tackle-iuu-fishing.html)

*St. George’s, Grenada – October 11, 2013 /*



Caribbean countries have recognized the need to enhance the effectiveness of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance, in order to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing – one of the greatest threats to fisheries in the region.

With this need in mind, the Secretariat of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is working in collaboration with the ACP Fish II Programme, funded by the EU, and the consulting firm – AGRER Grupo Typsa of Brussels, Belgium, to host a regional validation workshop as part of an initiative to provide technical support to produce new prosecution and enforcement manuals for CARIFORUM States.

The event starts with an opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, at The Flamboyant Hotel and Villas in St. George’s, Grenada, and runs through to Thursday, October 17.

Grenada’s Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment – Hon. Roland Bhola is scheduled to deliver the feature address at the opening ceremony. Dr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat; and Mr. Cajeton Hood, Attorney General, Ministry of Legal Affairs are slated to address the gathering.

Over the course of the two-day workshop which will follow, regional fisheries experts and law enforcement personnel from 15 CARIFORUM States will work towards finalizing two enforcement manuals which address the use of new technology in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) while expanding on manuals already in use in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Those manuals are the OECS Fisheries Prosecution Manual and the OECS Standard Operating Procedure Manual for fisheries surveillance and enforcement, adopted in 1997 for the 9 OECS countries, including the host country – Grenada.

[ACP Fish II - CARIFORUM - Enforcement - Video](http://vimeo.com/74468717) from [belizeuser](http://vimeo.com/user13309986) on [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/).

 The upcoming regional validation workshop is expected to have over 35 participants, including two delegates from each member state – among them key national enforcement training agencies such as police training schools, maritime institutions and regional/international organizations: the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organization, the Regional Security System, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and CARICOM IMPACS -  Implementation Agency for Crime and Security.

The workshop facilitators are Dr. Winston McCalla of Jamaica and Ambassador Daven Joseph of Antigua and Barbuda, who have been visiting the CARIFORUM States and meeting with Fisheries, Coast Guard, Customs, Police and other relevant authorities to gather input for the draft manuals.

At the workshop, drafts of the Prosecution and Enforcement Manuals will be presented to regional fisheries experts and enforcement personnel for refinement, and final drafts should be ready for adoption within two weeks. The manuals will furthermore be translated into Spanish, French and Dutch, for wide circulation across CARIFORUM States.

The Grenada workshop will also provide a forum for participants to map out their logistical, resource and training needs, to ensure that they will be better equipped to help curb IUU fishing.

Finally, the workshop aims to bolster Caribbean-wide cooperation and knowledge sharing among fisheries and enforcement personnel – another essential tool for maximizing the benefits of the new procedural manuals.

This initiative is the last pending project being undertaken by the ACP Fish II Programme titled “Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries,” which aims to contribute positively to poverty alleviation and improved food security in Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. The ACP Fish II project, which began in 2009, concludes next month, in November 2013.

For more information, please contact:

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  Dr. Winston McCalla, Project Team Leader - [vin5002001@yahoo.com](mailto:vin5002001@yahoo.com) or Tel: 876-999-9639

[**http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html**](http://www.crfm.net/index.php/news/press-release/itemlist/user/81-crfmcommunications.html)

**12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture**

12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture  
5-12 October 2013, Georgetown, Guyana   
**Remarks by Michael Hailu,**Director, ACP/EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) at the Opening Ceremony



His Excellency Donald Ramotar, President of Guyana   
Honourable Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana Honourable Ali Baksh, Minister of Agriculture Guyana   
Honourable Chairman of the Alliance   
Honourable Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM States Honourable Ministers from Samoa and Tonga   
Dr Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Caribbean Community Dr Arlington Chesney, Executive Director of CARDI   
Dr Victor Villalobos, Director General of IICA   
Dr. Raul Benitez, Assistant Director General of FAO   
Distinguished Guests   
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to thank you, Mr. President for inviting us to attend the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture in beautiful Guyana. I am grateful for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Georgetown. And we have been energised by the enthusiasm and resourcefulness of Minister Ramsammy and appreciate his drive to make CWA 2013 a resounding success.

I have personally attended the Caribbean Week of Agriculture since 2010 in Grenada. It is an event that we at CTA look forward to with great anticipation. We take advantage of the large number of stakeholders who are present during the week to learn about their work, understand their priorities, forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

This year, we are particularly pleased to have facilitated the attendance of two Ministers of Agriculture from the Pacific (Samoa and Tonga) in collaboration with FAO. We believe they will take useful lessons and experiences that they could replicate in the Pacific.  We have also several other participants from the Pacific attending CWA.

Mr. President,   
As you well know, the Caribbean faces several challenges relating to food and nutritional security. We must turn these challenges into opportunities through agriculture—by boosting productivity of traditional crops; developing inclusive value chains that create wealth for farmers; designing and implementing strategies for climate change adaptation; promoting youth entrepreneurship; creating business opportunities for women farmers; harnessing ICTs for agriculture and rural life; linking smallholder farmers to markets; and implementing policies that create enabling environment for making smallholder farming a thriving business.

CTA is working side-by-side with its partners in the region to support efforts that target these topics.

We have collaborated with CARDI, ‘5Cs’ and other institutions on a number of climate change-related activities – promoting protected agriculture, launching research on climate change and water management, evaluating the impact of climate change on plant genetic resources, and addressing the threat of pest outbreaks under climate variability and change.

CTA has supported and collaborated with many organizations in the Caribbean to promote multi-stakeholder, evidence-based policy-making. We played a leading role in helping to establish the Caribbean Regional Agricultural Policy Network, or CaRAPN, which is hosted by IICA.

We have worked closely with CaRAPN in organising the Agriculture Roundtables that have become a feature of the CWA since 2008.

If we are to attract young people to agriculture, the negative image of farming as a backward, low-paid and laborious profession has to be changed.

CTA has been supporting various initiatives to raise the profile of agriculture in the Caribbean. In 2010, CTA, the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, CARDI and the University of West Indies launched a film and video competition to ‘promote science, technology and innovation for agricultural development in the Caribbean’.

Open to young people between the age of 18 and 35, this proved a huge success, with some of the leading entries being shown not only on Caribbean television stations but at film festivals as far away as New York and Toronto. The second edition of this competition will be launched on Thursday.

As many of you know, we’ve also been actively sponsoring the Caribbean Media Awards, which encourage journalists to take a greater interest in matters related to agriculture and food security. The prizes for this year’s winners will be announced tonight.

Another avenue CTA has explored to engage the youth in agriculture is through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). CTA launched the Agriculture, Rural Development and Youth in the Information Society – ARDYIS – Project, which seeks to raise awareness among young people about the potential of ICTs in agriculture and rural life.

The project’s first activity was an international essay contest, and the overall winner was a Jamaican student, Tyrone Hall, who wrote a compelling story about how ICTs can be used to reduce praedial larceny. This week we launched the second edition of YoBloCo blog competitions to promote innovation among Caribbean youth.

 Since 2008, CTA has conducted social media or web 2 training programmes that have benefited over 2000 people, many of them in the Caribbean. During the first two years, just a third of trainees were women and 40% were under the age of 35.

But now we’re putting much greater emphasis on involving women and young people: in 2012, 40% of trainees were women and two-thirds were under the age of 35. This morning the honourable Minister of Samoa told us about the importance of engaging local communities in the policy process from.

For many years CTA and its local partners in the Pacific have pioneered a process known as participatory 3-D mapping. This helped local community – many with low levels of education and poor literacy skills – to document the areas where they lived, showing everything from fields to fishing grounds, hunting areas to villages. Since then, the communities have used these models to influence the way decisions are made by local governments and businesses about the use of natural resources.

Participatory 3-D mapping proved such a success in the Pacific that we decided to encourage similar processes here, in the Caribbean. In October 2012, the first modelling exercise was held in Tobago, and run by one of the people who had been trained in the Pacific. This led to follow-up workshops on Union Island and Grenada.

Among other things, the modelling has encouraged those involved – fisherfolk, farmers, local government staff – to consider the possible impact of sea-level rise and climate change, and devise strategies to help them adapt to future change. According to those involved, the modelling has helped to create a constructive dialogue between governments and local communities.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen

Real change on the ground cannot happen without the active engagement of farmers and fisherfolk themselves. We are playing an increasingly active role helping organisations that represent farmers and fisherfolk. CTA has supported the Caribbean Farmers Network from its   
inception and our partnership with CAFAN has been growing over the years. CaFAN’s impact has been clear to see. It has been effective in advancing the interest of its members in various policy fora. It is helping them to get better access to export markets . Farmer organisations are now more efficiently managed and better led, and many farmers have improved their productivity and their incomes, thanks to the support they received, either directly or indirectly, from CaFAN.

It’s not only agriculture that CTA is concerned about. We’re also interested in the welfare of those involved in the fishing industry. CTA has worked closely with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism ever since it was established as an intergovernmental body in 2002. We have assisted CRFM closely in building leadership and management capacity of national fisherfolk organizations which eventually led to creation of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations. Together with the CRFM and national fisheries departments, the network and its members are playing an important role in improving fisheries management and the welfare of tens of thousands of people who depend on the sea.

We are pleased that the fisheries sector is represented at CWA for the first time this year. And a workshop on fisheries policies was conducted this week with support from CTA.

CTA's extensive publishing programs, specialized information services and training opportunities are also providing useful knowledge and information to a large number of beneficiaries in the Caribbean.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen   
These are a few examples of how CTA has been working closely with Caribbean institutions, policy makers, farmers and fisherfolk towards achieving food and nutritional security, increasing prosperity, and advancing sustainable agriculture in the Caribbean.

At CWA 2013, CTA is co-organizing eight workshops and launching two competitions bringing to Georgetown over 160 participants. These workshops are not mere academic exercises; rather they are designed to address specific challenges and develop strategies to address them.

CTA is always willing and ready to work alongside the Caribbean institutions, farmers, researchers and policy makers to transform agriculture as a vehicle for achieving food and nutritional security and prosperity for the region.

I wish you all a fruitful and pleasant Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2013.

Thank you for your kind attention.

October 9, 2013.

[**http://www.cta.int/en/article/12th-caribbean-week-of-agriculture.html**](http://www.cta.int/en/article/12th-caribbean-week-of-agriculture.html)

*Georgetown, GINA,*

October 8, 2013

**CWA’s intent is for hunger and poverty to be eradicated -CARDI’s Executive Director**

OCTOBER 9, 2013 BY [EDITOR](http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?author=3)

Heads of several regional and other agricultural bodies today updated the media on what transpired in the sessions hosted thus far for Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA).  These organisations are partnering on water management, impact of climate change on bio-diversity, impact of climate change on pest incidents, pest and diseases, movement of plant materials and ICTs and value chains.

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Technical Centre for *Agricultural* and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Caricom Secretariat are all participating in the CWA 2013.

[**http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?p=16015**](http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?p=16015)

*GUYANA CHRONICLE*

**12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture expected to draw hundreds of visitors from Caribbean and Pacific countries – starts on Oct 4**

Written by Clifford Stanley

HUNDREDS of visitors from the Caribbean, Canada and others Pacific countries are expected to converge in Georgetown to participate in activities commemorating the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture, from Friday next.

Agriculture Minister, Dr Leslie Ramsammy speaking to reporters yesterday

And Guyanese agricultural producers and agro-processors are being urged to use the mega event to showcase their agricultural and value added products to the many visitors and potential markets.

During a media briefing yesterday, Agriculture Minister, Dr Leslie Ramsammy said that among visitors expected would be the Ministers of Agriculture of the CARIFORUM countries, technical personnel from their ministries, the Regional Director of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), several senior persons from IICA and regional non- governmental organisations (NGOs), among others.

The minister observed that the CWA coincides with Agriculture Month 2013, and the observances would be the main activity in Guyana for the observances this year.

The theme for CWA is “Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and rural development.”

The theme for Agriculture Month 2013 is “We are proud to host Caribbean Week of Agriculture linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security.”

The main venue for the CWA will be the Guyana International Conference Centre (GICC) at Liliendaal.

The programme starts on Friday, October 4th, and ends on Friday, October 11th, with a COTED meeting involving mainly Ministers of Agriculture.

During this period there will also be several other meetings, including a caucus of Ministers of Agriculture for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), to be held at the CARICOM Secretariat.

There will also be meetings of the Board of Directors of CARDI, as well as a meeting of officers of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

Visiting technical officers will also participate in a total of 43 workshop sessions for the CWA, starting from Friday.

These workshops will be looking at science and research through activities that are intended to improve various aspects of agriculture and agricultural trade in the Region.

The many scientific sessions will examine sanitary and phtyo sanitary standards, the coconut industry, and pest control in a climate changed environment, among others.

Participants at these workshops will be mostly technical personnel from the Ministries of Agriculture in the CARIFORUM countries, NGOs, and other regional organisations such as CAFAN; but local non-technical people, including farmers, would also be included, Minister Ramsammy said.

The formal opening will be held on Wednesday, October 9th, during which the Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture and the senior officials from both regional and international organisations will make their appearance.

Minister Ramsammy disclosed that the programme would also include a number of field activities, during which the technical personnel coming from the Caribbean and the other countries and the Ministers of Agriculture would be taken to various sites on field visits.

These include the Santa Fe Agricultural Project in Region 9 (Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo), which has been described as the first and most advanced of the projects under the Jagdeo Initiative, which is being pursued in Guyana; the Hope Relief Channel Construction site at Hope, East Coast Demerara, the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary Agricultural Development Authority (MMA/ADA), and the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), which is observing the 50th anniversary of its founding this year.

During the event, Guyana hopes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the IICA and the EU with respect to funding for the implementation of a capacity building programme in the Caribbean relating to sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

Another major element of the CWA is the agriculture exhibition, which starts from Wednesday, October 9th. The public is invited free of charge.

Minister Ramsammy disclosed that there will be at least 40 booths on display. The exhibitors would include Guyanese producers and processors, but also those from within and outside of the Region.

Some fun activities during the exhibition would include a cook off by the FAO, who would be providing chefs using local produce to produce national, regional and international dishes.

Minister Ramsammy noted that agriculture is the # 1 pillar on which rural development rests.

“One of the things we want to do with the CWA is to promote the idea that agriculture is for enterprise development and generation of wealth, and no longer merely for subsistence livelihood.

“We are using this CWA to reject the notion that agriculture is just for subsistence livelihood. We are promoting agriculture for the generation of wealth and entrepreneurial investment,” the minister said.

The preparations for the CWA are being led by a broad-based steering committee comprising representatives from the Government of Guyana, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). CARICOM, FAO, and IICA are also represented on the Local Steering Committee supporting the CWA.

[**http://guyanachronicle.com/12th-caribbean-week-of-agriculture-expected-to-draw-hundreds-of-visitors-from-caribbean-and-pacific-countries-starts-on-oct-4/**](http://guyanachronicle.com/12th-caribbean-week-of-agriculture-expected-to-draw-hundreds-of-visitors-from-caribbean-and-pacific-countries-starts-on-oct-4/)

*GINA*

10 September 2013

**Guyana set to pull-off ‘special’ Caribbean Week of Agriculture**

Guyana will host from October 5 to 12, the twelfth edition of the region’s premier agriculture event, Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA), with the stage set for the pulling off an exceptional 2013 event, Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsammy said.

“We are now at the stage of implementation; we went through a lot of time planning this thing because we wanted to make this a special Caribbean Week of Agriculture,” he said.

There will be 40 science sessions to mark the week-long celebrations, and several workshops including one on monitoring and management pest population under a changing climate, and another on the development of the coconut industry in the Caribbean.

Several meetings are scheduled including with the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Agriculture, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean State (OECS) and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Ministers, and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

There will, as well, be forums on Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Food Prices and FAO Food Security Policy, and Agro-tourism among others that will benefit Guyanese farmers, students at the University of Guyana and the Guyana School of Agriculture among others.

Minister Ramsammy said that “these sessions would sometimes be going concurrently. So you will have different rooms with different meetings and farmers and technical people can choose which meeting they are going to.”

From October 9-12, an Exhibition and Trade Show will be staged. Minister Ramsammy said that thus far the ministry has received commitment of participation from 11 exhibitors outside of Guyana. The exhibition will have some competition for local exhibitors because of the hosting of GuyExpo.

That event however, will wrap up just two days before CWA’s exhibition is scheduled to open and Minister Ramsammy expressed hope that this would allow enough time for the local exhibitors to get involved. He said that the ministry is hoping for at least 20 local exhibitors’ participation.

“So we are expecting a high quality, a big reception for Caribbean Week of Agriculture. Already several ministers from the Caribbean have committed to come. We also are expecting for the first time at a Caribbean Week of Agriculture visitors from the Pacific; at least three Ministers have requested that they might want to come, the Regional Director from FAO will be coming to Guyana,” Minister Ramsammy said.

“It is great time for us, not only to show what we are doing, but for the Caribbean to show how it is securing its food and how we are engaging in using agriculture to address other needs.”

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture brings together stakeholders for activities to promote agriculture and agri-industry via policy dialoguing, learning sessions and an exhibition showcasing the sector.

The 2013 CWA will be held under the theme ‘Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural development.” (GINA)

[**http://agriculture.gov.gy/guyana-set-to-pull-off-special-caribbean-week-of-agriculture/**](http://agriculture.gov.gy/guyana-set-to-pull-off-special-caribbean-week-of-agriculture/)

1. **Vignettes – DVD (under separate cover)**
2. **List of Acronyms**

ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific

ALLIANCE The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu

CANARI Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

CARICOM Caribbean Community

CARIFORUM Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States

CARISEC CARICOM Secretariat

CCA Climate Change Adaptation

CCCFP Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

CERMES Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies

CFO Chief Fisheries Officers

CFP&R Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

CLME Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem

CNFO Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations

CNFO-CU Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations – Coordinating Unit

CO Competent Organization

COTED Council for Trade and Economic Development

CRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

CSME CARICOM Single Market and Economy

CTA Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

DRM Disaster Risk Management

EAF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

EC European Commission

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agricultural Organization

GIS Government Information Service

GIS Geographical Information System

GIs Geographical Indications

IUU Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing

NFO National Fisherfolk Organization

NGO Non-Government Organizations

OECS Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

OLDEPESCA Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development

OSPESCA Central America Fisheries and Aqua-culture Organisation

SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems

PFO Primary Fisherfolk Organization

UWI University of the West Indies

WCR Wider Caribbean Region

1. **Glossary of Words and Terms**

Advocacy - the deliberate process, based on demonstrated evidence, to directly and indirectly influence decision makers, stakeholders and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfilment of Fisherfolk views interest and rights.

Alliance - The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, in the Wider Caribbean has the following organs: General Membership, the Chairman and the Secretariat. The Alliance is a grouping of representatives of stakeholders involved in agriculture and rural development. The representatives of Government, private sector, academia, rural women and youth, and technology developers dialogue as equals with the Ministers being primus inter pares.

Audience – the people whose attention we want to get through reading, listening or other medium.

Awareness – sensitize on an issue.

Capacity building – Fisherfolk and institution’s capabilities enhancement on a more meaningful role in fisheries governance and management.

Channel – medium in which a message is transmitted to the audience e.g. print, broadcast.

Communication - the basis for knowledge, information exchange, awareness and education, learning, capacity building, negotiation, cooperation, coordination, collaboration, conflict management and networking.

Control - the regulatory conditions under which the exploitation of the resource may be conducted.

Financial – financing.

Fisherfolk - people who perform different types of work and have different roles in the fishing industry

Fisher – (1) a male or female; may or may not use boats; captain or crew; full time or part time; commercial, recreational or subsistence; inshore or offshore; (2) boat and gear owners (who may be fishers or not); (3) fish seller or vendor (who may also own boats); and (4) helpers such as fish skinners, scalers, boner, etc.

Fishing - means catching, taking or harvesting fish or aquatic flora or attempting to catch or harvest fish or aquatic flora or any operation at sea, on a river or lake.

Fish - means any aquatic plant or animal or parts and derivatives thereof.

Fisheries resources - includes all the fishable resources, natural and cultivated.

ICTs – Information and Communication Technologies. This refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications with a focus on communication which includes the internet, wireless networks, mobile phones, and other communication mediums.

IUU Fishing – Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing – a term used for any fishing

Illegal – failure to comply with the legal rules and procedures for responsible and sustainable fishing and protection of the aquatic environment.

Information Product – avenue used to present message e.g. poster, workshop.

Laws - the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

Listserv - software used for managing e-mail transmissions to and from a list of subscribers.

Media – the main means of mass communication (television, radio, newspapers and online) regarded collectively.

Media cluster – a group of media or journalists identified to share information with on a regular basis

Memorabilia – items used to highlight an important event or person, creating history generally considered a collector’s item e.g.: branding of pencils, pens, etc., with key messages.

Message – main set of points to be communicated

Network – “interrelated groups of several independent institutions or organizations that are established according to a specific design or need. The members of the network share a common vision, objectives and rules and they carry out a set of common activities and rules” (GTZ, 2006).

Organization – a group that forms with some structure in order to pursue agreed upon goals and objectives.

Policy - includes formal policy, laws and regulations and also includes informal policy which may be unwritten rules, guidelines or common practice.

Regulations - a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.

Unreported - failure to report or properly report on catch and related data to the authorities (e.g. national fisheries authorities and/or RFMOs) where required to do so by law.

Unregulated – refers to fishing, within an area regulated by a regional fisheries management organization, that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by vessels flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, in a manner that is not consistent with the conservation and management measures of that organization; or fishing for stocks for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

Monitoring - the continuous requirement for the measurement of fishing effort characteristics and resource yields

Social media - Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking, eg.: electronic discussion lists boards, Facebook, twitter, blogs, micro-blogging, wikis, podcasts, video, pictures and slide sharing platforms, social bookmarking etc.

Surveillance - the degree and types of observations required to maintain compliance with the regulatory controls imposed on fishing activities

NOTES