



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## **4th (Virtual) Meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish of the North Brazil-Guianas Shelf**

**Online, 18 - 19 November 2020**

### **GEF 7 Project Idea:**

**Enhancing capacity for the adoption and implementation of EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME)**

## **Background**

The shrimp and groundfish fishery located along the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf within the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME), is one of the most economically important fisheries within the CLME+ project region. The reported value (in constant dollars) of these fisheries peaked in the early 1970s and despite increasing fishing effort, the total catch volume has been declining since 2006. Recent assessments indicate that over 50% of the stocks are now over-exploited or collapsed. There is a clear need for effective and sustainable management. In light of the importance of this fishery to the economies of the countries adjoining the NBSLME, the politically-endorsed CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) includes a specific strategy (Strategy 6) to develop and implement sub-regional fisheries management plans for shared shrimp and groundfish fishery resources along the Guianas-Brazil Shelf implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

The CLME+ Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf Shrimp and Groundfish Fishery Sub-Project was implemented to maximize, in a sustainable way, the contributions of the shrimp and groundfish resources to human well-being and socio-economic development in the CLME+ region, while conserving the structure, diversity and functioning of the ecosystems that host these species. Two important objectives under the sub-project were to have a sub-regional EAF shrimp and groundfish fisheries management plan, and national EAF shrimp and groundfish fisheries management plans (FMPs) developed and approved for the beneficiary countries which adjoin the NBSLME. These coastal countries include Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. However, as Venezuela did not subscribe to the CLME+ SAP it was not an active participant. Additionally, there was participation from French Guiana in regional level activities, the costs of which were covered by France.

## **NBSLME Characteristics**

The total NBSLME area covers 1,034,575 km<sup>2</sup> with a shelf area of 466,907 km<sup>2</sup>, and an inshore fishing area of 180,901 km<sup>2</sup>. Marine protected area (MPA) coverage in this LME increased from 3,312 km<sup>2</sup> in 1983 to 40,957 km<sup>2</sup> by 2014, however this remains well below the target of 10% of total area. From 1957 to 2012, the NBSLME area has warmed by 0.38°C, thus belonging to Category 4 (slow warming LME). It is one in the cluster of LMEs that exhibit high percentages of rural coastal population, high numbers of collapsed and overexploited fish stocks, and high proportions of catch from bottom impacting gear. This LME is most vulnerable to climate change with the four ecosystem and human well-being stressors (sea surface temperature, ocean acidification, UV radiation and sea level rise) linked to climate change having the highest impact on the LME. Based on a combined measure of the Human Development Index and the averaged indicators for fish and fisheries and pollution and ecosystem health modules, the overall risk factor is high<sup>1</sup>.

## **Recent Progress**

The CLME+ Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf Shrimp and Groundfish Fishery Sub-Project has recently (2019-2020) developed a sub-regional EAF shrimp and groundfish FMP and Strategy, in collaboration with the REBYC II LAC project supported the development of a Shrimp and Groundfish FMP for Suriname (2021-2025), completed a plan implementation review for the Seabob FMP and the Marine FMP for Guyana, and is the process of developing the shrimp and groundfish components of an Integrated FMP for Trinidad and Tobago and an updated Marine FMP for Guyana.

## **Management capacity requirements**

The beneficiary countries along the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf have limited capacity (legal and institutional arrangements, technical and operational, and financial) to meet the growing demands of implementing national and sub-regional shrimp and groundfish EAF FMPs while also keeping up to date with regional and international fisheries instruments, guidelines and requirements being implemented at the national level.

With the growing focus on marine ecosystem-based management and ecosystem structure to support blue economies there is a need for diverse management tools. In particular, there is limited use made of area-based management with the minor exception of depth strata regulations for different fisheries, mainly in Guyana and Suriname. Similarly, marine spatial planning for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management is not well established in the proposed beneficiary countries. The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) officially recognized the role of area-based management in biodiversity conservation through the adoption of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (Target 11) in 2010. Although marine protected areas (MPAs) have been commonly utilized since the early 1990s as part of broader commitments to protecting biodiversity, since the adoption of Target 11 most of the beneficiary countries have not been able to meet their commitments to Target 11 solely with MPAs. One way they are seeking to increase their contributions is through the use of other area-based management tools to increase their

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<sup>1</sup> LME 17 – North Brazil Shelf Transboundary Water Assessment Programme, 2015

coverage of “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD’s) area-based management targets<sup>2</sup>.

Effective implementation of national EAF shrimp and groundfish FMPs, and the sub-regional EAF shrimp and groundfish FMP and Strategy, will require that beneficiary countries obtain substantial financial and other support to enhance their capacities in areas of data collection and information management, fisheries statistics and analysis, national and sub-regional stock assessments; institutional and legal frameworks, co-management and related governance arrangements, fisheries management, value chain analysis, business skills and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). GEF investments will contribute to the strengthening of the previously mentioned capacities that can facilitate transboundary cooperation amongst the beneficiary countries and enhance the effective implementation of the FMPs. Funding will also assist in supporting the beneficiary countries in effective implementation of spatial management tools in general (e.g., design, implementation, coordinating spatial management efforts), including both MPAs and other area-based management tools.

## **Justification**

The project will contribute to GEF Biodiversity objectives, Main Objective 1, by mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and within production landscapes and seascapes through its International Waters Focal Area/Sustainable Fisheries/International Waters Focal Area Strategy main entry point. The project will also contribute to GEF Biodiversity Main objective 2 by addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species through its Coastal and Marine Protected Areas/International Waters Focal Area Strategy main entry point. Regarding GEF 7 IW objectives, the proposed project will contribute to Main Objective 1 by enhancing the capacity of beneficiary countries to catalyse sustainable fisheries management and add to food security and nutrition. The project supports CLME+ SAP strategies 2, 3 and 6 by enhancing capacity of beneficiary countries for sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries.

The proposed project will facilitate (sub-) regional transboundary collaboration by seeking institutional, technical, and developmental solutions that are appropriate at the local, national, and sub-regional level. The involvement in the project of diverse actors from the fishing communities and industries, and other stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, civil society, academia, and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) is key to its successful implementation. Fisheries Divisions and Departments, fisherfolk, and coastal communities are key stakeholders and are at the heart of this project at the national and sub-regional level where the project will promote strengthening of capacities of beneficiary countries adjoining the NBSLME to more effectively coordinate and collaborate during the implementation of shrimp and groundfish EAF FMPs. The project will also promote (sub-)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-08-en.pdf>

regional collaboration through existing RFBs such as the WECAFC, and the CRFM to strengthen these institutional arrangements.

Given the small-scale nature of most fisheries in the region of focus, the project will contribute to securing the economic benefits and livelihoods, hence fostering the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) throughout the project.

This project will assist beneficiary countries to adopt and implement the EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem by 1) Enhancing or developing national and sub-regional fisheries management information systems; 2) Building co-management capacity; 3) Strengthening national and sub-regional fisheries management; 4) Enhancing value chains for small scale fisheries and 5) Promoting the project’s visibility through communication and knowledge sharing.

**Potential Country Beneficiaries:**

North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME): Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

**Executing Partners:** Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), WWF, Conservation International

**Other Potential Partners:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), University of the West Indies (UWI), IFREMER, CANARI, WWF-Guianas, Conservation International

**FAO Technical Support:** WECAFC, NFIS NFIO, NFIP, and LEGN

**Project Objective:**

The objective of the project is specifically to advance adoption and implementation of EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, and more broadly, to increase capacity for area-based management, including MPAs, to conserve marine biodiversity.

**Proposed GEF Project Framework**

Component	Outcome	Output
1. Fisheries Management Information Systems	1.1. National and sub-regional information system supporting EAF developed and implemented	1.1.1. Sub-regional and national technical capacity in data collection, fisheries statistics and analyses improved
		1.1.2. Support sub-regional fisheries data and statistics working group (FDS-WG)

Component	Outcome	Output
	1.2. National and sub-regional stock assessment and management recommendations developed	1.1.3. National and sub-regional Data Policy and Data Collection Framework implemented
		1.2.1. Sub-regional and national capacity in undertaking stock assessments assessed and improved through technical training and workshops
		1.2.2. Sub-regional and national capacity in analysis and interpretations of fisheries and biological data for stock identification improved
	1.3. Socio-economic data prioritised for EAF information system utilisation	1.2.3. Support sub-regional fisheries stock assessment through the Shrimp and Groundfish working group (SG-WG)
		1.3.1. Administrative processes to capture and organise socio-economic data reviewed and revised
	2. Co-management capacity building	2.1. Organisations and structures supporting stewardship through effective co-management strengthened or established
2.1.1. Institutional structures and capacities of government fisheries agencies which focus on co-management developed or enhanced		
2.2. Reviewing and improving the policy and institutional framework for the fisheries sector		2.1.2. Capacity of fisherfolk for co-management strengthened through skills training, leadership and organisation development
		2.2.1. Policy and regulatory framework support for co-management structures enhanced
		2.2.2. ICT for co-management introduced, and cost-effective communication amongst stakeholders improved
		2.2.3. Gender mainstreaming for equality at national and fishing community levels promoted to support multi-level co-management
3. Strengthening Fisheries Management	3.1. EAF management planning strengthened	3.1.1. National and subregional multi-sectoral fisheries management planning using an EAF approach supported through workshops and working group meetings

Component	Outcome	Output
		3.1.2. Support the development of Marine Spatial Planning capacity and increase the application of area-based management nationally and subregionally through technical assistance, training, data collection and data integration
		3.1.3. Establish and promote adaptive fisheries management practices such as area-based management (with MSP), technical measures, and Harvest Control Rules
	3.2. National intersectoral coordination for EAF improved	3.2.1. Coordination mechanisms to guide EAF intersectoral implementation improved
		3.2.2. Policy communications focused on the benefits of EAF in achieving sustainable development goals
4. Improve social and economic performance of Small-scale Fisheries (SSF)	4.1. Value chain assessments for Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) value chain improved/developed	4.1.1. Capacity in value chain analysis and implementation of recommendations strengthened
		4.1.2. Identification of bottlenecks and business opportunities enhanced
	4.2. SSF value chain impacts on the well-being of fisherfolk enhanced	4.2.1. New policy directions supporting investments in SSF
		4.2.2. Training in business skills and value chain improvements
		4.2.3. Livelihoods, social protections, and decent work for SSF improved
	4.3. Risks of climate and other natural hazards managed	4.3.1. Insurance schemes for SSF vessels, gear and fishers established or enhanced
		4.3.2. Climate and other adaptation measures incorporated in business innovations
5. Visibility	5.1. Communication and promotion of project outcomes and knowledge sharing	5.1.1. Communication and stakeholder engagement strategy developed
		5.1.2. Lessons learned and best practices shared from Components 1, 2, 3 and 4.
		5.1.3. Communications to promote EAF in the public domain shared and disseminated
		5.1.4. Project M&E including mid-term and terminal evaluation

Co-financing includes Country Star allocations, Country in-kind contributions, FAO WECAFC contributions, Partner contributions, Private sector, Other donors

Components	GEF Funds
1. Fisheries Management Information Systems	1,830,000
2. Co-management capacity building	1,050,000
3. Strengthening Fisheries Management	900,000
4. Value chain improvements for Small-scale Fisheries (SSF)	720,000
5. Visibility	500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.0 million</b>