

Project Evaluation Series

Terminal evaluation of project “Climate change adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector” (CC4FISH)

**Project code: GCP/SLC/202/SCF
GEF ID: 5667**

Annex 1. Overview of activities conducted and stakeholders consulted during the inception phase

1. The inception phase ran from 15 September to 31 October 2021. Its main purpose was to allow the evaluation team to become familiar with the projects, their implementation, and achievements; determine the scope of the evaluation and the approach, tools, and methodology to be used; identify key stakeholders and their respective roles in the project and the evaluation; and establish clarity and mutual understanding among the evaluation team members on their respective roles and responsibilities, including determining how the work will be organised, and the evaluation schedule. The inception report complements the terms of reference (TOR) and describes the evaluation approach and methodology, which are the main reference tools for guiding the evaluation and monitoring its progress.
2. Activities conducted by the evaluation team during the inception phase included:
 - i. consultations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office of Evaluation (OED) Evaluation Manager (EM) and internal discussions of the evaluation team;
 - ii. consultative inception meetings with the regional project coordinators (RPC), current and former lead technical officers (LTO), funding liaison officers (FLO), and Programme Officer at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SLC) for both projects. These meetings identified particular issues for attention during the terminal evaluation and at guiding the preparation of the investigation phase;
 - iii. presentation by the EM on the evaluation (evaluation team members, evaluation purpose and approach, etc.) at the initial consultation with the CC4Fish RPC;
 - iv. consultations with the CC4Fish National Focal Point (NFP) and National Project Coordinator (NPC) in TT on the possibility of conducting in-person meetings and site visits by the ETL during her presence in the country in October-November 2021;
 - v. review of key documents including the project document (ProDoc), Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports, project progress reports (PPR), MTR report and management response (CC4Fish), letters of agreement (LOA), selected project outputs, and relevant FAO and GEF manuals and guidelines; and
 - vi. preparation of an evaluation mobilisation brief, inclusive of a detailed method for collecting information during the investigation phase, coordinating with the evaluation of the StewardFish project, and a draft workplan, contained in the evaluation inception report (internal only – restricted circulation).
3. Insights and information gained from these activities helped the evaluation team in:
 - i. determining the scope of the evaluation as well as the approach and methodology to be used;
 - ii. mapping out the project stakeholders;
 - iii. identifying particular issues that would warrant consideration during the terminal evaluation, such as:
 - The MTR focused too heavily on procedures (and their shortcomings) and overlooked the technical advances that had been achieved by the project, in terms of, for example, understanding vulnerability to climate change and capacity building (e.g., safety at sea).
 - Most of the recommendations of the MTR have been acted upon. The 9-month no-cost extension, until 30 March 2022, appears to have given some 'breathing time'

to the project to complete the remaining planned activities, which are all to close on 31 January 2022, and to hold at least one more RPSC meeting.

- The terminal evaluation is timely in that it could pave the way for a follow-up project under the forthcoming GEF-8 SIDS Integrated Programme (in draft).
- Countries' level of engagement and performance varies. How individual countries constitute potential case study material is considered in section 6.4.
- The performance of key executing partners (e.g., CERMES, CNFO, CRFM) was considered as average (rated 2 on a 1-3 scale, by the RPC), but somewhat more uneven for other partners supporting specific project activities.
- Some countries placed more emphasis on aquaculture, others on capture fisheries, depending on local circumstances. However, some thematic activities, implemented in one form or another, have been common to nearly all (6/7) countries, e.g., safety at sea, sargassum management.
- All countries have been affected by Covid-19. While the project itself has adapted to these unforeseen circumstances, restrictions in place have nonetheless slowed down activities. Furthermore, the current situation in many countries means that field visits by TE members will not be possible, and that the organisation of in-person meetings/focus group discussions with direct beneficiaries (e.g., fishers) by NPC and/or NFPs is not even advisable.
- Lists of workshop and training participants, including their contact details (email addresses), have been kept by NPCs, at least in some countries, or could be drawn from the reports of such activities.

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