



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-28 March 2014

Intersessional activities and matters referred to the attention of the Commission

1. This document provides brief information on the intersessional activities of the Commission and FAO in the WECAFC area. The document needs to be read in conjunction with WECAFC/XV/2014/ref.2: Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission (Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1000) and particularly its Appendix F.
2. The work of the Commission was largely (approximately 75%) conducted as planned in the approved WECAFC Work Programme 2012-2013.
3. The approved Work Programme of WECAFC, was subject to obtaining the required extra-budgetary funding support. Consequently, some of the earlier foreseen activities have not been carried out.

Review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2012 - 2013

4. Under work programme Component 1: "Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments", a range of activities has been undertaken. These activities included:
 5. Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines (activity 1.1), through region-wide dissemination of the report of the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean (FAO fisheries and aquaculture report No. 999).
 6. Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA) (activity 1.2), through organization of sustainable governance meetings with fisherfolk and their organizations in Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, Guyana, St Vincent and The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) provided the technical and logistical assistance to these meetings. In total, more than 300 fisherfolk participated in the meetings, awareness-raising and training sessions.

7. Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members (Activity 1.3) was provided under various Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects in Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Bolivia and Paraguay as well as at regional level to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in their independent performance review and strategic planning process.
8. Development of NPOAs – Sharks (in 2008–2009 work Programme F1) (Activity 1.4). This activity received some attention in Antigua and Barbuda, where FAO, in collaboration with CNFO and the Fisheries Division, carried out a shark assessment and prepared identification guides and forms. The work has so far not resulted in the preparation, at the national level, of National Plans of Action (NPOAs) on Sharks in the Caribbean. Activities on this subject have been limited in the intersessional period as no formal requests were received for assistance in this subject from any of the WECAFC members. Consequently, some funding available to assist WECAFC members on this subject has been lost. The only major activity held on sharks, in which FAO participated, was an International Workshop in support of a Cuba National Plan of Action for sharks, held in Havana, 25-26 November 2013.
9. Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members (activity 1.6) received follow-up through formulation of a GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) entitled, “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries” (REBYC-II LAC). This future GEF project will assist: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
10. Improve the management of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region (activity 1.7) received generous support from the **WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**. The Working Group, which is composed of 55 experts from 17 WECAFC member countries, organized with support from The Billfish Foundation, International Game Fish Association and the World Bank two expert workshops. Other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), including ICCAT, OSPESCA, CFMC and CRFM as well as ICES and GCFI collaborated actively in this Working Group.
- The Expert Workshop on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing – the Caribbean, a Beginning, was held in Santa Marta, Colombia on 4 November 2012. It developed an economic impact assessment methodology for recreational fisheries, which has been tested in Bonaire and Trinidad and Tobago.
 - The First Workshop on the preparation of a billfish management and conservation plan for the Western Central Atlantic, was held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on 19-20 March 2013: it worked on the GEF/World Bank pilot project proposal on the “Introduction of billfish management and conservation in the Western Central Atlantic Region”, the Establishment of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) and a draft structure of the billfish management and conservation plan for the Western Central Atlantic.
11. Under work programme Component 2: “Support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture”, the following activities were undertaken.
12. Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations (Activity 2.1), received attention through financing the participation of CNFO members at GCFI and through FAO TCP assistance to St. Kitts and Nevis. Moreover, representatives of fisherfolk organizations were invited to participate and benefit from most of the WECAFC and FAO fisheries carried out activities in the region.

13. Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean (Activity 2.2) received follow-up in the form of development of a project proposal entitled, "Investment planning study for the establishment of a Regional hatchery for native shellfish species", which was presented formally for funding to the Caribbean Development Bank. Unfortunately, the project did not obtain approval from the bank so far. Moreover, a diagnostic of the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to food security and family income in Central America was undertaken and an analysis of the political instruments related to small-scale aquaculture in Central America and Panama.

14. Support to the development process of the international Guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (Activity 2.3), received significant attention in the region. In partnership between FAO, CRFM and WECAFC a Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries took place in Kingston, Jamaica, 6–8 December 2012. It brought together more than 60 representatives from government, regional organizations, academia and civil society to further discuss structure, overall considerations and thematic coverage of the future SSF Guidelines. Advice was given concerning next steps and additional activities in the SSF Guidelines development process and implementation based on the experiences of the Caribbean region. Moreover, the 65th GCFI session, held in Santa Martha, Colombia, in November 2012, organized a special session on small-scale fisheries in which the draft Guidelines were presented to more than 250 persons.

15. In addition, FAO organized in the WECAFC region two regional technical workshops to raise awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security ("Guidelines"). These region workshops were held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 19 to 21 June 2013 and in Bogota, Colombia from 16 to 18 September 2013. The guidelines and their implementation should be considered in close coordination with the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

16. Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities (Activity 2.4) did receive attention in the WECAFC region from various FAO projects, including the "Activation of services and consolidation of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas (RAA) Trust Fund Project (GCP/RLA/190/BRA) under the Brazil-FAO Cooperation Programme, as well as through regular program funds in the following countries: Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay and recently Antigua and Barbuda.

17. Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures (Activity 2.5) benefited from TCP facility project "Assessment of the fisheries infrastructure and capacity building needs in the fish supply chain and fish inspection system in Barbados" (TCP/BAR/3301).

18. Under Component 3 "Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest" the following activities were undertaken.

19. Strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean (Activity 3.1) was undertaken in close collaboration with regional partners. A regional workshop on "Formulation of a strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region" was held in Kingston, Jamaica, 10-12 December 2012. The workshop was organized by CRFM and FAO, in collaboration with the Government of Jamaica, CDEMA, CCCCC, WECAFC and CERMES, with the support from the Government of Sweden and the Government of Japan. The workshop brought together 68 local, national and regional

stakeholders from fisheries, aquaculture, disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

20. A regional project was developed for funding by the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). This project, with the title “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector” was developed in close collaboration with CARIBSAVE, CRFM and UWI/CERMES and is intended to benefit the following seven Caribbean SIDS: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. GEF National Focal Point endorsement letters were received in 2012 from all seven countries. The Project Identification Form (PIF) was submitted to the GEF secretariat in December 2013 and a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) was received in February 2014.

21. Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (Activity 3.2) was carried out jointly with CRFM as part of the Strategic Planning process of CRFM for the period (2013 – 2021). FAO TCP assistance under project TCP/SLC/3401 Component 2: “Independent review of CRFM and preparation of a new strategic plan” provided specific guidance, but did not include work on the draft protocols in support of implementation of the Policy, as such assistance was not requested.

22. Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries (in 2008-2009 work programme A) (Activity 3.3) received significant attention from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). A case study on shared stocks of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guianas-Brazil shelf was undertaken by FAO, in collaboration with CANARI, CERMES and CRFM. The aim of the case study was to mainstream the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in the management of shrimp and ground fish fisheries of six participating countries/territories: Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, French Guyana and Brazil. National consultations were held in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil and a regional workshop was held in Port of Spain, 16-18 October 2012. The Case study findings were used in the CLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the CLME, which was endorsed by the countries in the region in 2013, contains a number of Strategies, including Strategy 6 “Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery”. WECAFC-FAO has been assigned a major role by the countries to develop with partners a subregional arrangement for the management of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries, and establish a decision-making capacity for policy formulation and management, as well as carry out other actions under this Strategy 6.

23. Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (in 2008-2009 work programme B) (Activity 3.4) received inputs from the CLME project as well, under a case study led by OSPESCA. The CLME SAP Sub-Strategy 4A: “Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries” provides a list of short and medium term actions for FAO-WECAFC, UNEP-CEP, OSPESCA, CRFM and their member countries in this respect. The OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC joint Working Group on Spiny Lobster, established by the 14th session of WECAFC initiated its activities in 2013 with a regional study. The study was coordinated by FAO and involved expertise from CRFM and the member countries. The Working Group obtained kind support from NOAA for a regional “Workshop on the Stock Assessment and Management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panilurus argus*) in the Western Central Atlantic”, which took place in Panama City, Panama, 3-5 December 2013. Technical assistance is currently being provided to the government of Nicaragua regarding an overall plan for the elimination of hooka diving in the spiny lobster fishery in the country. An assistance agreement within the framework of South-South Cooperation is being implemented between FAO, the Government of Mexico and the Government of Nicaragua through which Nicaraguan fishermen will travel to Mexico to gather experience in safer lobster capture

methods. Moreover, in the intersessional period FAO assisted with Regular programme funds the Government of Honduras with the development of an action plan for phasing out lobster scuba diving.

24. Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (in 2008-2009 work programme C) was contributed to by the joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean. This Working Group, convened by CRFM, held its first meeting from 18 to 19 June 2012, and the meeting report has been published as a CRFM technical and Advisory Document. The main tasks completed during the Meeting were:

- An update of the subregional fisheries management plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean
- A discussion on the national consultation process for review of the subregional fisheries management plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean
- Drafting of a resolution on the Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean to be presented to the Ministerial Sub-committee on flyingfish
- Discussion of and agreement on an intersessional workplan.

25. The Draft 2012 Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, which was prepared with support from the CLME project and was based on earlier work by FAO, CERMES and the countries, has been undergoing a national consultation process in the relevant WECAFC member countries. Its subregional endorsement has however been held up by delayed review processes in Barbados. The approved CLME SAP contains a specific Sub-Strategy 5A: 'Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries' and CRFM has been assigned the lead role, while WECAFC would support the actions under this sub-strategy.

26. Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore FADs (in 2008-2009 work programme D). The IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles was active in the intersessional period. The working group has progressed along the lines of its mandate, with the launch of the multidisciplinary MAGDALESA project in late 2011 and the participation in the JICA-CRFM workshop for the launching of the CARIFICO project. Progress has been made on the FAD design for a greater life span and compliance with navigation rules. Blackfin tuna management improvements have been the focus (literature surveys, genetic studies, reproduction etc...) as it is the most promising species in FADs fishing and could, if necessary, replace other FADs species. Experimental FADs fishing for reducing juveniles catches and selecting fishing techniques that preserve protected species have been undertaken. With the CRFM support, the inclusion of FADs fisheries in national statistics has been suggested. The French Antilles and Dominica have been testing a fleet approach, in order to have an overview of all the trade strategies developed in fishing industries.

27. One of the preliminary conclusions is that most FADs fisherfolk of some of the islands also fish on the continental shelf and therefore add to the catch of already heavily exploited resources. The preliminary results on the study on products quality suggest that fish conservation is not optimal when the fish are not bled soon after being caught.

28. The CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management, was held in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines, 9-11 December 2013. Its resolution and draft recommendation to WECAFC 15 are presented in WECAFC/XV/2014/7.

29. The MAGDALESA closing meeting is scheduled to be held in March 2014. Both meetings are expected to provide lists of advice and recommendations to professionals and developers in the FADs fishing sector. This information will be on the MAGDALESA project website (<http://www.magdelesa.eu/> and <http://en.magdelesa.eu/>), developed at the request of WECAFC for facilitating communication among countries in the region.

30. Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean (in 2008-2009 work programme E) (Activity 3.7). A First Meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch was held during 23-25 October 2012 in Panama City. The meeting, which was co-organized by Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC) of the United States of America, Aquatic Resources Agency of Panama (ARAP) and WECAFC had the following aims: (i) to review and endorse the report of the meeting of queen conch experts held in Miami in May 2012, as well as the recommendations made by that meeting; (ii) to review the present situation of queen conch management in the region via country presentations and presentations from CRFM, OSPESCA, and CITES, and how this would relate to current preparations for CITES. The meeting discussed a proposal put forward by Colombia for consideration of developments within the region; (iii) to formulate a regional declaration on queen conch that would take into account the results of (i) and (ii) and guide the way forward.

31. The meeting adopted a Declaration of Panama City on further improving the management and conservation of the queen conch resource in the Wider Caribbean Region, and a draft decision to support the proposal by Colombia submitted to CITES to inform that body of recent activities and achievements in regional cooperation on the management and trade of queen conch. The WECAFC Secretariat ensured continuous updates on the issue and effective collaboration between the stakeholders involved. This resulted at the 16th Conference of Parties of CITES in global level appreciation for the work of the Working Group and endorsement of the draft decisions prepared. A major step forward was made by the countries in the Caribbean to conserve and manage this important regional resource of Queen Conch –*Strombus gigas*. Harmonization of Queen Conch processing conversion factors in the region is continuing with support from FAO Headquarters.

32. Moreover, in the intersessional period the CLME project' SAP development process led to a Sub-Strategy 4B "Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for the queen conch fisheries" in the approved SAP. FAO-WECAFC, UNEP-CEP, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, CITES were assigned major roles in the implementation of that strategy.

33. Reactivation of the CFMC/WECAFC Nassau Grouper Working Group (Activity 3.8) took place through establishment of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations, with clear Terms of Reference, at the 14th session of WECAFC. The Working Group was convened by CFMC and organized a first meeting in Miami in the period 29-31 October 2013. The draft recommendation from this Working Group was reviewed and cleared by the 6th session of the WECAFC SAG for final review and endorsement by WECAFC 15. The draft recommendation to WECAFC 15 is presented in WECAFC/XV/2014/7.

34. The Terms of References of the various joint Working Groups can be found in Appendices G to L of the WECAFC/XV/2014/Ref.2.

35. Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies (Activity 3.9). In the intersessional period the WECAFC Secretariat ensured sharing of important information between the members of the commission and with other regional partners (OSPESCA, CRFM, CLME, CNFO, RAA, OLDEPESCA, ICCAT, UWI/CERMES, ACP Fish II, etc) and NGOs such as PEW, IGFA, TBF, CANARI and GCFI. Frequent and timely communications were provided in English and sometimes also in Spanish language. Participation in regional events increased the visibility of WECAFC in the region among sectoral stakeholders and those of other

sectors. Participation in the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) ensured exchange of important information and lessons learned with other RFBs.

36. Under Component 4: “Manage the work programme and carry out a strategic reorientation of the functions and mandate of the Commission”, the following activities were undertaken.

37. The organization of the fourteenth session of the Commission in 2012 and the 6th SAG meeting in 2013 (Activities 4.1 and 4.2) were carried out successfully and the report of the 14th session was prepared and sent to all members. Recommendations of the 14th session have received followed-up from the Secretariat and many of the WECAFC members.

38. The preparation for the organization of the fifteenth session of the Commission in 2014 (Activity 4.3) started in December 2012. Formal confirmation from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago regarding hosting the session was obtained in September 2013 and in close collaboration with the Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago the session was organized.

39. The WECAFC priority setting and work planning workshop in 2013 (Activity 4.4), although requested formally by 12 members of the Commission in February 2012 could not be organized in 2013 as no funding was available within FAO for this activity. The WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop was held, with support from the Government of France, the Préfecture de Guadeloupe, the European Union and FAO, in Guadeloupe on 29-30 January 2014. The workshop discussed the WECAFC Performance Review, draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure, options for reorientation and a draft strategic plan. The recommendations from this workshop can be found in WECAFC/XV/2014/Ref.16.

Projects

40. A number of FAO projects have been carried out in the WECAFC region in the period 2012 - 2013. The most notable projects are described in summary below.

(sub) Regional TCP projects

- Establecimiento de un Programa de Cooperación para el Manejo Sostenible de las Pesquerías Fluviales en los Tramos Limítrofes de los Ríos Paraná y Paraguay. (TCP/RLA/3302).

Regional TCP facility projects

- Independent review of CRFM and preparation of a new strategic plan (TCP/SLC/3401 component 2)

National level TCP and TCP facility projects

Antigua and Barbuda

- Fisheries Component - Zero Hunger Challenge (TCP/ANT/3401 facility component 2)

Bahamas

- Strengthening Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance in the Bahamas (TCP formulated in 2013 for starting in 2014)

Barbados

- Assessment of the fisheries infrastructure and capacity building needs in the fish supply chain and fish inspection system in Barbados (TCP/BAR/3301 facility component 2).

Belize

- Review and validation of draft fisheries regulations for Belize (TCP/BZE/3401 facility component 2)

Colombia

- Apoyo Técnico y estratégico de la FAO al Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural en la formulación e implementación del Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario y pesquero de la Región de La Mojana en Colombia (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1)
- Soporte técnico a la Gobernación SAN ANDRES para implementación de estrategia integral de SAN, y la formulación participativa de un plan para el desarrollo agrícola y la pesca artesanal en el Archipiélago de San Andrés y Providencia. (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1)
- Assistance to the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority of Colombia in the formulation of the National Sustainable Aquaculture Development Plan

Cuba

- Desarrollo del Programa Nacional sobre Genética para peces de agua dulce (TCP formulated in 2013 for starting in 2014)

Dominica

- Assistance to improve disaster risk management capacities in agricultural sectors (Phase II of TCP/DMI/3203)

Dominican Republic

- Asistencia para la formulación de una propuesta de desarrollo pesquero-acuícola del Lago Enriquillo (TCP/DOM/3401 facility)

Guyana

- Development of a Policy and a Strategic Plan for Inland Fisheries in Guyana, (TCP/GUY/3301).
- Assistance in support of Building Capacity in Agro-Processing and Upgrading of Fisheries Studies programme at the Guyana School of Agriculture (TCP/GUY/3401 facility component 3)

Jamaica

- Formulation of an aquaculture development plan for Jamaica (TCP/JAM/3301).

Nicaragua

- Technical assistance for the implementation of a Strategy for artisanal fisheries development in the RAAN (TCP/NIC/3305).

Panama

- Intervención piloto para la elaboración y validación de una propuesta de asistencia técnica integral dirigida a la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en las comarcas indígenas Gunayala y Ngäbe Buglé de Panamá (TCP/PAN/3401).

St. Kitts and Nevis

- Strengthening Fisherfolk Organizations in St. Kitts and Nevis (TCP/STK/3401 facility component 1)

St Lucia

- Strengthening the National Standards and Certification System for Major Agricultural Products in St Lucia (TCP/STL/3401 facility component 2) – includes aquaculture code of practice
- Enhanced capacities for disaster risk mitigation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. (TCP/STL/3202).

Suriname

- Strengthening Aquatic Animal Health Protection Systems in Suriname (TCP/SUR/3401).

Venezuela

- Fortalecimiento de Capacidades Nacionales para la ejecución de proyectos de acuicultura en zonas urbanas y periurbanas en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela (TCP/VEN/3301 facility component 2)

Regional and National level Trust Fund activities supported by FAO**Regional**

- Activación de los servicios y consolidación de la Red de Acuicultura de las Américas (RAA) (GCP/RLA/190/BRA) The beneficiary/signatory countries of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas are: Argentina, Brasil, Bolívia, Colômbia Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.
- FAO participated actively in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of GEF.
- Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) of this GEF International Waters project was approved in September 2013. The Full project document is being worked on. The project beneficiary countries include: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

Brazil

- Increasing the national aquaculture competitiveness (UTF/BRA/084)

Colombia

- Support to institutional strengthening of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority of Colombia (UTF/COL/041)

Haiti

- Initiative OMD - programme d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire en Haiti (GCP/HAI/030/EC) – includes some fisheries and aquaculture activities

Mexico

- Assistance to the Government of Campeche, Mexico in the formulation of the State Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (UTF/MEX/099)

Trinidad

- ‘Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago’. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved in June 2012 the concept note of this project, which contains a Marine Protected area component. The project document for the full project was developed in 2013.

Global Trust Fund Projects with relevance to the WECAFC region and WECAFC membership

- Various WECAFC members have supported FAO fisheries projects in the WECAFC region and at global level.
- The **Government of France** is financing a global project on “Development of a data base on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems of the high seas”, 2011 -2014 (GCP/GLO/309/FRA).
- The **Government of Spain** is financing a national programme for food security in Nicaragua, which includes various fisheries/aquaculture activities. Ampliación del Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA) en la Zona Seca de Nicaragua (GCSP/NIC/027/SPA).
- The **Government of Japan** has been financing various global FAO programmes and projects in recent years, of which some are of relevance to the fisheries sector in the WECAFC area. Those with most relevance are the following:
 - Project “Promotion of sustainable fisheries: support for strengthening functions of and coordination among Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)/ Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)”, 2008 -2012 (GCP/INT/069/JPN), supported amongst others the development of the Regional Fishery Body Network (RSN) in which the WECAFC Secretary participates.
 - Project “Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context”, 2009 -2014, (GCP/INT/253/JPN), included two focus areas with activities of interested for the WECAFC region.
- The **European Union** is supporting the global project on Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN) (GCP /GLO/363/EC), which incorporates various WECAFC members.

Regional and National level activities in the WECAFC region supported by the FAO Regular Programme

41. The FAO regular programme financially and technically supported the following fisheries and aquaculture activities and events in the WECAFC member countries:

- CNFO sustainable governance meetings with fisherfolk and their organizations in Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, Guyana, St Vincent & The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- A review of current fisheries management performance and conservation measures in the WECAFC region (carried out in collaboration with CRFM).
- Preparation of a special session on recreational fisheries governance for the 7th World Recreational Fisheries Conference (WRFC) and background paper preparation.

- Annual compilation of catch statistics for area 31 (WECAFC) and dissemination to the member states.
- Organization of a special session on small-scale fisheries at the 65th GCFI session, Santa Martha, Colombia, November 2012.
- Regional workshop on national resource-limited aquaculture farmers policies. Guayaquil, Ecuador, May, 2013.
- Subregional workshop on the impact of national political instruments on the development of small-scale aquaculture in the Centralamerican countries, 17-18 septembre 2012, Panamá City, Panama.
- Subregional workshop with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Authorities: Creating a Regional Agenda for sustainable development of aquaculture and fisheries in Central America.
- Assistance provision to OSPESCA members to better design and manage their national fishing vessel registries, and to further integrate the national registries from OSPESCA members into an integrated fishing vessels registry (as today's SICA).

Some FAO Publications with relevance for WECAFC and its membership

42. In the last few years, a number of FAO publications and joint publications with partners of relevance to the WECAFC members have been published. These include the following:

- Report of the FAO/CRFM/WECAFC Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, Kingston, Jamaica, 6–8 December 2012. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1033. Rome, FAO. 2013.
- Report of the first meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, Panama City, Panama, 23–25 October 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1029. Bridgetown, Barbados. FAO. 2013.
- Report of the fourteenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Panama City, Panama, 6-9 February 2012. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1000. FAO, Bridgetown, Barbados. 2012.
- Report of the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean: Achieving Improved Fisheries Management and Utilization in the Wider Caribbean Region, Bridgetown, Barbados, 6–9 December 2011. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 999. FAO, Bridgetown, Barbados. 2012.
- Report of the Final Regional Workshop: case study on shared stocks of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guiana's-Brazil shelf, Port-of-Spain, 16-18 October 2012, CLME Case Study on shrimp and groundfish - Report. No.10, Rome, FAO. 2012. 25p.
- Report of the First Meeting of the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, 18 – 19 June 2012, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2012 / 12.

- Flores-Nava, A. 2012. Diagnóstico Regional de la acuicultura de recursos limitados y la Acuicultura de la micro y pequeña empresa en América Latina. Serie Acuicultura y Pesca en Latinoamérica No. 7. FAO- Santiago, Chile. 26p.
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Suggested Action by the Session

43. The Commission is invited to review the intersessional activities and progress made on the implementation of the Work Programme for the 2012–2013 biennium.
44. Particularly, the Commission is requested to:
 - Advise on the maintenance, abolition or establishment of WECAFC Working Groups and Committees, including some joint working groups with CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC, while taking in consideration the deliberations of the 6th SAG session on these matters.
45. WECAFC members are requested to take into account the limited resources (financial and human), which are presently available to the WECAFC Secretariat. They are invited to consider volunteering their support, in-kind and/or financially, to specific activities of the various Working Groups and other activities under the proposed Work Programme (see WECAFC/XV/2014/14) or to other activities that they wish to include in the programme. This might also galvanize additional support where needed.