



DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP AND LIVELIHOODS IN CARIBBEAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES (STEWARDFISH)

The Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) project recognized that there were a number of challenges hindering the engagement of fisherfolk and their organizations in the sustainable management of fisheries in the Caribbean region, including limited capacity of fisherfolk organizations to participate effectively in fisheries governance; insufficient capacity and knowledge of ecosystem stewardship practices for fisheries sustainability among fisherfolk; inadequate public awareness of ecosystem approaches to support best practices and ensure compliance; inadequate documentation of successful experiences and practices for sustainable fisheries livelihood strategies; and inadequate management and collaboration mechanisms to support fisherfolk leaders in monitoring and evaluating projects. In addressing these constraints, the project supported the implementation of the ten-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Under StewardFish, the organizational capacities of six National Fisherfolk Organizations (NFOs) and one lead Primary Fisherfolk Organization (PFO) were strengthened. Activities on creating an enabling environment for ecosystem stewardship were carried out, and support was provided to fisherfolk and their organizations to take the lead in practicing stewardship. To ensure the ongoing development of capacities for fisherfolk and their organizations, the project established the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations Leadership Institute (CNFO LI), and a Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries was developed and endorsed by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

In relation to securing sustainable livelihoods for food and nutrition security, the project evaluated and shared lessons learned from fisheries-related livelihoods and socioeconomic projects; conducted value chain analyses of key small-scale fisheries, and made recommendations to enhance sustainability and identified livelihood opportunities, while examining public policy and private sector purchasing practices and making recommendations to improve consumption and intraregional trade of seafood.

At the leadership level, constraints to the participation of women and youth were identified and addressed through capacity building in leadership and gender-sensitive project cycle management, with the cadre of women and youth mobilized and trained during these activities remaining engaged throughout the project.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 776 482

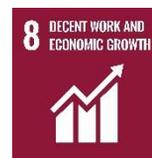
Duration
May 2018 – June 2022

Resource Partners
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Beneficiaries
Fisheries authorities and fisherfolk organizations in the targeted countries

IMPACT

StewardFish supported the implementation of the CLME+ SAP by empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels. The results from StewardFish contributed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life below water) by assisting in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. The project also contributed to the achievement of SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) by sharing lessons learned from fisheries-related livelihoods and socioeconomic initiatives and identifying livelihood opportunities. In addition, it contributed to the achievement of SDG 5 (Gender equality) by strengthening the capacity and networking of fisherfolk leaders (including women and youth) for policy engagement.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- Evaluation of the use of ICT in governance by NFOs/lead PFO, and capacity building to improve such utilization, including the provision of hardware and software.
- Gender analysis to identify the capacity gaps of men and women, especially youth, in relation to fisherfolk leadership, and capacity building to address priority needs.
- Identification of gaps and capacity building to improve NFO engagement in fisheries policy.
- Institutional analyses and organizational assessments of key fisheries-related state agencies, and implementation of pilots to address priority gaps.
- Fisherfolk leaders trained and mentored in the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and to better participate in coastal zone management.
- Ecosystem stewardship pilots implemented.
- Small-scale fisheries value chain analyses conducted and opportunities for livelihoods and marketing identified.
- Meetings held to monitor and evaluate StewardFish implementation, with lessons learned documented.



Partners

Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda; Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy, Barbados; Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development, Belize; Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana; National Fisheries Authority (formerly the Fisheries Division) of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica; Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Saint Lucia; Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI); University of the West Indies Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES); Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO); University of the West Indies Caribbean ICT Research Programme (UWI-CIRP); Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Project Title

Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish)

Project Code

FAO: GCP/SLC/211/GFF
Donor: 9720

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