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Report of the

**THIRD ANNUAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING –
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN
FISHERIES SECTOR – CC4FISH**

Bridgetown, Barbados, 16–17 April 2019



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the report of the Third Annual Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), held in Barbados, UN House, 16–17 April 2019.

The third regional meeting was hosted by the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SLC). Technical coordination and facilitation for the workshop was provided by Ms Iris Monnereau, Regional Project Coordinator, Mrs Yvette Diei-Ouadi, Lead Technical Officer, and Ms Tarub Bahri, Technical Officer Headquarters. Administrative and logistical support was provided by FAO, and coordinated by Ms Celestine Moe, Ms Deborah Harewood and Ms Grace Ann Brome.

The workshop was made possible with support from the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), which provided the funding for the third regional meeting. This report contains a summary of the presentations, and conclusions of the workshop.

ABSTRACT

The Third Annual Project Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/FAO Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH) was held at UN House, Barbados, 16–17 April 2019. The meeting brought together 24 representatives from the project countries, partner organizations and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery of the project to highlight the progress made to date by each partner. Project countries and partners presented a review of their activities carried out during 2018 and their annual workplans and budgets for 2019. The discussions included the need and road to ensure a timely delivery of the project outcomes. In addition there were discussions on lessons learned and opportunities for further development of the project to ensure increased resilience and reduction of vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector. The main topics discussed during the workshop included capacity building, sargassum impacts, aquaculture development, fisheries management plans, vulnerability assessments and communication.

CONTENTS

Preparation of this document	iii
Abstract.....	iv
Abbreviations and acronyms	vii
Introduction	1
Opening of the meeting	1
Attendance.....	2
Election of chairpersons and rapporteurs	2
Adoption of the agenda	2
Project background	2
Project country reports	3
Antigua and Barbuda	3
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3
Saint Lucia	4
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines.....	5
Grenada.....	6
Trinidad and Tobago.....	7
Dominica.....	8
Partners reports.....	8
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	8
The University of The West Indies Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP).....	9
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	10
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)	10
The University of The West Indies Cave Hill Centre For Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES).....	11
Regional project coordination	12
Next steps.....	13
Appendix A: List of participants	14
Appendix B: Agenda and timetable.....	15

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AWP/B	Annual workplan and budget
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CC4FISH	Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project
CCA	Climate change adaptation
CCCFP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
UWI - CERMES	The University of the West Indies Cave Hill, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFTDI	Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute
CIRP	The University of the West Indies Saint Augustine - Caribbean ICT Research Programme
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DUW	Distance to upwelling canyons
DRM	Disaster risk management
EAA	Ecosystem approach to aquaculture
EAF	Ecosystem approach to fisheries
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FARE	Fisheries and Aquaculture Response to Emergency
FEWER	Fisheries Early Warning Emergency Response System
FisMIS	Fisheries Management Information System
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GPS	Global positioning system
ICT	Information and communications technology
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MPA	Marine protected area
MDF	Multi-Disciplinary Fund
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NFP	National Focal Point
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PNC	Project National Coordinator
RPC	Regional Project Coordinator
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SMP	Sargassum Management Plan
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
USD	United States Dollar
VCA	vulnerability and capacity assessment
VHF	Very high frequency
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Annual Project Steering Committee Meeting of the FAO/GEF funded Climate Change Adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH) was held at UN House, Barbados, 16–17 April 2019. This meeting brought together twenty-four representatives from the seven project countries, partner organizations and other key stakeholders involved in the execution of the deliverables, highlighted the progress of the project to date in each project county, and discussed the various proposals for the 2019 work plan. Discussions were also held on the overall progress of the deliverables of the projects.

2. The objective of the CC4FISH project is to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector, through introduction of adaptation measures in fisheries management and capacity building of fisherfolk and aquaculturists. This project aims to develop a better understanding and awareness of climate change vulnerability, create resilience of fisherfolk, fisherfolk organizations and aquaculturists, and improve governance by mainstreaming climate change adaptation in multilevel fisheries governance.

3. The CC4FISH project funded by the GEF under the Special Climate Change Fund (GEF-SCCF) for a total amount of United States Dollars (USD) 5 460 000 and co-financing of USD 34 850 000 by countries and regional partners. The Project is being implemented by FAO with duration of 48 months of which 27 months had passed when the meeting took place. The project officially started on 1 January 2017. The development of the project proposal was carried out with full involvement of the participating countries and the regional partners, in compliance with the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and to ensure ownership by the project countries and partners.

4. The overall objective of the workshop was for the partners to present a review of their national and regional activities carried out during 2018; a review of the national and regional partners annual workplans and budget (AWP/B) for 2019; presentation of the deliverables to date and review of financial matters related to implementation of the project.

5. FAO's financial reporting process was discussed, each member country and partners' expenses for the year 2018 were presented and explanations given when queries were raised. Countries who were advanced in the implementation of their project agreed to exchange information between project partners as they implement similar works in their countries.

6. The expected outputs include agreement on:

- Outcome and output project indicators (baseline and targets);
- Activities and achievements of year 2;
- Project AWP/B for all partners for Year 3 (2019);
- Mechanism for monitoring & evaluation and progress reporting
- Project roadmap and timeline of next steps to be undertaken by all partners

OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting was hosted by the FAO at UN House in Barbados 16–17 April 2019. Opening remarks were delivered by Mrs Yvette Diei-Ouadi on behalf of FAO/WECAFC and Lead Technical Officer of the project. She highlighted the importance of the project to the region, especially considering the pressing concerns of climate change. An overview of the workshop was provided.

8. Ms Tarub Bahri, Technical Officer from Headquarters of the CC4FISH project welcomed participants.

ATTENDANCE

9. Representatives of the following States attended the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. National Project Coordinators from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago (via skype) were also present. Representatives of the following organizations were present: The University of the West Indies Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), and WECAFC/FAO. The list of all participants and observers can be found in Appendix A.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPORTEURS

10. Ms Iris Monnereau was Chairperson of the meeting for the two days. Mr Austin Stankus was appointed rapporteur of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. The workshop adopted the agenda given in Appendix B

PROJECT BACKGROUND

12. Ms Iris Monnereau, Regional Project Coordinator CC4FISH, provided an overview of the project, presenting each component – included level of completion for each of these. She related each output back to the target goals in the project document. She color-coded the deliverables in reference to the target to showcase the progress of the report and showcased the scheduled activities for each output. This was followed by questions and answers.

13. Ms Bahri highlighted the linkages between the CLME+ Project and CC4FISH, especially in Trinidad and Tobago. She went on to suggest that an effort should be made to synergize activities and find common opportunities. Project countries and partners noted the challenges, notably delays in recruitment, in the issuing of Letters of Agreement (LoAs) and procurement. The stakeholders need to see actual activities on the ground (e.g. in seamanship, safety-at-sea and fish handling) and less higher-level outputs. The components in themselves are satisfactory but the execution should be faster and intending to reach the stakeholders on the ground. It was also noted that due to the delay in some of the key LoAs the cycle in project implementation would suffer as some activities were now scheduled very late in the process. Ms. Bahri noted the challenges; chief among these were delays in recruitment and LoA, as well as complications arising from both the countries and FAO. The large and diverse portfolio of activities is both beneficial and challenging. The fact that the activities are tailored to a specific country can be viewed as a benefit, while the challenges arise due to the complexity of each of these countries. The coordination of the project is a shared responsibility between FAO and the partnering countries. There is however, the need to increase coordination with other similar projects on-going within the countries and this way assist with maximizing resources all around. Mrs Yvette Diei-Ouadi noted the problems with the execution of the project by FAO, but ensured all participants that all efforts are being taken to address the delays on issuing LoAs and in implementation.

14. Ms Bahri stated that a sub-regional management plan is one the CLME+ project's output as a response to a country's request for an update on this topic. She indicated this is a complex undertaking as the region has only limited experience in developing such plans. It is the intention that the subregional plan can lead to the development of national plans or vice versa. Through a LoA between FAO and CERMES, the latter will lead a stakeholder consultation process in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname.

PROJECT COUNTRY REPORTS

Antigua and Barbuda

Ms Lucia Mings – National Project Coordinator (NPC) for Antigua and Barbuda presented the below activities undertaken in 2018 and in 2019 to date, as well as the planned outputs for the remaining of 2019.

15. On 14 May 2018 the inception workshop for the CC4FISH project took place in Antigua. The workshop consisted of a presentation by the Regional Project Coordinator and the National Project Coordinator and consisted of various break out groups covering the various project activities. The workshop focused on the various activities to take place in Antigua and Barbuda scheduled for increasing the fisheries sectors' resilience to climate change. In October of that year there was the inaugural National Stakeholder Committee Meeting. A Marine Protected Area (MPA) Demarcation Workshop was held on the in November where participants discussed the strategies for protecting the country's MPA as well as guidelines for implementing the measures needed to ensure compliance amongst fishers, tourists and recreational users. In addition, the deployment of buoys and other methods of communicating the guidelines for using the MPAs were also discussed. There were members and associate members present from the various organizations working in partnership on this project.

16. A second Stakeholder meeting was held in January 2019 and it was at this meeting that the 2019 work plan and budget, as well as the hiring of consultants for the Climate Smart Aquaculture and Business Skills Training consultancies were finalized. A Food Safety and Handling training workshop was held in January in 2019. This training workshop, brought in partnership with the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI), trained over 60 fish vendors and fisheries personnel in fish handling, processing and onboard vessel fish handling. The training was very well received and over-prescribed, and it was being considered whether to have another training session, or a training of trainers.

17. The upcoming activities for Antigua and Barbuda for 2019 include business skills needs assessment as well as a feasibility study on Climate Smart Aquaculture and National Aquaculture Strategy. An FAO Aquaculture Mission was slated to be held in May 2019 to facilitate the development of a National Aquaculture Strategy, policy recommendations and draft regulations. Also a National Disaster Risk and Safe harbour plan and the produce communication materials will be carried out. Additionally, a Fishermen's Expo is being planned for July 2019 on World Fisherman's Day. Planned training and other workshops include a second CFTDI training, as well as the physical demarcation of critical reefs and MPAs (buoys are needed in some harbours to assist with sheltering during hurricanes, as it is often difficult to navigate unfamiliar harbours), transponder use training and boat hauling equipment use training.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

18. Ms Orisia Williams, NPC for Saint Kitts and Nevis, highlighted the major activities organized during the project's first and second year. She started with a communication video about CC4FISH developed by the project.

19. Six Basic Fisher Training Courses were conducted during 2018 and 156 fisherfolk were trained. The purpose of the training was to develop the necessary competencies and skills of fishers, as well as to equip them with a basic understanding of the adverse effects of unsustainable fishing practices and climate change in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the fishing sector. The training also included information and communications technologies (ICTs) hangouts conducted by Kim Mallalieu and her team from The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago campus (CIRP). Three National Stakeholder Committee meetings were held to discuss ongoing project activities.

20. During October, 2018, 32 fishers attended an Engine Repair and Maintenance workshop. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of fishers in boat engine maintenance as well as the basic skills needed to override common engine failures. This will improve their safety at sea, also during storms and hurricanes.

21. During November 2018 twenty-nine persons attended the Food safety and handling workshop. Safety issues are a growing concern and the workshop was aimed at improving the preparation of fish products to ensure public health safety food safety. Disaster Risk Management and Mainstreaming of Climate Change Stakeholder meetings were held on 15 November 2018. The department of Marine Resources collaborated with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to introduce disaster risk management planning and Fisheries and Aquaculture Response in Emergency (FARE) training to key stakeholders.

22. Ms Williams outlined the promotional activities organized throughout the year such as CC4Fish climate change float during Saint Kitts and Nevis carnival parade, promotional booth at stem fair and Nevis agriculture fair, sargassum school talk at Cayon High School and two radio talks on safety at sea and Disaster Risk Management.

23. Ms Williams also presented the activities planned for 2019 which are the implementation of the VCA toolkit, sargassum management: research, prediction model, communication material and SMP, ICT training and development, development of new safety at sea training material, Fish Silage project development, aquaponics training, workshop on damage and loss data collection systems, development of EAF/climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) plans, promotional/awareness activities: fisheries week, agriculture open day, fisherfolk cricket match, documentary, CC4FISH landing site tour, vessel insurance assessment-Multi Disciplinary Fund Project, support CNFO in national activities. There have been delays in project execution due to delayed payments and release of funds which are related to FAO and national level constraints. Ms Williams also highlighted the challenges faced with procurement, especially related to the purchasing of the VHF radios.

24. CNFO noted that there are opportunities with developing the black squid fishery in Saint Kitts and Nevis and this could be an activity which could be developed under the project. This could improve the resilience of fisherfolk as this is an underutilized species which could provide additional income to fishers without compromising the sustainability of the resource. There has already been some training on this topic carried out by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and this could be supported further.

Saint Lucia

25. Mrs Marie Louise Felix, the NPC, presented a host of activities that have been completed in Saint Lucia. These included a draft National Sargassum Management Plan (SMP). In February and March 2018 consultations with fishers and other residents in the fishing communities of Dennery, Praslin, Micoud and Savannes Bay were held to discuss the SMP. Based on the discussions and

agreement to test components of the SMP, beach clean-up equipment was provided to all four communities in November 2018. Monitoring of the use of the equipment by the communities is ongoing.

26. In June 2018, CC4FISH elected to collaborate with the infant school in the fishing village of Dennery and with the *Just Us Kids* Carnival band based in Castries to promote marine conservation, and share information on climate change, oceans and sustainable fisheries. The Dennery Infant School received support to showcase Good Ocean Governance in its portrayal of *S.O.S. Save Our Seas* carnival band. In July 2018, a Children's Climate Change and Fisheries Fair was organized under CC4FISH which culminated in a Junior carnival "jump up" around the city of Castries. Saint Lucia also has its own CC4FISH Facebook page.

27. Saint Lucia hosted two teams of visiting fisherfolk in 2018 from Antigua, Saint Kitts and Nevis. Later a team of seven fishers from Saint Lucia visited Grenada in July 2018 to learn more about marine protected areas and FAD management. Another team of five fishers visited Antigua in February 2019 to exchange information on the conch fishery.

28. The Department of Fisheries, along with farmers and technical officers participated in a series of aquaculture management planning workshops and meetings spanning from July 2018 to February 2019. As a consequence, an Aquaculture Management Plan for Saint Lucia was finalized in February 2019.

29. After consultations with fishers, marine police, fisheries officers and managers in March 2018, it was decided that the most suitable mechanism to reduce loss of lives and property at sea was in the continued promotion of safety equipment on all vessels including VHF radios. Two repeater stations are being established and support is being given to the marine police to enhance capacity to respond to emergency calls from boats. The target is to provide 200 radios in the first instance, at subsidized cost. Saint All fishers receiving radios will participate in a training programme. Radios and repeater equipment are expected in May 2019 and training should occur in July 2019. There have been challenges in the procurement of the VHF radios and the country recommends for the future procurement under the project to be more transparent and in a faster time frame.

30. A draft plan was developed in 2018 by the Department of Fisheries and will undergo review by stakeholders. Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCAs) were undertaken in fishing communities of Dennery and Canaries in May 2018. During June and July 2019 three more detailed VCAs were undertaken in the fishing communities of Gros-Islet, Micoud and Soufriere in June 2019; responses will be used to assess the levels of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity per community and to design appropriate responses.

31. In order to give the CC4FISH project greater visibility a number of awareness materials have been produced such as 200 "Youth in Support of Building Resilience to CC in Fisheries" t-shirts, all distributed to young persons during the "Line Jam" in July 2018; pull up posters on Marine Ecosystems, Aquaponics, and Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) fisheries management (December 2018). Staff t-shirts and CC4FISH promotional items will be produced in September 2019.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

32. Hayden Billingsy, NPC of CC4FISH, stated that although the inception workshop for the CC4FISH project in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was held in June 2018, the project has suffered delays, due to project funds from CC4FISH not yet released to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour to commence the activities. Therefore scheduled project activities have suffered severe delays as deadlines had to be shifted to accommodate availability

of funds. Nonetheless, several activities were completed in 2018. These included the preparation of the draft Sargassum Management Plan and the completion of a Communication Plan.

33. The communication plan is adapted to the many various audiences they wish to reach (from school children to fisherfolk and coastal communities). The project slogan aptly captures the essence of the project objectives and reads “Vincies Adapting to Climate Change – Building Resilience for Fisherfolk and Coastal Communities”. This was reflected on the CC4FISH flyer that was prepared to shed light on climate change and its impact on fisherfolk and their livelihoods. A climate change song was also produced with a call to action to all Vincentians to help build climate resilience nationally. A music video will be produced and broadcasted to further the campaign.

34. There are several ongoing activities that have been halted due to lack of access to the funds provided. This included an animation film and booklet. The script has been written and characters developed for the animation package. However, the voice recording and story board development and the development of a mobile application are still pending, due to lack of funding. Of the mobile app, however, the basic wire framing has been done. When it is completed it will host CC4FISH communication outputs (drama, music video, short films, etc.), climate change adaptation activities outputs in the fisheries sector, fisheries information relating to the lobster seasons, fisheries legislations, and fisheries programmes, as well as weather advisories for fisherfolk to improve safety.

35. In an effort to raise climate change awareness among the fisherfolk, the Fisheries Division and the PNC worked along with an MSc student Robert Blaaboer in his anthropological research film on the impact of climate change on the fisherfolk in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The film was screened at two venues and was attended by fisherfolk and members from coastal communities. Two short films highlighting safety at sea as well as the impacts of sargassum on fisherfolk and coastal communities will also be produced. So far three filmmakers were shortlisted for final selection.

36. A significant part of this project includes building the capacity of fisherfolk in aquaponics, Safety at Sea and Business Skills. The training institutions have been contacted and participants selected. However, training to date has not been possible due to lack of access to funds. The training institutes are working with the project to map out suitable time slots to host these trainings when the funds become available.

37. For the rest of 2019, CC4FISH will focus around completing the activities that have been started and to focus on the new activities when funds become accessible. This includes collaboration with Massy supermarkets and “One Drop in the ocean movement” to produce large murals, finalizing all training activities, procurement of safety at sea equipment and finish music video and the two short films.

Grenada

38. Ms Krisma Moore-McDonald, NPC, stated that Grenada has been inactive for some time due to the lack of a project coordinator and national focal point. She however has now been selected and on board and the expectation is that the remaining part of the year is used to develop a LoA and implement various project activities. One of these project activities includes ICT and radio training of fisherfolk. This training will focus on safety at sea procedures and ensuring that fisherfolk can confidently operate their legal ICT and radio equipment (registered VHF radios), should the need arise. Another activity planned is boat building training to improve safety on board and ensure support for heritage activities. The training will be focused on wooden boat building activities as well as fiberglass repairs. This training is aimed at building capacity not only among fisherfolk but within fishing communities so a network of boat builders can be strengthened.

39. Grenada will also develop a communication plan and investigate opportunities to support the development of aquaculture activities on the island in an effort to build the capacity of interested farmers and educate interested persons on the potential for extra income. Public education regarding the project and its activities is also been programmed; this will be done via the government information system programming along with scheduled school visits and other outreach activities.

40. A Draft National Sargassum Protocol has been developed which includes the three islands: Petite Martinique, Carriacou, and Grenada. It is important that a manual is developed that is accessible and easy to use.

41. Grenada will also be developing value adding activities based on the work developed by INFOPESCA under CC4FISH. The project will most likely focus on value adding in seamoss, developing salt fish locally, and creating a high value domestic tuna market.

42. Aquaculture training was carried out in the first year of CC4FISH. General knowledge on the subject was generated yet there now needs to be opportunities for efficient and sustainable production. Risks, costs and issues that prevent wide implementation need to be addressed. This also needs business plan development and marketing strategy and production modeling and demonstration unit design.

43. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) pre-feasibility study of the tuna fishery in Grenada was highlighted as one of the proposed activities by Ms Iris Monnereau. Mr Lay expressed concerns with the expected benefits for fisherfolk as the costs associated with the MSC are very high and will not be recuperated in the returns. Ms Monnereau explained that the pre-feasibility study was not intended to lead to a full MSC certification but the certificate associated with the pre-feasibility study already generates higher benefits for the fishers as it allows access to a higher-end market in the United States of America. As a result, Grenada has requested this activity.

44. Antigua and Barbuda expressed that it is important to collaborate on the regulations of the aquaponic industry. Their division feels strongly that there is a need for regulation and guidelines for the aquaponics industry and that maintaining standards is difficult. CC4FISH could provide a chance to work together on this topic.

Trinidad and Tobago

45. Mr Ricardo Mieux, National Focal Point of CC4FISH in Trinidad and Tobago presented on behalf of the country. From January to December 2018, preliminary work was conducted to facilitate the hosting of the launch workshop and the needs assessment questionnaire; however, the activities could not be undertaken because of funding constraints. Concerning the sargassum influx issue, preliminary collaboration has begun with the relevant authorities in Trinidad and Tobago, these being the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, the Institute of Marine Affairs and the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment of the Tobago House of Assembly. A review of the data collection for fisheries statistics in Trinidad and Tobago has been undertaken.

46. The main challenges were the lack of accessibility to funding and the finalization of LoAs with project partners including the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP).

47. The planned activities for 2019, as revealed, included CC4FISH launch workshop, undertaking the Needs Assessment Questionnaire, sargassum management plan workshop and finalization of the draft national sargassum response plan, safety at sea training for fisherfolk, second R training workshop to improve fisheries statistics, Fisheries Management Information System (FisMIS) and fisheries

statistics training, VCA rollout at selected communities by CANARI, training in aquaponics and training and workshops in the making of value added products from underutilized species.

48. Ms Tarub Bahri highlighted the need for the activities in Trinidad and Tobago to be in collaboration with the CLME+ project (shrimp and groundfish). Further follow up on the potential overlap between the two projects should be sought.

Dominica

49. Julian Defoe, NFP, stated that no implementation has occurred. However, a LoA is being developed which will address planned activities under component 2.2, pertaining to aquaculture, fish handling and processing and safety-at-sea.

50. CFTDI will be carrying out a training of trainers workshop on this subject. This is important as there are new market opportunities, for example from resorts. It is important to ensure fishers are not left out of these new opportunities related to the tourism sector. Dominica is also giving careful consideration of synergies with other projects. For instance, they have noted that the World Bank's initiative within the country has a complimentary component that links into the project's component 3 – fisheries legislation.

51. For 2019, there is the plan for fisherfolk capacity/skills training in areas such as VHF radio and GPS navigation within the basic fishermen training course. Continuous training of the basic fishers training course is required for these new components but also because there are always new entrants in to fishery. There will also be communication and advocacy activities to help promote CC4FISH as part of future activities.

52. Aquaculture activities are also expected to be developed under the project and a visit by the aquaculture expert of CC4FISH will be discussed in order to develop a plan to develop the aquaculture sector in the country. The country wants to focus on aquaponics and seamoss farming, and redeveloping a service in reference to hatchery services, but the country also wants to work on developing freshwater prawn activities. All these activities, including aquaculture, should first be guided by the guiding policy, but the country also intends to develop the strategy for long term development. The old fisheries development plan does not include ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA), EAF, DRM or CC. Aquaculture should be cross-cutting.

53. Discussions highlighted the need for countries to share the work on fish handling and training and possible collaboration with CFTDI. CFTDI can provide overall expertise but the countries themselves also have experience in the training. Sharing of this information is important to improve the trainings.

PARTNERS REPORTS

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

54. Ainka Granderson, on behalf of CANARI stated that they completed phase 1 of the regional implementation of a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in coastal and fishing communities under CC4FISH component 1. This VCA work aims to improve the understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities within coastal and fishing communities to inform adaptation at the local level in the Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector.

55. Phase 1 has focused on the development of a regional framework and toolkit to guide the VCA and enable a harmonized approach to data collection on local level vulnerability, which will facilitate information exchange and comparisons between communities and countries to inform decision-making.

56. The draft regional framework and toolkit for VCAs were developed based on the Technical Review Report on VCAs prepared by CANARI in November 2018, with technical inputs from the RPC, UWI-CERMES and the NPCs and NFPs for all seven project countries. Pilot testing of the VCA toolkit and tools was then conducted in four fishing communities in Saint Lucia (Canaries and Dennery) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Barrouallie and Calliaqua) during April and May 2018. Field reports from the pilot testing summarized key findings from the VCAs, including priorities needs and adaptation identified by the fisherfolk and other community stakeholders, assessed the suitability of the VCA tools and provided recommendations for refinement.

57. A regional workshop was held in Barbados in July 2018 to gain input from the NPCs, NFPs and other project partners and key stakeholders to review and finalize the draft VCA framework and toolkit based on the findings and recommendations from the pilot testing. This workshop was co-facilitated by CANARI and UWI-CERMES. Based on the workshop, the finalized regional framework and toolkit for VCAs in coastal and fishing communities in the Eastern Caribbean were developed and submitted to FAO in September 2018.

58. Next steps for 2019 are the roll out of the VCA in the five target countries: Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. This will involve in-country VCA training of field teams based on the regional framework and toolkit, and conducting fieldwork for the VCAs over 3–6 months. VCA reports for each target country will be prepared, highlighting key findings and priorities for adaptation to inform further activities under CC4FISH to build the adaptive capacity and resilience of fisherfolk and aquaculturists.

The University of the West Indies Caribbean ICT Research Programme (CIRP)

59. Kim Mallalieu of The University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CIRP indicated that various activities had already taken place, especially in the areas of background work, in anticipation of the processing of the LoA:

1. Strengthened capacity of fishers to utilize ICT and fuel efficient strategies to reduce climate-related vulnerabilities to their lives and livelihoods:
 - i. Fuel efficiency examinations of small-scale vessels: on account of the procurement challenges faced by project administration and the sensitivity of fuel efficiency study activities and outcomes to procurement, this aspect of the 2019 LOA has been removed, but could potentially be implemented in 2020.
 - ii. Training of ICT stewards in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the CNFO: GPS has been added to the existing curriculum of cellular phone and marine band VHF radio. ICT stewardship for the CNFO will focus on website management to enable the organization to select and implement an appropriate management strategy.
 - iii. Preparation and adaptation of ICT tools for SSF in the five project countries: existing cellular phone tools will be emphasized for configuration or repurposing as necessary. These include *Trini Fish* for Trinidad and Tobago, customized GPS and data collection tool for Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the strategic use of various FEWER modules. Examinations of various sources of marine data of value to small-scale fishers and an assessment of related mobile applications are included. An examination of the data collection tools and methodologies in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean will inform recommendations and considerations for adoption.

2. Strengthened institutional capacity of national agencies for fisher-focused DRM through marine telecommunications inputs into policy, regulations and management:
 - i. Marine communications analysis for the five project countries; the line of sight VHF range analysis for Saint Kitts and Nevis has been used as a representative model for this activity. Tower data is needed for Grenada and Dominica. Great emphasis was placed on the need to adhere to various regulatory requirements in order to purchase, use and install radio equipment.
 - ii. Five-minute interim and final ICT for Fishers' Resilience videos: these were not discussed at the meeting on account of time.
3. An update of the Information and Communication Technology for Safety of Life at Sea components of the project were presented, including the mobile applications, VHF radios and repeaters. Requirements for licensing and compatibility were presented, as well as requirements for equipment, siting and national infrastructure. Fuel efficiency studies with CFTDI were presented.

60. Ms Mallalieu stated that CIRP's plan for 2019 is to have the LOA finalized and to implement all of its activities in collaboration with local partners.

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

61. Ms June Masters, focal point of the CC4FISH project at CRFM, informed that a consultant, Mr Leslie Walling was hired to assist with delivering output 3.1.2 of the CC4Fish Project. This output entailed the development of a Protocol for Integration of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation into Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. The first draft of the protocol was made available and was reviewed at a workshop held following the Caribbean Fisheries Forum meeting in Montserrat 18 April 2018. This workshop was comprised of Members of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and key experts in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management from the region. A workshop report was prepared and subsequent reviews of the Protocol were done by the Secretariat, Executive Committee and CC4FISH Regional Project Coordinator as well as by Member States, CNFO and other regional Partners. Finally the Protocol was submitted to the CRFM Ministerial Council in October 2018. The Council approved the protocol in October 2018, and presently the Protocol is being prepared for printing and dissemination to all 17 Member States. For dissemination CRFM would like to prepare the Protocol in (a) a booklet, and also (b) a pamphlet summarizing the key provisions in simple language for stakeholders, as such CRFM is asking if the CC4FISH Project could provide the funding for the printing of these booklets and pamphlets which would facilitate a wide dissemination of the Protocol.

62. Ms Masters also highlighted the support CRFM has been providing in terms of developing value adding opportunities in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago by INFOPECA. Development of business proposals for key species including underutilized species should be included in this work. There have been some difficulties with first phase of the feasibility studies. The documents have been reviewed but need to be redrafted. The studies need to be revised before the second field trip which is scheduled for the second quarter of year 3. The finalization of the feasibility studies need to be completed before the business case studies. That is the final and more important stage which will be followed by implementation.

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)

63. Mitchell Lay presented updates on behalf of CNFO on activities executed during this project year. He informed that several fisherfolk had been interviewed following hurricane Irma and Maria and at a later date they will be releasing products based on the outcome of these interviews. A video was produced in collaboration with the CC4FISH project management. Within the CNFO newsletter, there were articles featuring climate change adaptation within the marine environment. A CC4FISH

working group continues to give support to CC4FISH national level activities. CNFO participated in the CANARI led VCA Assessment workshop where a draft toolkit document was presented for feedback. There have also been fisher learning exchanges: three face to face and six virtual meetings have been held to date. The new LoA is in process and once it is finalized, new activities will be executed.

64. The project activities planned under CC4FISH for the coming period include providing continued support for the CNFO secretariat, and planning, development and implementation of meetings in every project country to better support fisherfolk organisation participation in project activities. In addition, various CC4FISH brochures and posters will be developed to improve safety and preparation for the hurricane season by fisherfolk. Virtual CC4FISH meetings will continue at a bi-monthly frequency and fisherfolk and fisherfolk organisations will also be supported to participate in the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute conference.

The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

65. Shelly-Ann Cox, Postdoctoral Research Associate at CERMES, presented progress to date on UWI-CERMES activities in the CC4FISH Project. Under Component 1, an update was given on the development of a prediction model to assess sargassum impacts on the dolphinfish and flyingfish populations in the Eastern Caribbean. A brief overview of the model, developed in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Southern Mississippi, was given including a simplified explanation of the methods used. Ms Cox presented the latest 3-month forecast for April to June 2019 which projected relative sargassum threat for Northern, Middle and Southern islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

66. Ms Cox continued by presenting progress on the investigation of the relationships between sargassum events and two key pelagic species, dolphinfish and flyingfish. Ms Cox began by highlighting that high-resolution fishery catch and effort data at the species level over uninterrupted times-series in excess of ten years are either not available or hard to access in this sub-region. Available physiochemical oceanic variables (e.g. particulate organic carbon, chlorophyll-a concentration, sea surface temperatures, distance to upwelling canyons) showed no obvious relationships with landings data for dolphinfish or flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (Barbados). The significant reduction in landings of flyingfish in particular, during years of high sargassum abundance, together with the evidence to date that suggests sargassum influxes will continue to occur as the 'new normal', implies a continuation of significant economic losses and livelihood disruption in the pelagic fishing sector of the eastern Caribbean, particularly for Barbados because of its traditional reliance on flyingfish (contributing around sixty percent of total fish landings). As such, continued efforts to help fishers adapt to this reality will be key in sustaining the sector.

67. Progress made on informing ongoing development of mitigation and adaptive strategies to climate change in Eastern Caribbean fisheries sector included the following activities: The development and testing of the Sub-regional Sargassum outlook bulletin for the Eastern Caribbean, development and distribution of a best practices handbook for Caribbean fishers coping with sargassum and the review of draft sargassum management plans for the islands of Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The review included the development of a proposed framework to support an adaptable sargassum management plan, and a to-do list for the way forward.

68. The upcoming work of CERMES includes further development of sargassum related activities (outlook bulletin, support for the uses guide), sargassum management plans, policy briefs on climate change impacts and adaptation of the fisheries sector, and development of the Fisheries Management

Plans for four project countries (Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

REGIONAL PROJECT COORDINATION

69. Ms Iris Monnereau provided details on the budget of CC4FISH. Funds used for each component were discussed. The total funds committed are USD 2.1 million. At this stage in the project it would be scheduled to be approximately USD 3.1 million. Project countries and partners expressed their desire to accelerate project delivery. They expressed concern that an extension would increase administration costs and would not be guaranteed. Countries requested more detailed country budgets to be made available.

70. Ms Iris Monnereau presented on the MDF funds and the linkages with the CC4FISH project. The project supports activities in relation to improving linkages between poverty, climate change and fisheries, value adding and integration of fisheries and poverty into the National Determined Contributions. She explained the objective and the various project activities. These funds allow for more capital to be available for CC4FISH activities as some activities will be shared in execution. CNFO highlighted the need for the activities under the MDF funds to be supportive of fisherfolk and not necessarily institutional capacity. CANARI indicated that they also work on climate proofing of value chains and that potential collaboration could be sought.

71. Ms Carla Daniels, consultant under CC4FISH, presented on the draft Sargassum removal and uses guide. She discussed the permanent damage to beaches with heavy machinery and the various options for removal. She discussed the pros and cons of different equipment. The document will explain this in more detail and will provide clear and concise information on the various removal equipment and activities. Beach assessment and choosing how to prioritize actions should be an integral part of the guide and needs to be an interactive process with stakeholder involvement.

72. Ms Daniels then discussed the various agricultural uses such as algae plant tonics, biochar and potential use of extracts. Although there are a variety of options, lack of capacity, large volumes of biomass and unpredictability makes production difficult. Testing for heavy metals should be an integral step when exploring potential uses of sargassum.

73. The FAO International Administration officer provided clarification on the standard workflow of procurement and correct use of Letters of Agreement. Countries expressed reservations on the capability of FAO administration to execute the required procurement and recruitment in accordance with the agreed workplan. Countries requested improved communications and updates of important dates in the procurement process (e.g. status of bidding, recruitment start dates).

74. Partner organization highlights included the development of a Vulnerability Assessment Toolkit, a sargassum influx prediction model, best practices guide for fisherfolk to deal with sargassum, representation of fisherfolk organizations at regional meetings, and a protocol for the inclusion of DRM and CCA in the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

75. The budget was presented, outlining the current state of expenses, both combined and separated by country. Participants requested accelerated delivery of activities, noting that an eventual extension would add administrative costs and is not guaranteed. FAO was requested to provide an updated version of the budget to indicate the remaining resources in each country after the funds for national level activities within regional letters of agreements have been extracted.

76. Both country and partner organizations raised significant concerns over FAO administrative capacity in issuing Letters of Agreement and executing agreed procurement activities, and further called on FAO to i) accelerate the delivery of activities on the ground, ii) improve communication on administrative issues and iii) reduce administrative delays.

77. The concerns about the delays and need to swiftly address them were also put in the perspective of the project's upcoming mid-term evaluation expected for September 2019. Regarding the improvement in communication and exchange of information especially among project partners, Ms Diei-Ouadi suggested the institutionalization of quarterly (virtual) meetings.

78. Countries expressed reservations on the capability of FAO administration to execute the required procurement and recruitment in accordance with the agreed workplan. Countries requested improved communications from the project coordination unit, especially on updates of important dates (e.g. status of bidding, recruitment start dates). A virtual follow up meeting will follow with the procurement officer for any further clarification needed.

79. FAO provided a summary of the current state of the project and summary activities and also committed to lookout for synergies with projects (e.g. MDF, CLME+). FAO also called on countries and partners to look for synergies with complimentary projects.

80. Country highlights included training events, fisheries exchange visits, updated fisheries management plans, development of Sargassum management plans, communication products and awareness raising events, and vulnerability assessments.

81. The workshop participants agreed to the aquaculture section of the workplan, specifically on the method of developing country-specific demonstration systems and training programmes during scoping missions, the revision of national aquaculture strategies, and a regional seamoss workshop to be held in Saint Lucia in September 2019. Some countries requested specific attention to youth engagement with aquaculture activities.

NEXT STEPS

82. The first quarterly virtual project progress meeting will be planned for August 2019. This will inform the project countries and partners on the progress of the various topics discussed during the PSCM.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Antigua and Barbuda

Lovell, Tricia / Alternate National Focal Point

Mings, Lucia

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

Dominica

Defoe, Jullan / National Focal Point

Grenada

Moore-McDonald, Krisma

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

SAINT Kitts and Nevis

Browne, Nikkita/National Focal Point

Williams, Orisia

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

Saint Lucia

Polius, Petronila/Alternate National Focal Point

Felix, Marie-Louise

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Isaacs, Kris/National Focal Point

Billingsy, Hayden

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

Trinidad & Tobago

Mieux, Recardo / National Focal Point

VIA SKYPE

Jobe, Kerton

National Project Coordinator / CC4FISH Project

Partners

Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

Cox, Shelly-Ann

Alleyne, Kristie

Compton, Sanya

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)

Lay, Mitchell

UWI – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mallalieu, Kim

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Granderson, Ainka

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Management (CRFM) Secretariat

Masters, June

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Bahri, Tarub

Monnereau, Iris

Diei Ouadi Yvette

Stankus, Austin

Philips, Terrence

Moe, Celestine

APPENDIX B: AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day 1: Tuesday, 16 April 2019	
Time	Session
08.30–09.00	Registration
09.00–09.20	Welcoming words and logistical remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yvette Diei Ouadi, Fishery Officer, Lead Technical Officer of CC4FISH ▪ Introduction of participants ▪ Adoption of the agenda
09.20–10.20	The CC4FISH Project: presentation and discussion on project progress towards its outputs and objectives (Iris Monnereau) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of activities CC4FISH 2018 ▪ Overview of activities CC4FISH planned for 2019 ▪ Implementation progress ▪ Q and A
10.20–10.45	Presentation on Administrative and Financial matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation BH ▪ Q and A
10.45–11.15	Coffee break and group photo
11.15–12.45	Presentations by project countries Recap on the activities of 2018 and plans forward for 2019 (10 minute presentation and 5 minute questions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antigua and Barbuda – Mark Archibald and Lucia Mings ▪ Dominica - Julian Defoe ▪ Grenada - GM representative and Krisma Moore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saint Kitts and Nevis - Nikkita Browne and Orisia Williams ▪ Saint Lucia - Thomas Nelson and Marie-Louise Felix
12.45–13.45	Lunch
13.45–15.00	Continuation by project countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Kris Isaacs and Hayden Billingsy ▪ Trinidad and Tobago - Recardo Mieux and Kerton Jobe Presentations by Partners Recap on the activities of 2018 and plans forward for 2019 10 minute presentation and 5 minute questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CRFM ▪ CNFO ▪ CIRP ▪ CANARI
15.00–15.15	Tea break
15.15–15.45	Presentations by Partners Recap on the activities of 2018 and plans forward for 2019 15 minute presentation and 5 minute questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CERMES ▪ CERMES
15.45–16.45	Presentation and discussion: Aquaculture development opportunities
Day 2: Wednesday, 17 April 2019	
09.00–09.15	Summary and conclusions of Day 1 – Agenda for Day 2
09.15–10.00	Budget Review
10.00–10.30	Short overview MDF Funds
10.30–10.45	Coffee break
10.45–12.00	Component 1 Ways forward, connecting with other projects, focus areas of CC4FISH
12.00–13.00	Lunch
13.00–13.45	Presentation and discussion on ICT program by CIRP
13.45–14.30	Component 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways forward, connecting with other projects, focus areas of CC4FISH
14.30–15.00	Component 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways forward, connecting with other projects, focus areas of CC4FISH

15.00–15.15	<i>Tea</i>
15.15–16.00	Wrap-up and conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next Steps for the project ▪ Risk and mitigation ▪ Mid-term evaluation ▪ Any other business ▪ Adoption of meeting conclusions
16.00–16.15	Wrap up / Conclusions and Close
18.30–21.00	Dinner at Oistins

Project countries	
Antigua and Barbuda	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Dominica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saint Lucia	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	

Project partners
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)
The Nature Conservancy
The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

The Third Annual Project Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/FAO Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH) was held at UN House, Barbados, 16–17 April 2019. The meeting brought together 24 representatives from the project countries, partner organizations and other key stakeholders. The main topics discussed during the workshop included capacity building, sargassum impacts, aquaculture development, fisheries management plans, vulnerability assessments and communication.

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