



FisherFolk Net

Climate- Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network -ECMMAN PROJECT



Communicating for Conservation Workshop

The ECMMAN project funded a five day training workshop facilitated by PCI Media Impact entitled "Communicating for Conservation" in Saint Lucia, February 9-13, 2015.

Participants included 3 member teams from Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines alongside a CNFO representative.

(Participants pictured on left)

Six teams were trained to carry out effective public awareness campaigns. The workshop was the launch of the national in country campaigns to bring awareness to Marine Protected Areas in the six EC countries. The winning team will be rewarded at an awards ceremony in November 2015.

Even though the CNFO is not a part of the challenge a representative was invited to participate along with the teams to likewise build the communication capacity of the CNFO. The CNFO will create an informational flyer per country to educate fisherfolks of the project. Definitely the role of the CNFO is to ensure that fishers are aware of the project and their voices are heard.

The CNFO as a partner in the German Federation Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) funded ECMMAN project (2013-2017).

One of the objectives of the project is to establish a Caribbean marine management network, the CNFO is keen on representing the concerns of fishers.

A CNFO Eastern Caribbean Committee for the ECMMAN project was established and the below committee members were appointed.

CNFO EC Committee

Horace Walters	Saint Lucia
Winston Hobson	St. Kitts And Nevis
Huron Vidal	Dominica
Royan Isaac	Grenada
Winsbert Harry	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Mitchell Lay	Antigua and Barbuda

On June 12, 2014 a Channelling Agreement between The Nature Conservancy and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat was signed. The purpose of the grant is to channel funds to the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) for the CNFO to support and strengthen fisherfolk organisations, ensure the voice of fishers are heard in regional policy discussions and support alternative livelihood activities. The donor's objec-

More ECMMAN updates in next edition!



CNFO participates in Caribbean Food Safety Conference

By Peter A Murray

Vernel Nicholls, Glaston White and Joslyn LeeQuay of the CNFO participated in the 2015 Food Safety and Security Conference held from 17-18 March in Montego Bay, Jamaica; which provided a useful networking opportunity and allowed for a deeper understanding of the requirements that would need to be considered when trading internationally in fish and fishery products.

Additionally, because of CNFO participation, the regional food health and safety community was apprised of some of the concerns of the fisheries sector and fisheries sector representatives had opportunity to be made aware of some of the issues related to food safety in the fishing industry. CNFO representatives

are now better placed to share this important information with other fisheries stakeholders in the industry

The conference brought together an arena of food safety experts to share on topical and challenging issues, networking opportunities and to provide a forum of opportunities through workshops, presentations and exhibitions. Key Speakers were specifically selected to “deliver cutting edge information on food security and safety befitting our Theme and to provide delegates with important information on Global happenings in food safety and security issues; sharing of their expertise.”

Over the two days participants were supposed to benefit from a wide range of presenters from

Walmart, the Food Hygiene Bureau, US FDA and the Association of British Travel Agents. The quality of the presentations was good and the content of the presentations was very informative and useful. In particular, they provided background information that should inform management of the fisheries component of the SPS project currently ongoing in the region.

Participation in the Conference was made possible through sponsorship by IICA through the 10th EDF project – Support to the Caribbean forum of ACP States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4Fish)

CC4Fish in its Project Preparation Grant Phase

CNFO coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay participated in a project design workshop March 17-19, 2015. The seven participating countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The objective of CC4fish is to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Fisheries Sector, through introduction of adaptation measures in fisheries management and capacity building of fisherfolk and aquaculturists. This project aims to create better un-

derstanding 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.

The project will be the first intervention to support the 2012 developed “Strategy and Action Plan for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region”; a strategy prepared in a collaborative effort by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), University of the West Indies

(UWI), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and FAO, with support from all Caribbean states and major environmental NGOs. Project is not expected to start until later in 2015 under these foreseen activities.

- Increased awareness and understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability for effective climate change adaptation
- Improved resilience of fisherfolk and coastal communities
- Improved resilience of aquaculturists
- Climate change adaptation mainstreamed in multilevel fisheries govern-

Caribbean Billfish Project

The FAO and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) informed that Caribbean Billfish project, a component of the GEF funded, World Bank implemented, project “Ocean Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation models for Innovation and Reform (ABNJ) project” has been approved.

The approved USD\$1.95 million three year (Jan 2015- Dec 2017) project aims to develop business plans for one or more long-term pilot project aimed at sustainable management and conservation of billfish within the Western central Atlantic Ocean. The CNFO contact person for activities under this project is Mr. Henderson Inniss of Barbados.



CNFO Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay in Barbados at a Regional Project Design Workshop for the CC4FISH initiative March 17-19, 2015

Human Rights Vs. Rights Based Fishing

On 23-27 March 2015 the CNFO participated in the FAO hosted UserRights2015 Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The conference brought together 140 participants of which 45 were women. It still remains unclear to exactly what the conference aimed at achieving. However, it claimed to be providing "... guidance on how to support appropriate rights-based systems in fisheries and thereby contribute to a sustainable future."

The CNFO had the support of WFFP, WFF, ICSF and a couple researchers which made up nothing more than a dozen persons that repeatedly argued – from the floor, as panellists and in presentations – that small-scale fisheries must be governed by applying the Human Rights Based approach.

The underpinning principles of this approach include equality, food sovereignty, gender equity, poverty alleviation for all, customary and traditional rights, traditional low-impact fishing, participation in governance. Yet, this only gave rise to a minimal dialogue.



CNFO and friends
L-R Nadine Nembhard Belize, Jesu Reethinam India, Seremos Kamuturaki Uganda

CNFO HIGHLIGHTS

Barbados- Sargassum Seaweed



According to Vernel Nicholls, President of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisation (BARNUFO)

"Our fishermen are saying that the fish is out there but because of the weed and the thickness of the weed, it is very difficult to fish in the waters. So, this is impacting on the livelihood of the fisherfolk because we have had decline in fish catches, which means that our fisherfolk who depend mostly on the flying fish were unemployed," she said.

Nicholls said she is hoping for a turnaround even though the fishing season, which started in November, is almost at an end. To help BARNUFO plans to introduce a training session in September to teach its members alternative ways of earning a living.

ICT and the CNFO

CNFO created an ICT working group to better manage the information communication technology area of the network. Training is conducted by partners at University of West Indies St. Augustine. The training includes improving and maintaining the CNFO website and social media.



CONTACT US:

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)

⇒ Email: cnfo_cu@yahoo.com

⇒ Website: <http://cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>

Look us up @thecnfo on:

Facebook, Instagram, google+ and Twitter

Join the Climate Change

Discussion at the

CNFO Website: www.cirp.org.tt

