

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

Empowering Fisherfolk Leaders 6th CNFO Leadership Institute Successfully Started

Training Modules 2025

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) proudly launched the 6th running of its Leadership Institute, a dynamic **nine-module training programme** designed to strengthen leadership capacity within fisherfolk organizations across the Caribbean.

This year's edition brings together **29 fisherfolk leaders** from across the region, all committed to enhancing their skills in governance, communication, advocacy, and organizational management. Each module is facilitated by experienced fisherfolk or fisherfolk allies who themselves graduated from the CNFO Leadership Institute, ensuring that the training is grounded in real-world fisheries experience and regional relevance.

The series, which began in September 2025 and ends in December 2025.



picture credit: CNFO

1: Exploring Leadership – 23rd September

2: Working with Groups – 30th September

3: Facilitating the Development of Group Vision, Mission and Goals – 7th October 2025

4: Advocacy, Representation, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution – 14th October

5: Relationship Management – 21st October

6: Communications and Networking – 4th November

7: Institutional Identity and Integrity – 11th November 2025, Facilitator: Adrian

8: Administration and Operations – 25th November 2025

9: Meetings and Decision-Making – 2nd December

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



BELIZE

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Elmer Rodriguez, honoring his decades of service, leadership in fisheries, and lasting impact on the regional fishing community.

Mr. Elmer Rodriguez of Sarteneja, Belize, devoted over 40 years to advancing fisheries and supporting fisherfolk. As Chairman of the National Fishermen Cooperative.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

On September 27, the final FAD construction workshop in Nevis concluded, producing 15 durable sub-surface FADs. With strong support from Minister Samal Duggins, fishers, and the National Fisherfolk Organization, the Department advances toward deploying 20 FADs by year-end.



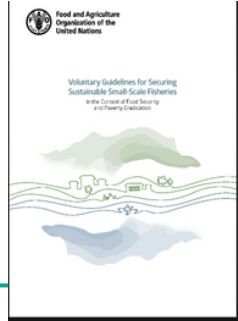
Department of Marine Resources St.Kitts and Nevis FB Page



SRI LANKA GLOBAL

In September 2025, Kandy, Sri Lanka, became the focal point of this movement by hosting the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum from September 6–13. This landmark event brought together over 700 delegates from more than 100 countries to address interconnected crises such as climate change, inequality, and social injustice.

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



About SSF Guidelines

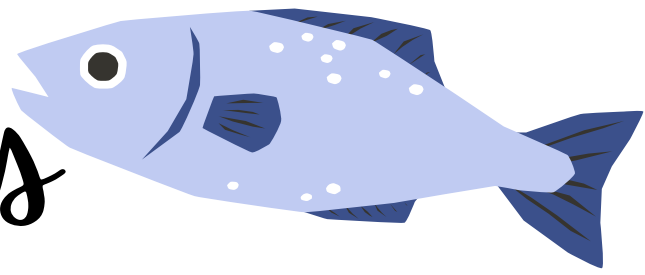
Many unrecognized and marginalized

Most jobs in the sector are informal. Earnings are unstable, partly because fish catches vary with the seasons. In some cases, there are no social protection schemes that fishers and fish workers can access. In other cases, schemes exist, but fishers and fish workers might find it difficult to join social security schemes that require paying a monthly fee.

CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

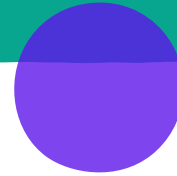
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and 22nd September 2022). (FAO supported)
- **Turks and Caicos SSF Guidelines Workshop April 10-11, 2025. (Collaboration CSFUND/TIDES, Fisherfolk Organisations and national partners)**
- **St. Vincent and Grenadines SSF Guidelines Workshop May 12-13, 2025. (Collaboration PADF, CRFM, CSFUND, National Fisherfolk Organisations, National partners, and **Sandals Resorts International**).**

Project Updates



CSFUND/TIDES FOUNDATION

January 9, 2024 Tides Foundation, on the recommendation of CSFund, gave the CNFO a grant of USD\$60,000.00. This grant is for the CNFO's Just Transitions. The grant period is from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026



RAG-LAC

Regional Advisory Groups (RAG) were created in 2020 to ensure a coherent implementation of policies, strategies and actions in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation at the regional level. The CNFO is a member of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.



CANARI PROJECT

Promoting the ecosystem approach to fisheries in Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The next ALG is scheduled for 6th November 2025 and will be facilitated by Mr. Tylon Joseph of Grenada.

Learning Exchange in Saint Lucia, 17th to 20th November 2025.

Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

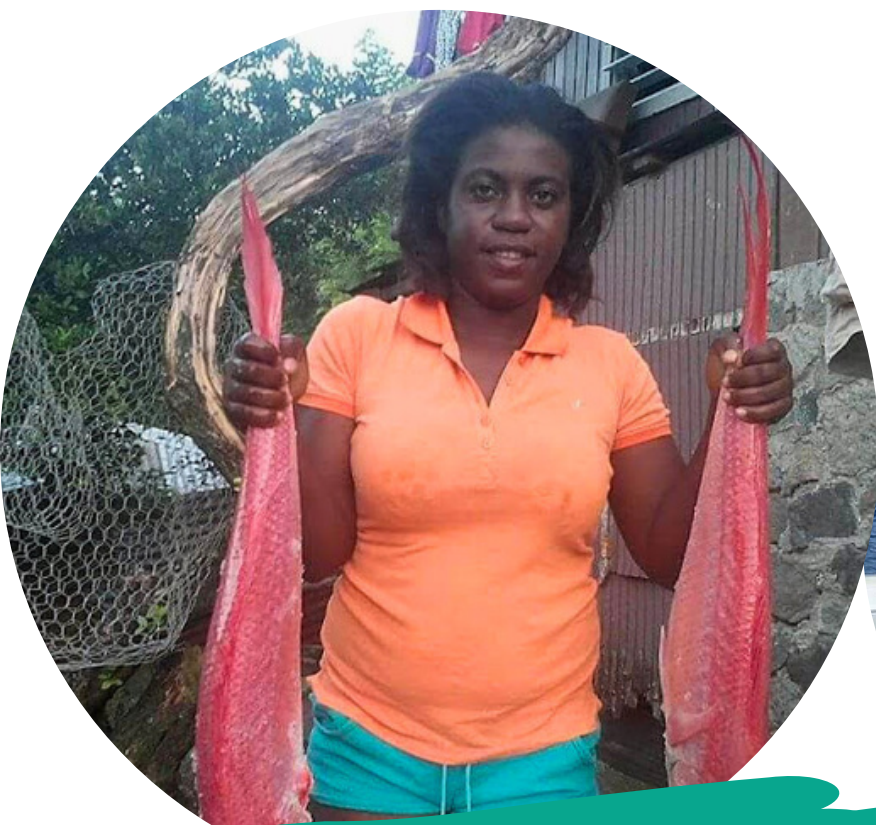
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

Build Awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).





CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE 25% BY 2030 REDUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY FOOD BILL



CNFO/CRFM SSF ACTION PLAN LINK:

[HTTPS://CNFO.FISH/CNFO-CRFM-SMALL-SCALE-FISHERIES-ACTION-PLAN-2023-2025/](https://cnfo.fish/cnfo-crfm-small-scale-fisheries-action-plan-2023-2025/)

CNFO's Executive Committee

2024-2027

CNFO Executive Committee

Mr. Devon Stephen, Saint Lucia (Chair)

Mr. Earl George, Dominica (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Aristo Richardson, Anguilla (General Secretary)

Mr. Armando Ramirez, Belize (Treasurer)

Ms. Vernel Nicholls, Barbados (Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Oscar Talbot, Turks and Caicos (Organizational Liaison Officer)

Mr. Mark Lall, Suriname (Fisheries Liaison Officer)

Staff

Nadine Nembhard, Belize (Administrative Officer)

Mitchell Lay, Antigua and Barbuda (Program Coordinator)

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

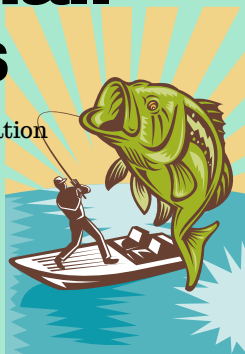


CNFO 10th Anniversary

CNFO will turn 10 on 28th June 2026! From humble beginnings to a decade of empowering fisherfolk and strengthening Caribbean fisheries, we celebrate our achievements and community. Stay tuned for more updates.

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



GOVERNANCE OF TENURE

Secure equitable tenure rights to fishery resources and coastal land. Sustainable resource management including co-management.

Social development, employment and decent work

Address issues such as education, health services, financial services, social protection, public infrastructure, and other public services.

Health and safety; measures to improve safety at sea.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade

Involve post-harvest actors in the decision-making process. Stress the role of women. Infrastructure and technology investments, value-added activities, and post-harvest loss and waste reduction.

Gender equality

Improve gender equality in the entire value chain. Equal participation of women in decision-making, mainstreaming gender issues.



DISASTER RISK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Develop policies, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and emergency response and disaster preparedness.



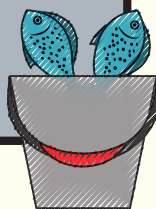
Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small- Scale Fisheries

in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



RAISING AWARENESS: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND OUTREACH

Communication materials on SSF Guidelines, implementation guides, translation into local languages, promotion and awareness-raising



**Empowering stakeholders:
capacity development and
institutional strengthening**

Effective participation and fair representation in governance and development. Capacity development (technical skills, organizations skills, business development)

**Supporting implementation:
program management,
collaboration and management**

Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**Strengthening the science-policy
interface: sharing of knowledge
and supporting policy reform**

A strengthened knowledge base that informs a policy reform within a human rights context.

Good practices need to be identified and shared. Case Studies, technical support, and assistance for review and revisions of policy and legal framework.



CNFO CONTACT:

Phone: 501-624-5364

cnfo_cu@yahoo.com

<https://cnfo.fish/>

MARSLYN LEWIS



*Marslyn Lewis
Beyond entrepreneurship,
Marslyn has devoted years to
environmental conservation
work, advocating for the
protection of marine
ecosystems and raising
awareness about climate
change.*

***She currently serves as an
executive member of the
Sea Moss Association of St.
Vincent and the Grenadines,
where she works to empower
women in developing
sustainable sea moss
businesses and plays a key
role in creating structures for
the emerging industry.***

Marslyn Lewis is a Vincentian entrepreneur, environmental advocate, and community leader whose work bridges business, conservation, and youth development. Born and raised on the Grenadine Island of Union Island, she developed an early appreciation for the ocean and the natural resources that sustain island life. This deep respect for the environment has guided her career and inspired her to champion initiatives that balance economic opportunity with environmental stewardship.

Professionally, Marslyn has built a diverse career with experience in banking, marketing, and restaurant operations management. She is also the founder of Marslyn's, a growing all-natural health and wellness enterprise that produces high-quality sea moss hair and skin care products, teas, desserts, drinks, and capsules. Her vision is to share the nutritional and medicinal benefits of sea moss with both local and international markets while supporting sustainable livelihoods for cultivators across the Grenadines. Under her leadership, the business has become a model of climate-smart growth, blending traditional knowledge with modern innovation to strengthen resilience in coastal communities.



+1-501-624-5364



cnfo_cu@yahoo.com



Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City,
Belize