

ISSN: 1995-1132

CRFM Technical & Advisory Document Series

Number 2024 / 04

SUMMARY REPORT

THE STAR-FISH – SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN FISHERIES

GAC PROJECT P012938

REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP (ELECTRONIC, 15TH AUGUST

CRFM Secretariat

Belize

August 2024

CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2024 / 04

**Summary Report of the STAR-Fish – Sustainable Technologies for
Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries (GAC Project P012938) Regional
Validation Workshop (Electronic) 15th August 2024**

Prepared by: Peter A. Murray

Advisor, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM Secretariat, Belize City, Belize.
Email: peter.a.murray@crfm.int

CRFM Secretariat

Belize

2024

CRFM Technical & Advisory Document

Number 2024 / 04

Summary Report of the STAR-Fish – Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries (GAC Project P012938) Regional Validation Workshop (Electronic) 15th August 2024

© *CRFM* 2024

All rights reserved.

Reproduction, dissemination and use of the material in this publication for educational or non-commercial purposes are authorized without prior written permission of the CRFM, provided the source is fully acknowledged. No part of this publication may be reproduced, disseminated used for any commercial purposes or resold without the prior written permission of the CRFM.

Correct Citation:

CRFM, 2024. Summary Report of the STAR-Fish – Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries (GAC Project P012938) Regional Validation Workshop (Electronic) 15th August 2024. 22p. CRFM Technical and Advisory Document 2024 / 04

ISSN: 1995-1132

ISBN: 978976-8293-68-8

Published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat

Belize

The STAR-Fish – Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries

GAC Project P012938

Regional Validation Workshop

15th August 2024 (via GoToMeeting)

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Opening.....	5
Introduction of Participants	5
Meeting Objectives	6
Problem analysis and theory of change	6
Review and Validation of Project Immediate Outcomes, Outputs and Activities	8
Closure.....	17
Appendix 1 - Agenda.....	20
Appendix 2 - List of Attendees	21

Table of Figures

Figure 1 STAR-Fish project summary	6
Figure 2 Project problem analysis and impact chain	7
Figure 3 The Project's Theory of Change	8
Figure 4 Immediate outcome 1110, output 1111	8
Figure 5 Immediate outcome 1110, output 1112	9
Figure 6 Immediate outcome 1120, output 1121 and 1122	10
Figure 7 Immediate outcome 1210, output 1211	11
Figure 8 Immediate outcome 1220, outputs1221 and 1222.....	12
Figure 9 Immediate outcome 1220, output1223	13
Figure 10 Immediate outcome 1230 activities 1231, 1232, 1233	14
Figure 11 Project governance arrangements	15
Figure 12 National Project Focal Points - appointment and overall responsibility	16
Figure 13 National Project focal Points - specific roles and responsibilities	16
Figure 14 Summary First Annual Work plan	17

Introduction

The CRFM has received approval from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for the implementation of the STAR-fish Project - “Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries” in Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. Before implementation can begin, GAC requires that the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and First-year Annual Work Plan (Y1AWP) be developed via a consultative process, and in accordance with the standards and policies of GAC.

A broad swathe of stakeholders were invited to participate in a Regional Validation Workshop on Friday the 15th of August 2024 hosted by the CRFM Secretariat. The objective of the meeting was to seek inputs and recommendations in reviewing and refining the project’s proposed immediate outcomes, outputs, and activities, and to confirm that the suggestions of key stakeholders in Member countries and the region, that may be essential to the project’s success, have been satisfactorily incorporated. The final draft Project Implementation Plan and First-year Annual Work Plan was circulated with comments received from stakeholders, by 9th August, incorporated.

Opening

The meeting (agenda at appendix 1) was called to order by Peter A Murray, Advisor, Fisheries Management and Development (A,FMD), who gave brief remarks on the rationale and purpose of the meeting. He noted that there had been an introductory workshop for the consultancy on the development of the project implementation plan and first year annual work plan that was held on the 7th of June. During that workshop comments were made and the Secretariat also allowed for a further period of commenting on drafts of the PIP and AWP, up to the 9th August. The consultant firm, ID&M led by Noel Jacobs, incorporated all of those in the further development of the documents. This is now the time to validate those efforts. Noted that the Global Affairs Canada lead on this is not able to attend, but she has given us assurances that she's looking forward the output of this workshop.


Remarks were also tendered by Dr. Sandra C. Grant, Deputy Executive Director (DED) of the CRFM. She reminded participants that this is one of the few chances to determine the direction of the project. While an opportunity may arise at the project midterm, this is one of the last chances to go through this document and ensure that it can be implemented within the participating Member States. If there are any concerns this is the time to present them so that the consultants can amend, adjust or give clarification before we move forward. We're looking forward to the implementation of this project in the coming months, but this document is due to be submitted to GAC before the end of August.

Introduction of Participants

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, indicating their country and the agency they represented. The Chief Fisheries Officer of Guyana and the GAC project lead had tendered apologies for not being able to attend. The list of attendees is appendix 2.


Meeting Objectives

The PIP Development Consultant, Mr. Noel Jacobs, gave an overview of the workshop objectives. The purpose is to get concurrence that what has been finally incorporated into the PIP and Y1AWP reflects Member States' opinions and inputs that had been received so far through the consultation meeting in June and also through other inputs over the last two months. Basically, it is to validate and to provide reassurance that we have been successful in capturing what Member States wanted to be captured based on all inputs so far. So what is presented is the final immediate outcomes, the outputs, the activities, and a summary of the first year activity and budget as required by Global Affairs Canada.



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

Project Summary Data



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada

Project Title	STAR-Fish – SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN FISHERIES
STAR-Fish Objectives	<p>Project</p> <p>The overall object of the project is to enhance sustainable economic growth through building (or improving) resiliency of the Caribbean fisheries sector. It will address two broad development issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the need to build competitiveness and unleash key economic drivers by contributing to sustainable growth of the economies of CARICOM Member States; and 2) to advance climate adaptation by assisting to reduce vulnerability to disaster risk and the effects of climate change, and to ensure effective management of the natural resources across Member States.
DFATD Contribution	\$4,000,000 CAD
CRFM Counterpart Contribution	\$324,000 CAD
Duration	4 years
Project Number	P012938

STAR-Fish Project
Regional Validation workshop

Figure 1 STAR-Fish project summary

The Consultant provided a reminder of the general characteristic of the STAR-Fish project. The overall objective (see figure 1) of the project is to enhance sustainable economic growth through building or improving resiliency of the Caribbean fisheries sector. The project seeks to address two broad development issues: the need to build competitiveness and unleash economic drivers by contributing to the sustainable growth of the countries of the current member states and to advance climate adaptation by assisting to reduce vulnerability to disaster risk and the effects of climate change and to ensure effective management of the natural resources across Member States. The contribution or the donation from Global Affairs Canada is four million Canadian dollars with counterpart contribution of three hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars through the CRFM. Project duration is four years.

Problem analysis and theory of change

The project is developed based around the core problem of global warming and climate change and the impacts on agriculture and fisheries (figure 2)

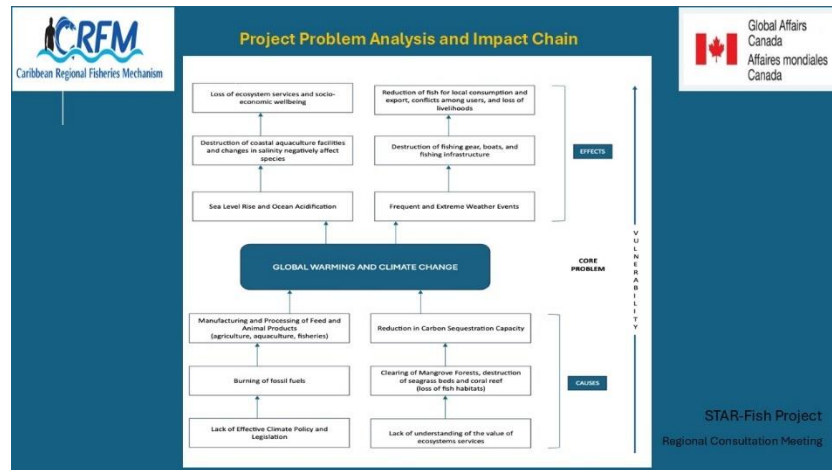


Figure 2 Project problem analysis and impact chain

In the project conceptualization we always have to present some kind of a problem analysis and illustrate how one thing leads to another. The figure also illustrates how some of the contributing factors to global warming and climate change affect aquaculture and fisheries. This problem analysis then leads us to the identification of barriers.

There were three key barriers identified in the project conceptualization and so the project's theory of change is developed to address those barriers through a series of inputs. Those inputs will produce certain outputs which will lead to immediate outcomes, then intermediate outcomes, and then ultimately the final goal, which is increased clean energy transition in Caribbean fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

It is important to note that while the ultimate and intermediate outcomes are not to be changed from what was approved at project submission (and as such is in the contribution agreement), GAC requires that we describe the logic model and the project theory of change so that we demonstrate that we're linking the problem with the barriers and the barriers with the inputs, inputs with the outputs and so forth; and it makes sense and that it follows certain logical pathways. The project theory of change has three logical pathways, one addressing each of the three barriers, and so the structure of the outputs, outcomes, and so forth, and the resulting activities reflect this intervention logic that is shown in figure 3.

The consultant noted that what we have here now is a representation of what was finally agreed at the June consultation with inputs received since then. There has been a bit of restructuring and certain outputs have been merged. For example, it was thought that there needed to an output that would merge most of the gender activity under one: that has been done as well as integrating some of the other assessments to make it a little bit more streamlined and reduce some of the outputs without reducing the activities.

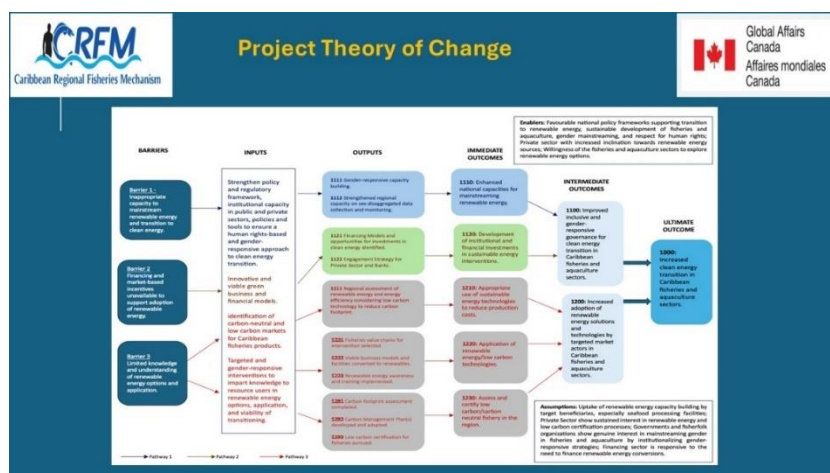


Figure 3 The Project's Theory of Change

Review and Validation of Project Immediate Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

During the presentation and discussion of the immediate outcomes, outputs and activities, recommendations for amendments to these were tabled and consensus arrived at in this regard

Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		
Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities
Immediate Outcome 1110: Enhanced national capacities for mainstreaming renewable energy into the fisheries and aquaculture sector.	Output 1111: Gender-responsive capacity building and improved understanding of gender and social issues in efforts to transition to clean energy in the fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support participation in initiatives to further build capacity for incorporating renewable energy into the fisheries sector, including by addressing gender, youth and decent work issues. b. Carry out gender and livelihood assessments of women's and men's contribution to the fisheries sector of at least 4 participating countries through gender and livelihood analyses. c. Conduct an assessment of opportunities for women, men, and youth participation in energy transition in the fisheries sector. d. Develop at least two (2) national gender action plans to guide national implementation of CRFM Gender Strategy and Action Plan. e. Develop guidance on and provide training in gender-responsive budgeting (using an analysis of gender-responsive budgeting in other regions / sectors as good practices). f. Develop or update as appropriate policy framework to support gender-responsive renewable energy or low carbon technology in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. g. Country-level feasibility assessments for fishing fleet decarbonization commitments. h. Fishing Fleet Decarbonization Strategy and Action Plan.

Figure 4 Immediate outcome 1110, output 1111

Figures 4 and 5 show the activities for immediate outcome 1110 and output 1111 and 1112 respectively. The first output under this outcome is gender responsive capacity building and improved understanding of gender and social issues in efforts to transition to clean energy in the fisheries sector. This output has a modified wording from the original. This is the outcome which seeks to concentrate most of the gender activities under one output as opposed to having them spread out as it did in the original version.

The Consultant reminded the meeting that this contribution from GAC in fact comes from one of their gender and climate programs and so this PIP and this project are required to reflect gender responsiveness as much as is possible throughout the implementation.

Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		
Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities
Immediate Outcome 1110: Enhanced national capacities for mainstreaming renewable energy into the fisheries and aquaculture sector.	Output 1112: Strengthened regional capacity on sex-disaggregated socioeconomic data collection and monitoring for the fisheries sector in the Caribbean.	<p>a. Design regional data collection guiding framework on sex-disaggregated socioeconomic data and indicators in fisheries, also including fisheries asset distribution between men and women, gender roles along the value chain, etc.</p> <p>b. Develop and support implementation of regional M&E Tracking Tool for assessing impact of incorporating renewable energy into the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including from the perspective of gender youth and decent work.</p>

Figure 5 Immediate outcome 1110, output 1112

It was noted (by the A,FMD) that aspects of this project are seen as a follow-on to the earlier GAC-funded Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Fisheries in the Caribbean project (P007086). For example, in terms of the gender action plan, under that earlier project a number of national gender action plans were developed, it is foreseen that the participating countries in this project, which were not part of that previous one, would thus have the opportunity to have gender action plans developed. It was further pointed out that discussions on aid effectiveness across the world note the importance of building the gender issues into the development assistance framework. If we are to be in a better position to move ourselves forward in terms of getting development funding, the issue of gender has got to be built into our projects. The importance of giving emphasis to the gender and, more broadly general, governance issues to ensure sustainability, stability, resilience in the fisheries sector and not only to pay attention to the management of the natural resource was reiterated, by the CRFM Executive Director.

A general comment was that there is need to make sure that, in addition to investing in these governance arrangements and proper processes for engagement and development we must also consider those actions that are required to add value, improve income and generate more wealth from the fisheries sector; which can be considered to be the most important thing to improve resilience and empower fishing communities and fishers to be better able to take care of themselves. So value chain and innovation and technology and approaches to fishing that are climate smart but will add value to the industry and income and empowerment for the fishers from an economic point of view, accessing credit and addressing some of those specific challenges are important. Implicitly then, while we need to focus on the social and governance issues, we also need to make sure we don't forget the "bread and butter" issues.

In considering the second activity of output 1112 (figure 5) it was pointed out that relates very, very clearly to the ministerial statement on gender, youth, and decent work and brings it within the context of renewable energy. In the previous gender mainstreaming project, we had looked at M &E tracking tool specifically for gender mainstreaming, while in this current project the idea is that given the intermediate outcomes that we have for this project we will be looking at the regional

M &E tracking tool in the context of assessing the impact of incorporating renewable energy. So, the tie between the incorporation of renewable energy and the ministerial statement on gender, is linked at that activity.

It was suggested that in carrying out these activities, especially the activity for output 1112, we have to be mindful on the other projects and activities that are looking at this same subject or a similar subject so that we have a coordinated approach that build upon other investments for strengthening the data collection program and moving towards more sex-disaggregated data to facilitate planning. We have to ensure that we are not “reinventing the wheel” but be aware of these other activities and work in a synergistic manner to move forward.

It was pointed out that all of the multilateral partners now demand that in all the project results framework sex-disaggregated indicators must be included.

Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		
Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities
Immediate Outcome 1120 - Development of institutional and financial investments in sustainable energy interventions in the fisheries sector.	1121: Financing Models developed and opportunities for investments in clean energy identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify opportunities for investment with close engagement of the financial sector, the private sector, and fisherfolks. b. Develop at least 2 financing models acceptable to the financial sector and fisherfolk organizations in project countries. c. Identification of where stakeholders are keen on investing in renewable energy along the fisheries value chain. d. Educate fishers on financing/investment options.
	1122: Engagement Strategy for Private Sector and Banks developed and implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct Stakeholder Mapping to inform engagement strategy. b. Engagement Strategy for Financial Sector and Private Sector developed in support of financing models to be developed. c. Development of investment/finance opportunities through domestic strategies and international cooperation.

Figure 6 Immediate outcome 1120, output 1121 and 1122

The consultant pointed out to the rationale here being that the financial institutions currently are not readily providing credits and financing for transition to renewable energy and then people in the private sector who may be interested are a bit hesitant unless they know the economic viability of it and that feasibility assessments have been done; based on which the financing institutions and the private sector can then look at what financing model will work. There is need to ascertain which model(s) will minimize risk for the creditor and the private sector can be convinced that this makes economic/business sense.

During the discussion that ensued, it was noted that the “financial sector” would include other financial service providers apart from banks. It was concluded that it was important to make sure that somewhere in the text it is indicated that we're looking at the range of financial institutions, including credit unions and insurance service providers.

It was again stressed that activities should incorporate some case studies in the countries to have some tangible work done that can be used for scaling up. While it was accepted that there's scope for that at the task level and that when the terms of reference for whoever is carrying out the actual

activities are being developed this can be incorporated at the task level, it was thought that it should be more explicitly mentioned that some case studies would be done. The Consultant suggested that this could be incorporated as part of activity C of figure 6 above.

The case study approach was also touted as being pertinent to activity D by way of actually working with some fishers to access financing and to go through the actual process, rather than just having some recommendation on paper pointed to what fishers could or should do and the are the opportunities; but having something practical where we work with fishers to access financing. The case of more of fishers investing in harvesting and supplying sargassum for fertilizer production was seen as a possible practical demonstration that could be utilized; and, there are other areas where accessing financing and investing could generate real benefits for the fishers and for economic growth more generally in the region. It is important to get down to the level where you are beginning to engage in fishers and looking at the practical challenges that they face in accessing financing and getting investments and investing in their operation, it's going to be challenging to change behaviour. It was re-emphasised that the best way is to have some practical cases where we demonstrate how things can be done by real people; and, sharing the benefits more widely. It was concluded that activity D would have to be reworded a bit to reflect that is the project would have to provide fishers with the technical assistance to develop the proposal to access the financing and then accompany them in its implementation. This of course would be contingent upon being able to make the requisite budgetary allocations to facilitate this. It was accepted that generally the case study approach is something that, at the task level, we can bear in mind in moving forward. It was agreed, though, that the re-wording should be done to the activities to make specific reference to the case approach and thus make it measurable.



 Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		 Global Affairs Canada Affaires mondiales Canada
Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities	
1210: Appropriate use of sustainable energy technologies to reduce production costs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.	1211: Regional assessment of sustainable/renewable energy and improving energy efficiency with consideration of low carbon technology to reduce carbon footprint in the marine fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	a. Identify energy costs linked to production, challenges and opportunities for integrated sustainable energy uptake. b. Undertake detailed examination of technology, national policies and financing available to support the application of renewable/low carbon energy technology. c. National and regional workshops to present findings of all technical assessments conducted relating to renewable energy.	

Figure 7 Immediate outcome 1210, output 1211

A representative of Belize noted that the baseline information and outputs from the workshops will definitely help countries like Belize. It was again noted that these activities also provided opportunities for some practical demonstration where we can work on the ground and show the improvement that we desire. The Consultant pointed out that this outcome really is baseline for

other outcomes which includes practical demonstration, such as in subsequent outcomes (such as in figure 8) that include the actual conversion and transition of processing plants.



 		
Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		
Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities
1220 - Application of renewable energy/low carbon technologies in marine capture fisheries and aquaculture.	1221: Fisheries value chains for intervention evaluated and selected.	a. Evaluation of appropriate fisheries value chains. b. Selection of at least four (4) value chains for intervention.
	1222: Viable business models developed for identified renewable energy options, and fish processing facilities converted to renewable energy operations.	a. Identification of renewable energy options such as ...solar drying, battery for boats, ice production etc., including most appropriate renewable energy technologies, and analysis of the key points in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain to determine points of intervention. b. Evaluate available business model(s) for conversion of fish processing operations. c. Develop/customise viable business model(s) for conversion of fish processing operations.

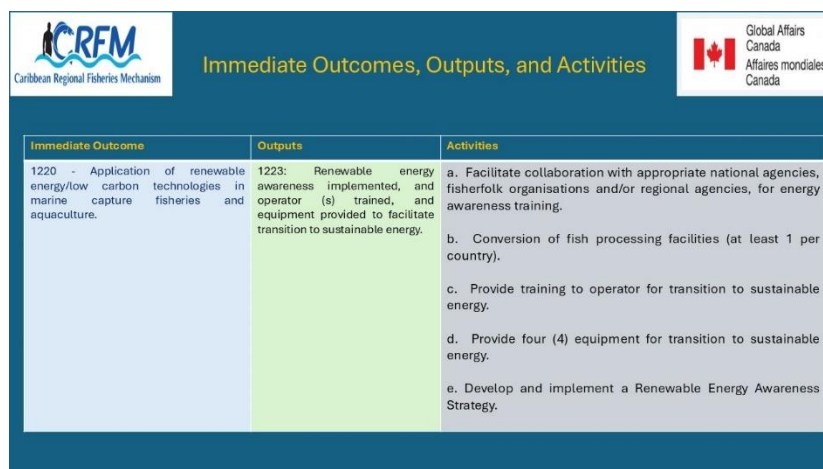
Figure 8 Immediate outcome 1220, outputs 1221 and 1222

There was stated agreement with the idea of seeking practical outcomes, noting that project activities could consider at other countries that already have the technologies and use them as a guide instead of doing anything from scratch. The idea was to assess where along the value chain you have the better probability of introducing renewable energy or cleaner energy, recognising that certain parts of the value chain will be easier than others and some will be cheaper than others, so the idea here is to have a proper understanding of all the different links in the value chain and which of those present the most feasible or viable opportunities for intervention. In response to a query it was confirmed that we would be looking at all of the options to determine what potentials have viability to exist within that process flow. The technical people who will be tasked with the implementation of this project will have to be creative in the writing of the terms of reference.

There is need for good competent people to implement the project and do true justice in researching the topic at the moment of writing the terms of reference. That is where most of these projects fail because when you commission the activity not enough work is done in the development of the term of reference. The person sometimes developing the term of reference themselves are not informed enough of the topic, but still would not do the necessary research to be able to write the best possible term of reference. It was pointed out that as we get through the project implementation stage we would need to pay a lot of attention to what is worded in the terms of reference, so that the thinking/discussion that is coming out here can be captured in those terms of reference.

With reference to figure 9, it was reiterated that we have to make sure that we can optimize resources and approach the conversion of fish processing facilities at least one per country, provide training to operator for transition to sustainable energy. The project aims to provide for equipment for transition to sustainable energy, develop and implement a renewable energy awareness strategy. There would be need, in project implementation and in consultation with the countries, to develop

criteria for the selection of the four entities to which equipment would be provided. This is something that has to be discussed by the Project Steering Committee, and the project coordinator would have to take the lead in developing proposed criteria for analysis and discussion.



Immediate Outcome	Outputs	Activities
1220 - Application of renewable energy/low carbon technologies in marine capture fisheries and aquaculture.	1223: Renewable energy awareness implemented, and operator (s) trained, and equipment provided to facilitate transition to sustainable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitate collaboration with appropriate national agencies, fisherfolk organisations and/or regional agencies, for energy awareness training. b. Conversion of fish processing facilities (at least 1 per country). c. Provide training to operator for transition to sustainable energy. d. Provide four (4) equipment for transition to sustainable energy. e. Develop and implement a Renewable Energy Awareness Strategy.

Figure 9 Immediate outcome 1220, output1223

In response to a question, the Consultant explained that the renewable energy awareness strategy referred to in figure 9 would be a single strategy for the eight countries participating in the project: the project has a communication strategy which has identified the categories of audiences and stakeholders, which apply to all eight countries, so targeting would be through those categories of stakeholders as defined in the communication strategy.

With regard to figure 10, it was noted that all the low carbon assessments at fisheries go beyond just the fishing activity *per se* and also include eventual certification aspects of the ecosystem being fished as it relates to blue carbon. There is no simplistic approach to carbon footprint assessments, carbon management plans and low carbon certification as these are not just based on a fishing activity, but the certification programs also include consideration of the status of the species being fished and status of the ecosystem being fished, in addition to the fishing activity. This means that it is important that the assessment, from the onset, consider the blue carbon aspects as well as fishing activity such as the boat, the fishing effort and the kind of equipment being used, the transport and storage, et cetera that will be required for the certification.

It was noted that it is clear that consideration is being given to the entire value chain and it is important that this value chain approach, or maybe even value ecosystem-based approach, to these assessments is reflected in the document(s) so that they are comprehensive and likewise in the case of the carbon management plan that seek to address the specific weaknesses that are identified and areas where improvements can be made.

Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities		
Immediate Outcome	Outputs (Proposed Changes?)	Activities (Proposed Changes?)
1230: Assess and certify low carbon/carbon neutral fishery in the region.	1231: Carbon footprint (fossil fuel consumption) assessment completed.	a. Carry out fossil fuel consumption assessment and Blue Carbon conservation requirements for selected fisheries in at least two (2) Member States b. Assess energy use by four plants in accordance with selection criterion to be agreed between project countries and the CRFM.
	1232: Carbon Management Plan(s) developed and adopted.	a. Develop Carbon Management Plans (CMP) for the selected fisheries and seek their adoption.
	1233: Low carbon certification for fisheries pursued.	a. Support/facilitate low carbon certification for the selected fisheries. b. Identify markets for low carbon certified fisheries.

Figure 10 Immediate outcome 1230 activities 1231, 1232, 1233

It was noted that there is mention in the document of the case of aquaculture ponds where these actually sequester carbon and that the carbon footprint is really in the aeration and the processing and the feed manufacturing. These are other considerations that would have to be considered when dealing with the aquaculture sub-sector, because this project will also work with the sector where opportunities present themselves. The point was made that it is important to mention the idea of the ecosystem/value chain approach in the text, so that it's clear to the reader of text that this is an approved approach in project implementation.

At this point it was mentioned that it might be useful to put a glossary at the beginning of a document, which defines a lot of the key terms. Additionally, in the preambular text to the statement of activities, or work breakdown structure, some of the necessary (definitional) text could be included.

Review of Project Governance Arrangements and Terms of Reference of National Project Focal Points

The project will have oversight of a project steering committee made up of the national country focal points, GAC, and the CRFM (Figure 11).

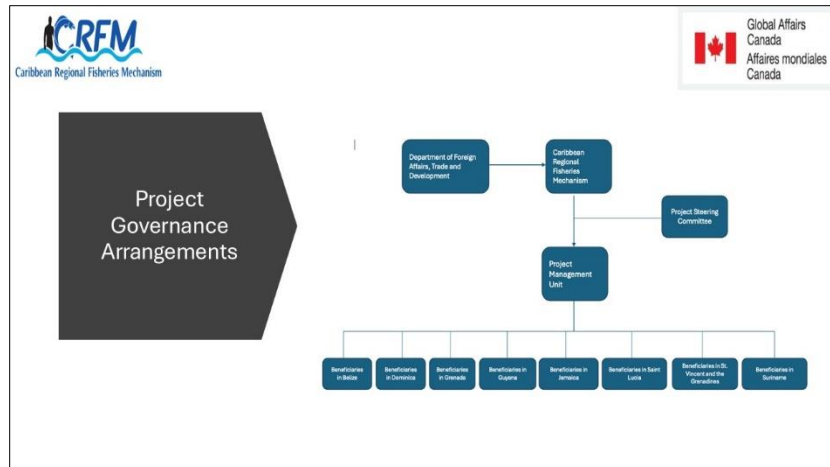


Figure 11 Project governance arrangements

This project is not meant to be staff heavy within the CRFM for project purposes, persons working directly in the project will be classified as working under a project management unit.

The Project Steering Committee, as the project's superior governing body, can always invite technical people to meetings to provide, to do presentations, provide advice. If the Project Steering Committee thinks that, after the project starts, there is need for a technical committee, they reserve the right to appoint a technical committee and would have to advise GAC of the intention and the rationale and the purpose. It was pointed out that this ability of the project steering committee should be clearly stated in its terms of reference. The project coordinator would be, we serve as the secretary of the project steering committee and the CRFM itself will serve as the secretariat of the project steering committee. From the project management unit all the implementation on the ground happens through the national project focal points. In addition to a national coordinator, you will need a gender and safeguards person, if not full-time, even part-time as a consultant, to ensure compliance and reporting of safeguards and gender-mainstreaming compliance. We do not have to necessarily list this as a position, but could use resources from the technical activities to cover the cost of a part-time consultant to make sure the project is complying with safeguards and gender requirements; just as all other technical requirements will be outsourced either through technical agreements with institutions or through consultancies.

There will be national/country focal points who would be part of the steering committee and part of the governance structure but no national project coordinators, *sensu stricto*. The national focal points, would come from the Fisheries Department, either in the person of the or as designated by the CFO. All project activities will be implemented via the office of the National Project Focal Point.

Figures 12 and 13 speak to the appointment, overall responsibility and specific roles and responsibilities of the national project focal points

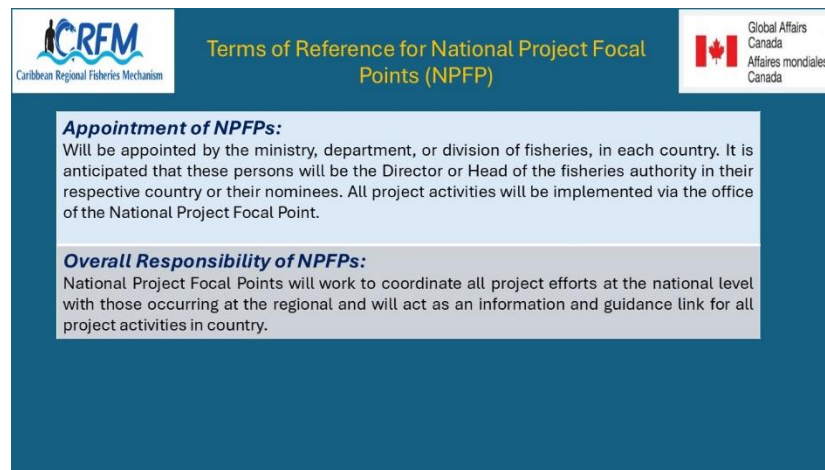


Figure 12 National Project Focal Points - appointment and overall responsibility

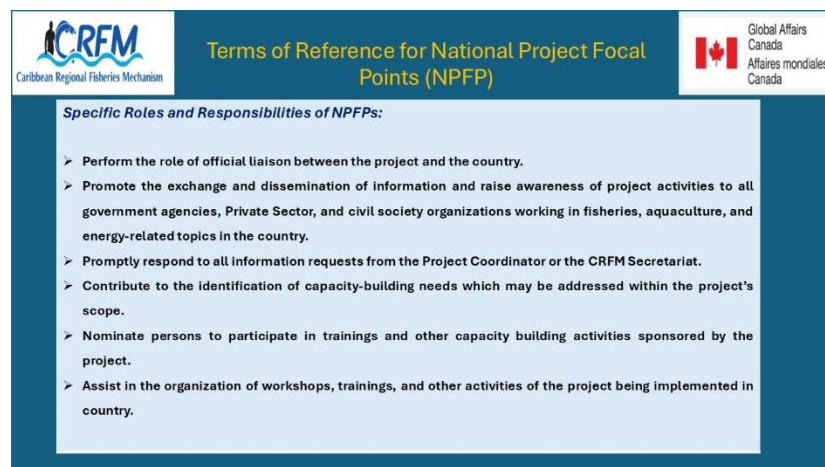


Figure 13 National Project focal Points - specific roles and responsibilities

The Consultant presented the summary of first year's annual work plan (figure 14), noting that not all outputs will have activities in year one. There is a rationale there described for the selection of the activities that have been selected: they are either precursor activities or they're baseline assessments needed for future years. Besides the listed activities, there are some inherent costs that have to be added to the activities. On the second sheet at the bottom, we have salaries, implementation of the communication strategy, monitoring and evaluation costs, and compensation for indirect/overhead costs. It was emphasized that year one is always a tough year because the project implementation in the field really doesn't get off the ground until after the first six months. This means that it is always a mistake to over-budget year one because you find yourself in a situation where you're not able to disburse the money, since project startup takes quite a few months to get the machinery in

place and get things running. This means that the project year with the highest pressure would probably be year two, with a commensurate increase in budget.



Summary First Annual Work Plan			
 Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism		 Global Affairs Canada Affaires mondiales Canada	
Immediate Outcomes/Outputs/Activities	Budget Distribution by Source	TOTAL	
SRF/TS	SRFA	SRFA	TOTAL
1210: Enhanced national capacities for mainstreaming renewable energy into the fisheries and aquaculture sector.			
Output 1211: Gender-responsive capacity building and improved understanding of gender and social issues in efforts to transition to clean energy in the fisheries sector.			
a. Support participants in awareness to further build capacity for incorporating renewable energy into the fisheries sector, including by addressing gender, youth and decent work issues.	75,000	21,000	321,000
b. Carry out gender and livelihood assessments of women's and men's contribution to the fisheries sector of at least 4 participating countries through gender and livelihood surveys.	83,000	8,000	91,000
c. Develop or update an appropriate policy framework to support gender-responsive renewable energy or low-carbon technologies in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	50,000	5,000	55,000
Output Sub-Total	208,000	34,000	242,000
Outcome Sub-Total	208,000	34,000	242,000
1220: Application of renewable energy/low carbon technologies in marine capture fisheries and aquaculture.			
Output 1221: Fisheries value chains for intervention selected.			
a. Evaluation of appropriate fisheries value chains.	40,000	3,500	43,500
Output Sub-Total	40,000	3,500	43,500
Output 1223: Renewable energy awareness implemented, and operator (s) trained, and equipment provided to facilitate transition to sustainable energy.			
a. Facilitate collaboration with appropriate national agencies, fisherfolk organisations and/or regional agencies, for energy awareness training.	130,000	12,000	142,000
e. Develop and implement a Renewable Energy Awareness Campaign.	7,000	1,500	8,500
Output Sub-Total	170,000	12,000	182,000
Outcome Sub-Total	177,000	15,500	192,500
1230: Assess and certify low carbon/carbon neutral fishery in the region.			
Output 1231: Carbon footprint (fossil fuel consumption) assessment completed.			
a. Carry out fossil fuel consumption assessment and Blue Carbon conservation requirements for selected fisheries in at least two (2) Member States.	60,000	4,000	64,000
Output Sub-Total	60,000	4,000	64,000
Outcome Sub-Total	60,000	4,000	64,000
1240: Appropriate use of sustainable energy technologies to reduce production costs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.			
Output 1241: Regional assessment of sustainable/renewable energy and improving energy efficiency conducted with introduction of low carbon technology to reduce carbon footprint in the marine fisheries and aquaculture sector.			
a. Identify energy costs linked to production, challenges and opportunities for integrated sustainable energy solutions.	50,000	4,000	54,000
Output Sub-Total	50,000	4,000	54,000
Outcome Sub-Total	50,000	4,000	54,000
1250: Implementation of Communications Strategy.			
a. Salaries	70,000	0	70,000
b. Implementation of Communications Strategy	7,500	1,500	9,000
c. Monitoring and Evaluation Costs	37,500	5,000	42,500
d. Compensation for Indirect/Overhead Costs	70,000	0	70,000
Total Budget for Project Year 1	694,500	80,500	775,000

Figure 14 Summary First Annual Work plan

It was opined that, even in the case of this first year budget, it would be a bit of a tight gamble to be able to spend all this money in the first year, but it should be doable if a good project coordinator is employed and work is well organized, with the national focal points reacting and supporting as they should. In response to a query, the Consultant opined that project implementation does not start until after the PIP is approved. It was noted that it is important to ensure that in the midterm evaluation, one of the recommendations is that the three months or the five months loss at the beginning is granted as an extension.

Prior to leaving the workshop, the CRFM Executive Director called for paying keen attention on ensuring that at each step, as we move to implement each activity, we look at the options, variations that will help us to achieve the objective. We always need to now be looking at how can we improve the efficiency with which our fishers and processors and those handling and processing and so on and marketing fish and seafood and marine living resources that are harvested even if they're not used for food by people but for other purposes. It is important to ascertain that they are operating in the most efficient manner that will minimize their costs, minimize the negative impact on the environment and on greenhouse gas emission and at the same time improve the resilience of the sector and the vulnerability of our fishing community.

Closure

The Deputy Executive Director thanked the Consultant for his presentation, noting that we had gone through quite a bit of review of the documents and with the comments, we can even further improve the document. One of the things she wanted us to consider to do is, while we wait for the PIP and Y1AWP to go through the approval process, to see whether

a market survey can be done to look at the availability of the consultants to carry out project activities, because one of the problems we are having at CRFM right now in the implementation of the BE:CLME+ and other projects, is trying to find the consultants who are going to do the work. This is especially important as we're talking about renewable energy, which is a very new field so we need to consider where are we going to source these consultants and since they come with a hefty price it is important to start look at the market assessment of the consultants required for this project now, before full implementation. That will go a long way to help when project implementation is ongoing, fully.

In response to this, it was suggested that maybe we can charge the participants at this meeting to reach out among their networks and if they come across any persons or entities or firms that they feel can provide the type of consultancy support we have implied in going through the PIP and Y1AWP and share this information with the Secretariat. The Consultant advocated for the project steering committee to identify competent institutions, at a university or some technical institute that is known to have the competence and identify a group of activities that you know that institution can deliver competently and propose a technical cooperation agreement with them and transfer the funds over for those activities to them and have them be responsible for the delivery of a suite of activities. Another approach with large consulting companies who have a diversity of skill sets in their company or on their roster is to give them a larger contract to deliver multiple things; that way you save or serve all the procurement process for a long list of activities. He opined that all it needs is a bit of research on competencies, demonstrated skills and experiences, and then you approach them and say, or you advertise it as a bulk consultancy or a bulk.

It was suggested that based on what GAC allows us to do, maybe it will do no harm if that kind of hiring process could be included in the document at the appropriate place so that it goes forward to GAC and so when they approve the document, that process is seen as being acceptable. We already know we have to make some slight changes to the contribution agreement and we're in discussions with GAC on that; so it means that there may be an opportunity to allow for this type of thing built in there as well. The Consultant was asked to include some language that points to that approach in the document.

In response to a query, the Consultant noted that notwithstanding the improbability of achieving gender parity in project activities within this sector, it is still required to set parity as a target and then in reporting, present the context and explanations as to why it might not be realistic and why at the midterm, the indicator may need to be revised.

The OECS Commission representative noted that a lot of the project focuses on the energy side and the Commission does have an energy programme with some projects being undertaken at this point just getting off the ground in several of the OECS countries and so

there will be scope for synergistic relationships between these activities and the projects that the OECS is implementing. It was pointed out that it was mindful of this, the Secretariat felt it imperative that the Commission be a part of this discussion; so to the extent, as we move along, it is expected that at the level of terms of reference for consultancies and, when we work out the task levels, we would seek to ensure maximum synergism with the work of the Commission.

The expected timeline for the submission of the documents to GAC was noted

The Representative of Jamaica National Heritage Trust expressed general agreement with the discussion during the workshop and noted that, from a heritage perspective, it is good that we have in this kind of collaboration in relation to the fishery sector.

Given, based on comments enunciated verbally and in the meeting chat, that there appeared to be general agreement with/validation of the PIP and Y1AWP, the Secretariat will take on board all the very useful comments that had been made. The meeting then ended.

Appendix 1 - Agenda

The STAR-Fish – Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries - GAC Project P012938

Regional Validation Workshop

15th August 2024

9:00 – 11:35 (CST)

9:00	Welcome <i>Peter A. Murray, CRFM</i>
9:05	Participants' Introductions
9:15	Meeting Objectives <i>Noel Jacobs, Project Development Consultant</i>
9:20	Review and Validation of Project Ultimate Outcome, Intermediate Outcomes, and Immediate Outcomes <i>Noel Jacobs, Project Development Consultant</i>
9:50	Review and Validation of Project Outputs and Activities <i>Noel Jacobs, Project Development Consultant</i>
10:30	Summary Recommendations for Amendments to Project Immediate Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities <i>All Participants</i>
10:45	Review of Project Governance Arrangements and Terms of Reference of National Project Focal Points
11:30	Closure <i>Peter A. Murray, CRFM</i>

Appendix 2 - List of Attendees

Belize

Adriel Castaneda, Senior Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department

Tyrell Reyes, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department

Andrew Harrison, Climate Finance Unit, Ministry of Economic Development

Felicia Cruz, Director of Blue Economy, Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management

Dominica

Diana Degallerie, Fisheries Liaison Officer, Fisheries Division

Grenada

Lisa Chetram, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division

Jamaica

Avery Smikle, National Fisheries Authority

Azra Blythe Mallett, Capture Fisheries Division, National Fisheries Authority

Carlton Wedderburn, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining

Michelle Topping, Deputy Technical Director of Archaeology, Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Saint Lucia

Charlie Prospere, Fisheries Officer, Department of Fisheries

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Jennifer Cruickshank Howard, Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division

Kris Isaacs, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division

Winsbert Harry, National Fisherfolk Organisation

Tahj Latchman, National Development Foundation

Suriname

Zojindra Arjune, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Gina Griffith, Executive Director, Conservation International, Suriname

Unidentified affiliation

Julie Simon

OECS Commission

Susanna Scott, Ocean Governance and Fisheries Programme

CRFM Secretariat

Milton Haughton, Executive Director

Sandra Grant Deputy Executive Director

Peter A Murray, Advisor, Fisheries Management and Development

June Masters, Statistics and Information Analyst

Adele Ramos, Communications Consultant

Allena Joseph, Marine Spatial Planning Specialist, BE:CLME+ project

Keegan Slinger, Value Chain Specialist, BE:CLME+ project

Noel Jacobs, Project Implementation Plan Development Consultant

Sherlene Audinett, Executive Secretary (in attendance)