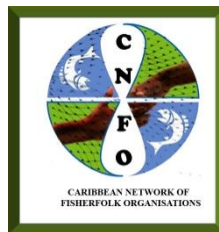


Annual Report

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations Co-ordinating Unit (CNFO-CU)



March 2013

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1.0 Background

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) is a network of fisherfolk organisations, active in the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Member countries. Network members share the vision of having primary, national and regional fisherfolk organisations with knowledgeable members collaborating in the Network, to sustain fishing industries that are mainly owned and governed by fisherfolk, who enjoy a good quality of life, achieved through the ecosystem based management of fisheries resources. The CNFO's mission is to improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation and capacity building.

1.1 Reporting Period

This activities report records the activities of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) for the period March 2012 to April 2013. Ongoing initiatives and planned activities are also included. The network was able to conduct two CNFO business meetings, October 2012 and February 2013, during this period.

1.2 Partnerships

The partners with whom the CNFO has been most active, throughout this reporting period, include the CRFM secretariat and fisheries administrations from various Caricom countries, UWI-CERMES, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), ACPFish II, FAO (Sub Regional Office for the Caribbean).

2.0 Activities

2.1 Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

The 10th meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 26 – 28 March 2012 held in Bahamas.

CRFM/JICA Second Workshop: Promoting the Development of Good Practices for Fisheries Management and Development, 25 – 27 July, 2012, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

CRFM/FAO/CDEMA/CCCC Fisheries Workshops, Kingston, Jamaica, 5 – 12 December 2012. Particularly the Regional Small-Scale Fisheries Workshop, 6 – 8 December 2012.

CTA / CRFM / CNFO Consultation on the Implementation and Mainstreaming of Regional Fisheries Policies into Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements in the Caribbean, Georgetown, Guyana, 25 – 28 Feb. 2013.

The second Joint Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Studies Steering Committees, 11 - 12 March 2013 and CRFM / JICA FAD Fishery Management Workshop for OECS Countries, 13 March 2013, Roseau, Dominica

Junior McDonald and Joslyn LeeQuay attended a “*Participatory 3D Mapping Workshop*” in Grenada 10th April to 19th April 2013.

2.2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean)

Promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) among Caribbean fisherfolk organizations. This involved national fisherfolk meetings in 11 CRFM countries, on Fishers participating in Sustainable Fisheries Governance.

Data and information collection for the conservation and management of shark resources in Antigua and Barbuda, commenced October 2012.

2.3 Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Enhancing food security from the fisheries sector in the Caribbean: Building the capacity of regional and national fisherfolk organization networks to participate in fisheries governance band management. Launched

Preparation of CNFO case study “ Getting a seat at the table: fisherfolk empowerment for policy change in the Caribbean”, for Dublin conference, Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice, 15 – 16 April 2012.

Lessons learnt from social sciences - civil society interaction in policy formulation and planning for the social dimensions of environmental change in the Caribbean. UNESCO project to strengthen capacity in the production of social science data, and its’ use in evidence-based policy formulation and planning for sustainable development.

2.4 ACPFishII

ACPFish II funded a regional workshop on Training in EAF and Climate Change for the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations. Topics related to resilience in fishing communities, adaptive measures, participatory policy formulation along with EAF and climate change were examined at this meeting. Facilitated by CANARI, 16 - 19 October, 2012 in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Training to develop the management capacity of fishers in Antigua and Barbuda. Commenced 13 April, 2013.

3.0 Areas of Interest

3.1 The Nature Conservancy

ICI Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project. The network will operationalize a CNFO/OECS Subcommittee to work with this project, which is scheduled to begin shortly.

3.2 Too Big To Ignore (TBTI)

Ongoing participation in this project, which seeks to enhance knowledge on the contributions of small-scale fisheries, and the impacts of global changes on these fisheries. The CNFO collaborates in working group 4 on Enhancing the Stewardship.

3.3 Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

The network is keenly interested in the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, since this fishery and its' development could have significant implications for Caribbean fishers.

Similar interest is expressed towards the development of a billfish management and conservation plan for the Western Central Atlantic.

3.4 Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Network was unable to participate in GCFI 2012. The Fishers Forum for 2013 will look at Collaborative science towards sustainable fisheries and examine successful examples of collaborative monitoring and evaluation programs and the creation of new opportunities for partnership and collaboration. These are of direct interest to the network and are directly related to our focus and work. Our participation would bring significant benefits to the network and its partners.

3.5 Global initiatives

The technical consultations on the guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries will take place in May 2013, and the CNFO strongly desires to follow and participate in this process, which will have significant impact on fishers livelihoods.

The development of the post 2015 global development goals and the areas of concern for small-scale food producers within global processes (such as climate change adaptation, securing small-scale food production, and participation in governance and management), are of concern.

3.6 Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA)

The network envisions a role in this activity, to bring greater visibility to the sector and increase appreciation of the contribution of fisheries to food and nutrition security and social stability.

3.7 Cariforum consultative committee of non-state actors

CNFO participated in meeting in September 2012 regarding this issue of having a non-state actors consultative committee to work with the Cariforum-EU EPA.

4.0 Notes and conclusions

The CNFO continues to progress amid the complexities associated with voluntary contributions, scarce resources and limited capacities. The support of partners has been a critical factor in the development of the network, along with increased participation from fishers and their organizations. The participation and support of national fisheries administrations has been well received by the network as activities are planned and carried out both regionally and nationally.

With participation from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname, along with interest from the French territories, Dutch Antilles, British Overseas Territories, Dominican Republic and Venezuela, the issue of information and communication management is a pressing challenge. The CNFO would invite guidance on addressing these in the immediate future and suggest that the CRFM could consider support mechanisms to the CNFO, in regards to office space and office management/secretarial staff.

The issue of participation is critical to ensure that fishers interest, knowledge and experiences are considered in the sustainable management of the marine resources in the Caribbean. This brings the realization that participation of fishers in the processes of governance must move from consultation to equitable decision-making. The forum is invited to consider this in its' focus and to examine ways of making it happen at the local, regional and global levels.

Special and sincere thanks are extended to all the organisations, and fisheries management bodies which continue to work with and support the network. The coordinating unit is particularly grateful to all fisherfolk leaders and fishers, who give of their time, effort and resources towards the advancement of the network.

As we move forward amidst the challenges, there is obviously much to be done and we trust that the network will continue to expand and face the challenges well.