



# Improving the Outlook for Caribbean Coral Reefs

A Regional Plan of Action 2014-2019

## Guiding Actions for Fisherfolks





## WHAT IS THE CORAL REEF PLAN OF ACTION?

Coral reefs and associated fisheries are important to Caribbean small-scale fisheries as it provides food, coastal protection, and livelihoods. More than 75% of the coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by coral disease, siltation, overfishing, and climate change.

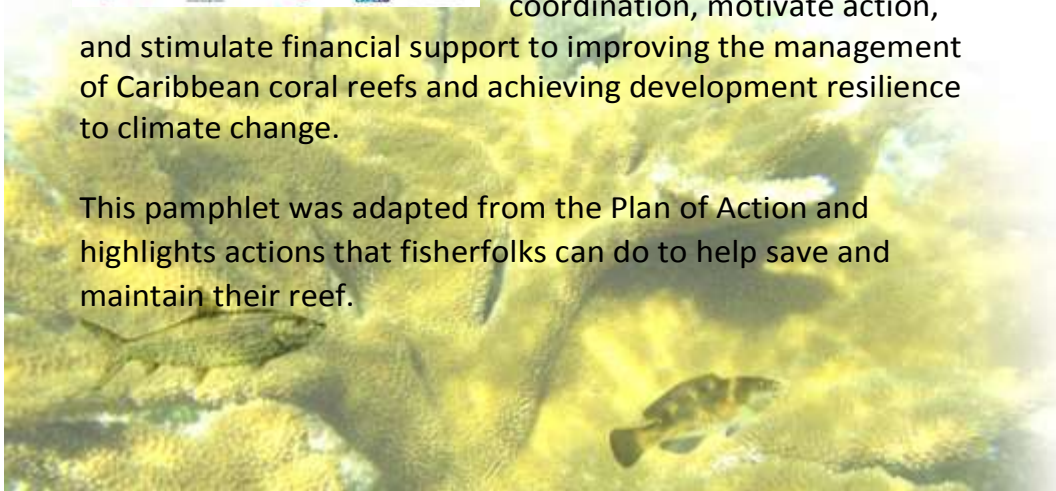
Understanding and addressing climate change risks for coral reef is critical to the regions goal of achieving development resilience to climate change.



The Coral Reef Plan of Action or "Improving the Outlook for Caribbean Coral Reef: A Regional Plan of Action 2014-2019" addresses strategic elements and goals elaborated in the *CARICOM Regional Framework* (<http://crfm.int/>). It is a roadmap for sustainable coral reef management.

The plan will help build regional coordination, motivate action, and stimulate financial support to improving the management of Caribbean coral reefs and achieving development resilience to climate change.

This pamphlet was adapted from the Plan of Action and highlights actions that fisherfolks can do to help save and maintain their reef.





# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

The Coral Reef Plan of Action has four main goals followed by objectives and actionable strategies for improving coral reefs by 2018.

## **GOAL 1: Improve the health and resilience of Caribbean coral reef**

- 1.1 Support and expand Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks
- 1.2 Strengthen existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- 1.3 Respond to climate change risks
- 1.4 Ensure extractive and non-extractive uses are sustainable
- 1.5 Reduce land-based pollution
- 1.6 Protect coastal integrity
- 1.7 Manage risks from invasive species
- 1.8 Enhance public awareness and stakeholder participation and compliance

## **GOAL 2: Strengthen adaptive capacity of communities**

- 2.1 Raise awareness of vulnerability of resources
- 2.2 Increase livelihood options
- 2.3 Enhance community participation and local stewardship

## **GOAL 3: Build foundations for national and regional action**

- 3.1 Engage policy makers and business leaders
- 3.2 Integrate coral reefs into national development strategies
- 3.3 Inform and engage the public
- 3.4 Enhance regional ocean governance
- 3.5 Build and enhance regional knowledge hubs
- 3.6 Demonstrate regional commitment to climate change

## **GOAL 4: Advocate globally for stronger action on climate change**

- 4.1 Negotiate for global climate action





# WHAT CAN FISHERFOLKS DO TO HELP?

## Protect coral reef ecosystems



- Fish responsibly by using appropriate fishing gear and methods.
- Share your experience, interest, and knowledge on changes in fish movement, taste/smell of the seawater, new species, or unusual events at sea with fishers/researchers/Fisheries Officers.
- Get involved in Marine Managed Area planning and assist Park Rangers in enforcing the rules.
- Talk with other marine users (e.g., hoteliers) and share concerns and interests about securing our coral reef.
- Observe conservation and management regulations for key species such as lobster, conch, and parrotfish.

## Promote awareness building and education



- Share with fellow fishers on the importance of good fishing practices and healthy ecosystems.
- Invest in yourself, get involved when training opportunities arise.
- Get involved in CNFO's advocacy strategy on climate change (<http://www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>).
- Share and add information on the CNFO's website through your national CNFO Representative.



## Strengthen fisherfolk organizations

- Join your local fishermen organization for positive group action and encourage other fishers to participate.
- Support your local Fisheries Department.
- Support the national fishermen organization to engage NGOs and government agencies to enforce reef management.
- The regional Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation (CNFO) has information that could benefit you. Become part of the network by contacting them at <http://www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>.



## Encourage social action

- **Plan** together, **work** together, and you will have a better chance of surviving/coping with a disaster.
- Save and invest wisely for your family security.
- Invest in your future by contributing to your Social Security/ National Insurance Scheme.
- Do not depend on one fishing activity, "**mix it up**"... use different types of gears and invest in additional income earning activities.

# ACTIVITIES TO AVOID



**Do not anchor boat on the reef**

Photo by Linda Searle



**Take care when diving. Fins can damage the reefs**

Photo by Nadia Brood



**Do not set gears near coral reefs**

Photo by Nadia Brood



**Do not abandon lines, nets, and traps at sea. They continue to fish**

Photo by Roberto Pott



**Do not litter or dispose of unwanted items at sea**

Photo by Roberto Pott



**Reduce catches in non-target species and undersized fish**

Photo by Sandra Grant



Climate change threatens the future of our livelihood. Let us work together as one community of Caribbean fisher folks to do our part to protect and sustain the coral reef ecosystem for present and future generations.



Photo credits: Linda Searle, Roberto Pott, Nadia Bood, Sandra Grant, and ACP Fish II Programme funded by the EU.

## OTHER ACTIONS

- *Advocate for further research on the impact of other threats to coral reefs such as trace chemicals, pollution.*
- *Advocate for sustainable coastal development to minimize loss to near shore reefs.*
- *Work with community members/fishers to support community initiatives/networks that will reinforce coping strategies.*
- *Experiment with new ways to construct vessels and gears that can withstand the effects of a*

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