



## ***Issues Paper No. 5, September 2014***

# **The CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy and the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway: Connecting the Dots**

### **Introduction**

The people of the CARICOM region are highly dependent on fisheries for economic and social development. This resource contributes significantly to food security, poverty alleviation, employment, foreign exchange earnings, development and stability of rural and coastal communities, culture, recreation and tourism. The sub sector provides direct employment for more than 120,000 fishers, and indirect employment opportunities for thousands of others (including women) in the processing, marketing, boat building, net making and other support services. The fisheries sector also provides employment for many persons who supply services and goods to the primary producers, i.e., persons engaged in processing, preserving, storing, transporting, marketing and distribution or selling fish or fish products, as well as other ancillary activities, such as net and gear making, ice production and supply, vessel construction and maintenance as well as persons involved in research, development and administration linked with the fisheries sector. In addition, the sector creates employment and livelihood opportunities for some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged in our societies, including

the least educated, the rural poor, and women. In addition, fish plays a significant role in nutrition and food security within the region.



In 2008, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) estimated that the total number of people employed in the fisheries sector of the CRFM region was approximately 371,476 or approximately 5% of the workforce of the region. There is actually more potential for the sector. Approximately 90% of the fishers are artisanal and most operate exclusively in the coastal waters of their respective states, seldom venturing beyond 50 miles of their 200 miles EEZ. By not fully utilising their



EEZ, parts of it are being utilized by third states to conduct illegal fishing.

While the fisheries sector in the Caribbean is very important for the sustainable development of the region, it also faces many challenges. These include full or over-exploitation of commercially important species, illegal and unreported and unregulated fishing, inadequate delimitation of the EEZ, lack of capacity to formulate and implement appropriate fishing sector policy and inadequate management of fishing stocks. Moreover, the reliance by most Caribbean countries on imports to satisfy local demand has implications for food security and local nutrition. An even more ominous challenge to the region's fishing industry is that posed by the effects of climate change. Rising sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification and rising sea level will affect fish which, on the other hand, are an essential part of the ecosystem which supports commercial and recreational fisheries and tourism.

Despite the challenges, the fisheries sector in all SIDS plays a critical socio-economic role. This is graphically presented in Figure 1 below.

Regional and global policy instruments also affirm that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in SIDS. Two such policy instruments that are reviewed in this paper are the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and the recently concluded S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

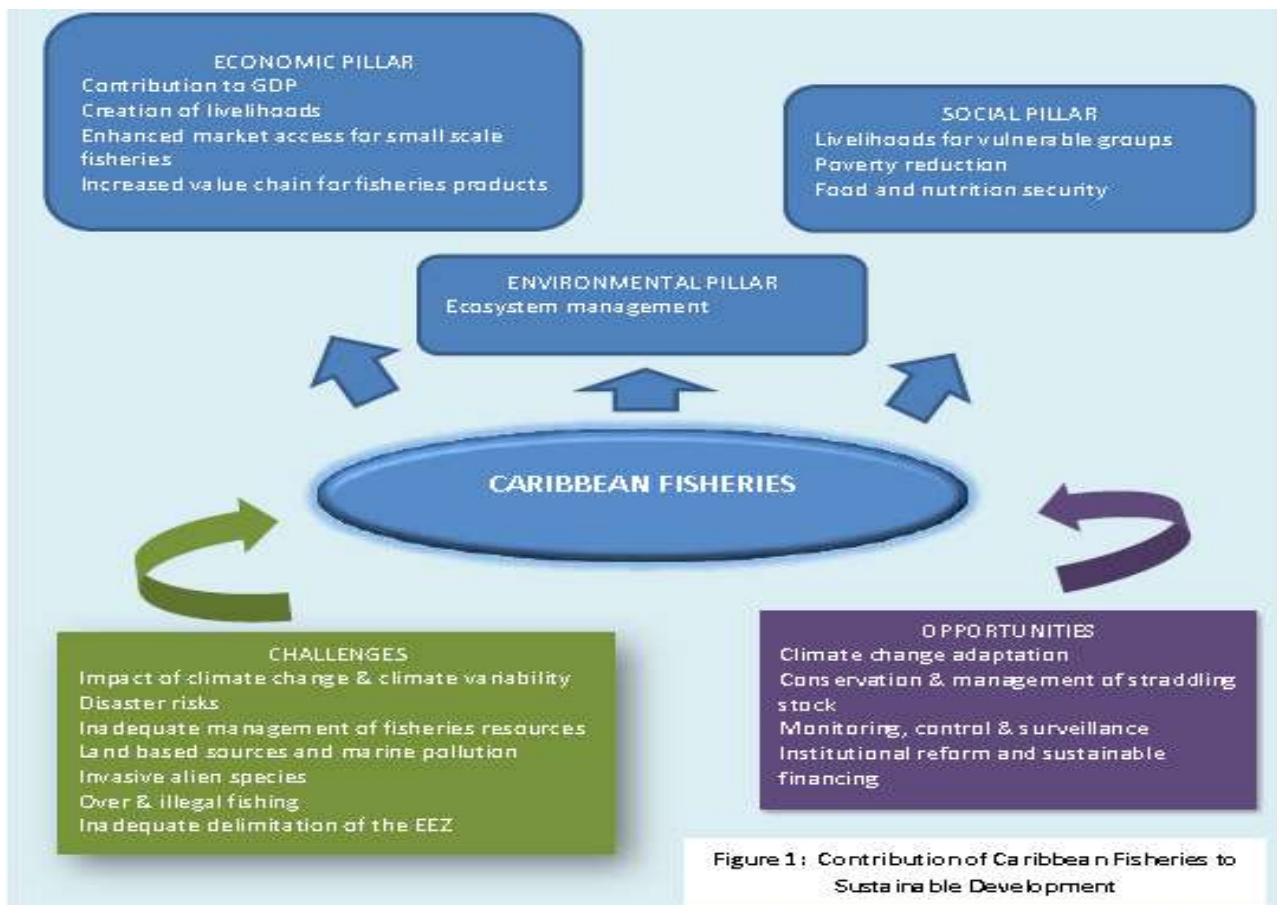
## **The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)**

The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), as approved by the Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism's (CRFM) Ministerial Council in 2011, provides CRFM members with the basic principles and facilitates for the formulation of basic plans and priorities for fisheries management. The CCCFP seeks to operationalize Article 60 of the Revised

The CCCFP's policy framework will support the sustainable development of small scale fisheries; improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management; enhanced facilities for fisheries workers and initiatives that add value to outputs from small scale fisheries; and enhance access to markets for sustainable small scale fisheries products.

Treaty which provides for the Caribbean Community, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international agencies and organisations, to promote the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources in and among the Members of the Caribbean Community on a sustainable basis. In addition, the implementation of the CCCFP will contribute to the enhanced treatment of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

The vision of the CCCFP is effective cooperation and collaboration among Participating Parties in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of the fisheries resources and related ecosystems in the Caribbean region in order to secure the maximum benefits from those resources for the Caribbean peoples and for the Caribbean region as a whole.



The CCCFP recognises the importance of fisheries to social and economic development, food and nutrition security and the welfare of the peoples of the Caribbean. It also notes that there are underexploited or unexploited fisheries resources which if used sustainably, present an opportunity to increase the contribution of fisheries to the social and economic development of the Caribbean Community. Nevertheless it is also recognised that many of the marine living resources are shared, straddling or highly migratory, and in some cases are harvested by Third States. In addition, many commercial species are fully or overexploited and are in need of management, conservation and rehabilitation.

The objective of the CCCFP is to promote the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture industries in the Caribbean through:

1. Institutional strengthening, including capacity building of Participating States and legislative modernisation;
2. harmonised measures and operating procedures for sustainable fisheries management, and the administration of the fishing industry;
3. effective monitoring, control, and surveillance systems to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
4. build the institutional capabilities of Participating Parties;
5. integrated ecosystems management; and
6. quality assurance and sanitary and phytosanitary systems.

To give effect to the CCCFP, the CFRM, in 2013, formulated a Strategy with 9 objectives which are summarised as follows:

1. Sustainable management of fisheries resources, including aquaculture;
2. Research & Development, including research on status and trends in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
3. Fisheries interventions in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management;
4. Capacity building, institutional strengthening and effective collaboration between States and stakeholders; and
5. Efficient and Effective administration of the sector.

Associated with the Strategic Plan is a monitoring and evaluation framework.

### **The S.A.M.O.A. Pathway**

With US\$1.9 billion pledged in sustainable development partnerships, the United Nations wrapped up the Third International Conference on SIDS that was held in Apia Samoa, on September 4 2014. With the overarching theme of "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships" and the slogan of "Island Voices, Global Choices", the four-day international conference had several objectives, including identifying priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The Conference produced an outcome document, titled 'SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway'.

The S.A.M.O.A Pathway reaffirms that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, recognizing SIDS's

ownership and leadership in overcoming these challenges. It addresses nineteen issues including oceans and seas. Oceans, fisheries, the blue economy and forests



were also featured in a number of events held and in publications launched on the occasion of the Conference. During a high-level side event on 'The UN System Partnering for the People of SIDS,' participants highlighted the role of coastal fisheries in strengthening food security, enhancing economic growth in isolated, rural communities, which in turn reduces urban drift, and reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and inclusive value chains for livelihoods, trade and food security. Noting challenges related to climate change, fishing pressure, habitat degradation, increasing populations and oceans acidification, participants stressed the need for conservation and management measures to ensure coastal fisheries' sustainability and their future benefits.

In the section on "Oceans and Seas" the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, *inter alia*,

1. Acknowledges that a healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development, and essential ecosystem services, and represent an

important element of identity and culture for the people of SIDS.

2. It recognises that an integrated, ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities, including improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management, is needed to optimize opportunities.
3. Promotes and supports national, sub-regional and regional efforts at research and implementation of strategies; and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources.
4. Supports actions to enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels, to deter illegal, fishing.
5. Supports the sustainable development of small scale fisheries, enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small scale fisheries, and enhance access to markets for sustainable small scale fisheries products from SIDS.
6. Promotes the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit SIDS and that are adopted by relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements.
7. Supports the enhancement of SIDS' capacity to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries related industries, ensuring that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to SIDS.

The section on Food Security and Nutrition also stresses the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe

and nutritious food, and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the SIDS. It further adds that the signatories of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway are committed to:

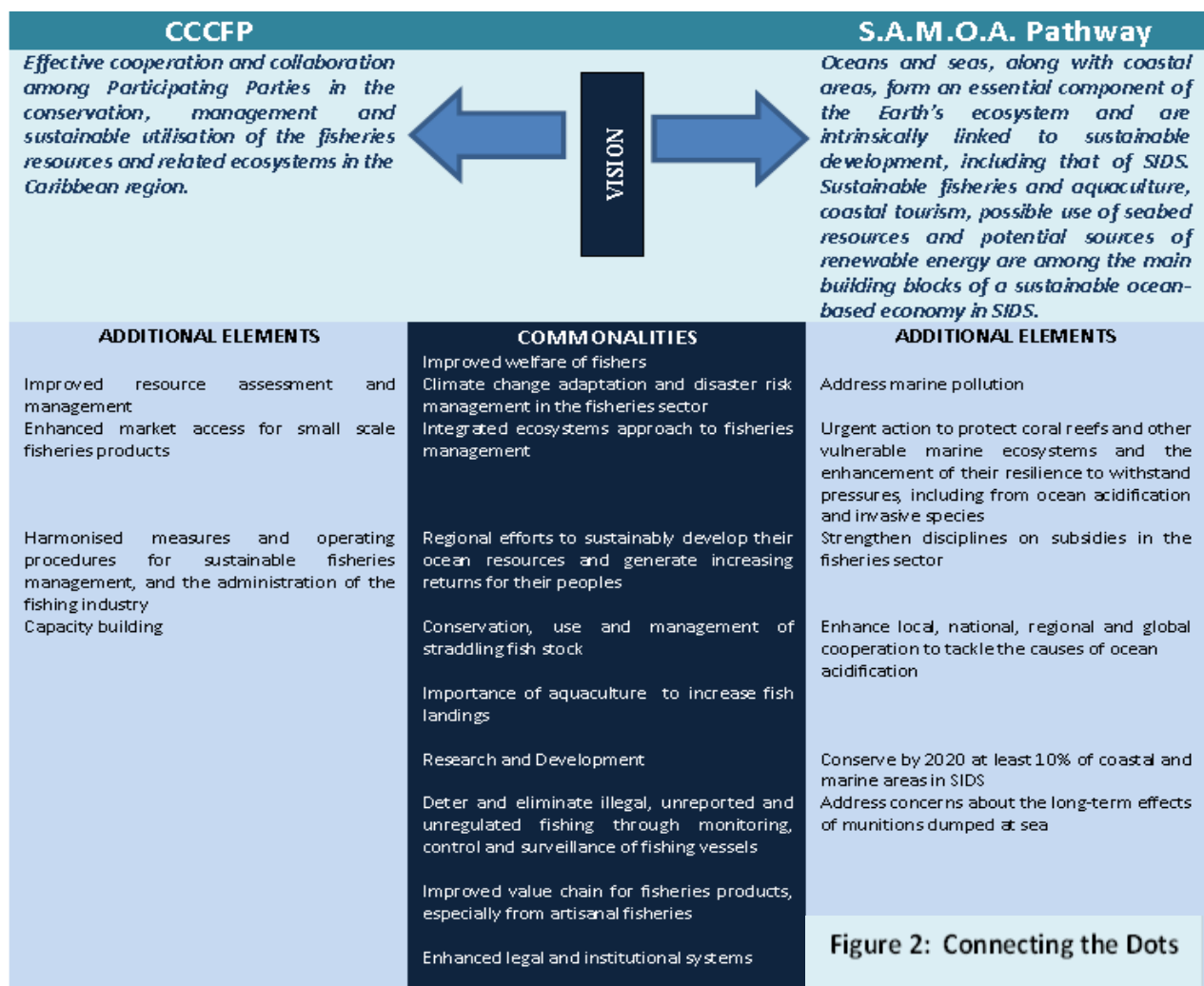
1. Promoting further use of, "... fisheries and aquaculture practices to improve food and nutrition security, ..."; and
2. Enhancing SIDS agriculture and fisheries' resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters.

## Connecting the dots

The CCCFP and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway are both important policy instruments contributing to the sustainable development of SIDS. The CCCFP is specific to the fisheries sector in the Caribbean while the S.A.M.O.A Pathway is a global instrument applicable to all SIDS and structured in 19 sections, one of which is on oceans and seas. Both policy instruments speak to the importance of fisheries, aquaculture, and other marine resources to the sustainable development of SIDS. The two documents also recognise the importance of strong leadership and effective institutions for the management of fisheries and other marine resources. Accountability and evaluation are also cornerstones of the CCCFP and the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. Refer to Figure 2 below.

While there are many commonalities between the two policy instruments, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway has a few other additional elements. Some of these elements which the CRFM, working in collaboration with other regional and international agencies may wish to consider are:

- Reduction in marine pollution, caused primarily by land based sources;
- Protection of coral reefs and other major marine ecosystems from



**Figure 2: Connecting the Dots**

pollution, and invasive alien species;

- Collaborating with regional and international agencies to tackle the slow onset acidification of oceans caused by fossil fuel emissions and deforestation, to mention a couple of causes.

## Suggested Regional Policy Considerations in the Implementation of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway

In implementing the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, the CRFM in collaboration with national governments should embark upon activities that promote

a common fisheries regime and take into consideration the UNCLOS provisions through partnerships with international organisations. The CRFM should also focus on activities aimed at recognising the contribution of fisheries to economic development and the role of sustainable fisheries in food security and nutrition and prevention, monitoring and control of illegal fishing in order to ensure a sustainable resource. In addition to this, regional and national legislation must be reviewed and modernised. Further, national activities should seek to produce opportunities for the participation of fishers and capacity building in the fisheries sector including research and adequate data collection.

### **Role of Member States:**

- Review and update legislation and strengthen institutional frameworks for sound fisheries and oceans management.
- Promote the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through integrated ecosystems management; establishment or expansion of marine protected areas; fisheries conservation and management; etc.
- Demarcation of EEZs and enhanced conservation and management of EEZ fisheries.
- Form partnerships with regional and international organisations aimed at improved research, data collection, building capacity in SIDS and among fishers and the promotion of best practices.

### **The CRFM Secretariat:**

- Forming of regional and international partnerships aimed at benefiting from financing for the implementation of the provisions of both documents.
- Implementation of regional programmes to ensure implementation of both documents regarding sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- Programme to ensure mainstreaming of climate change in programmes and policies regarding sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- Ensure that partnerships formed and reaffirmed during the SIDS conferences are sustained so that SIDS can benefit from opportunities such as GEF's commitment to make available a total of US\$256 million for projects to improve the environment, which represents an increase of 9% compared to the previous four-year period.

More specifically, the CRFM may wish, over the next 3 to 5 years, and in collaboration with the appropriate regional and international agencies, to:

- i. Secure funding that is available for implementation of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway. This includes funding available from the GEF and the Green Climate Funding. Some of these funds have been directed towards fisheries.
- ii. Establish South-South partnerships with other SIDS regions particularly in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. The CRFM may wish to consider establishing formal relationships with fisheries agencies, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission. Establishing these partnerships will assist CRFM in sharing and/or obtaining new knowledge and technologies for climate adaptation and proofing of the fisheries sector.
- iii. Ensure the coordination and facilitation of the Strategy and Action Plan embedded in Volume 2 in the "Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture In The CARICOM Region" document. The implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan will ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction are incorporated into fisheries and aquaculture initiatives in CARICOM; and which is cognisant of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.
- iv. Encourage Participating States, through training and small grants, to undertake initiatives on integrated, ecosystem approaches to ocean-related activities, including improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management.
- v. Assist Participating States, through training, capacity building and the formulation of appropriate policies and

legislation, to enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels to deter illegal, fishing.

- vi. Working in collaboration with appropriate International Fisheries Management Organisation provide capacity building and training to Participating States to conserve, sustainably use and manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

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### CRFM

The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”. The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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