



## Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries project

Summary Report of the final Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys and national mini-consultations for Barbados, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago



November 16 -28, 2018

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This report is an output of the **Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries project** which is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) under contract to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) as part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ Project)”<sup>1</sup>.

## Disclaimer:

This publication has been produced for the CRFM. However, the views expressed herein are those of the authors, and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of the CRFM.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org)

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## List of Annexes (issued as separate documents)

Annex 1	Report of Final Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey and National Mini-consultation for Barbados
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Annex 4	Report of Final KAP survey and National Mini-consultation for Trinidad and Tobago

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>CANARI</b>	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CLME+</b>	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
<b>CLME+ Project</b>	UNDP/GEF Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems project
<b>CLME+ SAP</b>	<i>Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (2015 – 2025)</i>
<b>CRFM</b>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
<b>EAF</b>	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>ERG</b>	Eastern Research Group
<b>FAC</b>	Fisheries Advisory Committee
<b>FAD</b>	Fish Aggregating Device
<b>FMP</b>	Fisheries Management Plan
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
<b>NIC</b>	National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism
<b>OECS</b>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
<b>OGC</b>	Ocean Governance Committee
<b>Sub-regional FMP</b>	Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UWI-CERMES</b>	Centre for Marine Resources and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies
<b>WECAFC</b>	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

## 1 Introduction

Given the significance of the Eastern Caribbean four-wing flyingfish commercial fishery, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), in collaboration with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), developed and finalised a [Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean \(Sub-regional FMP\)](#). Following extensive consultation with stakeholders at both the national and regional levels, the Sub-regional FMP was endorsed by the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the WECAFC in March 2014, CRFM Forum in April 2014, and the CRFM Ministerial Council in May 2014. The Plan is cleared for voluntary implementation by CRFM Member States.

In support of the implementation of the Sub-regional FMP, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) were contracted by the CRFM Secretariat to provide technical assistance to enhance stakeholder education and participation in flyingfish fishery governance and management. The consultancy was part of the Sub-project on the Flyingfish fishery being implemented under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ Project)”.

In line with the objectives of the consultancy, CANARI and UWI-CERMES implemented the [Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries](#) project. The project, which targeted the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, contributed to enhancing the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach to flyingfish fisheries (EAF) under the 10-year [Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems \(CLME-SAP\)](#).

Two of the key activities under the project were to:

- conduct a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study (including two sets of KAP surveys) to gauge the level of key stakeholder involvement in EAF management, the policy cycle and other aspects of flyingfish fishery management in at least four of the project countries; and
- convene three sets of national stakeholder mini-consultations in four of the project countries to improve awareness, technical knowledge and capacity among targeted groups of key stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and civil society (including fisherfolk) in governance, social, economic and ecological issues related to EAF and the policy cycle in the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean. National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs) and/or Fisheries Advisory Committees (FACs) will form the main target groups for the consultations, with other stakeholders being included based on the outcome of a stakeholder identification and analysis.

This report presents the key summary findings from the final KAP surveys and set of national mini-consultations that were conducted in Barbados, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago from November 16-28, 2018. Consultation reports, including KAP survey results, for each country, are attached at Annexes 1-4 of this report.

## 2 Objectives of the national consultations

The final KAP surveys were held in tandem with the final set of mini-consultations in each country. By the end of the mini-consultations in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, participants had:

- been briefed on the discussions held at the recently concluded *“Special Meeting of the Joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean”* and relevance to national level action for advancing the *Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean*;
- reviewed the stages of a general policy cycle and identified any challenges at the national level that may limit stakeholder participation in a flyingfish policy cycle and actions that can be taken to address these challenges;
- reviewed national legislation to determine the legal provisions for establishing a National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism (NIC) (e.g. Fisheries Advisory Committee [FAC]), including the selection of members;
- discussed operational guidelines for a NIC or FAC in their country;
- undertaken a final KAP survey on the governance and management of the flyingfish fishery in their country and sub-regionally in the context of the ecosystem approach to fisheries; and
- identified next steps/opportunities to continue raising stakeholder awareness of and engagement in national and sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the final KAP survey was administered during the final mini-consultation. However, it should be noted that given the concerns raised about the limited participation of Tobagonian stakeholders in decision-making fora concerning the regional management of the flyingfish fishery, funds were re-allocated under the “Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries” project to facilitate the participation of two representatives from the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries in Tobago in the *“Special Meeting of the Joint CRFM/Western central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean”* which was held in Barbados from October 1-2, 2018. Due to this re-allocation of funds, adjustments had to be made to the duration and subsequent scope of the final national mini-consultation for Tobago compared to the final consultations that would have been held in Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Therefore, following the completion of the final KAP survey, participants in Tobago were engaged in plenary to discuss:

- the key recommendations from the *“Special Meeting of the Joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean”*;
- the Draft Fisheries Management Bill (2011) for Trinidad and Tobago; and
- next steps or opportunities to continue raising stakeholder awareness of and engagement in national and sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries.

## 3 Approach

The final KAP surveys and national mini-consultations were co-facilitated by Melanie Andrews, Technical Officer, CANARI; Sanya Compton, PhD Researcher, UWI-CERMES and Patrick McConney, Director, UWI-CERMES.

Final KAP surveys were completed in Barbados (November 16, 2018), St. Lucia (November 26, 2018), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (November 26, 2018) and Trinidad and Tobago (November 28, 2018) over the period November 16-28, 2018. The surveys are part of a KAP study to understand the changes over time in knowledge of, attitude towards and practices of management in flyingfish fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region in the context of an ecosystem approach to fisheries and policy cycle. The KAP study targets (potential) members of National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs) and Fisheries Advisory Committees (FACs) as key stakeholders in the management of the flyingfish fisheries

Since there were no NICs, and only one FAC (which had recently been reactivated in Barbados toward the end of the project) in the four focus countries, the KAP survey targeted key stakeholders involved in the flyingfish fisheries who could be viewed as “potential” members of a NIC or FAC given their work, expertise and leadership. The final KAP surveys followed baseline KAP surveys that were completed in Barbados (December 6, 2017), St. Lucia (December 4, 2017), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (December 11, 2017) and Trinidad and Tobago (December 13, 2017).

The final KAP surveys were administered following the activities of the final national mini-consultations in each country. Prior to completing the survey participants were informed that the purpose of the final KAP survey was to assist in determining the levels of improvement, if any, in stakeholders knowledge of, attitudes towards and practices of management and governance of flyingfish fisheries for the sub-region in the context of EAF and policy cycles, based on their participation in the education and awareness raising activities that would have been conducted under the "Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in Management of the Flyingfish Fishery" project.

Despite efforts to target the same participants from the baseline KAP survey so as to directly compare responses, the proportion achieved was a half to two-thirds. In Barbados and St. Lucia 67% were repeat participants, with 50% in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and 57% in Trinidad and Tobago as repeats. Improvements in knowledge, attitude or practice are more likely to be due to those participants who were most engaged in the activities of the "Enhancing stakeholder participating in sub-regional management of flyingfish fishery" but an outcome of improved KAP may not be due only to this project.

The mini-consultations were participatory and interactive, and used a combination of facilitation techniques such as plenary discussions and small group work to draw on participants’ knowledge and experiences of the flyingfish fisheries in their respective countries.

The consultations for Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines followed prepared agendas (see relevant appendices in attached country consultation reports).

#### **4 Participants**

Participants were a purposively selected sample of key stakeholders from the fisheries, particularly the flyingfish fishery, and related sectors, including fisheries authorities, ministries and other state agencies, sustainable development, coastal and marine management, fish marketing, cooperative development, national security, fisherfolk and related organisations, civil society organisations with an interest in marine conservation and livelihoods, and academia in the respective countries (Figure 4.1).

A total of fifty-two persons (18 females and 34 males) participated in the four final national consultations, forty-five (17 females and 28 males) of whom also completed the final KAP surveys<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Participants were invited mainly based on their involvement in the flyingfish fishery and their availability to participate in the consultations and KAP surveys. Gender was a secondary criterion in ensuring both men (mainly harvest) and women (mainly postharvest) were represented, but the ratio was neither pre-determined nor necessarily representative.

The list of participants for each country is attached at the relevant appendices in the attached country consultation reports.

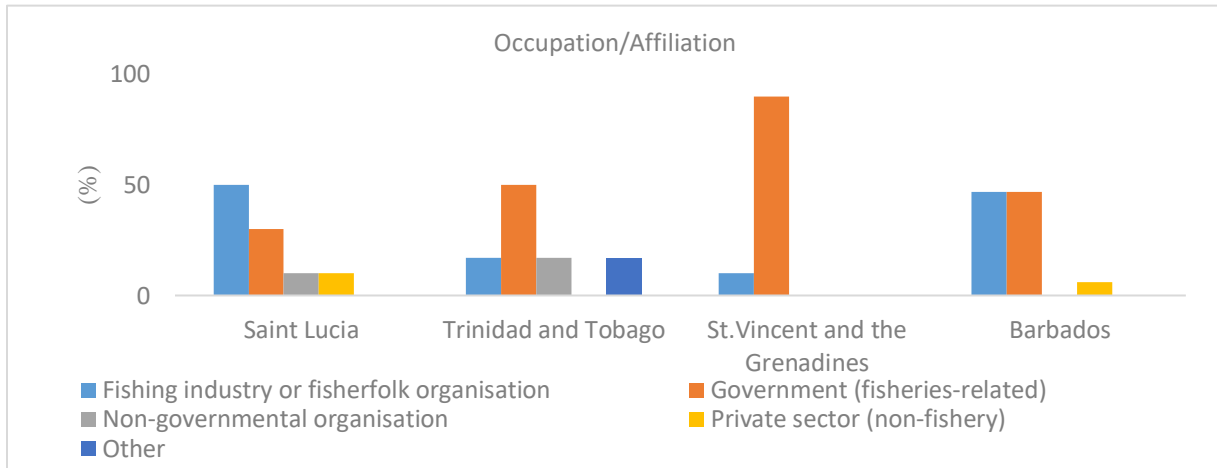


Figure 4.1 Key stakeholders that participated in the second KAP survey across all four countries

## 5 Summary of key findings from final KAP surveys and national consultations for Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago

In analysing the KAP survey responses and findings from consultation activities among all four countries there were many similarities as well as some differences. Given the sampling method, the findings are indicative, rather than representative, of the country, sector or flyingfish fishery. This is adequate for their intended use. The information set out in sections 5.1.-5.3 summarises the key findings across countries with respect to stakeholder knowledge of, engagement in and capacities for management and governance of the flyingfish fisheries. More detailed information on KAP results and consultation findings for each country can be found in the attached country consultation reports at Annexes 1 – 4.

### 5.1 Stakeholders' knowledge of the flyingfish fisheries

Based on the KAP findings, most participants indicated that they were generally knowledgeable about fisheries in their respective countries (Figures 5.1a and b).

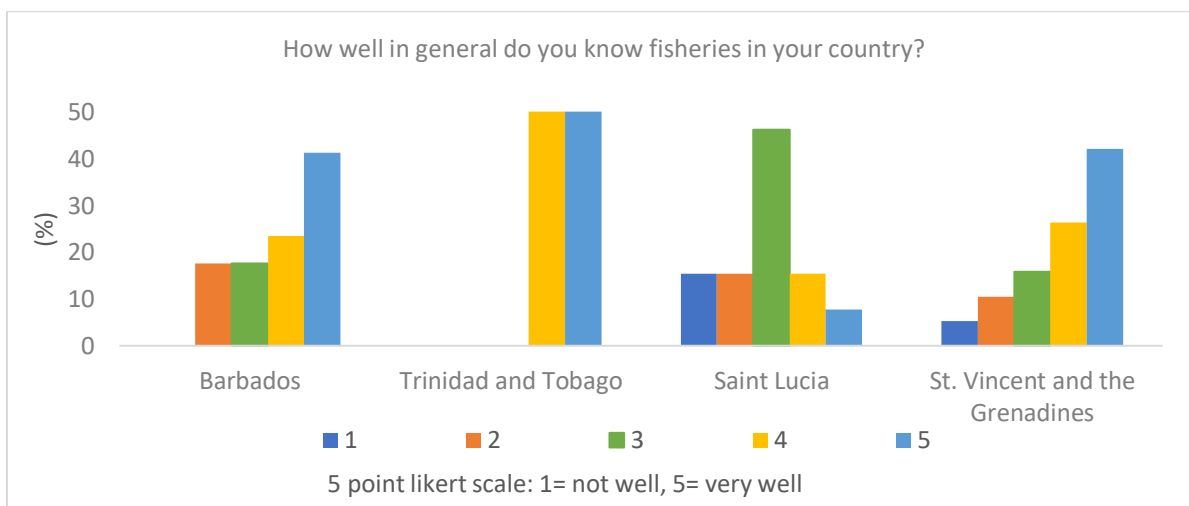


Figure 5.1a Participants responses to how well they knew fisheries (generally) across all four countries, KAP 1



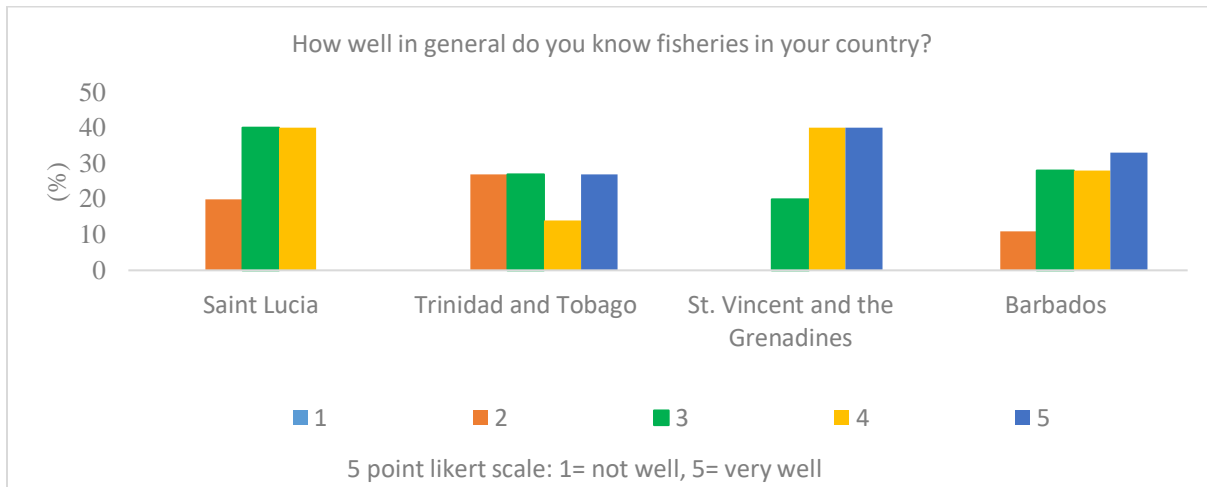


Figure 5.1b Participants responses to how well they knew fisheries (generally) across all four countries, KAP 2

In Barbados and Tobago, participants indicated that they knew the flyingfish fishery very well, while in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, participants knew the flyingfish fishery moderately well (Figure 5.2a). Compared to the first KAP survey, the majority of respondents from Barbados and Tobago also indicated that they knew the flyingfish fishery very well (Figure 5.2b). This was not surprising considering that these two countries are heavily invested in this fishery. For St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, the responses differed from the first KAP survey regarding their knowledge of the flyingfish fishery. For these two countries, where the flyingfish is not a targeted species, the responses to the baseline KAP surveys indicated that they did not know the flyingfish fishery well (Figure 5.2b). However, the responses to the second KAP indicated that participants were slightly more aware of the flyingfish fishery in both countries (Figure 5.2a). This apparent improvement in awareness could be attributed to stakeholders participating in one or more of the national consultations and/or having received and read/viewed one or more of the project’s communication products on the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean.

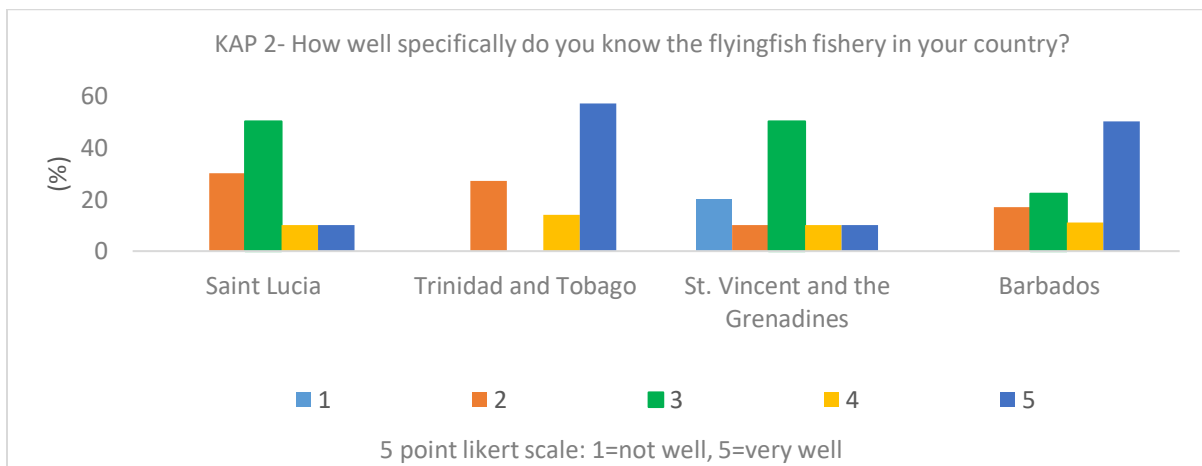


Figure 5.2a Participants responses to how well they knew the flyingfish fishery across all four countries, KAP 2

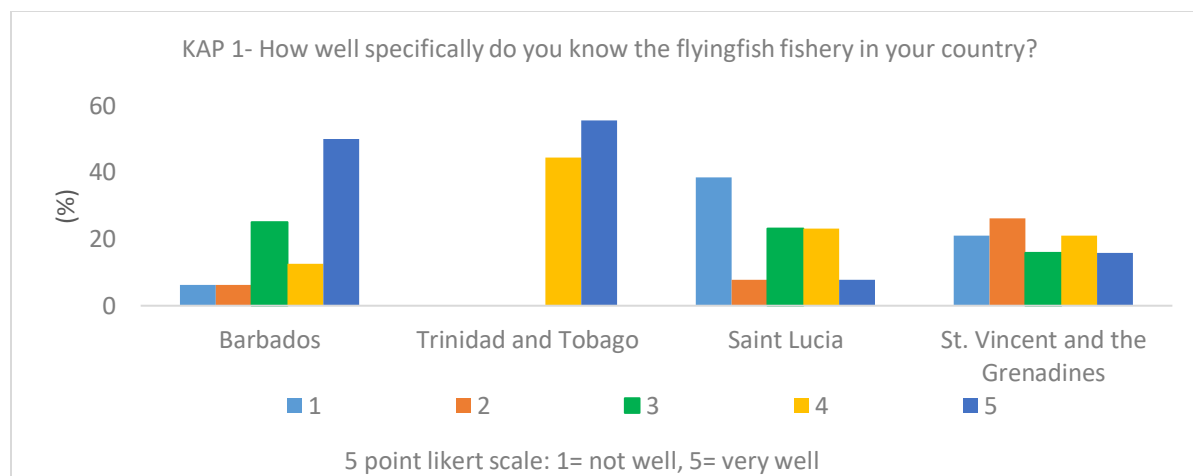


Figure 5.2b Participants responses to how well they knew the flyingfish fishery across all four countries, KAP 1

## 5.2 Stakeholder engagement in and knowledge of policy and management for the flyingfish fishery

The first KAP survey, which was a baseline assessment, focused on capturing stakeholders’ engagement in flyingfish fishery related management and governance processes over the past five years. In the second KAP survey, stakeholders were again asked about their engagement in management and governance processes, but with a focus instead on their engagement in such processes during the time period of the “Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in Management of the Flyingfish Fishery” project – December 2017- November 2018. Participants in all four countries gave very similar, and in many cases identical responses. Many reported being engaged by attending the national consultations; completing the KAP surveys; reviewing flyingfish related information; sharing flyingfish information to fisherfolk who were not able to or had not attended national consultations; encouraging other stakeholders to attend consultations and related workshops and continuously collecting data on flyingfish.

One of the most notable changes and positive outcomes of the KAP surveys and national consultations is the apparent improvement among stakeholders in their familiarity with different key terms related to policy and management of the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean. In the first KAP survey, the majority of participants, in all four countries were unfamiliar with terms and concepts such as the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME), National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism (NIC), Ocean Governance Committee (OGC) and sub-regional flyingfish fisheries management plan (refer to Table 5.1 for a breakdown of participants familiarity with key terms across all four countries from the baseline KAP survey).

**Table 5.1 Participants familiarity with key terms across all four countries (Baseline KAP survey), where UF= unfamiliar, FF= fairly familiar and VF= very familiar. (For each key term, the descriptor with the highest % is provided)**

Key Terms	Barbados	Saint Lucia	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Trinidad & Tobago
Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem	53% - UF	50% - FF	53% - UF	38% - FF, VF*
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	56% - FF	46% - FF	56% - VF	75% - VF
Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	47% - FF	46% - UF	37% - VF	75% - VF
Fisheries Advisory Committee	50% - VF	38% - FF	47% -VF	44% - FF, VF*

National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism	63% - UF	67% - UF	63% - UF	50% - UF
Ocean Governance Committee	69% - UF	50% - UF	47% - UF	50% - FF
Policy cycle	60% - UF	42% - FF	42% - FF	38% - FF, VF*
Sub-regional flyingfish fisheries management plan	56% - UF	58% - UF	61% - UF	43% - FF, VF*

*\*indicates that it is the same % for both descriptors.*

However, the second survey showed that the majority of participants (across all four countries) were either fairly familiar or very familiar with all the key terms (Table 1). Only in Saint Lucia and Barbados were there participants who were unfamiliar with one or two terms – in Saint Lucia 44% were unfamiliar with OGC and in Barbados 56% were unfamiliar with OGC and 41% with the policy cycle (Table 1). Overall there was an improvement across countries with key terms.

**Table 5.2 Participants familiarity with key terms across all four countries (Final KAP survey), where UF= unfamiliar, FF= fairly familiar and VF= very familiar. (Only the descriptor with the highest % is provided)**

Key Terms	Saint Lucia	Trinidad & Tobago	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Barbados
Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem	43%-FF, VF*	57%-FF	70%-FF	38%-FF, VF*
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	56%-FF	57%-VF	100%-VF	56%-VF
Ecosystem approach to fisheries	63%-FF	71%-FF	60%-FF	41%-FF
Fisheries Advisory Committee	38%-FF, VF*	67%-FF	60%-FF	61%-VF
National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism	50%-VF	57%-FF	50%-FF	47%-FF
Ocean Governance Committee	44%-UF	67%-FF	40%-FF	56%-UF
Policy cycle	50%-VF	71%-FF	78%-FF	41%-UF
Sub-regional flyingfish fisheries management plan	63%-FF	71%-VF	50%-FF	39%-FF, VF*

*\*indicates that it is the same % for both descriptors.*

### 5.3 Stakeholders' attitude towards the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Similar to the first KAP survey (Figure 5.3), respondents in the final KAP survey (Figure 5.4), across all four countries, agreed or strongly agreed to encouraging the use of EAF for the management of flyingfish fisheries.

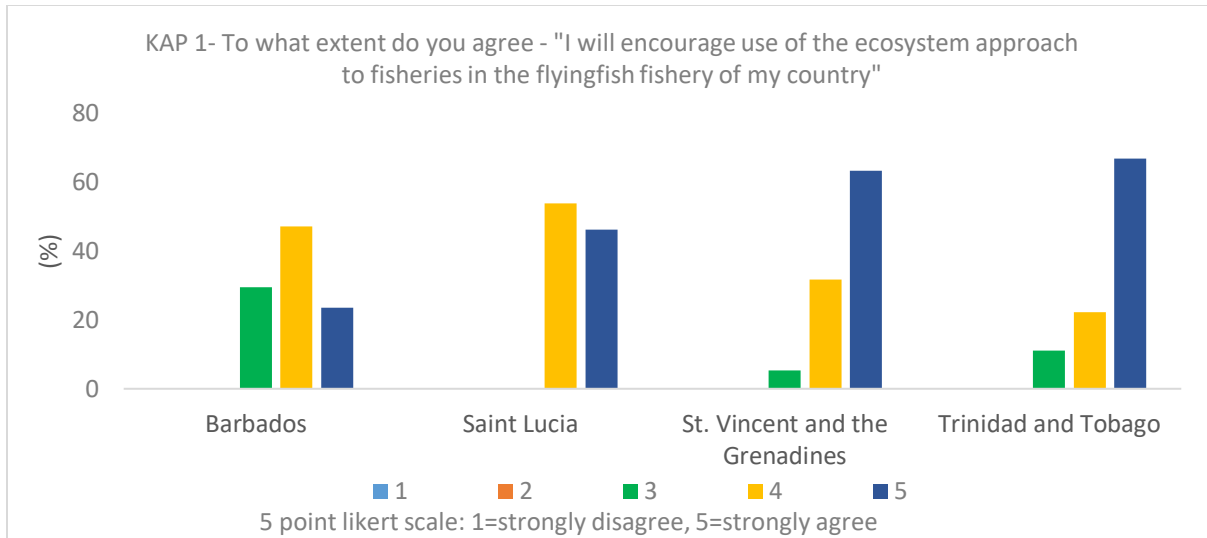


Figure 5.3. Participants level of agreement to encouraging the use of EAF in the flyingfish fishery across all four countries.

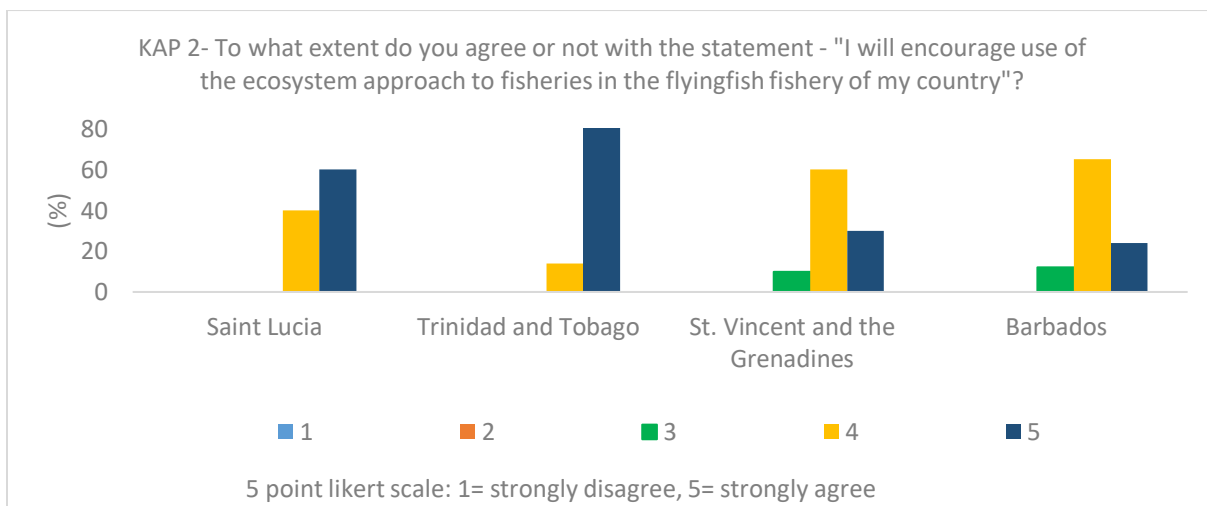


Figure 5.4. Participants level of agreement to encouraging the use of EAF in the flyingfish fishery across all four countries.

Respondents also agreed that using EAF could improve various aspects of the fishery, including contribution to the economy, livelihood incomes, science inputs into policy, cooperation among economic sectors, responsible use of fishing techniques and stakeholder engagement. In Tobago, there was strong agreement that EAF may specifically improve engagement among stakeholders, while in St. Vincent and the Grenadines there was strong agreement that it may improve the use of responsible fishing techniques. However, in Barbados a small majority of respondents were unsure whether EAF may improve cooperation among economic sectors. In general, the knowledge of concepts and the attitudes towards the flyingfish fishery regarding EAF showed apparent improvement. Based on the results of KAP 1 and 2, the concept/knowledge of EAF was among the most improved (see Tables 5.1 and 5.2). However, not all respondents felt that their practices improved after participating in the project; this was reflected in the participants' responses on EAF regarding the economic sector in Barbados.

All four countries acknowledged the importance and welcomed the idea of collectively managing the flyingfish fishery. NICs, FACs and the policy cycle were all considered as critically important and essential to the management of the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean. In Barbados, the FAC had been recently re-established and members appointed to serve a three-year term.

5.4 *Impact of the* Enhancing stakeholder participation in the sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries project on stakeholders’ knowledge of, attitude towards and practice in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries

The baseline KAP surveys and national consultations laid the ground work for the development of various awareness raising and educational products which were disseminated across all four countries. These products included the following:

- Information sheet – Fisheries Advisory Committee;
- Information sheet - National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism;
- Information sheet- from hook to cook: managing flyingfish fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean;
- Information sheet- from policy to practice: managing flyingfish fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean; and
- Documentary- spotlight on the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish fishery.

In the second KAP survey, questions were added to capture whether or not participants received and found these supporting communication products useful. St. Vincent and the Grenadines had the most even distribution among participants who received the various products (Figure 5.5). Across all countries, the communication products that were received the most were the information sheets from hook to cook and from policy to practice and the documentary (Figure 5.5).

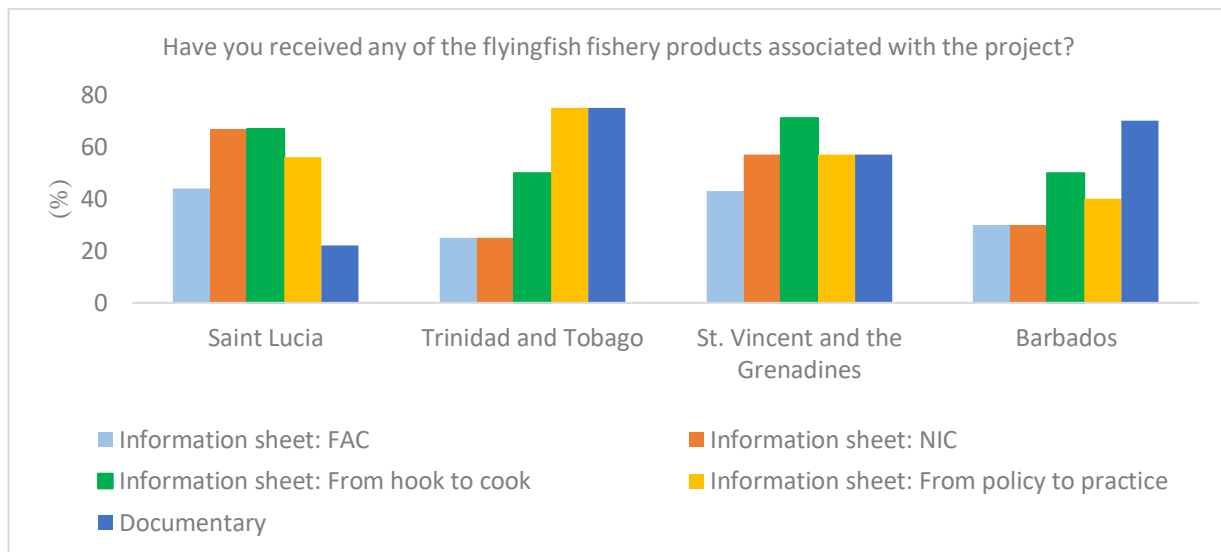


Figure 5.5. Participants across all four countries who indicated they received flyingfish fishery products associated with the project

Participants who received any of the five communication products were asked to indicate whether or not they actually read or viewed these products and found them useful. Responses received from participants in Barbados, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines indicated that more than half the participants viewed and read the products they received and found them useful (Figure 5.6). This is

unlike the participants in Trinidad and Tobago, where almost half of the respondents indicated they neither viewed nor read any of the products. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, it is unclear whether these responses were a reflection of participants not receiving the products (e.g. not checking emails or clicking links to relevant websites) and as such not having an opportunity to read or view any of them. All respondents, in all four countries, via the survey were given the opportunity, to briefly explain how they found the products useful, if received. However, very few participants (across all four countries) chose to provide a response. The low response rate could have simply been due to the general reluctance to answer open-ended compared to closed-ended questions.

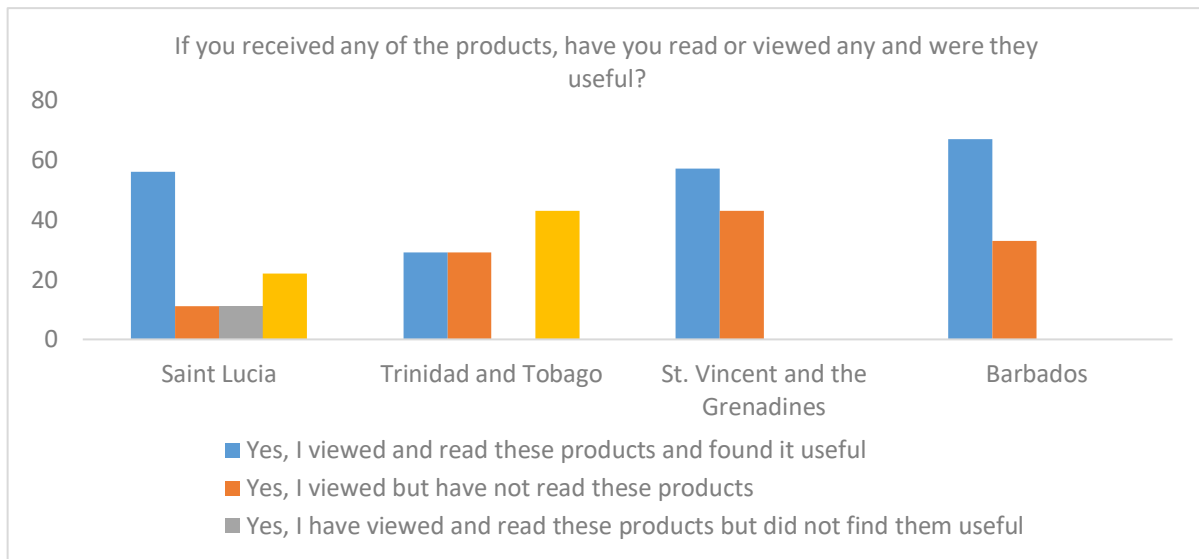


Figure 5.6. Percentage of participants indicating whether or not they viewed or read any of the communication products and found them useful

The results of the KAP survey show that respondents generally felt they their knowledge of concepts within the flyingfish fishery had improved because of their participation in the project (Figure 5.7). This finding supports the results shown in Table 5.2.

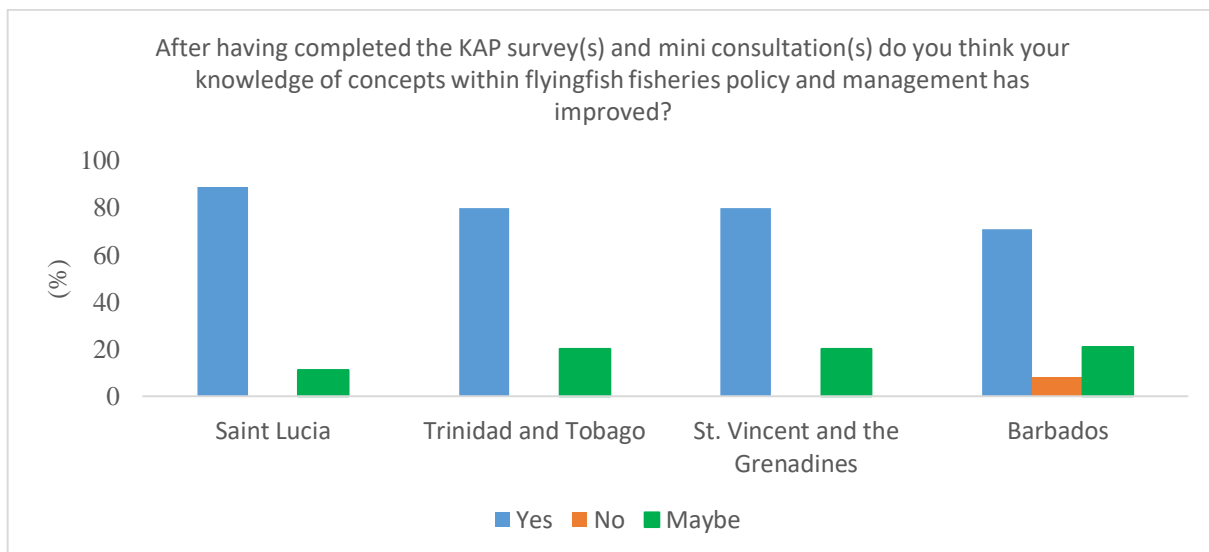


Figure 5.7. Participants responses, across all four countries, to whether or not they thought their

*knowledge of concepts within flyingfish fishery policy and management improved after completing the surveys and mini consultations*

In all four countries, respondents also generally felt that their attitudes were mostly improved after having participated in the project (Figure 5.8). However, not all respondents in all four countries felt that their practices improved after participating in the project. In Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines most respondents felt that their practices in flyingfish fisheries management *might* have improved as a result of the project, while in Saint Lucia and especially Trinidad and Tobago, most respondents felt their practices did indeed improve (Figure 5.9).

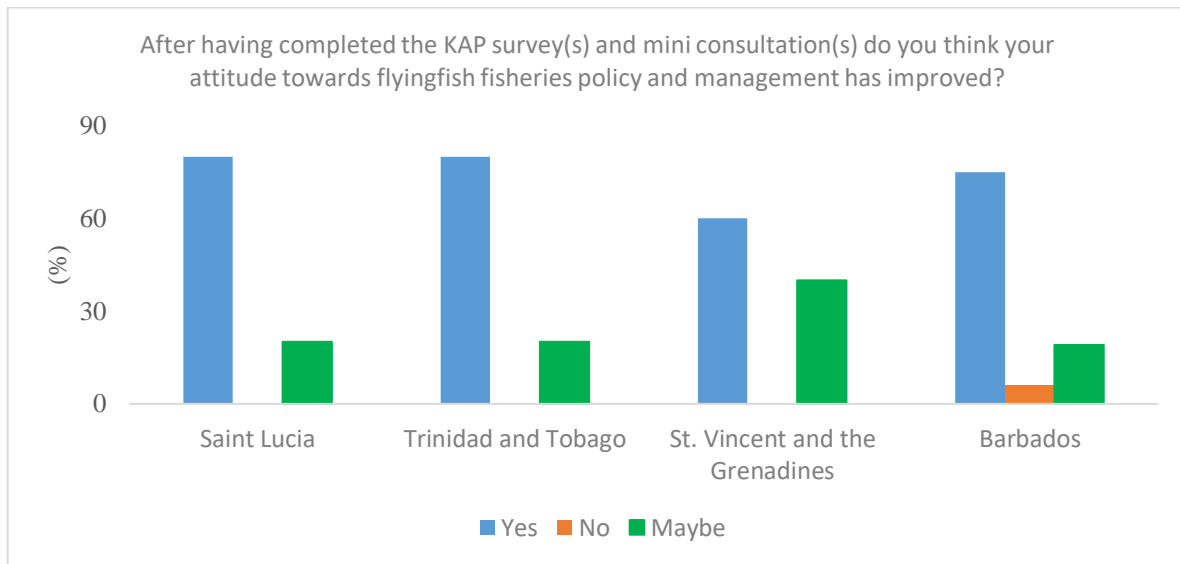


Figure 5.8. Participants responses, across all four countries, to whether or not they thought their attitudes towards flyingfish fishery policy and management had improved after completing the surveys and mini consultations

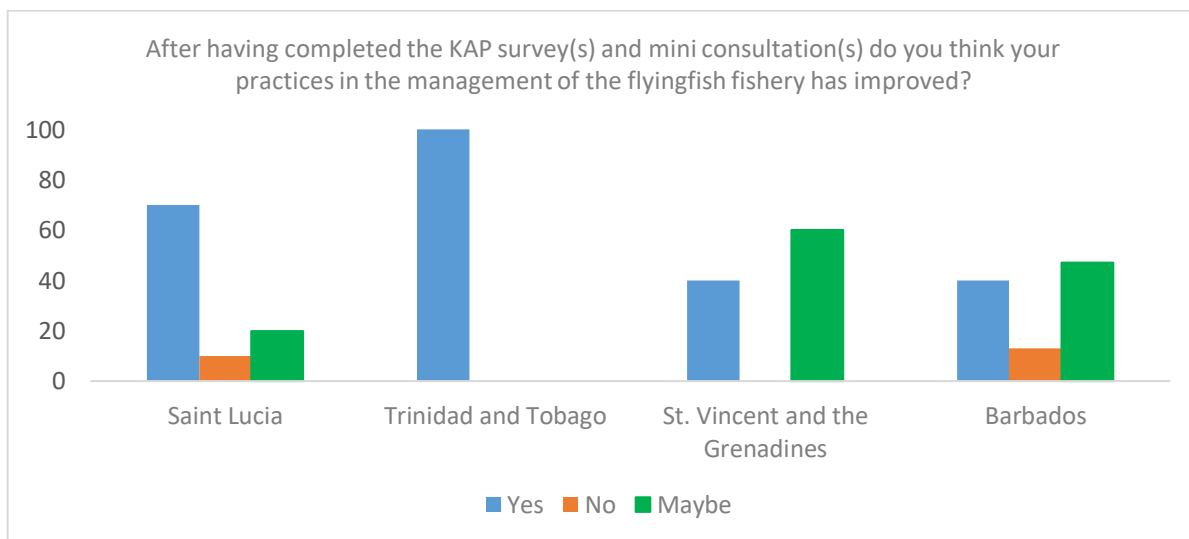


Figure 5.9. Participants responses, across all four countries, to whether or not they thought their practices in the management of flyingfish improved after completing the surveys and mini consultations

Through the activities of the national consultations and the supporting awareness raising and educational products, the general consensus across the four countries was that the “Enhancing

Stakeholder Participation in the Management of the Flyingfish Fishery” project proved to be very informative, beneficial and encouraging. It built awareness and gave a platform for better understanding the flyingfish fishery and supporting the sub-regional flyingfish fisheries management plan.

## **6 Key conclusions and recommendations based on findings of the KAP study and three rounds of national consultations**

Following endorsement of the Sub-regional FMP in May 2014, the CRFM Ministerial Council called upon CRFM Member States participating in the flyingfish fisheries to take all necessary action to adopt the Sub-regional FMP and to proactively pursue its implementation. A 2016 CRFM Secretariat assessment report to determine the extent to which Member states heeded this call revealed that little was done towards implementing the plan at the national levels. An informal assessment under the “Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries” project in 2017, similarly revealed that not much progress had been made toward implementing the Sub-regional FMP. The project, through findings from its KAP study and national consultations, noted key actions that could contribute to improving implementation of the Sub-regional FMP, by improving stakeholder engagement. These actions, which are set out below, were also shared with Blue Earth-Eastern Research Group (ERG), the consultant responsible for updating and revising the Sub-regional FMP under CRFM’s Sub-project on the Flyingfish Fishery, as key recommendations at the “*Special Meeting of the Joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean*” which was held in Barbados from October 1-2, 2018.

### **Building stakeholder awareness of the Sub-regional FMP**

Based on the findings of the KAP study, stakeholder awareness of the Sub-regional FMP seemed to have improved, as a result of the awareness raising and education activities of the *Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries* project. During discussions at the national consultations, stakeholders identified a number of key issues impacting their national flyingfish fisheries, including Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and inadequate data collection to inform decision-making. Facilitators used these discussions to further highlight the objectives of the Sub-regional FMP noting that the plan sought to deal directly with some of these matters. This type of engagement made the plan easier to communicate, especially to non-technical stakeholders such as fisherfolk. This is likely to have contributed to a deeper appreciation of the plan by stakeholders.

Stakeholder awareness of the Sub-regional FMP, including its objectives and importance, need to be addressed continuously especially in light of recent revisions/updates to the plan. In particular, continued awareness efforts should be mindful of communicating to a range of audiences, including non-technical persons.

It is therefore recommended that **a communication and awareness building strategy be developed as part of the revised Sub-regional FMP** that stakeholders at the national level could use to help build awareness about the plan. The strategy should identify desired outcomes, target audiences, possible communication products, key messages, dissemination channels. Specifically, it is recommended that, following the updating of the FMP, a summarised version of the plan be developed, that captures the major points of the plan in easy-to-read leaflets or brief documents that can be distributed to interested parties.

### **Building capacity of NICs and FACs as governance arrangements to support stakeholder engagement**



The “Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries” project found that stakeholder coordinating arrangements for the flyingfish fishery were not established or functioning in the four target countries. Although, it should be noted that the FAC in Barbados was re-established toward the end of the project. Appropriate NICs, FACs or similar stakeholder coordinating arrangements with potential to deal with management of the flyingfish fishery would therefore need to be established or strengthened in each country targeting the four-wing flyingfish. These bodies can also play critical roles in developing, reviewing and supporting implementation of national flyingfish FMPs which would strengthen support for implementation of the Sub-regional FMP.

Targeted capacity building, including developing operational guidelines that are in line with good governance principles, would need to be undertaken to improve stakeholder participation in these bodies and to make them more effective. Some of this capacity building would have been provided/initiated during the national consultations under the “Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries” project, however there is ongoing need for this support.

It is recommended that **a capacity building strategy be developed as part of the revised Sub-regional FMP** that would identify capacity gaps and make recommendations for practical actions that can be taken to improve institutional and stakeholder capacity to implement the Sub-regional FMP at the national levels. This strategy should highlight the need for the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to facilitate stakeholder engagement in management of the fishery.

#### **Supporting stakeholders in implementing the Sub-regional FMP**

The findings of the KAP study seem to suggest that key stakeholders such as the fisheries authorities, Cooperatives Department and fisherfolk and their organisations are willing to support an EAF approach to managing the flyingfish fishery, which can be realised through the successful implementation of the Sub-regional FMP. However, stakeholders may not always be clear on their roles in implementing the plan and consequently may not take action or may not take appropriate/effective action.

It is therefore recommended, to improve stakeholder engagement in implementing the Sub-regional FMP, that **an implementation strategy be developed** that outlines the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies/stakeholders in supporting implementation of the various objectives in the Sub-regional FMP. This strategy, covering both harvest and postharvest, could include possible sources for accessing resources (funds, technical knowledge etc.) including opportunities (e.g. grants, training, learning exchanges and other types of capacity building) available under existing and upcoming regional fisheries-related projects.