



Report of the *Regional Workshop for Development of the Civil Society Action Programme (C-SAP)*

16-19 January, 2018

Trinidad & Tobago

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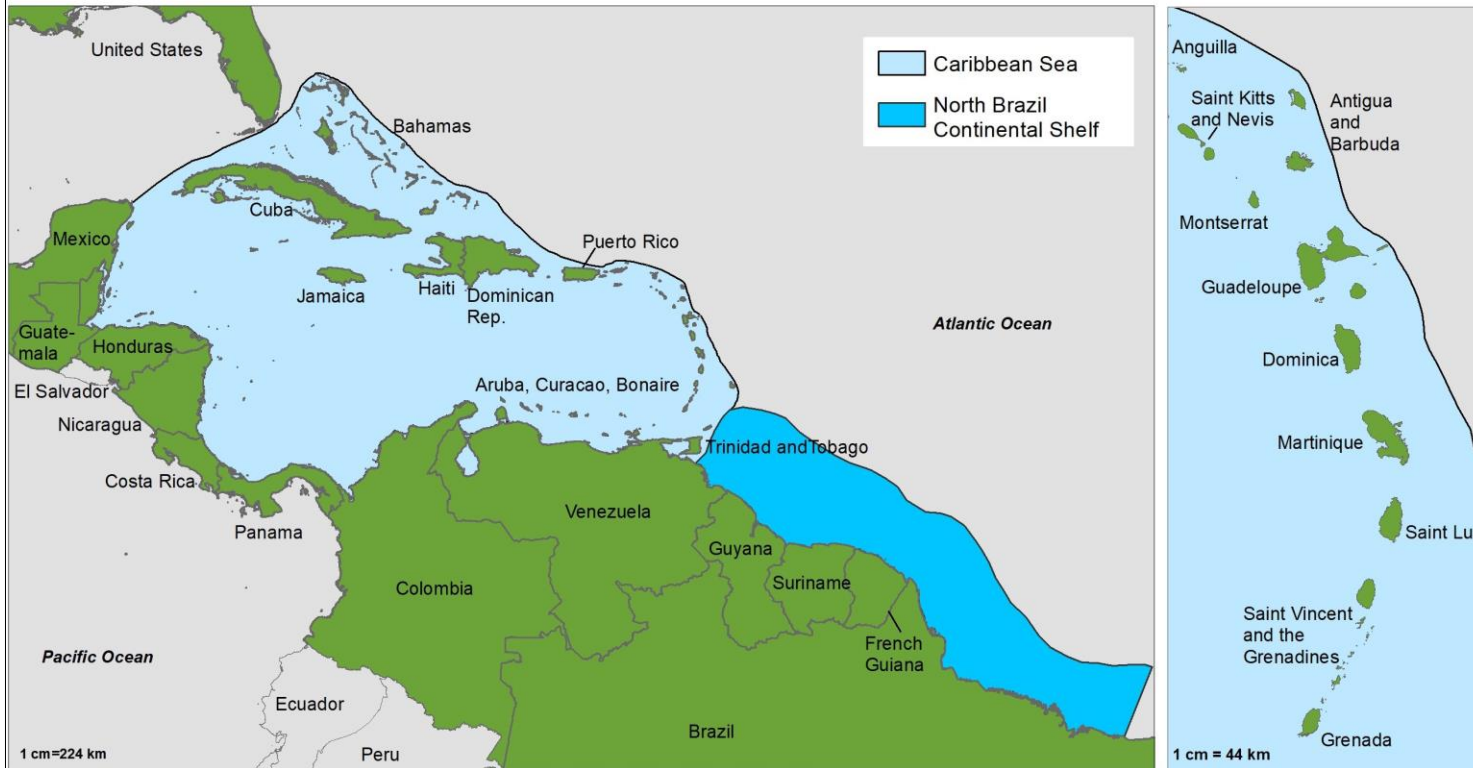
Next steps to develop the C-SAP

Background: the need

- The marine environment of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) provides us with a multitude of goods and services that are critical for achieving enhanced livelihoods, human well-being and sustained socio-economic development.
- Within this vast marine area, three ecosystem types support the most important fisheries and biodiversity:
 - reefs and associated ecosystems
 - pelagic ecosystem
 - continental shelf ecosystem
- The capacity of these ecosystems to provide goods and services to our societies and to sustain such high levels of biodiversity is threatened by: (a) unsustainable fisheries, (b) habitat degradation, and (c) pollution. Impacts from these problems are made worse by climate variability and change.



The CLME+ Region



Background: the initiative

- The Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME+ region ([CLME+ SAP](#)) aims for “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region.”
- The 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 ([CLME+ Project](#)) seeks to promote broader participation of, and contributions from civil society groups in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP.
- The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) was selected to develop the Civil Society Action Programme ([C-SAP](#)) to raise the profile of civil society and guide civil society capacity building for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementation of the CLME+ SAP.

Overview

Who?

Representatives of 18 CSOs and small and SMEs from 14 countries within the CLME+ region

Why?

To develop a Civil Society Action Programme (C-SAP), that would contribute to strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society actors in the implementation of the politically endorsed 10-year CLME+ SAP.

How?

Four-day interactive workshop, from January 16-19, 2018, in Trinidad and Tobago

Results

- ✓ Strategic priorities and actions for the C-SAP identified
- ✓ Capacity needs for CSOs and SMEs to deliver priorities identified
- ✓ Raised awareness about the objectives of the CLME+SAP and CLME+ Project
- ✓ Initial commitment from CSOs and SMEs to support implementation of the C-SAP



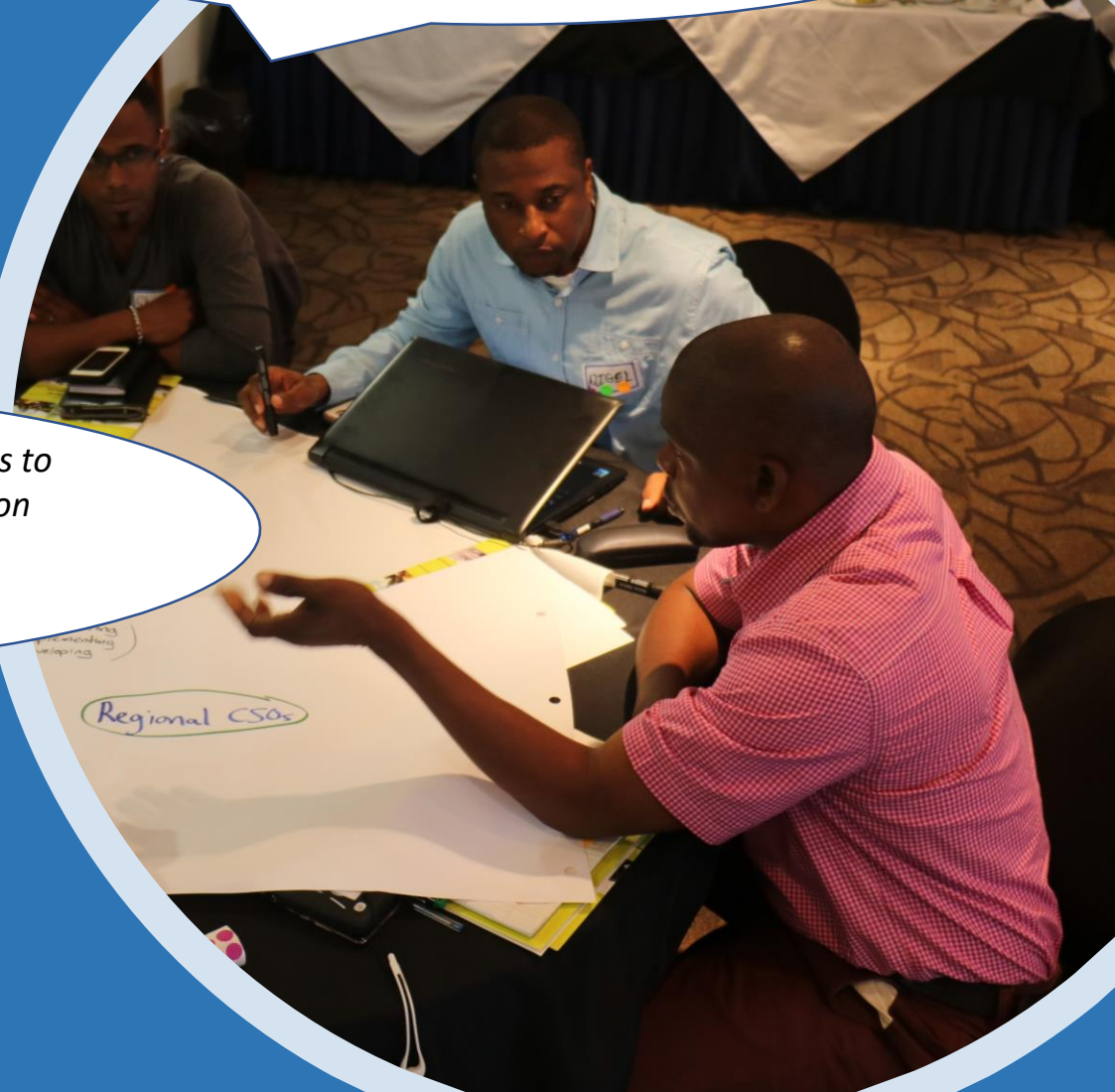
In our own words... stakeholders' opinions on the C-SAP

"This is the first time that I know of where funding has been dedicated under a project to shape the role of civil society in marine governance and management. If we get this right, it is potentially a model that can be taken to governments and donors to say civil society can play a role, help us." – Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, CANARI

"It is good when civil society has a say in what needs to be implemented, because we are the ones working on the ground." – Orisha Joseph, Programme Officer, Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

"This is my first time hearing about a programme like the C-SAP. We are willing to work and there will be trial sicknesses; but the willpower is there." – Steven Anthony, Treasurer, Visserscollectief (Suriname)

"I hope that the C-SAP will help improve collaboration and sharing of knowledge in the region." – Nigel Martinez, Manager, Belize Federation of Fishers



Identifying civil society's roles in management and governance in the CLME+ region

Participants identified a variety of roles that CSOs and SMEs play in the management and governance of the marine and coastal resources in the CLME+ region at the local, national and regional levels, including:

- Advocacy
- Capacity building
- Co-management
- Enhancing livelihoods (including providing employment)
- Establishing partnerships
- Facilitating access to funding for other CSOs and SMEs
- Networking
- Policy influencing
- Public education and awareness
- Representation
- Research



Identifying Strategies and Actions for CSOs and SMEs to support CLME+ SAP implementation

- Through the **C-SAP**, CSOs and community-based SMEs in the CLME+ region will implement a set of coordinated **Strategies and Actions** that **will support implementation of the CLME+ SAP** to improve governance and management of shared living marine resources.
- The CLME+ SAP identifies three cross-cutting and inter-linked **priority transboundary issues**, two over-arching issues and their **root causes** that have severe negative impacts on the volume and quality of regional and global societal benefits obtained from the CLME+ region and its three key ecosystem types.

The **three-priority transboundary and two overarching issues** in the CLME+ SAP are:

- Unsustainable fisheries
- Habitat degradation and modification of the community structure of ecosystems
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Societal change



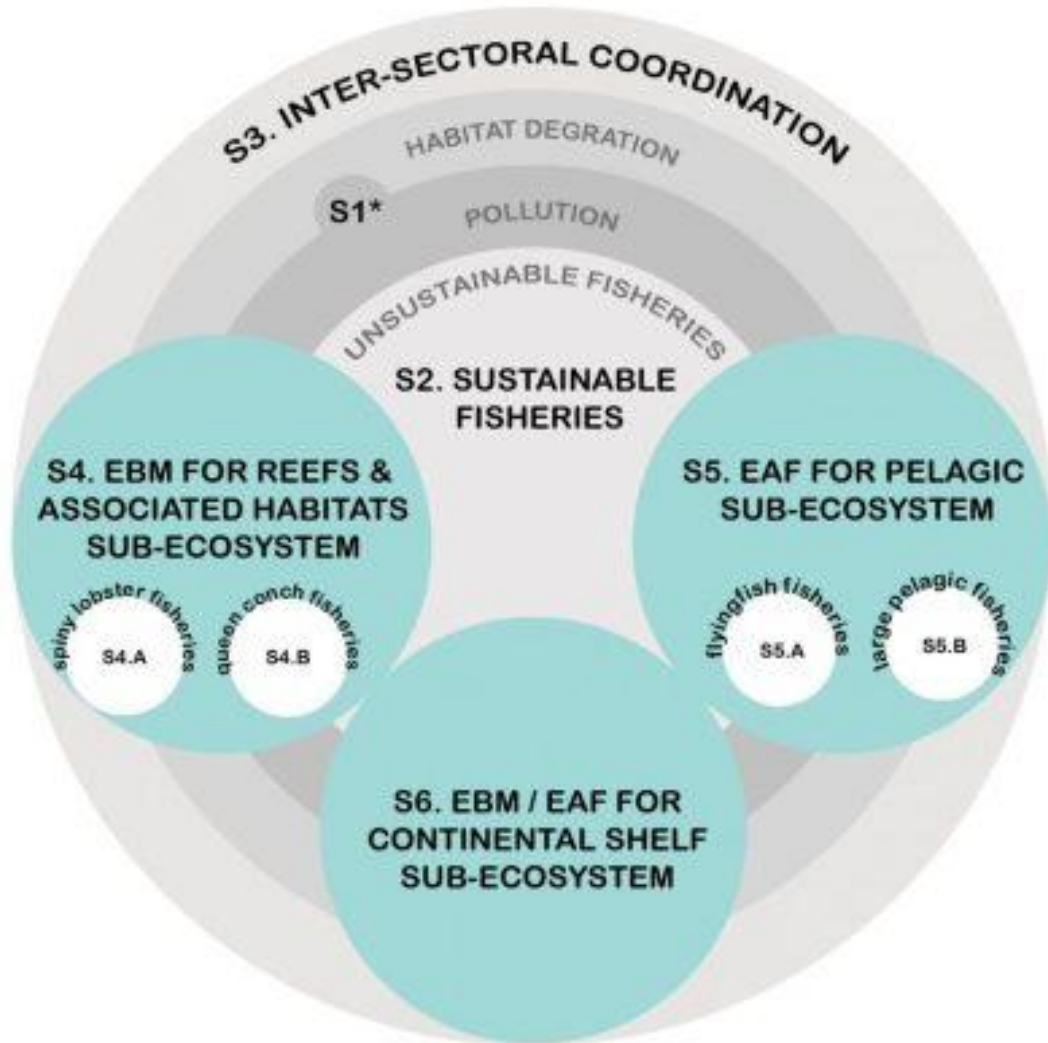
The **root causes of the priority transboundary issues** identified in the CLME+ SAP are:

- Weak governance (including legal and institutional frameworks, inadequate environmental quality standards and legislation)
- Limited human and financial resources
- Inadequate (access to) data and information (inadequate knowledge)
- Inadequate public awareness and participation
- Inadequate consideration of value of ecosystem goods and services
- Population and cultural pressures
- Trade and external dependency (high dependence on fish for income and export earnings)

The C-SAP's Strategies and Actions are closely aligned with the six Strategies defined under the CLME+ SAP

The CLME+ SAP Strategies are:

- S1. Enhance the regional governance arrangements for the protection of the marine environment
- S2. Enhance the regional governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries
- S3. Establish and operationalise a regional policy coordination mechanism for governance of the marine environment, with initial focus on shared living marine resources
- S4. Enhance the governance arrangements for ecosystem-based management of reefs and associated ecosystems (e.g. seagrass beds, mangroves, reef slopes and coastal lagoons)
- S5. Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for pelagic fisheries (EAF)
- S6. Implement Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery



*S1. PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Proposed Strategies and Actions for the C-SAP identified by participants

- Participants identified 7 Strategies and 60 associated Actions for the C-SAP
- Strategies 1-3 specifically focus on engaging and enabling civil society to contribute to the implementation of approaches in the management of the three key ecosystem types identified in the CLME+ SAP
- Strategies 4-7 are overarching strategies that focus on strengthening civil society's role in participatory governance and management of all three ecosystem types
- Participants identified a combination of broad-based and specific strategies and actions to address the diversity of issues and challenges impacting the marine environment in the CLME+ region



STRATEGY 1: Implement ecosystem-based management for reefs and associated ecosystems

	1.1	Promote and engage in ecosystem-based management and co-management
PRIORITY ACTIONS	1.2	Promote, take part in and undertake restoration of marine ecosystems (e.g. reefs, mangroves)
	1.3	Share best practices on protected area management (marine managed areas), EBA and co-management
	1.4	Share best practices on dealing with invasive species (e.g. peer exchanges)
	1.5	Promote and reduce plastic use and waste
	1.6	Participate in monitoring and enforcement (e.g. as community monitors/wardens)
	1.7	Advocate for the banning of coral mining
	1.8	Advocate for the banning of unsustainable mangrove harvesting
	1.9	Identify and promote alternatives to mangrove charcoal and fuel wood use

STRATEGY 2: Implement an ecosystem approach to pelagic fisheries

PRIORITY ACTIONS	2.1	Promote, take part in and undertake participatory research (including on the impacts of FADs, oil rigs, seismic surveys, pollution and sport/recreational fishing on pelagic fisheries) to inform awareness and advocacy actions
	2.2	Promote and engage in participatory approaches to identifying and testing alternative fishing practices and gears
	2.3	Advocate for Integrated Coastal Zone Management to address land-based pollution
	2.4	Advocate for participatory fisheries management to address challenges related to inappropriate fishing technology/ gear and enforcement
	2.5	Advocate for and participate in governance arrangements to address issues impacting pelagic fisheries, including Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and pollution
	2.6	Advocate for polluter pays policy and compensation for fisherfolk

STRATEGY 3: Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery

PRIORITY ACTIONS	3.1	Promote, take part in and undertake participatory research in the identification of target species, fisheries and/or stock assessments (including impacts of climate change) and impacts of fishing gears on the resources
	3.2	Build awareness and capacity among trawl fishers about appropriate technologies available for by-catch reduction
	3.3	Advocate for the use of new and tested fishing technologies to reduce by-catch from trawling
	3.4	Advocate for, take part in and undertake participatory mapping exercises to demarcate separate zones for artisanal/small-scale and industrial fisheries
	3.5	Advocate for and contribute to development of a regional decision-making mechanism (which includes civil society) in the Guiana – Brazil area for management of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries
	3.6	Identify and share best practices from countries that have well developed and efficient surveillance and enforcement systems (e.g. French Guiana)
	3.7	Advocate for and establish formal co-management arrangements to play a direct role in surveillance and enforcement

STRATEGY 4: Strengthen civil society's role to conduct and participate in research and monitoring for management of the marine environment

PRIORITY ACTIONS	4.1	Build capacity of civil society, including grassroots organisations, to assist with monitoring and engage in monitoring activities as part of a “watchdog” role
	4.2	Advocate for and undertake harmonisation or standardisation of data collection methods to facilitate analysis and information sharing
	4.3	Advocate for and take action to document local and traditional knowledge as part of research and monitoring for management of the marine environment
	4.4	Advocate for the inclusion of civil society research in local, national and regional archival systems/arrangements
	4.5	Create and promote regional platforms for data and information gathered by civil society to be archived
	4.6	Advocate for the repatriation of data and information
	4.7	Advocate for the development of the necessary systems to facilitate decision-making informed by scientific, traditional and local knowledge
	4.8	Conduct and promote participatory research, particularly with the most vulnerable coastal and marine communities
	4.9	Advocate for systems for the traceability of fish and other living marine resources in the value chain
	4.10	Develop participatory and collaborative ways of knowledge generation
	4.11	Promote collaboration among fisherfolk and partners to conduct monitoring and reporting (e.g. using ICTs/mobile phones) on issues such as IUU
	4.12	Advocate for and participate in the assessments of the impact of certification schemes on SSF development

STRATEGY 5: Strengthen civil society's participation in governance of the marine environment

PRIORITY ACTIONS	5.1	Develop mechanisms for civil society/government partnerships
	5.2	Identify and use legal mechanisms for civil society to play a “watchdog” role
	5.3	Advocate for and engage in participatory planning, implementation and evaluation of projects
	5.4	Develop national and community participation plans
	5.5	Engage in international, regional and national meetings and networks to build partnerships and capacity, share knowledge and participate in decision-making
	5.6	Collaborate with academia to provide independent analysis and “shadow reporting”
	5.7	Advocate for and participate in National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (e.g. Fisheries Advisory Committees)

STRATEGY 6: Develop and enhance sustainable livelihoods based on the use of marine resources

PRIORITY ACTIONS	6.1	Conduct participatory value chain analyses to determine stakeholders, issues and livelihood impacts
	6.2	Participate in research to develop alternative/value added products, utilisation of fish waste, and on different marketing methods to improve sources of income
	6.3	Advocate for and promote equity in the value chain and better working conditions
	6.4	Create awareness and educate stakeholders about safe working conditions
	6.5	Conduct participatory research on the needed safety changes to gear and equipment
	6.6	Promote self-policing to ensure safety and use of safety equipment
	6.7	Advocate for decent working conditions for vulnerable groups e.g. women, youth and the elderly
	6.8	Advocate for decent work as a basic human right
	6.9	Promote and support women's enterprises for the sustainable utilisation of shared living coastal and marine resources
	6.10	Conduct market research, identify new markets and develop appropriate value-added products to reduce fishing pressure

STRATEGY 7: Enhance communication to raise awareness and advocate

PRIORITY ACTIONS	7.1	Advocate for and undertake the translation of technical information into suitable communication products for a variety of non-technical target audiences/user groups, including indigenous peoples, communities and resource users
	7.2	Improve capacity of civil society to participate in face-to-face advocacy and negotiations with government to influence policy development
	7.3	Strengthen communication mechanisms/networks among CSOs and SMEs in the region, including the development of a regional database of organisations and knowledge platform/portal
	7.4	Communicate examples of successful implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, including the role of civil society in this regard
	7.5	Advocate for and ensure the production of culturally sensitive education and awareness products
	7.6	Raise awareness of fisherfolk about the human rights based approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines
	7.7	Advocate for incentives for the promotion of sustainable fisheries
	7.8	Advocate on policies, procedures, fines, seasons (collaboration and fact-based)
	7.9	Undertake public education about the sustainable management of the marine environment, particularly targeting youth and champions

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black top and a small hoop earring, is seen from the side, looking at a laptop screen. The laptop is open on a desk, and the screen displays a document with a green border. In the background, there are other people, papers, and a glass of water, suggesting a meeting or workshop environment. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Assessing capacity needs for CSOs and SMEs to deliver strategies and actions

Participants agreed that to play an effective role in implementing the CLME+ SAP, CSOs and SMEs would need:

- 1) technical skills, knowledge and resources
- 2) capacities to be strong organisations so that they can function effectively
- 3) capacities that support effective engagement in participatory governance and management

Technical capacity needs identified for implementing Strategies 1-3:



Skills and knowledge in coral/mangrove restoration (e.g. nursery construction, maintenance and management)

Skills and knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including mapping for identifying vulnerable and degraded sites for protection and/or restoration

Knowledge of fishing technologies and methods used in the various fisheries

Skills for implementing participatory approaches to addressing impacts of fish aggregating devices (FADs), seismic surveys, pollution, etc.

Skills and knowledge to conduct participatory fishery and/or stock assessments

Skills and knowledge to conduct participatory spatial mapping to determine separate zones for artisanal and industrial fisheries

Knowledge of laws and enforcement procedures related to the management of the marine environment

Technical capacity needs for implementing Strategies 4-7 (cross-cutting):



Skills and knowledge in participatory research techniques

Skills in using information and communication technologies (e.g. video, photo, GIS) to document local and traditional knowledge

Acquisition of ICT and other equipment and technology to conduct research

Skills in facilitation, including analysis

Knowledge of languages, including indigenous languages

Skills in communication e.g. awareness, advocacy and policy influencing

Skills and knowledge to conduct market research

Skills in negotiation to advocate for better working conditions

Knowledge of multilateral trade agreements and trade relations

Skills and knowledge of leadership, advocacy and negotiation

Skills in networking and collaboration at the international, national and local levels

Skills in data collection, storage, management, reporting and dissemination

Organisational capacity needs identified for CSOs and SMEs to support CLME+ SAP implementation:



Strategic planning

Proposal writing

Financial management

Building partnerships

Project planning, implementation and evaluation to enable engagement in CLME+ projects

Marketing (including conducting market research)

Small business management

Customer service

Social marketing

Strengthening the enabling environment to support civil society's contribution to implementation of the CLME+ SAP

Participants agreed that it was necessary to have an enabling environment (**policies, laws, regulations, structures**) that supports and protects civil society and allows the sector to play a positive and significant role in the realisation of the long-term vision for the CLME+ region.





Strengthen national policies, laws, regulations, structures to support engagement of CSOs and SMEs in CLME+ SAP implementation:

- Review and enhance the policy, legal, regulatory, fiscal and funding frameworks within which CSOs operate in the various countries.
- Identify international and regional policy instruments (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], Cartagena Convention, Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines, Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, OSPESCA Regional Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy) to which countries in the CLME+ region have committed and utilise the opportunities offered by these policies and commitments to lobby for change in the national enabling environment.
- Advocate for and include in institutional arrangements mechanisms to give voice to stakeholders at the national and local levels (e.g. National Inter-sectoral Coordinating Mechanisms).

Strengthen regional decision-making mechanisms:

- Identify and promote best practices for policy influence in observer arrangements, including in international/regional policy-making fora
- Engage and utilise the opportunities being offered by the various CLME+ sub-projects to promote change in the regional policy-making arrangements.



Strengthen financial and technical support:

- Advocate for improvement in government and other support programmes for developing CSO capacity and effectiveness, including programmes of cooperative departments, fisheries authorities, environmental agencies.
- Identify funding mechanisms that can contribute to civil society capacity development e.g. GEF, GCF, EU EuropeAid, USAID, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility programmes.
- Advocate for donors to respect civil society as development actors in their own right and to enhance grant mechanisms, including assuring long-term funding for institutional strengthening of CSOs.
- Build or strengthen international/regional/national partnerships between CSOs and other actors (government, inter-governmental technical agencies, donors, etc.).



Implementing the C-SAP

- Implementation of the C-SAP will be led by CSOs and SMEs in the CLME+ region in partnership with government and other actors such as donors and international non-governmental organisations who can support and provide resources (technical and financial) to enable its implementation.
- There are a number of programmes, projects and initiatives (PPIs) in the CLME+ region that are currently supporting CSOs and SMEs to engage in implementation of the CLME+ SAP, including through building CSO and SME capacity.
- The C-SAP development process will support its implementation through the mapping of PPIs that are targeting CSOs and SMEs relevant to achieving the overall objectives of the CLME+ SAP in the region, and preparing a database of these PPIs to facilitate replication and scaling-up potential.
- C-SAP implementation will also be supported through the establishment of a Small Grants Coordination Mechanism (SGCM) to support the implementation of priority actions identified in the C-SAP as well as to improve coordination amongst the different small grant programmes in the CLME+ region.



Next steps to develop the C-SAP document

- CANARI will prepare the first draft summary workshop report with components of C-SAP by the end of February 2018
- Using participants' input from the regional workshop CANARI will lead on the preparation of a first draft of the C-SAP document
- CANARI will lead on establishing a technical review panel consisting of CSOs in the CLME+ region (including from among participants at the workshop) to review the first draft of the C-SAP
- Once the project budget permits, a few review and endorsement workshops with CSOs and SMEs will be arranged to get input
- A roundtable with donors in the CLME+ region to discuss the establishment of a Small Grants Coordinating Mechanism will be scheduled and facilitated by CANARI in March 2018
- CANARI will finalise the C-SAP document taking into account input from CSOs, SMEs and external partners by June 2018

CANARI would like to thank the following organisations for participating in the Regional Workshop for Development of the C-SAP

Civil society organisations:

- Bahamas National Trust, Bahamas
- Belize Federation of Fishers, Belize
- Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation, Jamaica
- Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations
- Castries Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd., St. Lucia
- CoopeMolusChomes RL, Costa Rica
- CoopeSoliDar R.L., Costa Rica
- Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua and Barbuda
- Future Fishers, Trinidad and Tobago
- FoProBim, Haiti
- Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia do Pará, Brazil
- Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union Ltd., Jamaica
- Nature Seekers, Trinidad and Tobago
- Sugar Town Wish List, St. Kitts and Nevis
- Sustainable Grenadines Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- Turtle Village Trust, Trinidad and Tobago
- Visserscollectief, Suriname

Technical agencies:

- CLME+ Project -Project Coordinating Unit
- Fisheries Division (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Green Fund (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad and Tobago)
- UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



The development of the C-SAP is an activity under the Engaging Civil Society in CLME+ SAP Implementation project which is being executed by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) as a component of the CLME+ Project. The five-year (2015 – 2020) CLME+ Project is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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For more information about the **Engaging Civil Society in CLME+ SAP Implementation project**, including development of the C-SAP, contact Mr. Terrence Phillips, Senior Technical Officer, CANARI at terrence@canari.org