

Coastal and Marine Management Program of the Caribbean Conservation Association

Introduction

The people of the wider Caribbean region are facing a crisis. Coastal communities are finding livelihoods and food supply threatened due to resource overexploitation, declining environmental health, habitat degradation, and increased conflicts among various users. The countries of the Caribbean confront difficult problems in coastal and marine management. The need for new approaches is urgent. More holistic perspectives and co-management of coastal and marine resources linking officials, communities and NGOs are increasingly seen as solutions.



A seine net in a canoe with fishers in Jamaica

The Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA)

responded to the current situation in March of 2001 with the establishment of the **Coastal and Marine Management Program (CaMMP)**, an initiative focused on conserving coastal and marine resources through improved management. The CCA and CaMMP are drawing on over 35 years of experience in the region and a membership pool including most Caribbean governments, 400 individuals and 80 NGOs.



Fresh and smoked fish on sale at a market in Suriname

Mission

The mission of CCA, “to enhance the quality of life for the present and future generations by facilitating the development and implementation of policies programs and practices which contribute to the sustainable management of the region’s natural and cultural resources,” is brought to life through the CaMMP initiative. CaMMP works with fishers, resource managers, government officials, local groups and NGOs to improve food security and livelihoods for coastal communities in the Caribbean by improving the governance of fisheries and increasing public participation in planning and policy development.

How CaMMP Operates

CaMMP will implement a series of projects throughout the wider Caribbean region with the goals of providing technical assistance, research, institutional strengthening, capacity building and socio-economic development. While the focus remains on the human dimension of coastal and marine management – science and technology will factor heavily in decision making and policy recommendations.



While making best use of the existing membership of CCA, CaMMP will also explore new relationships with local and regional NGOs, governments, academic and research institutions, fisher groups and other stakeholders with similar and/or complementary interests in coastal and marine management. This will strengthen networking within the Caribbean.

CaMMP is at the CCA, a Wider Caribbean NGO based in Barbados

CaMMP has identified the following eight **guiding principles** to help shape and focus projects:

- **Improve co-management and community-based management** of fisheries and coastal areas;
- **Enhance coordination and capacity building** for sustainable stakeholder organizations;
- **Support governance and institutional arrangements** for marine protected areas and adjacent areas;
- **Encourage appropriate technology** for resource user participation in sustainable management;
- **Provide information and perspectives** on marine policy and multilateral environmental agreements;
- **Facilitate stakeholder involvement** in regional or sub-regional fisheries conservation, management and planning processes;
- **Enrich livelihoods** in coastal communities through enhanced economic opportunities and other linkages;
- **Assess coastal and marine resources** and the economic activities that utilize them.
- **Conserve biodiversity and habitats** that sustain and add to the quality of life in coastal communities




CaMMP staff, fishers and community members considering fisheries co-management in Barbados

To find out more about CaMMP, and our projects throughout the region, please see our website at www.caribbeanconservation.org, or contact CaMMP's Senior Program Officers:

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