

Caribbean Coastal Co-management Guidelines Project Information Update — 15 July 2002

Welcome!

We hope to keep you updated on the Caribbean Coastal Co-management Guidelines Project via these brief information sheets throughout the life of the project. This will include upcoming events, project outputs, interesting reading, web sites and the like. Let us get your news and feedback on coastal resources co-management so that your views can be included and shared too.

If you did not receive our first Project Outline you may not know that this project:

... is implemented by

- ◆ Coastal and Marine Management Program (CaMMP) of the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) in association with
- ◆ Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd. (MRAG) of the UK
- ◆ Natural Resources Management Program (NRM) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados

... has sites in Barbados, Belize and Grenada

... is to be completed by 30 June 2003

... is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) – Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP)

Coastal co-management — when government agencies, resource users and other interested parties get together to share the responsibility and authority for managing coastal resources.

So what is it about, really?

The project aims for people in the Caribbean, especially the poor, to have effective, successful partnerships with government for sustainable livelihoods via well-managed coastal resources. The study looks at the natural resource and human interaction aspects of co-management. Participatory investigations of conditions that

favour, or do not favour, the co-management of coastal resources at selected sites will be used to build guidelines for developing successful co-management in the Caribbean. Adoption of the guidelines is promoted by continuous interaction with potential beneficiaries, and communication of outputs to a wide audience.

Say that again ...

Co-management has become fashionable to talk about and try out in the Caribbean, as in most other parts of the world. But do we really know what conditions of the coastal resources and of the people and of the systems of governance are likely to allow co-management to succeed?

If we do not know what conditions favour successful co-management, then we should try to find out. Otherwise we waste time and energy; people get tired of talking and trying co-management; and we miss out on opportunities to improve how we manage coastal resources.

This project will research conditions that favour coastal resource co-management in Caribbean countries. We will do this by selecting some locations where co-management has been, or is being, tried. With partners in these places we will work with the people involved to get an understanding of what works and what does not.

When done, we will compare results among the different places and see what the favourable conditions are in common. Working with our partners again, we will draw up guidelines that can be used to help make co-management more successful than by just trying without this type of information. The results should benefit coastal people who depend on the resources for their living. Government management agencies and other organisations or people interested in these resources (the “stakeholders”) should also benefit. Occasional updates like this are meant to let you know what is going on with the project.



Some progress to report

In April and May the project held introductory meetings and inception workshops in all 3 of the research site countries. The partner government agencies in Barbados, Belize and Grenada were all very enthusiastic about the project. For each country we will tell you a little about the case studies selected and what has happened since.

Barbados

Sea egg fishery — A food fishery for white sea urchins (*Tripneustes ventricosus* locally called “sea eggs”) has declined on several occasions. After several closures to facilitate recovery, the government recently initiated co-management.

Stakeholders include the Fisheries Division and Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) of the government; and the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO).

Fisheries Advisory Committee — Under its 1993 Fisheries Act the government of Barbados activated a multi-stakeholder Fisheries Advisory Committee in 1995. The FAC has struggled to define and meet its co-management mandate.

Stakeholders include the Fisheries Division of the government; individual and organisational members of the FAC.

The inception workshop was on 8 May 2002.

Belize

Laughing Bird Caye National Park and Gladden Spit Marine Reserve MPAs — These MPAs in Belize’s barrier reef are co-managed by an NGO under co-management agreements with the Forestry and Fisheries Departments

Government stakeholders include the Fisheries and Forestry Departments, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute. Friends of Nature, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize Fisherman’s Cooperative Association are some of the NGOs.

Fisheries Advisory Board — Belize has a Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) that has been a powerful force in fisheries for over 30 years. However, it has not been well documented as an example of co-management.

Stakeholders include government Fisheries and Cooperatives Departments, Belize Fisherman’s Cooperative Association, members of the FAB.

Inception workshops were from 26-31 May.

Grenada

Lobster fishery (focus on Sauteurs location)

— At the rural town of Sauteurs government recently started a co-management project to encourage use of more responsible fishing gear for lobster harvest, and the fishing co-operative in the area is presently being revived.

Stakeholders include government Fisheries and Cooperatives Divisions, the Agency for Rural Transformation, St. Patrick’s Fishermen’s Co-op.

Seine net fishery (focus on Gouyave location)

— The seine net fishery in Grenada is a case of an attempt by government to systematically document traditional fishing rules and customs in order to incorporate them into fisheries management plans and legislation.

Stakeholders include the Fisheries Division of government, Agency for Rural Transformation, Grenada Community Development Agency, Gouyave Improvement Committee and St. John’s Fishermen’s Association.

Inception workshops were on 14 and 15 May.

We thank all of the agencies and people in each country who assisted us a lot in getting started.

Research framework

The Analysis of Co-management Arrangements in Fisheries and Related Coastal Resources Research Framework developed by the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) and the Institute of Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development (IFM), revised in 1998, is the research framework used in this project. Download it from www.co-management.org.

Further information ...

We are starting fieldwork. Will keep in touch!!! Visit the new CCA web site www.ccanet.net where information will be put for easy access. See also the NRSP web site www.nrsp.co.uk, and learn about MRAG at www.mrag.ic.ac.uk.

This document is an output from a project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID.