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Case Study Information Sheet

Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

Country: Barbados

Title: Creating Conditions for Community-Based Small-Scale Fisheries Management in the Caribbean

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Other Information: (i) Original language: English

Abstract: This case study concerns the small island developing states of the eastern Caribbean which are part of the Caribbean Community. The case analyses aspects of the development of fisheries management in small island states like Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, following UNCLOS. Emphasis is placed on Barbados. A research study concluded in 1995 in Barbados, recommended an incremental approach to introduction of fisheries management, particularly because Barbados has no history of community-based fisheries management, unlike the other island states in the region where the emphasis was on building upon the existing foundations. It also suggested that community-based rather than occupational fisherfolk organizations were more appropriate for organizing collective action. The Fisheries Act of 1993 provided for the formulation and review of fisheries management plans for Barbados through consultative mechanisms like Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC). In addition, Fishery Working Groups (FWGs) which included at least one member of the FAC, the Fisheries Division, and representatives of fisherfolk organizations are planned. Efforts are now being made to establish linkages between fisherfolk organizations in the neighboring countries that share stocks of pelagic species. The case argues that social and economic considerations should be granted foremost consideration in developing a fisheries management concept, so as to be in line with the political reality of conservation programs in developing countries. Another important factor for success is the exchange of information between the managers/scientists and the fishing industry in order to bring about a sustainable community-based fisheries management effort. Finally, success depends on the “extent to which government is willing to provide incentives to organizations rather than individuals in order to create and conserve social capital required for sustained collective action”.

Themes (prioritized): 3, 2, 1

Subsistence Practice: Fishing

Resource Types & Ecosystems (prioritized): Fish, Marine resources, Coastal areas, Oceans

Key Terms: Community consultation, Conservation, Fisheries, Income generation, Private sector, Regional cooperation, Replication, Tourism

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