

CARICOM-Japan Public Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity

“Biodiversity and Marine Governance including Fisheries”

Presented by:

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Biodiversity and Marine Governance Including Fisheries

1. Introduction and Background
2. Challenges and Response
3. Cooperation with the Government of Japan
4. Conclusion

Introduction and Background

CARICOM Region coastal and marine ecosystems and their biological diversity are valuable assets.

- Provides Member states with numerous benefits – food, employment foreign exchange
- The Fisheries Sector also serves as a social safety net

Introduction and Background

- land space accounts for only 18% of the territories of Member States
- marine space including the seabed and benthic ecosystems account for 82% of Member States' territories
- Annual nominal production of fish and aquaculture reached 195,000 MT valued at about US\$600 million in 2000.

Introduction and Background

- Fisheries accounts for up to 8% of GDP in some Member States
- Aquaculture is still in its embryonic stages of development in the CARICOM region
- At the global level aquaculture is contributing nearly 50% of the global production of food fish, within the region it accounts for less than 1% of total fish production.

Introduction and Background

- Several important global developments in the last decades
- Special needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have not been lost in these developments.

Introduction and Background

- Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 of UNCED, the WSSD Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Program of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation explicitly recognize these needs.
- Article 5 of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries also recognizes the special requirements of fisheries of SIDS.

Challenges and Strategic Response

Challenges:

- inadequate human and institutional capacity for research
- policy analysis and management interventions
- inadequate participation of the resource users in planning and decision making

Challenges and Strategic Responses

- illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance capability;
- limited processing and trading capacity
- coastal development or environmental changes

Challenges and Strategic Responses

- Two main challenges to achieving profitable and sustainable fisheries development:
 1. **Develop a better understanding and knowledge of the complex environmental and ecological processes which determine the abundance, distribution and population dynamics of the fish stocks and health of the ecosystems.**

Challenges and Strategic Responses

- 2. On the basis of advances in science, communication and technology, to improve the system of governance, that is, to develop appropriate policy, legal and institutional arrangements to use and protect the shared marine resources of the region.**

Challenges and Strategic Responses

Regional Response

- In 2002, the CARICOM States established the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), a regional fisheries body, to continue to spearhead the development and conservation of the region's fisheries and living marine resources.

Challenges and Strategic Response

- There are 17 Member States of the CRFM, comprised of the CARICOM Members and some Associate Members.

Objectives of the CRFM

- the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States;
- the promotion and establishment of co-operative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;

Objectives of the CRFM

- the provision of technical advisory and consultative services to fisheries divisions of Member States in the development, management and conservation of their marine and other aquatic resources.

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

- The Government of Japan is currently providing technical assistance to CARICOM to prepare a *Master Plan for Sustainable Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture for Coastal Community Development* (the Study).
- The Study commenced in March, 2009, with the appointment by JICA of IC Net Limited, a Japan-based consulting firm, as the Japanese Executing Agency for the Study.

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

The objectives of the Study are:

- To formulate a master plan for sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture in the Caribbean, focusing on small-scale operators in coastal communities; and.
- To transfer relevant technologies to the institutions and staff members of the CRFM member states and the CRFM Secretariat during the course of the Study.

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

The Study addresses five components:

1. Development and management of pelagic resources
2. Formulation of aquaculture development policy
3. Development of a regional fisheries database

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

4. Support for community-based management including sedentary resource management

5. Education and training on the components above in the CARICOM member states

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

3 pilot projects:

- *St. Lucia and Dominica* - Pelagic Fishery Resource Development and Management using Fish Aggregating Device (FAD)
- *Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines* - Development of Fisheries Statistical System Models

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

- *Belize* - Small scale aquaculture training in Jamaica and low cost small-scale aquaculture development

The results and lessons learnt from the Pilot Projects along with additional information gathered during the Study will be incorporated into the final Master Plan to be completed in February, 2012.

Cooperation with the Government of Japan

FUTURE COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

- Support for Implementation of the Master Plan
- Training and Capacity Building
- Development of a project to address the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems

Conclusion

- There is mutual interest of Japan and CARICOM in sustainable utilization and conservation of fisheries and marine resources for development
- Note the progress with respect to the preparation of a Master Plan for sustainable development coastal fisheries resources in the CARICOM States
- Look to strengthening cooperation and collaboration in fisheries and aquaculture

Conclusion

While significant strides have been made over the past decade towards conservation and sustainable utilization of fisheries and other marine biological resources in the CARICOM Region, much remains to be done.



THANK YOU