

The Blue Economy: Opportunities for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation The CARICOM Perspective

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The Caribbean Community



A Community for all



Antigua and Barbuda



The Bahamas



Barbados



Belize



Dominica



Grenada



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



Montserrat

The
Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)



Member States and Associate Member States



Saint Lucia



St. Kitts and Nevis



St. Vincent and
the Grenadines



Suriname



Trinidad and Tobago



Anguilla



Bermuda



British Virgin Islands



Cayman Islands



Turks and Caicos Islands

International Context

- Three SIDS Conference and their outcomes (the Barbados Plan of Action (1994); the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPOA (2005) and the SIDS accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
- UNDESA Expert group meeting on Oceans, Seas and Sustainable Development
- Work of the Global Oceans Commission
- Prominence of Oceans and Seas in a UN Five Year Action Agenda 2012-2016, proposed oceans conference in Fiji in 2017
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 to “Conserve and Sustainable Use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Regional Context

- Existence of specialist organisations such as Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- Common Fisheries Policy
- Work of the Region on the Green Economy :

Guyana, Dominica, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Haiti have commenced or completed work on Green Economy Scoping Studies

- Within the CARICOM Region the issue of “Ocean Governance” has been given prominence with the OECS sub-region having an Ocean Governance Programme. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has also prepared a national Ocean Governance Policy. At a regional level we continue to work on Delimitation of EEZs, Regional Security and Fisheries

FAO Blue Growth Initiative

- FAO is specifically promoting the “Blue Growth “ concept in support of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable management of living aquatic resources. The initiative has four components:
 1. Marine and inland capture fisheries (addressing fisheries management and good governance)
 2. Aquaculture (addressing improving food security)
 3. Livelihoods and foods systems (addressing trade and capacity building issues)
 4. Economic growth from ecosystem services (ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation)

Blue Growth in CARICOM States

- This concept has been gaining traction within the CARICOM region
- The concept is in line with the CARICOM stated goal of ensuring food security having developed a regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy
- The Fisheries Sector in Caribbean countries is key to achieving food security as many inhabitants consume fish as their main source of protein (fish consumption is on average some 20 kg per capita in some Caribbean Countries)
- The fisheries sector also supports direct employment for 1.3 million people in the wider Caribbean region and supports the livelihood of approximately 4.5 million people

Critical Linkages between climate change and blue economy

- Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing all Caribbean countries
- Possible impacts may include:
 - Increased sea surface temperatures
 - Ocean acidification
 - Increased storm intensity and sea level rise possibly impacting coastal ecosystems and infrastructure
 - Displacement of communities and livelihoods

Possible areas for attention as it relates to climate adaptation and mitigation

- Energy efficiency deployment in key sectors eg fishing boats, fish landing sites, coastal recreation facilities
- Activities to improve marine and coastal biodiversity and conserve ecosystem health
- Ecosystem based adaptation initiatives e.g UNEP pilot projects in Grenada and Seychelles- the region is looking towards scaling up such interventions throughout the region.
- Work to scale up SIDS Marine Protected Areas and Marine Management Areas Initiatives
- Deployment of appropriate climate financing to build resilience in coastal areas and ecosystems
- Ecosystem restoration projects especially as it relates to mangroves, sea grass beds and coral reefs
- Building economic resilience in fishing communities (building capacity of communities to benefit from broader economic activities eg recreational activities, tourism based activities)