

International Coral Reef Conservation Grant -- Project Report

Project title	Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities
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This report assesses the extent to which the project objectives have been met by first looking at whether the proposed products/activities have been delivered to achieve the desired outcomes stated in the proposal. The report concludes with a discussion of challenges and constraints.

Products and outcomes

The table below, extracted from the project proposal, sets out planned products and outcomes.

Product	Outcome
Report on application process for selecting SocMon training participants and sites	50 preferred participants and 5 study sites
Reports of SocMon training workshops	At least 50 trained fisheries stakeholders
Reports on site assessment initiation	At least 5 monitoring programs established
Training and site monitoring final reports	Shared information for improving SocMon
Oral presentation and paper at GCFI 2008	Sharing of project findings with region
Report on participatory project evaluation	Lessons learned and shared in the region

This report addresses progress made towards the first entry. The application and site selection process is not quite complete, so no report is available. However there has been significant progress towards preparing for the workshops and the project remains on the revised schedule of initiating the workshops in May-June given prior commitments of partners in the 5 countries. In summary, the following has been achieved in the reporting period:

- A two-page promotional project announcement was produced and circulated electronically

- The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) re-confirmed its partnership
- Five locations have committed to the training and monitoring with workshop dates, add-on training modules and most study sites having been agreed upon as follows:
 - Barbados, 5-7 May
 - Dominica, 14-16 May
 - Nevis, 20-22 May
 - Grenada, 27-29 May
 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 3-5 Jun
- On-site coordinators have been identified and are collaborating with the investigator
- Workshop training materials are being revised or created for production and delivery
- Web pages to support the project are in preparation for the CERMES web site

Achieving the project objectives

This project has four main objectives. They are to:

1. Train 50 fisheries management stakeholders, located in 5 selected CRFM member countries, in the use of SocMon Caribbean methods via a series of in-country practically oriented workshops.
2. Assist the initiation of 5 site assessment and monitoring programs for fisheries-related coastal management in the selected CRFM member states that received the training.
3. Document the training and monitoring initiation processes and make them available to a worldwide audience and CERMES communications in order for them to be replicated, with improvement, in future rounds of SocMon activity.
4. Submit compatible data to the Reef Base Socio-Economic global database.

Progress has been made towards meeting the first and third objectives as described above.

Challenges and constraints

Communication by email is sometimes ineffective and this has resulted in delays and/or additional costs. The delay of the training to commence in May rather than January may prove later to be a constraint, but the project is minimising this risk through additional preparation for follow-up to start monitoring immediately after training has concluded. Due to the increased training workload it may be necessary for both the project manager and investigator to deliver the training whereas the budget has only funds for the investigator's travel. Travel costs in the region have increased.