

Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities (Fisheries SocMon)

❖ Project Announcement ❖

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus is implementing a project to increase and improve the use of site-specific socio-economic information in fisheries and coastal management decision-making by fisheries stakeholders in five locations:

☑ Barbados Dominica Grenada Nevis St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Why a project on socio-economic monitoring for fisheries stakeholders?

National and regional fisheries authorities in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region have long asked for more attention to be paid to socio-economics in data collection, information generation and decision-making. Although efforts have been made by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to expand data collection systems to include social and economic data, little progress has been made by fisheries authorities towards implementation. The national and regional fisheries management plans being developed and implemented call for socio-economic data. The regional need for socio-economic monitoring and information will increase with the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the proposed Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

In keeping with the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the School for Graduate Studies and Research, University of the West Indies*, the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), the SocMon lead organisation for the English-speaking Caribbean, is offering training in socio-economic monitoring to fishery authorities and stakeholders in the five locations where interested parties have agreed to participate in this project.



Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management in the Caribbean, better known as SocMon Caribbean, uses two main publications in the training ... for reference:

- Bunce, L., P. Townsley, R. Pomeroy and R. Pollnac. 2000. *Socio-economic manual for coral reef management*. Australian Institute of Marine Science.
- Bunce, L. and R. Pomeroy. 2003. *Socioeconomic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in the Caribbean (SocMon Caribbean)*. GCRMN.



The two documents are meant to be used together - *SocMon Caribbean* for the priority indicators to assess, the questions to ask and the tables to analyse the data; and the *Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management* for the details of how to do it.

Project activities from October 2007 to March 2009

The specific objective of this project funded by a NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant is to increase and improve the use of socio-economic information in inshore fisheries and coastal management decision-making by training at least 50 fisheries management stakeholders, in five selected CRFM member countries, in the use of SocMon Caribbean methods. The project has four main components:

1. Five in-country practically-oriented 3-day training workshops in SocMon Caribbean methodology (see the locations listed earlier)
2. Initiation of five site monitoring programs for fisheries-related coastal management in the five selected CRFM member states that received the training
3. Documentation of training and monitoring initiation processes to aid replication, with improvement in future rounds of SocMon activity
4. Submission of compatible data to the Reef Base Socio-Economic global database to ensure data sharing

What are likely to be the main benefits from this project?

The goal is to promote the use of social and economic data in fisheries management in CRFM Member States. The project will contribute towards building capacity among all fisheries stakeholders - fisheries officers, fishers, landing site personnel, planners, coastal managers, enforcement agencies, local consultants, and others - in socio-economic monitoring in the Caribbean.

Coastal resource managers have recognised the importance of understanding and incorporating community conditions into the management process. Information on the social, cultural and economic foundation of communities that rely on coastal resources is as critical as understanding the behaviour, migration patterns and habitat requirements of marine ecosystems.