

Policy Perspectives

Perspectives on resource management and environmental policy from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Faculty of Science and Technology, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

The UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) uses **Policy Perspectives**, to share lessons learnt from ongoing research. The interdisciplinary applied research at CERMES emphasizes learning-by-doing through collaboration. The information in **Policy Perspectives** may be used by policy-makers and advisers to strengthen linkages between interdisciplinary research and integrated policy-making in the Caribbean.

Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) is adding a human rights based approach to our small-scale fisheries

The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) seeks to provide social protection by addressing issues related economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities of food security and poverty across the Caribbean region. One of its main objectives is to support and protect the rights of small-scale fishers (Article 10). The Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines uses a human rights based approach (HRBA) to fisheries by empowering small-scale fisher folk, both men and women, to participate in decision-making and to take more responsibility for sustainable use of fishery resources. Incorporating a SSF Guidelines protocol into the CCCFP can strengthen the policy's objective(s) and promote the regional implementation of the CCCFP. This policy brief highlights the HRBA perspective of the SSF Guidelines and what benefits policy makers could expect from supporting the SSF Guidelines protocol to the CCCFP.

Human rights based approach (HRBA)

The HRBA emerged in the 1990s from the re-orientation of globally standardised and operationalized development frameworks. The use of the term 'rights,' in a fisheries context, has long been implied as part of rights-based fisheries management. In more recent years, discussions have evolved to include a human rights perspective, especially in the context of small scale fisheries. This

human rights-based approach has been focused on securing livelihoods, including social and economic rights, as well as rights related to resources (e.g. land). Linking fishing rights and human rights reflects a move towards an approach more in line with the reality of the diverse livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities and the complexity of poverty. Within this concept of a broader rights approach, the importance of secure access to resources and tenure rights should be stressed. The CCCFP, though not explicitly stated, seeks to address some of these human rights issues in its articles 5, 9 and 10 (this is discussed, in short, later in the brief).

HRBA is a strong principle in the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

The SSF Guidelines place a high priority on the realization of human rights and on the need to attend to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Within the Guidelines, the HRBA is analysed and implemented with three lenses:

- (1) the achievement of human rights as the overall **objective or guiding framework** of development and/or emergency-related initiatives;
- (2) the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs or projects **respect the human rights principles** of Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, Human dignity, Empowerment and the Rule of law (PANTHER) to improve targeting, efficiency, effectiveness and quality of

outcomes;

(3) the promotion of **rights, duties, responsibilities and accountability mechanisms** by developing the capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations and of rights-holders to claim their rights.

Strengthening HRBA in the CCCFP

The CCCFP articles (5, 9 and 10) include having a participatory approach, equal participation, and protecting the rights of traditional, subsistence and small-scale fisheries. Incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP via a protocol (as urged in Article 7 and detailed in Article 20) adds value to the existing implementation

content, and strengthens the means of meeting these commitments. The SSF Guidelines are as much about the rights of people deriving their livelihoods from small-scale fisheries as they are about the sustainable use of fisheries resources. This HRBA to SSF could enhance the content of the CCCFP as a regional treaty.

The remainder of this brief highlights the benefits of the HRBA in the SSF Guidelines and provides support for how a SSF Guidelines protocol can strengthen the HRBA in the CCCFP.

Main sections on HRBA	Strengthening HRBA in CCCFP via SSF Guidelines protocol
Human rights and development	It is the first international instrument exclusively addressing a wide range of issues relating to small-scale fisheries, including poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, resource management, governance of tenure, value chains and trade, social development and decent work, disaster risks and climate change, and gender equality. This could make the scope of the CCCFP more wide-reaching and inclusive.
Goals, processes and actors	Seeks to address critical governance issues, not only in relation to the right to access and manage fisheries resources, which are components of the CCCFP but also with regard to issues such as health, education, food security and employment. It addresses power inequalities through inclusion and non-discrimination (among the sexes and social classes), empowering rights-holders, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups and building the capacity of duty-bearers.
In the context of small-scale fisheries	The provision of the Guidelines is articulated based on practical issues and real-time problems in the SSF sector. Under the HRBA, small-scale fishers, fish workers and communities take centre stage in any SSF governance and development initiative. The application of the HRBA in any policy or thematic area should reflect the three dimensions of rights as goals, rights as process principles and the identification of right holders and duty-bearers.

**HRBA adds value
to the people-
centred
implementation of
the CCCFP**

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