

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) can incorporate gender mainstreaming for small-scale fisheries

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) member states through the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) seek to address gender equality within small-scale fisheries. Articles 5(d), 9 and 10 of the CCCFP take into consideration human rights issues, which could be linked to gender. However, member states recognise the need to focus more explicitly on gender. The Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, though voluntary, can strengthen this focus. Having a SSF Guidelines protocol to the CCCFP can meet the CRFM's gender specific objective of incorporating a gender-related policy to the CCCFP. This policy brief highlights how having a protocol such as the SSF Guidelines, promoting gender equality would strengthen the CCCFP as well as meet the goals and objectives of regional and international gender-based instruments.

fisheries, fisheries governance does not fully reflect women's contribution (FAO, 2012). Women's unequal representation in fisheries highlights the need to address gender inequality.

SSF Guidelines: a gender-mainstreaming protocol to the CCCFP

The CRFM member states through its CCCFP are committed to addressing gender inequalities that exist within the fisheries sector and the CRFM Secretariat are in the process of finalizing its policy on gender equality mainstreaming in fisheries and aquaculture, to be implemented through the CCCFP.

Developing a SSF Guideline protocol for the CCCFP can enhance the human rights dimensions of articles 5(d), 9 and 10 (addressed below), by creating direct linkages to gender equality and equity and so strengthen the policy framework to meet its vision and goal

Gender in fisheries

Gender is an important determinant of inequality, particularly the access to and control over societal resources. Thus gender has become more central to fisheries policy and development. Globally, it is estimated that women make up at least 30% of fisheries workers in the harvest and post harvest sectors and 50% of the inland fisheries workforce (FAO, 2015). Despite the valuable input of female stakeholders in small-scale

A gender-mainstreaming protocol to the CCCFP could:

1. Improve food security and poverty alleviation outcomes
2. Improve the equity and well-being of women
3. Strategically align with and meet SDGs goals
4. Fulfil human rights obligations
5. Increase productivity and efficiency in small-scale fisheries
6. Improve management of coastal and aquatic systems.

Making the CCCFP gender responsive

The CCCFP articles (5(d), 9 and 10) make mention of human rights issues that can be linked to gender - the equitable allocation of rights; equal participation; and protecting rights of traditional, subsistence and small-scale fisheries, but more is needed. Incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP via a protocol (as urged

in Article 7 and detailed in Article 20), allows for the creative use and strengthening of policies, programmes and initiatives that seek to address gender and human rights within SSF.

The table below highlights gender issues within small-scale fisheries that could specifically be addressed by the CCCFP with the incorporation of a gender- related SSF Guidelines protocol.

Areas of concern	Incorporating a SSF Guidelines protocol to the CCCFP: Key points to consider
<p>Gender mainstreaming is a key issue facing the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Gender mainstreaming is the “...process of assessing the implication for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all level.” (UN, 1997)</p>	<p>The goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality, by delivering efficiencies and increasing the role of women in leadership. The SSF Guidelines seeks to capture, through its human rights-based approach (HRBA) the needs of women in the fisheries sector, recognize and value the role they play, and empower them at all decision-making levels.</p>
<p>A major impact of modern development is encroachment of competitive interest in the fisheries sector. One of the first victims of this encroachment is the customary tenure rights of SSF communities. The poor collective bargaining power (especially that of marginalized groups, e.g. women) means that they are often the first to be alienated from their tenure rights.</p>	<p>The SSF Guidelines is a powerful step forward in recognizing and lobbying for the human rights and equal rights in SSF. The SSF guidelines invoke international human rights standards and can be also linked to the SDGs. SDG 5; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, can be met by developing a SSF Guideline and gender mainstreaming protocol to the CCCFP.</p>
<p>Despite the introduction of policies and programmes across the Caribbean community over the past few decades, gender inequalities and inequities have persisted.</p>	<p>A SSF guidelines protocol can aid policy makers to explore policy initiatives within the CCCFP by developing programmes and interventions which can include but are not limited to: producing gender disaggregated data, using gender-sensitive indicators to set priorities, using gender analysis for programme design that can promote equality and equity, and developing programmes to monitor and evaluate gender impact.</p>

A gender-mainstreaming protocol strengthens the CCCFP

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