



# **CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT**

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## **Information Note**

### **Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) Formalization Workshop 10 - 12 February 2010, Barbados**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

The Fisheries Sector in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region employs over 182,000 persons, directly or indirectly; who are mostly from rural communities that lack other income earning opportunities, and is a major source of protein, especially in these communities which usually exhibit a higher percentage of poverty than the national average.

CTA and CRFM have been working together in support of the dynamic process initiated by fisher folk groups in the Caribbean to create a Regional Network of Fisher Folk Organisations (CNFO). The first phase of the process which lasted from 2006 to 2008 included the following elements: identifying the potential for a regional network among fisher folk groups; establishing and formalizing national fisher folk organisations (NFO), as the backbone of the regional network; training fisher folk leaders in areas related to network management and use of communication tools.

Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia and Suriname have officially formed NFOs and Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have established steering committees to legalize NFOs in the near future. NFOs from these two groups of countries along with those from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago form the core group of the CNFO to be launched in 2009. They are represented in the CNFO Coordinating Unit (CNFO-CU) which was established at the Grenada Workshop to develop and execute a work plan for the formation and legalization of the regional network and its development. It is expected that the remaining countries in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region will eventually join the Network in the years to come as a result of CNFO-CU's continued mobilization efforts and understanding of the benefits of being members.

Based on their exposure at the recent workshops on policy influence and planning; involvement in the April 2009 CRFM Special Forum on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime in Dominica and the July 2009 CRFM Forum in St. Lucia, fisherfolk leaders have recognised the need to keep themselves informed as well as share information about current fisheries policy and related matters so as to be in a better position to make informed contributions to fisheries policy development at the national and regional levels.

With the 2006-2008 project activities, including the activities in the CU short-term action plan having been implemented and the regional network now ready to be launched, a follow-up project proposal *Launching and Capacity Development of the Caribbean Network of fisherfolk Organisations* has been developed and approved by the CTA for implementation in 2009 - 2010. The areas of focus of the project are (i) continuing to reinforce the institutional and technical capacity of Caribbean fisherfolk to develop

positions on policy issues; and (ii) communicating and advocating for fisherfolk's positions on critical issues. These activities will be operationalized through workshops, networking, enhanced use of ICT applications, and effective cooperation with the media. The implementation of the 2009 - 2010 Project will start with a 3-day regional CNFO launching workshop, preceded by a desk study to identify likely options for the constitutional arrangements and advise on the legal procedure to formalize the network; and a meeting of the CNFO-CU to review its activities to date, including the finalization of the draft desk study report.

## **2.0 Objective**

The objective of the workshop is to determine and endorse the structural-functional arrangements for the Caribbean Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO).

## **3.0 Expected Output**

The expected outputs from the Workshop will be:

- CNFO vision, mission, strategic orientations and work plan, including a communication plan, refined and endorsed by member NFOs.
- Structural-functional arrangements for the CNFO determined and endorsed.

## **4.0 Schedule**

Date: December 2009 / February 2010

Location: Barbados

## **5.0 Target Participants**

Twenty-seven (27) participants representing CNFO-CU, NFOs, NFO Steering Committees from 14 CRFM Member States and collaborating partners (including CTA, CRFM Secretariat, UWI-CERMES, CANARI).

The CRFM Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation and living expenses for the participants.

## **6.0 Structure of the Workshop**

During the Workshop there will be presentations and working group sessions covering the following areas:

- CNFO vision, mission, strategic orientations and work plan, including a communication plan, defined and endorsed by member NFOs.

- Draft desk study report with a recommendation on the most appropriate option for the formalisation of the CNFO.

Also, country participants will be expected to make brief presentations on the status of the National Fisherfolk Organizations/National Fisherfolk Organizations Steering Committees in their respective countries. The reports should contain a short background on the establishment of these organizations, their roles and functions, membership, with some indication of the challenges to date.

Prior to this Workshop, there will be a two-day meeting of the CNFO-CU to review its activities to date, including the finalization of the draft desk study report.

## **7.0 Workshop Agenda**

Will be provided subsequently.

## **8.0 Resource Persons**

The Workshop Facilitator and personnel from the CRFM Secretariat and collaborating partners will provide technical and administrative support for the workshop.

**For more information, please contact:**

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