

Policy Perspectives

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

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A protocol for incorporating the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines into the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) — Part 1: Introduction

A protocol is needed to incorporate the global **Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)** into the regional **Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)**. This policy brief outlines why policy-makers and fisheries stakeholders need to take action now. This brief examines how **Part 1 Introduction** of the SSF Guidelines relates to the CCCFP in ways that can benefit regional fisheries policy.



Part 1 Introduction

1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	1
3. Guiding principles	2
4. Relationship with other international instruments	3

The CCCFP has somewhat similar early sections but they do not cover as broad a range of fisheries instruments and issues as the SSF Guidelines. The CCCFP sections are the preamble, definitions, establishment, participation, vision, goal, objectives, fundamental principles, scope and general undertakings on implementation.

Policy relevance of Part 1 to the CCCFP

The global Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were adopted in 2014 following a consultative FAO process. The SSF Guidelines address fisheries like those of CRFM Member States. Part 1 **Introduction** of the SSF Guidelines tackles objectives, nature and scope, guiding principles, and its relationship with other international instruments. CRFM members can incorporate the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP to bring the Policy up to date. This strengthens the legal-institutional and policy framework for small-scale fisheries conservation and development in the region.

Incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP via a protocol (urged in Article 7 and detailed in Article 20) is a way of bringing human rights based approaches (HRBA) and gender mainstreaming into the CCCFP. Both HRBA and gender are currently receiving much attention in SSF globally and are important considerations in CRFM along with other concepts such as interactive governance, decent work (livelihoods) and the importance of fisheries as culture. The remainder of this brief provides further guidance on policy relevance.

Some benefits of incorporating Part 1

The SSF Guidelines were developed from the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to specifically address all aspects of small-scale fisheries. The table below shows how incorporating Part 1 of the Guidelines

supports existing provisions in the CCCFP, extending the regional policy to be more complete and comprehensive without any conflicting content and with no binding obligations. Incorporating the SSF Guidelines will strengthen regional fisheries policy to benefit current and future generations. Also see the briefs on two other Parts.

Sections of SSF Guidelines	Key summary fisheries policy content	Benefits from incorporating into CCCFP
Objectives	Address food security and nutrition, equitable socio-economic development, poverty eradication, sustainable use, contribution to society and culture, human rights-based approach, empowering fishing communities, gender, good governance and much more	They bring in critical areas such as human rights and gender that are little mentioned in the CCCFP. They also give prominence to the cultural role of fisheries and the central roles that fisherfolk play in socio-economic development. The Guidelines objectives can complement and strengthen the CCCFP.
Nature and scope	The Guidelines are voluntary and aimed at developing countries globally. They include all fisheries stakeholders and “should be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions”	Because they are voluntary there is no need to fear binding obligations being imposed. Their inclusive and participatory nature is consistent with the CCCFP. The Guidelines can be interpreted and applied for local fit.
Guiding principles	The text sets out 13 guiding principles with strong emphasis on a human rights-based approach that is a new global perspective. Most of the other principles relate to good governance and fisheries sustainability.	CRFM members use guiding principles in their national fisheries management plans. These should now be based on the CCCFP and the SSF Guidelines combined to take direction from international best practices.
Relationship with other international instruments	The SSF Guidelines text notes that they do not limit or undermine rights or obligations to which a State may be subject or wish to consider under international law.	The Guidelines are complementary to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries that guides the CCCFP, and add critical instruments such as on gender and rights.

A SSF Guidelines protocol can add practical benefits and provisions to the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

This policy brief is an output of the CERMES project on **Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines protocol for the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy**. This project is in partnership with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). The material in this publication may be freely reproduced for non-commercial use provided suitable credit is given.