

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.

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A protocol for incorporating the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines into the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) — Part 2: Responsible fisheries and sustainable development

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. It sets out how **Part 2 Responsible fisheries and sustainable development** of the SSF Guidelines relates to the CCCFP in ways that benefit regional fisheries policy. Also see the brief on Part 1.



Part 2 Responsible fisheries and sustainable development

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Policy relevance of Part 2 to the CCCFP

Following the Introduction in Part 1, which sets the policy context, Part 2 of the Guidelines tackles **Responsible fisheries and sustainable development**. This part deals with sustainable fisheries, livelihoods, enterprises, gender and environmental matters. It is the more substantive part of the SSF Guidelines that spans the entire value chain.

The CCCFP covers several, but not all, of the topics in the SSF Guidelines. Similar sections in the CCCFP address access to fisheries resources, fisheries sector development, conservation and management, fisheries enforcement, marketing and trade.

Within the CCCFP articles there is little or no mention of climate, disasters and gender. Livelihoods are addressed but not to the depth of decent work. The CCCFP lists the areas receiving less attention in the objectives, but does not develop them fully in the articles. Therefore the SSF Guidelines brings important detail that is in keeping with the CCCFP objectives. It fills in gaps quite thoroughly.

Incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP via a protocol (as urged in Article 7 and detailed in Article 20) is a way of adding value to the regional instrument without having to expand it. This can guide implementation. The remainder of this brief provides further guidance on the policy relevance of Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines.

Some benefits of incorporating Part 2

This part of the SSF Guidelines strongly reflects the use of the human rights based approach (HRBA). The table below shows how incorporating Part 2 of the Guidelines

supports existing provisions in the CCCFP. It can extend them 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.

Sections of SSF Guidelines	Key summary fisheries policy content	Benefits from incorporating into CCCFP
Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible governance of tenure • Sustainable resource management 	There is support for equitable distribution of benefits from responsible management of fisheries and ecosystems. Sections urge rewarding small-scale fisherfolk, both men and women, based on rights. The rights include tenure and pursuit of social, cultural and economic well-being into the future.	The CCCFP does not deal as explicitly with tenure and other rights as the Guidelines. A strong tie exists between governance of tenure and solutions to fisheries problems. It is likely that there will be more attention paid to rights and incorporating the Guidelines helps to address this trend proactively.
Social development, employment and decent work	These sections emphasize social as well as economic dimensions of development. They tackle livelihoods comprehensively, dealing with the quality of work and well-being. They encourage strong fisherfolk organisations.	The CCCFP mentions welfare and fisherfolk livelihoods. Yet, the provisions are not as comprehensive as in the SSF Guidelines. It is likely that organised fisherfolk will focus more on social protection and decent work.
Value chains, post-harvest and trade	For postharvest subsector to produce good quality and safe seafood SSF must be well supported. The benefits from postharvest and trade need to be equitably shared.	CRFM members are paying more attention to postharvest and trade. These provisions enhance those already in the CCCFP. The content on food security would be improved.
Gender equality	The text states that “gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies”. Women’s rights are emphasized for urgent attention.	Gender is not yet explicitly addressed by the CCCFP. It is a major area in which the SSF Guidelines are particularly needed for the CCCFP. It should be a focus of the protocol.
Disaster risks and climate change	SSF are particularly vulnerable to disasters and climate impacts. Adaptive capacity and collective action are key to SSF resilience.	The CCCFP requires the content on climate and disasters that the Guidelines provide in order to adequately strengthen the policy.

A protocol incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP will add the human rights based approaches and gender among others

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