

# 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 3: Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation

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 sets out why policy-makers and fisheries stakeholders need to act now. It shows how **Part 3 Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation** of the SSF Guidelines relates to the CCCFP to benefit regional fisheries policy. See briefs on Parts 1 and 2.



### Part 3 Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation

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### Policy relevance of Part 3 to the CCCFP

Following the contextual introduction in Part 1 and the substantive content in Part 2, we turn to Part 3 of the Guidelines. This tackles **Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation**. It deals with policy processes and institutions, information systems and management, capacity development and support, including monitoring and evaluation. This last part of the SSF Guidelines is aimed at fully implementing them for success and sustainability.

The CCCFP covers many aspects of implementation but does not speak specifically to enabling implementation support to the extent of the SSF Guidelines. The CCCFP articles include the role of the competent agency, public awareness, intellectual property, protocols, statistics, research, reporting, review and developing the CCCFP.

Incorporating Part 3 of 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. The remainder of this brief provides further guidance on the policy relevance of Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines.

### Some benefits of incorporating Part 3

This part of the SSF Guidelines gets to practical aspects of implementation and sustainability that are similar for the CCCFP. The table below shows how incorporating

Part 3 of the Guidelines supports existing provisions in the CCCFP without added obligations or complications. Given the complexity of fisheries governance across the CRFM members and the Wider Caribbean Region it is important to pay attention to enabling policy. This Part enhances the content of the CCCFP as a regional treaty.

Sections of SSF Guidelines	Key summary fisheries policy content	Benefits from incorporating into CCCFP
<b>Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration</b>	The governance terms used here focus on the need to streamline fisheries policy; try to reduce duplication and inefficiency through better communication, collaboration and coordination. It applies to all stakeholders, not only government, and engages them.	The CRFM currently has 17 members. The number and diversity of the countries make governance challenging. Incorporating the SSF Guidelines strengthens the regional environment for enabling fisheries policy. It facilitates governance at multiple levels.
<b>Information, research and communication</b>	This section links closely to the previous one. It is not only about strengthening the science-policy interface. Fisherfolk too need good information, just like policy-makers and managers, to make the best decisions.	Communication has been flagged numerous times as being one of our greatest issues in fisheries governance. There is good content in the CCCFP that Part 3 can enhance. For example, access to data and information.
<b>Capacity development</b>	The opening says "States and other parties should enhance the capacity of small-scale fishing communities in order to enable them to participate in decision-making processes" as this is vitally important to fisherfolk. This section also addresses adaptive capacity.	It is hard to imagine a section more crucial to fisherfolk and society generally than this. The CCCFP addresses many aspects of development, but the SSF Guidelines focus more on enabling fisherfolk to self-organise and manage their own affairs much better.
<b>Implementation support and monitoring</b>	The Guidelines appreciate the need for on-going implementation support that does not foster dependency. They also stress a need to monitor and evaluate progress in order to learn and adapt for more resilient fisheries.	The CCCFP recognises the roles of links to international organisations, the competent agency and others in supporting progress. It is not as strong on learning for adaptation as it would be if Part 3 were incorporated.

**Incorporating the SSF Guidelines can fill implementation gaps in the 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.