



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in  
tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+) PPG  
Virtual Validation Workshop 2023

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**Project Preparation Grant Validation Workshop Report**

**18 January 2023**



***Cover photograph:***

Trinidad and Tobago Non-Artisanal Double Rigged Trawler Fishing Vessel. Photo provided by the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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## Preparation of this document

These proceedings present the results of the sub-regional project preparation grant (PPG) virtual validation workshop of the project “*Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)*”, held on 18 January 2023. The workshop was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the national fisheries agencies of Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The FAO’s Subregional Office for the Caribbean hosted the workshop. This document was prepared under the supervision of Jon Lansley, Lead Technical Officer of the project in the Fishing Technology and Operations Team of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO Headquarters. The workshop was moderated by Neila Bobb-Prescott (FAO) and facilitated by Jon Lansley (FAO), Nigel Varty (FAO), Alexander Girvan (FAO PPG Consultant), Melanie Andrews-Bacchus (FAO PPG Consultant), Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO), Kerton Jobe (FAO) and Ronald Roopnarine (UWI-STA). The members of the reporting team were Kerton Jobe (FAO), Christina Elshoff (FAO), Ericka Espino (FAO) and Antonello Sala (FAO PPG Consultant). The drafting of the report was led by Kerton Jobe.

# Abstract

The sub-regional project preparation grant (PPG) virtual validation workshop of the project *Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)* was held virtually on 18 January 2023. The workshop brought together 52 national, regional and international stakeholders and technical experts involved in fisheries, aquaculture, disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA). The objectives of the workshop were to: (i) present the GEF Project Document Components; (ii) discuss and confirm the institutional arrangements, workplan, budget and co-financing; and (iii) discuss next steps towards the project submission to GEF. Overview presentations covered: (i) update on REBYC-III CLME+ PPG phase process, deadlines, and responsibilities; (ii) presentation, discussion and confirmation of REBYC-III CLME+ project components; (iii) presentation of summary budget and co-financing; (iv) institutional arrangements including relations with EAF4SG project and (v) next steps. Discussions largely focused on feedback on the presentations provided at the workshop.

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Sub-regional PPG Virtual Validation Workshop 18 January 2023.

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SSF	small-scale fisheries



# Report of the workshop

## WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENT AND OPENING CEREMONY

The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Virtual Validation Workshop of the project *Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)* was held virtually on 18 January 2023. It was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the fisheries agencies of Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The FAO's Subregional Office for the Caribbean was host to the workshop. Attending the workshop were 52 participants (see Appendix 1) representing international, regional, national, and local organisations and government agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector and academia. Mrs Neila Bobb-Prescott acted as moderator of the workshop. The rapporteurs for the workshop were Ericka Espino (FAO), Christina Elshoff (FAO), Kerton Jobe (FAO) and Antonello Sala (FAO PPG Consultant).

## OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS

Following the opening, participants were given brief presentations as follows:

1. REBYC-III CLME+ project: Project Development Phase (PPG) – Progress to date, presented by Nigel Varty (Senior GEF Consultant and Lead Consultant for the REBYC-III CLME+ project)
2. Presentation, Discussion and Confirmation of REBYC-III CLME+ Project components, by Jon Lansley (FAO Fishery Resources Officer and Lead Technical Officer for the REBYC-III CLME+ project), Alexander Girvan (Fisheries Value Chain Consultant, REBYC-III CLME+) and Melanie Andrews-Bacchus (Socioeconomic/gender Specialist, REBYC-III CLME+)
3. Presentation of Summary Budget, by Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit
4. Co-financing Confirmations to date, by Kerton Jobe, Project Portfolio Support Specialist, FAO SLC

5. Institutional arrangements for the EAF4SG project including relationship with EAF4SG, by Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and Ronald Roopnarine, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The UWI St. Augustine Campus

### **REBYC-III CLME+ PPG - PROGRESS TO DATE**

Nigel Varty (Senior GEF Consultant and Lead Consultant for the REBYC-III CLME+ project), presented on the REBYC-III CLME+ PPG phase process, deadlines, and responsibilities. His topics of presentation included (i) project aim, history and key dates; (ii) development of the FAO-GEF project document; (iii) stakeholder and project document review; and (iv) finalization of the project document.

Mr Varty reminded the workshop participants of the aim of the GEF International Waters (IW) full sized project (FSP) which is “to manage bycatch and reduce discards in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) thereby promoting sustainable and responsible fisheries that provide economic opportunities while ensuring the conservation of marine living resources, supporting country implementation of the CLME+ SAP” and further stated that the project has a GEF funded budget of US\$5,329,452 and covers the CLME+ region with four participating countries – Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

In regard to the development of the FAO-GEF Project Document, he indicated that since the project’s PPG Virtual Inception Workshop held on 28 April 2022, which identified target fisheries and national fisheries agencies focal points, a PPG team was established (April/May 2022) comprising of (i) 4 national consultants (Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) working with fisheries agencies, (ii) 4 international consultants (bycatch, fisheries value chains and a socio-economic/gender and lead writer/team leader) and (iii) support by a number of FAO staff (including Lead Technical Officer, Funding Liaison Officer, gender, value chain, data/statistics group, FAO Headquarters in Rome etc.) and FAOSLC staff (Barbados/Trinidad and Tobago) who also provided support. He stated that project document builds on the agreed project identification form (PIF) framework and follows GEF requirement to generate Global Environmental Benefits (more sustainable fisheries). He outlined that PPG team has focused on: (i) specific

activities to deliver each output and component, e.g. measures to manage bycatch/reduce discards, fisheries management capacity, small business support for responsible fisheries activities; (ii) a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, and identification of socio-economic co-benefits, (iii) institutional arrangements for project execution, (iv) the elaboration of an initial budget and securing co-financing and (iv) the identification of overlap and synergies with development of FAO-GEF EAF4SG project (which is also in its PPG phase).

Mr Varty stated that project document was developed in partnership with Fisheries Agencies and key stakeholders during the PPG phase – which had limited ability for face-to-face meetings (due to COVID-19 and PPG budget restrictions) and a tight schedule (12 months). He indicated that a draft project document produced in December 2022 was reviewed by the four fisheries agencies, FAO technical staff (LTO, FLO, data, gender) and some other key stakeholders e.g., The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He stated that any feedback that was received was addressed and incorporated into the project document. He underscored that the REBYC-III CLME+ Virtual Validation Workshop was intended to capture any additional feedback and confirm the project framework and activities.

The finalization of the project document included finalizing the workplan, detailed budget, the incorporation of any feedback from the Validation Workshop, submission of the project document to the GEF Secretariat by 25-26 January 2023, review of the project document by the GEF Secretariat and the incorporation of feedback from GEF Secretariat. He mentioned that the deadline the CEO Endorsement is 09 June 2023 and that the expected start date of the project is 01 October 2023.

## **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND CONFIRMATION OF REBYC-III PROJECT COMPONENTS**

Jon Lansley (FAO Fishery Resources Officer and Lead Technical Officer for the REBYC-III CLME+ project) provided an overview of project components 1, 2 and 4 and associated activities, while Mr. Alexander Girvan (Fisheries Value Chain Consultant) provided details regarding component 3. Mrs. Melanie Andrews-Bacchus (Socioeconomic/gender specialist) presented the Gender Action Plan and

an overview on the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. The speakers emphasized that certain activities are designed to build on other activities and outputs within the same or other components. The four projects' components detailed below, have actions to be carried out at the national and sub-regional levels in support of each of the project's planned outcomes:

- Component 1: Improving fishing practices to manage bycatch and reduce discards and the negative impacts of fishing gears in CLME+ fisheries (addresses Barrier 1)
- Component 2: Strengthening governance and management frameworks and enforcement measures to better manage bycatch and reduce discards in CLME+ fisheries (addresses Barrier 2)
- Component 3: Encouraging behavioural change for adoption of effective bycatch mitigation and discard reduction measures in target CLME+ fisheries (addresses Barrier 3)
- Component 4: Knowledge Management, lesson learning and project coordination

The project will target a range of fisheries in the four participating countries. A final assessment of bycatch issues across all fisheries was undertaken during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase to confirm the key fisheries to target based on several selection criteria: (i) bycatch issues; (ii) priority for development; (iii) a shared stock; (iv) value chains opportunities; and (v) degree of problem with ALDFG. The REBYC-III CLME+ project will focus on identifying best options and technologies to improve bycatch management, and the reduction of some sources of the unaccounted fishing mortality (e.g., discard mortality, escape mortality, post-release mortality, ghost fishing) and other negative impacts of fishing gears on marine habitats (ALDFG and 'ghost fishing') in the target fisheries listed below.

- Pelagic longline in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Trawl fisheries targeting crustaceans and demersal finfish species, in Guyana and Suriname respectively.
- Gillnets/Driftnets targeting demersal fish in Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the pelagic gillnet fishery has also been chosen based on the selection criteria.

## **Project Components 1, 2, and 4**

Mr Lansley remarked that some of these fisheries will also be targeted by the GEF-FAO EAF4SG project, which will support the adoption and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in target fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME). Hence, many synergies are expected between the two projects.

Component 1 will address Barrier 1 by delivering more effective approaches and technologies to manage bycatch and reduce discards and reduce the catch and mortality of ETP species. It will achieve this through identifying and developing smart-gear modifications for trawl and non-trawl gears. In addition, the project will develop innovative approaches to address abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), which is being increasingly recognized as cause of ghost fishing mortality but which to date has received relatively little attention in the CLME+ region.

Component 2 will address Barrier 2 by strengthening governance and management frameworks and compliance to reduce bycatch and discards in target CLME+ fisheries. Specific guidance and advocacy materials on appropriate effective bycatch management and discard reduction measures will be formulated to inform decision-makers for mainstreaming into fisheries and marine conservation policy, regulatory and management processes. The Component 2 will also help build capacity for the implementation and enforcement of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures for bycatch management and discard reduction, as well as improving and standardizing data collection frameworks. This Component will support countries implementation of CLME+ SAP priorities particularly through improving regional governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries (Strategy 2) and the regional policy coordination mechanisms for governance of the marine environment (Strategy 3).

Component 4 is a standard component of GEF projects. A communication strategy and plan will be prepared and implemented to ensure that knowledge generated by the project is communicated to wide audiences through different platforms, promoting bycatch management and discard reductions in the targeted fisheries.

### **Project Component 3**

Alexander Girvan, PPG Fisheries Value Chain Consultant, presented component 3 which will address Barrier 3 and recognises the need to encourage behavioural change for adoption of effective bycatch mitigation and discard measures, addressing ALDFG, and wider uptake of more responsible fisheries practices in target CLME+ fisheries. Mr Girvan remarked that the aim of this component is to encourage small-scale fisheries to adopt more sustainable practices, through the identification of appropriate incentives and new business opportunities, which will support implementation of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme priorities. This will be achieved through a range of project activities that build on initial assessments to better understand the use of bycatch and discards and their importance to fisher communities, as well as the costs and benefits of the adoption and use of bycatch mitigation and discard measures. The project will also consider the long-term benefits of adopting these devices and approaches as it relates to maintaining important end market access for example through the USA TED programme, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, MSC certification, new CITES rules related to sharks and rays, and other important market requirements. This component is expected to include a range of project activities such as support for new value chains for landed discards as well as exploration of financial and other incentives to encourage behavioural change. This Component seeks to minimize these impacts through incorporating the principles of EAF and the SSF Guidelines and FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. Additionally, to address food security and poverty eradication through livelihoods enhancement and diversification. The project also focuses on the interpretation of wider, overarching environmental objectives in local and regional contexts. Throughout this component the priority is on firstly supporting measures that actively reduce bycatch and secondly to promote full utilization of unavoidable bycatch of non-ETP species. This is to not create perverse incentives related to the harvest of bycatch species.

## **Comments/Questions**

Mr Lansley informed that comments from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on REBYC-III have been received in January 2023. NOAA advised to focus on adapting and implementing technologies and methods that have already proven to be successful in similar settings. There are existing low-tech solutions that could be very effective in the region; the project will achieve maximum results by building on approaches that have already proven successful. Furthermore, NOAA would like to assist with identifying existing technical materials, species identification guides, that can be used or adapted to local needs, as appropriate. Finally, although the four project countries are not currently members, NOAA suggested consulting the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), which is a respected source of technical information that is directly relevant to this project.

## **Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

Melanie Andrews-Bacchus, PPG Socioeconomic and Gender Specialist, presented the planned approach to gender mainstreaming in the REBYC-III project. She presented an overview of the two plans including their objectives and the activities conducted and methodology to prepare them. This included a gender and socioeconomic analysis to determine gender aspects of relevance to the REBYC-III project. Mrs Andrews-Bacchus presented the purpose of the gender action plan (GAP) which is to ensure a gender inclusive design and implementation of the project. It is meant to facilitate women's involvement and participation in project activities to ensure that both women and men gain tangible benefits from the project's outcomes and outputs. Many of the constraints experienced by women in fisheries are also shared to some extent by youth in the fisheries sector. Some of the activities proposed in the GAP to engage women in the project also apply to the engagement of youth. This GAP takes into consideration the goals and objectives of the GEF Policy on Gender Equality and the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030. The preparation of the GAP was based on a gender analysis to determine the key gender gaps relevant to the outcomes and outputs of the project. Mrs Andrews-Bacchus explained that the findings of the gender analysis were used to identify gaps

for each project output in relation to gender and define specific project activities to respond to these gaps with a view to ensuring that both women and men are able to meaningfully participate in and benefit from the project.

Mrs Andrews-Bacchus also presented a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the implementation of the project. The presentation provided a summary of the stakeholder engagement plan by briefly describing how stakeholders will be consulted in project implementation, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan outlines the methods and approaches that the project team will use to meaningfully engage stakeholders at the local and regional levels and across different sectors (government, private sector, academia, etc.). It includes engagement of vulnerable groups (vulnerable to exclusion due to certain circumstances, e.g., fishers in remote areas). These plans are ‘living’ documents and are meant to be updated as needed.

### **Comments/Questions**

Peter A Murray (Advisor, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM) highlighted that during the preparation of the CRFM’s Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan (ASAP), the fisheries departments in each of CRFM’s member states, including the four project countries, have assigned fisheries gender focal points to support with development and implementation of the ASAP. Therefore, the project REBYC-III GAP should build on that. Mrs Melanie Andrews-Bacchus confirmed that the project will seek to engage these fisheries gender focal points to support gender mainstreaming in the project by advising and supporting the project manager, executing partners and gender specialist in the implementation, and monitoring of the GAP at the national level.

### **PRESENTATION OF SUMMARY BUDGET**

Lorenzo Galbiati, Technical Officer, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, explained that the REBYC-III project budget is an allocation of GEF grants to support the project’s activities, which is instrumental for the achievement of outputs and outcomes of



this project. The GEF grant from International Waters (IW) thematic area is of USD 5,329,452 – of that total GEF grant USD 5,075,669 has been allocated for project activities and USD 253,783 are for Project Management Cost (PMC). Co-financing committed at PIF stage was for USD 24,565,884, of which over USD 8,315,000 was coming from governments of the participating countries and USD 16,250,000 was coming from sources such as private sector, academia, and others.

Mr Galbiati indicated that the GEF grant's distribution among the standard GEF and FAO categories is: USD 382,500 (7.2%) for Project Management Unit (PMU). This PMU has been designed to work jointly for both the REBYC-III and the EAF4SG initiative to increase efficiency and avoid cost duplication, in key activities such as knowledge management and gender mainstreaming. USD 2,098,500 (39.4%) has been allocated for national and international consultants, USD 1,133,500 (21.3%) for contracts, USD 414,000 (7.7%) for travel, USD 552,000 (10.4%) for trainings and workshops and USD 748,952 (14%) for other types of expenses, such as expendable and non-expendable procurements and general operating expenses (GOE). USD 382,500 for the PMU four budget lines, includes a Technical and Project Coordinator (63% of time on technical issues), an Administration and Operations Support Officer, a Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, and a part-time Monitoring and Evaluation Support Officer. USD 51,000 of the PMU budget is related to the general operative expenditure, which would be transferred to the University of West Indies (UWI) to provide the PMU with PCs and supplies. USD 879,000 are allocated for international consultants and USD 1,219,500 for national consultants. Contracts, which is related to publications, translations, and dissemination, as well as Mid-term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation represents the total of USD 1,133,500. Travel, USD 414,000, is to cover the execution of components in the 4 participating countries, as well as PMU travel, when need be, to the beneficiary countries. USD 552,000 is allocated for workshops and training to support the three technical components of the project, plus other specific training such as those related to IW learning, which is GEF's cross-cutting initiative which is useful to be followed because in the long term it can assist in bringing additional projects and GEF investments in the region. USD 147,000 has been allocated to expendable procurement while USD 550,669 has been allocated to non-expendable procurement. Mr Galbiati was confident that the detailed budget for this project would be accepted by the GEF.

## CO-FINANCING CONFIRMATIONS AS AT 18 January 2023

Kerton Jobe, Project Portfolio Specialist, FAO SLC, provided an update on co-financing in support of the REBYC-III Project. He provided GEF's definition of co-financing which states that "Co-Financing means financing that is additional to GEF Project Financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objectives(s)". He underscored the need to secure the total co-financing target of USD 24,565,884 (USD 8,315,884 from countries and USD 16,250,000 from other sources) that was indicated at the PIF stage. He shared the progress made to date on securing the total co-financing by providing the co-financing amounts secured during this PPG stage (evidenced through signed co-financing committed letters) from sources including government, GEF agencies, regional fisheries bodies, international donors, non-government organizations fisher organizations, private sector, and academia. He was please to share that at the date of the PPG Virtual Validation Workshop (18 January 2023) that the project had surpassed its co-financing target and to date had secure co-financing to the total of USD 30,336,212. He thanked all representatives co-financing sources and looked forward to further collaborative work.

## INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REBYC-III CLME+ PROJECT INCLUDING RELATIONSHIP WITH EAF4SG

Lorenzo Galbiati, Technical Officer, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, started by providing an overview of the REBYC-III – GEF project cycle. He recalled that the REBYC-III Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved by the GEF Council on 10 December 2021 and that GEF agencies usually had twelve months from the approval date to develop the fully fledged Project Document. In the case of REBYC-III, the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase took slightly longer - a request for extension was made and accepted by the GEF Secretariat. Mr Galbiati further explained that the deadline for GEF CEO endorsement of the Project Document was 18 months after PIF approval (i.e., 9 June 2023), noting that this was irrespective of the PPG phase extension and left about 4.5 months for the GEF's review and potentially required modifications.

He indicated that once the project was endorsed by the GEF CEO, the FAO, as the implementing agency, could make it operational, i.e., FAO would be entrusted with the responsibility for managing the GEF funds and for transferring them to the

designated executing agency. As soon as these arrangements were formalized, the first disbursement of funds could take place, the Project Management Unit (PMU) could be staffed and activities on the ground could commence. Mr Galbiati also noted that a project inception meeting would take place after the first disbursement of funds to ensure all stakeholders have a common understanding of the expected results, activities, timelines, and the budget, and clarified that the executing agency would report to FAO on the use of the funds, and FAO to the GEF Secretariat.

In addition, he pointed out that full-sized GEF projects (i.e., with financing above two million US dollars) like REBYC-III required a mid-term review, which was to be performed by independent reviewers who would assess progress made towards achieving the planned objectives and suggest course correction as needed. Every year, a Project Steering Committee meeting would be convened, bringing together all stakeholders and enabling the PMU to present the proposed budget along with a work programme for the following year as well as to provide an update on the status of execution of activities. Mr Galbiati highlighted that the four countries participating in REBYC-III would be the decision-makers at the annual Project Steering Committee meetings and would be asked to approve the budget and work programme or propose any necessary adjustments. He further noted that a terminal evaluation was required when all outputs were achieved. It was more elaborate than the mid-term review would seek to assess overall performance and determine the degree of achievement and/or likelihood of outcomes and impacts due to the project. The cycle would conclude with the project's financial closure.

Next, Mr Galbiati outlined the institutional arrangements (see Figure 1 below) and began by clarifying the difference between implementing and executing agencies as per GEF terminology. He explained that a small group of 18 organizations had been accredited by the GEF to serve as implementing agencies (e.g., FAO, World Bank, WWF) and that these were in charge of monitoring the use of GEF funds and providing technical guidance, whereas executing agencies were directly responsible for project management and execution. He indicated that throughout the development of the REBYC-III and the "Enhancing capacity for the adoption and implementation of EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem" (EAF4SG) project, FAO had explored different options for the execution arrangements and had concluded that The University of the West Indies, through its Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago (UWI-STA), was the most suitable partner for both initiatives. Recognizing the various commonalities between the two projects, such as the similarity of interventions, target countries and

knowledge management and gender mainstreaming strategies, FAO had decided to propose the establishment of a joint PMU within UWI-STA. The PMU would consist of a team of four members (Technical and Project Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Support Officer, Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, Administration and Operations Support Officer) and additional support personnel from UWI (in-kind co-financing), who would be responsible for developing the Terms of Reference for all national and international consultants, supervising their work, organizing meetings, drafting reports, and liaising with FAO on the use of the funds, amongst others. Mr Galbiati emphasized that the REBYC-III and EAF4SG projects would be monitored and evaluated separately, but that human resources would be used jointly to increase the projects' efficiency and cost-effectiveness, harness synergies, and stimulate an ongoing exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Mr Nigel Varty, Senior GEF Consultant, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, added that the project budget also included four National Technical Coordinator positions, which would be embedded in the national fisheries agencies and could be considered as outsourced PMU functions, shared between REBYC-III and EAF4SG. These roles had been integrated into the budget to ensure there was sufficient capacity at the national level to participate in and deliver on the projects.

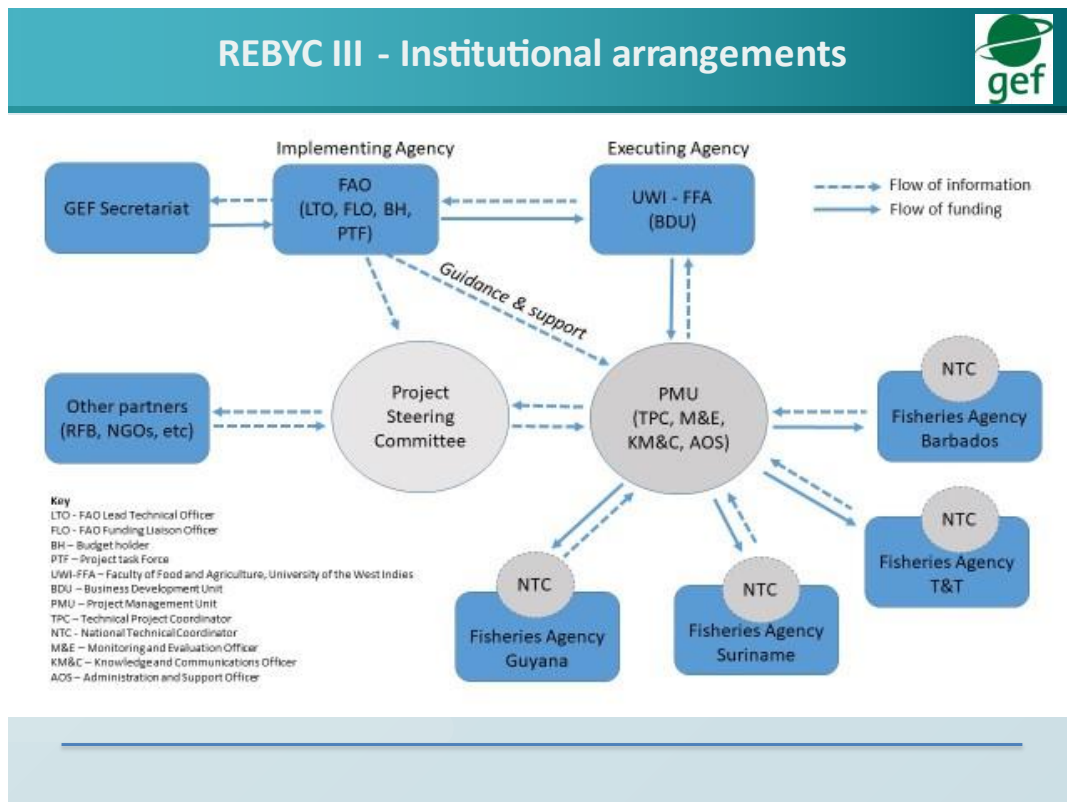


Figure 1: REBYC-III Institutional Arrangements

While the PMU would interact with the relevant government entities on a daily basis, FAO would still provide technical guidance, for example through the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) in HQ and other officers in the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean in Barbados. Mr Galbiati outlined that all stakeholders were welcome to join the Project Steering Committee meetings but would have different roles as it related to decision-making. Regional fisheries bodies, non-governmental organizations and the GEF Secretariat would be invited to participate as observers and provide inputs and feedback, but decisions would be taken by the relevant government entities of Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Ronald Roopnarine, Lecturer, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The UWI St. Augustine Campus, continued with a brief presentation of the executing agency. He began by highlighting that The UWI was the number one university in the Caribbean, with campuses across several islands. He mentioned that The UWI was founded in Mona, Jamaica, in 1948 as the University College of the West Indies and received independent university status in 1962. In its more than 60 years of experience, it had evolved to a full-fledged university with over 45,000 students, around 9,000 graduates annually and more than 120,000 alumni including one Nobel Laureate, one World Food Prize winner, several Rhodes Scholars and more than 18 current/former Caribbean Prime Ministers and Heads of State. It currently included the Mona Campus in Jamaica, the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago, the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, the Open Campus for extramural and distance learning, and the Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr Roopnarine pointed out The UWI's following institutional strengths:

- Regional leaders in knowledge management and capacity-building
- Multi-campus with numerous project developmental support arms
- Strong administrative and academic units
- Regional coverage
- Intellectual capital

Next, Mr Roopnarine explained that UWI-STA was borne out of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and began its operations in 1960. Its FFA had the exclusive mandate to provide training and capacity-building in agriculture and related disciplines in the Caribbean, and maintained strong linkages between research, teaching and learning in the agri-food-environment system. He stated that outstanding graduates and highly qualified staff including scientists, researchers, educators, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders symbolized its excellence and that

the FFA had supported, participated, and lead in numerous developmental projects funded by a range of developmental agencies and grants.

Mr Roopnarine concluded his presentation by noting that the FFA's Business Development Unit (BDU), which would host the joint PMU, originally facilitated the development and delivery of the region's first continuing education program in agriculture and served as its special projects' office. It was the focal point for most FFA-led projects (such as, for example, C-SIDS SOILCARE Phase 1) and hosted the regional Integrated Water Resource Management capacity-building network Caribbean WaterNet.

## NEXT STEPS

Mr Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO), asked participants to share any additional comments and inputs on the project document by 20 January 2023 before its finalization. He indicated that a few days would then be used to integrate those additional comments and inputs into the project document before submitting it to the GEF by the 25 of January 2023. He expressed that the sooner the document was sent to the GEF for review the more time the PPG team would have to address any of the GEF Secretariat's comments.

Ms Desha Husbands, Fisheries Officer and National Focal Point for the REBYC-III project for Guyana expressed Guyana's gratitude for this project as it would assist in addressing some of Guyana's challenges with bycatch and looked forward towards successful execution and implementation of the project to manage their bycatch issues. Ms Gaushmi Poeran, Fisheries Officer and National Focal Point for the REBYC-III project in Suriname noted that Suriname fully supports the project and looks forward to the implementation of the project. She hoped for further support and cooperation from everyone to make this project a success. Ms Lara Ferreira, Fisheries Officer and National Focal Point for the REBYC-III for Trinidad and Tobago conveyed thanks to the FAO and national consultants who worked on the project document for this project and looked forward to the project's approval and Trinidad and Tobago's participation in the project.

## WORKSHOP CLOSING

Mrs Neila Bobb-Prescott (FAO), on behalf FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean, Dr Renata Clarke, and the entire FAO team, thanked everyone for their

participation. Special thanks were given to FAO's team at its Headquarters - Mr. Jon Lansley (REBYC-III Project LTO), Mr Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO Funding Liaison Officer), Rafael Milla (FAO Project implementation Support); Mr Nigel Varty (PPG Team Leader), the PPG Consultants, the heads and staff of the Fisheries Divisions/Departments of the participating countries, the REBYC-III national focal points, all stakeholders consulted, new co-financing partners, the FAOSLC team – Mr Kerton Jobe (Project Portfolio Support) and Mr Jacinto Buenfil (Policy Officer) and Ms Yvette DieiOuadi (Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer), who have all assisted in developing a REBYC-III project document that will be reviewed approved by the GEF Secretariat. She concluded by looking forward to working with all stakeholders in the future.

# Appendix 1 – List of participants

## BARBADOS

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## SURINAME

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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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National Coordinator	PPG National Consultant
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Uruguay	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

# Appendix 2 – Agenda

## Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+) Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Virtual Validation Workshop

18 January 2023

### Agenda

#### Objectives :

1. To present the GEF Project Document Components
2. To discuss and confirm: institutional arrangements, workplan, budget and co-financing
3. To discuss next steps

Time (AST/GMT-4)	Session
9:00 – 9:10	<i>Opening and Introduction</i> <i>Moderator,</i> <i>Mrs Neila Bobb-Prescott, Climate and Environment Finance Specialist</i> <i>FAO Sub-regional Office the Caribbean – SLC</i>  <i>Remarks –</i> <i>Ms Yvette DieiOuadi, Fisheries Officer</i> <i>FAO Sub-regional Office the Caribbean – SLC</i>
9:10 – 9:20	Update on REBYC-III CLME+ PPG phase process, deadlines and responsibilities – <i>Mr Nigel Varty, Senior GEF Consultant, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit</i>
9:20 – 10:30	Presentation, Discussion and Confirmation of REBYC-III CLME+ Project components <i>Mr Jon Lansley, FAO Fisheries Officer, Lead Technical Officer, REBYC-III</i> <i>Mr Alexander Girvan, Fisheries Value Chain Consultant, REBYC-III</i> <i>Mrs Melanie Andrews-Bacchus, Socioeconomic/gender Specialist, REBYC-III</i>
10:30 – 10:40	Coffee break (10 minutes)
10:40 – 11:20	Topics for discussion and confirmation: Presentation of Summary Budget – <i>Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit</i> Co-financing – <i>Mr Kerton Jobe, Project Portfolio Specialist, FAO SLC</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Topics for discussion and confirmation:

	<p>Institutional arrangements including relationship with EAF4SG Project  Any other topics  <i>Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit</i>  <i>Mr Ronald Roopnarine, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The UWI St. Augustine Campus</i></p>
11:40 – 11:50	Next Steps – <i>Mr Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit</i>
11:50 – 12:00	<p>Closing Remarks –  <i>National Fisheries Agencies Representatives</i>  <i>Ms Yvette DieiOuadi, Fisheries Officer, FAO SLC</i></p>
12:00	Lunch