Supporting Developing Countries in analyzing and implementing evidence-based and policy coherent oceans economy and trade strategies (OETS).

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### Introduction:

- Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica selected as pilot countries.
- Belize Fisheries Department selected as focal point by the MAFFESDI.
- Country Analysis was done for Belize.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Status of affairs</th>
<th>Realistic outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Limited awareness of the potential of ocean-based products and services and the UNCLOS framework</td>
<td>Comprehensive oceans economy plan for key sectors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increasing importance of aquaculture and fisheries for exports</td>
<td>Stronger linkages between sectors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of strategic plans for aquaculture</td>
<td>Improved regulatory framework to implement the international legal framework for oceans</td>
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<td>Need to scale up efforts in implementing relevant international agreements and efforts in fighting against IUU fishing</td>
<td>Potential Introduction of new economic incentives for ocean-based economic sectors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Low value addition in seafood exports and market access barriers</td>
<td>Private and civil society participation in defining national oceans economy and trade strategy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Need to link fisheries with tourism consumption and marine protected areas</td>
<td>Identification of market access barriers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Need to scale up efforts for coastal protection and resilience</td>
<td>Strengthened coordination mechanisms and improved interaction among relevant agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No system of payments for ecosystem services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Insufficient data and tools to identify products, services and vulnerable social groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Low private sector involvement and maritime connectivity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scattered regulations, low coordination, and weak enforcement</td>
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</tbody>
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Introduction:

• In order to strengthen capacities of coastal developing countries in **elaborating, adopting and implementing** evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies to promote sustainable trade of products and services in ocean-based economic sectors within the UNCLOS framework, the project will be implemented in 3 phases:

  1. Assessment and formulation
  2. Validation and Implementation
  3. Dissemination
Ocean Based Sectors for research:

Phase I: Assessment and formulation

- 4 sectors were selected (out of 11)
- Based on criteria for selection and discussions with executing entity
  - Sectors that have potential growth (production and trade conditions); have/will contribute to employment; will benefit the most.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Marine Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable (Marine) Aquaculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seafood Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue BioTrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ships and parts manufacture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine and Coastal Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritime Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Biotechnology and Bioprospecting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port and related logistical services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal and Marine area management, protection and restoration + Carbon sequestration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ocean energy and renewable energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ocean Based Sectors for research:

• Sustainable Marine Fisheries
• Sustainable Marine Aquaculture
• Seafood Processing
• Marine and Coastal Tourism
Ocean Based Sectors for research:

- Consultants (Dr. Leroy Almendarez and Mark Usher)
  - Production of data factsheets for 4 selected sectors
  - Legal and institutional issues mapping
  - Links need to be made with national development, trade, fisheries and tourism plans and policies
<table>
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<th>Sectors selected for further research (factsheets and legal analyses)</th>
<th>Specific issues of interest as identified by Belize</th>
<th>Links to Policies being implemented in Belize</th>
<th>Links to UNCTAD classification of Ocean based sectors (also to WTO 120 when relevant)</th>
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</table>
| Sustainable marine fisheries | • Promote and improve the legal framework for the management of fisheries/marine resources in Belize  
• Consider the particular nature of fish and fish products as a manufactures within the WTO framework (meaning outside the WTO Agriculture Agreement).  
• Help fishers to access new fishing techniques and increase local value-added products  
• Promote improved management of cooperatives and associations  
• Provide training on fisheries management in marine protected areas  
• Provide training and promotion of sustainable fisheries to avoid overfishing  
• Provide targeted incentives and concessions for fishers that would reduce fuel and equipment costs  
• Develop clear policies and standards for joint ventures with foreign entities that ensure that Belizeans make the decisions and harvest the fish  
• Support community based initiatives that encourage local enterprise development  
• Support in gaining market access for Belize fisheries products (both wild harvested and farmed) and services (specially in regional markets) and to address non tariff measures | Sustainable Development Goals  
Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2019)  
Horizon 2030 (National Development Framework)  
National Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for Belize  
National Trade Policy for Belize | Goods (trade data exists)  
Sector A: Marine Fisheries (harvesting + trade)  
Services (low probability of data)  
WTO (W120)  
F: Other business services  
g. Services incidental to fishing  
CPC V2.1 (2015): 86153: Support services to fishing |
| Sustainable marine Aquaculture | | | Goods (production data exist):  
Sector B: Aquaculture  
Services (low probability of data)  
CPC V2.1 (2015): 86154: Support services to aquaculture |
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| **Seafood processing** | • Help fishers to access new fishing techniques and increase local value-added products  
• Assist fishers who want an alternative livelihood to explore and plan for viable alternatives  
• Encourage fishers to assume greater management of the industry, including self-regulation to improve standards and equity | **Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2019)**  
**Horizon 2030 (National Development Framework)** | Goods (trade data exist):  
Sector C: Seafood production  
Sector D. Blue BioTrade (only those related to seafood for human consumption): |
| **Marine and Coastal Tourism** | • Engage the tourism sector in developing solutions illegal activities  
• Develop guidelines for eco-tours operators  
• Develop links between fisheries with the hotel and restauration services | **National Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for Belize 2030**  
**National Trade Policy for Belize** | Services (there is data):  
WTO (W120):  
Sector F: Marine and Coastal Tourism  
9. Tourism and travel related services  
A. Hotels and restaurants (incl. catering) 641-643  
B. Travel agencies and tour operators services 7471  
C. Tourist guides services 7472  
D. Other |
Challenges (Preliminary):

- Fisheries Department - Limited Budget
  - Enforcement
  - Diversification
  - Research
  - Legislation in need of enactment
  - Improve licensing system and database
  - Catch landings diverted (no records of what is diverted)
  - Support for market access

- Aquaculture Unit -
  - No regulatory framework
  - Support for market access

- BAHA -
  - Certification (HACCP) and compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary measures
  - Fishers to be trained in Food handling / primary processing at sea
Challenges (Preliminary):

- **BHSFU-**
  - Third party on-board observers needs to be improved (limited)
  - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
  - Membership is declining
  - Cost for EU Compliance is expensive
  - Catch landing data and the sharing of other information needs to be improved

- **Productive Sector - Outdated by-laws**
  - Membership issues
  - Loans / advances
  - Infrastructure / processing facility (issue of value adding)
  - Health sanitary certification issued (HACCP, ISO certification)
  - Marketing and distribution centres
Challenges (Preliminary):

- **Tourism**
  - Food Quality Standard for Tourism Industry not available
  - Purchase seafood directly from fishers
  - Not required to purchase seafood from certified establishments such as fishing cooperatives
  - Risk of purchase of illegal fishery products
  - Loss of catch data (National catch quota)
Thank you for your attention!!