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HOW ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS WERE CREATED FOR GRENADIAN FISHERMEN AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARINE PROTECTED AREA

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
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CHALLENGES

This case study demonstrates options for income generation, livelihood security and self-employment among fishers displaced due to the creation of the Molinière-Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (MBMPA) in Grenada. Challenges in managing the MPA included: management regulations (loss of livelihoods, lack of proper education, inadequate training, and lack of skills); financial constraints (unsustainable fishing, lack of financial resources for new enterprises), competition, pollution, and environmental changes.

TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To ensure a co-management approach and community buy-in for resource conservation in the marine protected area (MPA), the management authority introduced alternative livelihoods through the development of snorkel tours and reef micro-enterprises that would reduce fishers’ dependence in fisheries resources in the MBMPA. Two micro enterprises have been successfully established by three fishers within the MPA: Sea Tonic Water Taxi Service and K&J Snorkel Tours under the Livelihood Support Fund (LSF).

Priority solutions included training, donor financing for equipment and supplies, stakeholder organization, and development of strategies needed to ensure sustainability and the development of tourism-related jobs. Stakeholders included the Government of Grenada, a stakeholder advisory committee, a livelihood association, the OECS Commission, The Nature Conservancy and the German government.

Lessons-learned include the necessity of: an integrated approach; in-country support for livelihood beneficiaries; provision of skills and microenterprise development training; community based interventions; the creation of a local livelihoods; and the understanding that MPAs are global public goods that serve the interests of national governments and the international community. Financing came from the Livelihoods Support Fund (LSF) of the OECS with funds from the German government. Scaling up should occur in other Caribbean islands and other SIDS around the world.
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