



The role of the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) in regional governance

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Expert Consultation on Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission

Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean

Association of Caribbean States - Caribbean Sea Commission

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This presentation...

- Background on the Caribbean Sea Initiative (CSI)
- Background on the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC)
- Perspective on its role in regional ocean governance

Caribbean Sea Initiative (CSI)

- ACS and partners have been pursuing the CSI since 1998
- Mainly through promotion of the UN Resolution ***‘Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations’*** at the UN General Assembly.
 - First adopted in 1999 (Res 54.225)
 - Reported upon, revised and readopted in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 (Res 55.203, Res 61.197, 63.214))
 - Upcoming report in 2010

Caribbean Sea Initiative (CSI)

In the resolution the UNGA:

'Recognizes that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including, inter alia, the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law'.

Caribbean Sea Initiative (CSI)

The UNGA resolution also:

- *Takes note* of the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the CSC of the ACS...
- *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the CSC...
- *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development ...
- *Calls upon* the UN system and the international community to assist [...] Caribbean countries and their regional organizations [...] to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea...
- *Calls upon* the international community, the UN system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the GEF [...] to support [...] activities of the Caribbean States towards [...] the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;
- *Urges* the UN system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region [for] disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery

Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC)

As part of the CSI the CSC was established in 2008 to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea.

The Commission shall comprise:

- National delegations of Members and Associate Members
- The Secretary General of the Association
- Organisations
 - The Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
 - The Latin American Economic System (CELA)
 - The Central American Integration System (SICA)
 - The Permanent Secretariat for the General Agreement on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)
 - The Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)
- Three experts appointed by the Secretary General in consultation with Members and Associate Members

Operating Statute and Rules of Procedure of the CSC, January 2009

Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC)

The Caribbean Sea Commission comprises:

- A Bureau comprising the Chair, the two Vice-chairs, and the Secretariat;
- A Legal Sub-Commission;
- A Scientific and Technical Sub-Commission;
- A Governance, Public Information and Outreach Sub-Commission;
- A Budget Committee

CSC Subcommissions

- Scientific and Technical Subcommission Cochairs
 - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of the West Indies, Barbados and
 - Centro de Investigaciones Marinas, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba;
- Governance, Outreach and Public Information Subcommission cochairs
 - CARICOM
 - SICA
- Legal Subcommission cochairs
 - Mr. Oscar Monge Castro, Attorney-at-Law, Costa Rica
 - Mr Derrick Oderson Attorney-at-Law, Barbados.

CSC Subcommissions

The Sub-Commissions will support the mandate of the CSC by:

- Clarifying information that the CSC needs to meet its mandate to provide advice to the ACS council;
- Identifying individuals, organizations or projects that can provide the expertise and information needed;
- Coordinating the acquisition, review and synthesis of the information needed;
- Formulating or overseeing the formulation of draft advisory documents for consideration by the CSC;
- Obtaining and providing clarification as requested by the CSC on any submitted draft advisory documents in a timely manner.

CSC role in regional ocean governance

- CSC adopted the LME Governance Framework as its working model for regional ocean governance arrangements
- CSC will focus first on living marine resources which are the basis for livelihoods in fisheries, tourism and domestic recreation, as well as providing many other ecosystem services
- Based on partnership with CLME Project with focus on transboundary living marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region

CSC role in regional ocean governance

Global

Global marine policy cycle

UNGA – CSD

Regional

Caribbean Sea regional policy cycle

CSC

National

Fisheries

Tourism

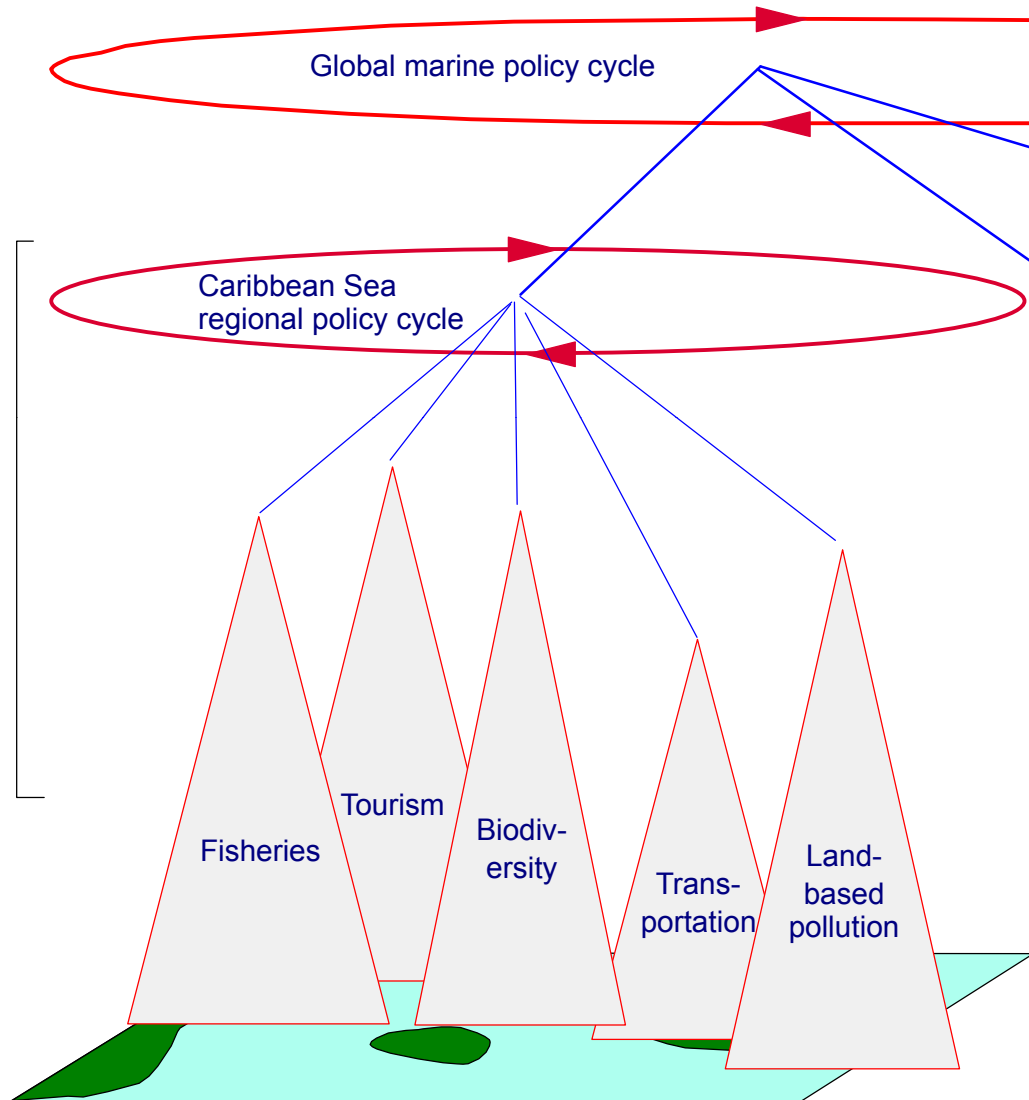
Biodiversity

Transportation

Land-based pollution

Local

There will be a sub-framework for each of several sectors topical areas



Thank

you



ACS

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**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES
ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS DEL CARIBE
ASSOCIATION DES ETATS DE LA CARAIBE**