OCEAN GOVERNANCE, SCIENCE POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Challenges for the Wider Caribbean Region

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Our Land, Coastal / inshore Marine Resources have long been recognised / appreciated in Caribbean Sustainability Initiatives. The vital role of (and our dependence on) the Caribbean Sea - has not been as fully appreciated. Ocean governance and management therefore may not be accorded the priority it deserves in National / Regional / Sectoral strategies and policy initiatives – including Science Policy?

- **ISSUES**

- 28 States/10 territories .. 5 official languages
- Disparity in development levels, institutional capacities, economies and the capacity to create effective public policy
- Diversity in size of States ranging from small islands to continental states
- Uneven but expanding arrangements for technical cooperation incl a few integrated approaches to transboundary issues (eg Gulf of Honduras)
- Science Policy and Ocean Policy initiatives may lack clear consistent REGIONAL champion??

Science Policy / Public Policy based on Science

Science policy is an area of public policy usually concerned with the supporting, facilitation and funding of science and with the regulation of technology produced by scientific research. Science policy is the intersection between scientific research and public policy.

While some Caribbean states have evolved structured and effective Strategic and Policy making mechanisms, In many of the smaller Caribbean jurisdictions the Public Policy framework is still in the process of evolution and the S&T capacities are underdeveloped.

Policy cohesion is still a WCR challenge! Coordinated effective Public Policy based on Science and cohesive National Science Policy Frameworks and Action plans are the exception rather than the rule.

UK Example .. "Good Science Is Imperative for Good Government"

- The Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA):
  - Is responsible to the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the quality of scientific advice within Government and for advising on Government's S&T policy and on specific S&T issues
  - Ensures co-ordination of science policy issues within the UK Government and with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Chief Scientific Adviser's Role

- Reactive
  - Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) / BSE
- Proactive and strategic
  - GM Debate ; Climate Change ; Post 9/11 activity
  - Integrating scientific advice into policy making
  - Foresight

Non Linear Phenomena under review (04) included

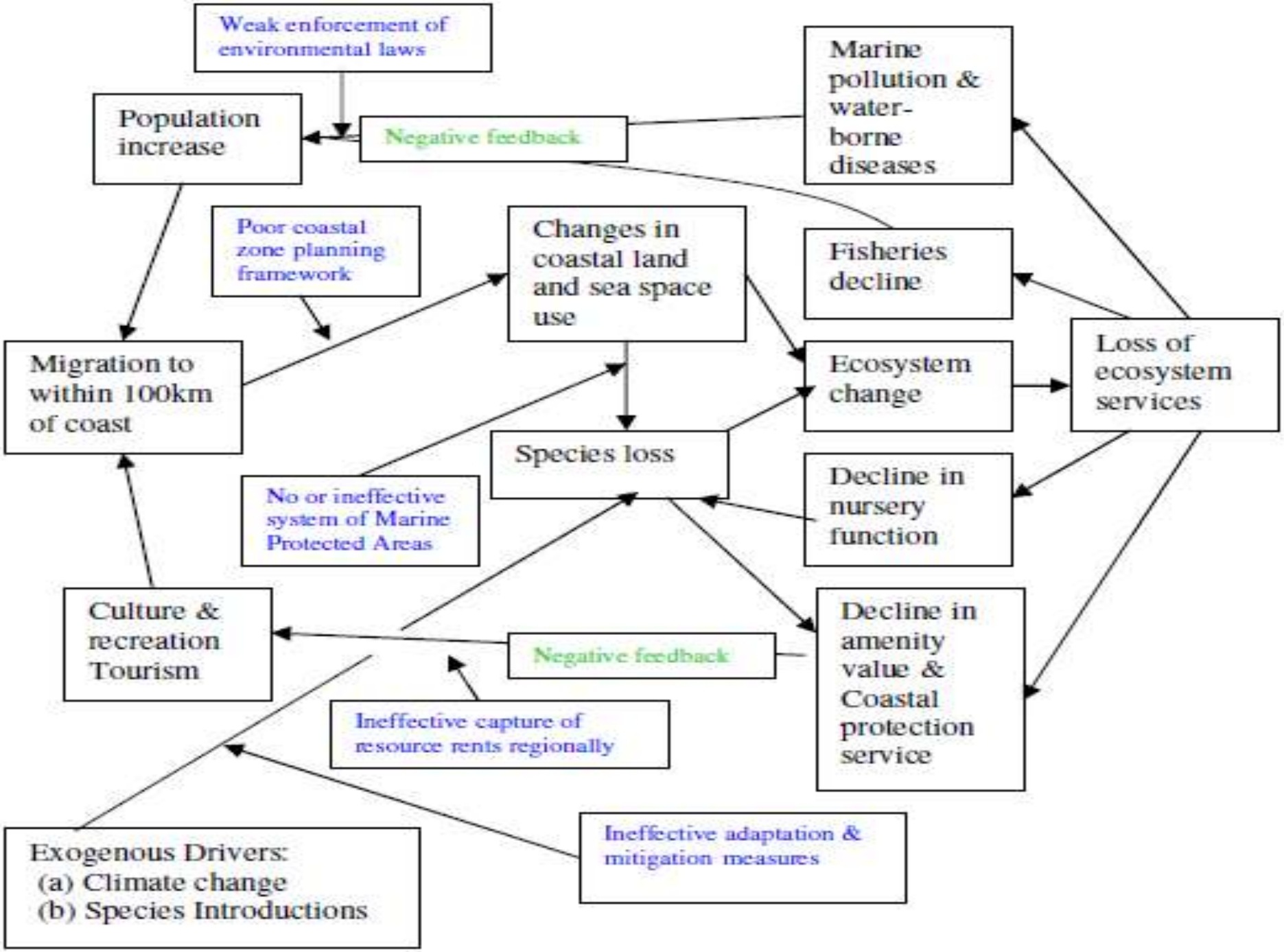
Deep sea methane clathrates and Weakening the Atlantic Overturning Circulation-Thermohaline Gulf Stream, global heat conveyor

Post Rio Diagnostics include

- **WSSD, MDG, CSD, GIWA, GEO, GPA Processes**
- **BPOA Review and Mauritius Strategy**
- **ACS, CARSEA, LCME, IWCAM, AoA**
- **Convergent Sustainability Based Strategies**
  - **NSSD; IWCAM; Fisheries etc**
  - **Regional, National, Subnational**
  - **Municipal, Local Govt entities**
  - **Sectoral (Tourism, Agricultural, even Mining)**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE / MACC / CCCCC**
- **CDM, WCDR, ISDR, HYOGO Processes**

These confirm significant (?it may even be expanding?) Gaps between our Science / Knowledge base and the Policy, Programmatic and Project responses

Fig 4.3.1 Conceptual diagram illustrating interactions between drivers, mitigating factors, ecosystem services and human well-being in the Caribbean Sea



CONTEXT (Expandable Mechanisms)

SOME LARGER STATES WITH NAVIES / MARITIME TRADITION / S&T RESEARCH CAPACITY HAVE ARTICULATED INTEGRATED APPROACHES

REGIONAL / SUB REGIONAL S&T BASED INITIATIVES BUILDING ON SHARED SECTORAL ISSUES (eg FISHERIES, ENV MANAGEMENT)

UNIVERSITY BASED KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS eg CARICOMP) TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS

COTED / UNEP RCU / ACS

OECS + CARICOM Sectoral ORGANS

''PARTNERSHIPS''

VITAL FOR NATIONAL + REGIONAL, SUSTAINABLE COMPREHENSIVE, EFFECTIVE, INTEGRATED LAND / WATERSHED / COASTAL / MARINE / OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

REQUIRES POLICY COHERENCE

And VITAL for OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Why Partnerships?

- **PROVIDES INTEGRATED STRUCTURED FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIES, POLICIES & PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES (AND EVENTS)**
- **“PACKAGES ” EXISTING/NEW INITIATIVES / CONVERGING ISSUES**
- **GENERATE INVESTMENTS, NEW FINANCING (PUBLIC / PRIVATE SECTOR)**

Suggested Actions?

- **ESTABLISH FUNCTIONING NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / COMMISSIONS**
  - **WITH INFLUENCE, AUTHORITY, CAPACITY**
  - **WITH CLEAR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, RELATIONSHIPS**
  - **SECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS INTERESTS**
    - **FISHERS, TOURISM, ENERGY, PORT / MARITIME**
    - **OFFICIALS, PRIVATE SECTOR, SCIENTIFIC**
- **STRUCTURED EXCHANGES OF LESSONS / INFORMATION BETWEEN SUCH ORGANS (eg JAMAICA NCOCZM)**
- **(RE)ENGAGE THE REGIONAL ENTITIES & ORGANS ASSOCIATED WITH PROMOTING AND FACILITATING S&T POLICY AND SECTOR ISSUES**
  - **CARICOM UNDP ECLAC COTED UNESCO**
  - **SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

Regional

An ENHANCED REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO COMPLEMENT & SUPPORT NATIONAL / SUB REGIONAL EFFORTS

- **REGIONAL RESEARCH / UNIVERSITY BASED ENTITIES**
- **REGIONAL HUBS OF UNEP, FAO, IMO, IAEA, UNESCO**
- **SIGNIFICANT NON REGIONAL PARTNERS (TNC, IUCN, ETC)**

HARMONISE GLOBAL INITIATIVES, RATIONALISE & MOBILISE RESOURCES

MAKING OCEAN SCIENCE A SEAMLESS COMPONENT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY COULD BE A REGIONAL PRIORITY SUPPORTED BY THE UN / SIMILAR ENTITIES (UNEP, FAO, IMO, ETC)

ENGAGE TRADITIONAL BILATERAL TA PARTNERS (EU, CANADA, AUSTRALIA) IN NEW INNOVATIVE MODALITIES)

SOME FINAL WORDS ..

CARIBBEAN SD & SECURITY DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE STATE OF WELL BEING OF THE COASTAL, MARINE, AND OCEAN RESOURCES AND AT ALL LEVELS POLICY EFFORTS NEED STRENGTHENING

SIGNIFICANT CAPACITY BUILDING IN AN AREA NOT POPULAR WITH TRADITIONAL TA IS NEEDED

TOOLS LIKE MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING ARE AVAILABLE BUT UNDERUTILISED

Cartoon caption “I sent you global warming .. I sent scientists ... what more will it take to save you?”

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