

The information system to support the science policy interface – The role of Panos Caribbean in information sharing and networking

Expert Consultation on the Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission

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Barbados

Real People – Real Voices!



- Main beneficiaries: Local people affected by development issues ("the voiceless")
- □ Bring information to science (anecdotal or key): information and perspectives, as articulated by local people affected by the issues under consideration
- Dissemination through the Media: of that information at local, national, regional and international levels

Panos Caribbean Mission



- Amplify the voices of the poor and the marginalized.....
- □ ... through the media
- and ensure their inclusion in public and policy debate....
- ...in order to enable Caribbean communities and countries
- ... to articulate and communicate their own development agendas.

Some fitting methodologies for CSC



- Oral testimony collection
- Journalistic fellowships
- Linking researchers and media

What are oral testimonies?



- □ The oldest form of communication: story telling, legends, riddles ...
- A form of communication accessible to everybody for passing on tradition, knowledge and expertise, without a dependency on literacy
- A very applicable technique for research on sensitive subjects, such as human or social rights
- A useful tool for research at the local level, including the monitoring and evaluation of development projects

Application to science and policy



- Research on issues through collecting testimonies (direct voices of affected people)
- Materials used and interpreted by scientists
- Shared through the media to a general audience
- Brought to decision makers through policy briefings

Journalistic Fellowships



- Panos provides opportunity (time, resources) to a journalist to investigate under reported and misunderstood issues
- Resulting in a series of in-depth media reports
- These can be compiled into/adapted to policy briefings
- One technique: embedded journalism (communication support to agencies).

Communicating Research through the media



- Round tables between media and scientists to create partnerships
- Series of interviews and media productions
- Targeted dissemination
- Panos occasionally assists agencies in developing communication plans

Research on fisheries issues





Research on children's rights





Bringing results to policy makers







Research on climate change and vulnerability





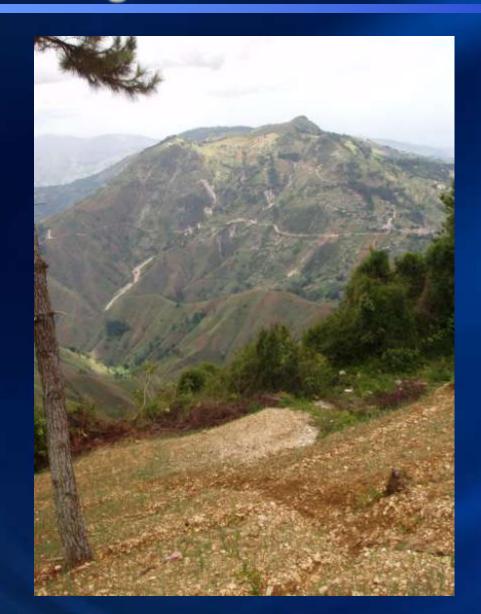
The stories of land degradation





Watershed degradation





Conclusions: Panos' role in info sharing



- Empower people affected by issues
- Use media as a channel for their info
- Use briefings to reach policy makers
- Seek mechanisms for storage of stories/expertise of affected people (media, NGO/CBOs, universities).

Conclusions: Panos' role in networking



- Bring representatives of affected people to events
- □ Ensure media coverage of events/issues
- Engage scientists into media debate, create partnerships with media
- □ Create functional links between agencies and media (fellowships & embedded journalism)
- Help access to stories/expertise through monitoring of projects and programmes (inter institutional encouraged)

Sharing the road





Thank you for your attention!