

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

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**Expert Consultation on the Operationalisation  
of the Caribbean Sea Commission**

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# 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

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- ❑ 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 way to promote transparency and participation: people are the actors and can apply self-definition***
- ⊗ ***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!**