

Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the WCR



*Association of Caribbean States- Caribbean Sea Commission
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Questions

- Q1. In your opinion what aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the CSC more effective?
- Q2. In your opinion what aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation?

Questions Cont'd

- Q3. From your perspective what aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make the CSC more effective?
- Q4. What would it take for you to buy into this overall process?

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QUESTION 1

Question 1

Common Threads or Themes

- Examine other commission models from around the world (Legal and institutional structures; rules of procedures).
- Do not duplicate, use existing centres of excellence .
 - Don't be prescriptive, provide policy options, indications and consequences.

Question 1

Common Threads or Themes

- Focal Sectors: Environment is a core focus group. It is a cross-cutting theme for all sectors.
- Agriculture should be considered as a sector.

Question 1

Key Insights

- A strong communication strategy is critical (Identify “champions” for the sub-commissions).
- CSC needs a dedicated Secretariat (Daily staff and funding; feasibility of location and operation).

Question 1

Key Insights

- Requires a Strategic Action Plan
 - Define trans-boundary issues: Regional, Sub-regional and National
 - Gap analyzes
 - Networks/Networking Structures
 - Mapping and evaluations of projects and programmes to identify strengths, weaknesses and their effectiveness.
 - Ensure that everything is done in a transparent manner.

Question 1

Conclusions

- CSC needs a dedicated secretariat
 - Servicing FULL TIME the Sub-commissions
 - Funding for start-up

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QUESTION 2

Question 2

Common Threads or Themes

- A higher level of leadership oversight and overview responsibility.
- Communication- language and language disciplines being used.
- Tendency to be 'reactive' than 'proactive' at science and policy levels.

Question 2

Common Threads or Themes (Cont'd)

- Mechanisms needed to build consensus at national and regional levels.
- Sovereignty rights issues versus the greater good.
- Appropriate packaging of information for the various target groups whether policy makers or scientists etc.

Question 2

Common Threads or Themes (Cont'd)

- There is a need to bring in (fully engaged) the other sectors and stakeholders.
- Sub-commissions need to be fully functional to achieve the science-policy interface.
- Use the process of capacity analysis and strategic action to close and reveal gaps.
- Inadequate resource mobilization- expertise and money.

Question 2

Key Insights and Surprises

- Surprised that the role of the media was not mentioned or discussed.
- It is surprising how many resources are available within the various groups that are not being used by decision makers.
- People need to be communicating and the message needs to be clear.
- Utilize the information we have and apply it.

Question 2

Conclusions

- We need to find better ways to mine the data and make it useful to decision makers and scientists.
- Data-Use clear communication strategies including dissemination of information. This must be applied at all levels including ‘opinion makers and decision makers’.

Question 2

Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Commission and Sub-commission to be made fully functional with a properly funded and competent secretariat.
- Policy (decision) makers do not articulate policies clear enough to drive or challenge science.
- Re CSC Sub-commissions need to ensure that the governance, outreach and public information sub-commissions need to be functioning.

Question 2

Conclusions (Cont'd)

- There is not enough funding for an effective interface.
- Lack of resources and initiatives for resource mobilization.
- Lack of clear leadership at the national and regional level. Lack of defined need and support relationships.

Question 2

Any other interesting observations

- Clear policy decisions/articulations to drive science. They (policy makers) need to have clear policy directions.
- Meta-data needs to be available to all scientific sectors.

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QUESTION 3

Question 3

Common Threads or Themes

- Structural arrangements require:
 - Secretariat for CSC,
 - Advisory committees

Question 3

Key Insights

- Strategic Action Plan (ASAP)
- Regional work builds on national achievements in linking science and policy

Question 3

Conclusions

- Secretariat for the CSC with outreach facilities.
- Sub-committee on Governance outreach public information to be strengthen.
- Secretariat to start small and grow.
- Linkages between commission and nation actors to be strengthen.
- Two way street between scientist and policy makers.

Question 3

Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Strategies and networks of expertise and institutions (inventory).
- Establish position of Chief Scientific Advisor.
- Standardization and harmonization of data management and reporting.
- Key decisions of commission to be implemented by countries and legal documents ratified.

Question 3

Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Strategic Action Plan
- Policy briefs/Summary for policy makers.
- Bring value added to policy making (Packaging and presentation of policy-relevant information).
- CSC should assist countries to link Governmental policy and science at local level.

Question 3

Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Overlap analysis between different programmes.
- Access to policy makers strengthened to boost implementation at the national level.
- Advisory groups on specific topics consisting of both policy makers and scientists.

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QUESTION 4

Question 4

Common Threads or Themes

- Structures and processes for strong communication and participation at all levels.
- Promotion via “success stories”.
- Good governance within CSC.
- Endorsement of science through networks, participation .

Question 4

Common Threads or Themes (Cont'd)

- Region-wide responsiveness to stakeholder needs is evident.
- Respected leaders involved both individuals and organizations.

Question 4

Key Insights and Surprises

- Turf protection by international agencies may constrain CSC.
- “Policy makers” at **ALL** levels must be bought-in.
- Communication is key.
- “Science” and “policy” are abstract so focus on people and practices.

Question 4

Conclusions

- There are many challenges ahead.

Thank You!

