The Information Systems Needed to Support the Science-Policy Interface

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Questions to be Addressed

1. What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

2. What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

3. What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make the CSC more effective

4. What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

Question 1:
What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the CSC more effective

Question 1. Common Themes

What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

- Platform for data and info gathering, interpretation

- Combination of system approaches (search engine, web, snail mail)

- Graphic component/ Display

- CSC does not have to be central repository (Meta-data)

- Linkages between institutions, study to identify gaps and overlaps

- Low learning curve and open access

- Information pathways to and from communities

- Redundancy for critical information

Question 1. Common Themes

What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

- Help cross-sectoral fertilization

- Alert mechanism to allow policy makers to identify future issues

- Reliable way to access historic and future information and data

- Host "node" should be durable institution with dedicated persons

- Cover multiple themes (spatial, political, social, biological, etc.) and institutions (NGOs, government, etc.). Data and institutional info

- Sustainably funded

- Build / Start simple

- Dynamic, flexible, updatable system

Question 1. Key Insights/Surprises

What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

- Distributed System

- Redundancy

- All types and levels of data, information, and data sources

- Simple and easy to use

What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

- Identify and define human, financial, and technical sources and resources
  - Study
  - Stakeholders, data, end users, hardware
- Constituency and its priorities need to be defined (incl. policy makers)

What aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective

- Lack of clarity of CSC function limits, our ability to design information system

Question 2:
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

Question 2. Common Themes
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

- Lack of government agreements and will for sharing information, because of lack of trust/sovereignty, fear of implications of sharing. Political barriers

- Finances to develop system and sustain it. Team of people needs to be financed. International organizations (extra-regional) needed. Credibility established

- Different capacities (human & technical) of countries to implement IT systems, different knowledge. Appropriate levels to be elaborated for different countries

- Information gaps in the region on certain subjects and geographic areas

Question 2. Common Themes
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

- Fragmentation of activities, lack of coordination

- Information system must be original/attractive, managed by CSC but based on existing experiences

- Cooperation between all sources of data established, in participatory way. Takes time and trust. Organizations and countries need to adjust their ways. Continuity to be ensured. Traditional knowledge.

- Standardization and harmonization of data collection and storage formats

- Include not only scientific data; also social, economic, legal data

- Respect of institutional and political realities. Use of appropriate channels.

Question 2. Key Insights/Surprises
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

- <u>Engagement</u>: credibility, leadership, commitment

- <u>Sustainability</u>

- <u>Capacity building component</u>: to contribute to access

- <u>Comprehensiveness:</u> of types of data

- <u>Harmonization & standardization</u>

Question 2. Conclusions
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

- It is difficult to:

  - Consider all frameworks: social, economic, political, geophysical, geochemical, traditional

  - Be demand driven, reactive to policy/science interface

  - Be useful, system should be marketed

  - Ensure a system of data & information sharing is systematic/consistent but also flexible/versatile to new needs

  - Ensure continued capacity in institutions

  - Effect a permanent strengthening process

Question 2. Observations
What aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation

- Details of presentations by organizations was not utilized, we kept the general level

- Information system needs to be considered in entire structure of CSC

- Authority of sources of data, competence needs to be clarified and requests for data should follow <u>rules</u>

Question 3:
What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make the CSC more effective

Question 3. Common Themes

What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make
the csc more effective

- CSC should promote capacity building within its member countries to fill information gaps (equitability/access)

- Public relations - CSC must be recognized (publicized) in the region

- There must be regional opportunity for data analysis and standardization

- Countries which have bought into the CSC vision <u>must</u> work to support robust initial funding

- CSC has mechanisms to bring people together, but they are not being used effectively

- CSC must insure the participation of agencies / countries with capabilities in the region

Question 3. Common Themes
What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make
the csc more effective

- CSC will need a regional coordinator to negotiate MOUs with other regional organizations. Legally defining cooperation

- CSC should align policy at all levels and across disciplines to share information

- CSC should have a central operations center run by an interdisciplinary team for access and data management

- CSC data should be responsive to themes important to policy makers

- CSC must recognize the importance of traditional knowledge and that CSC is an indigenous tool

- CSC information has economic benefits that should be made known

Question 3. Conclusions

What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make
the csc more effective

- CSC must be a relevant service to:

    - the countries of the region

    - policy makers and their priorities

    - economies

- CSC needs to establish a legal framework between participating parties to ensure success of its mission via the generation and exchange of informational data

- Public relations and communication are critical to CSC, particularly with respect to benefits

- Equitable access to data is key to success of CSC and will require capacity building in various participating countries

Question 3. Conclusions
What aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make
the csc more effective

- Substantial funding is critical to initiation and continuation of the CSC and its mission. The CSC must identify its funding sources

- Ensure that networking is effective across all participants - including countries and agencies

- CSC must align policy between its participants to ensure information transfer at all levels and across disciplines

- A central operation node with a multi-disciplinary team should manage this

- CSC should utilize information desired from national or regional indigenous sources

Question 4:
What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

Question 4. Common Themes
What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

- Potential users (for all sectors of society) to be convinced of benefits of information system which need to be clearly identified and articulated

- Understanding due to effective promotion and marketing of system

- Cooperating agency (CSC) must not be competing for technical and financial resources with <u>MY</u> organization

- Affordable participation costs / appropriately scaled financially

- Inclusive

- Sustainable - Financial and other resources

- Provision of products and services relevant to policy making decisions

- Brings together information from different sources to address synergies

Question 4. Common Themes
What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

- Transparency

- Stressing socio-economic value of data and information would drive home necessity of information system

- Details of best practice, application of best practice, and lessons learned for communicating with wider stakeholder community

- Country level buy-in more likely if benefits to developing own information system seen

- Accurate & robust

    - Builds confidence in system

    - User friendly

- Multilingual

Question 4. Key Insights/Surprises

What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

- <u>For Buy-In</u>

- *BENEFITS*

  - Articulated

  - Tangible

  - Effective decision making

- *TRUST*

  - Transparency

  - Confidence

  - Reliability

  - Accuracy

National
&
Regional

ACCESSIBILITY

- Multilingual

- Low use cost

- User friendly

- Well maintained

Opportunity for Capacity Development

- For buy-in to take place all key factors (i.e. demonstrable benefits, instilling of trust, high accessibility and provide opportunities for capacity development) need to be accounted for.

- This will only happen if information system is developed and promoted as such.

- Clear Objectives - Primary and secondary users

- Design of system must meet needs of <u>MULTIPLE USERS</u>