



Monitoring and Indicators for Sustainable Development Planning-Caribbean Experiences

A presentation to

The Expert Group Meeting Implementing Rio +20: Integrated Planning
for Sustainable Coastal Area management in the Caribbean Region
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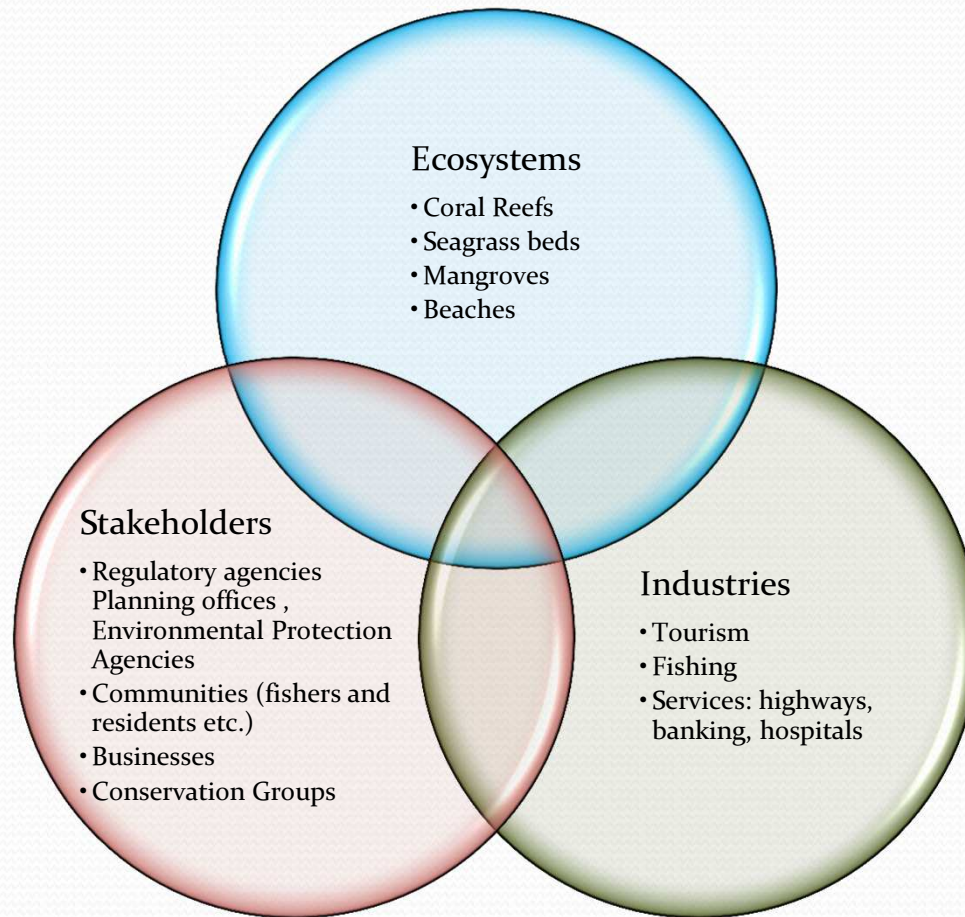
Background

Effectiveness of a decision is directly proportional to the quality and availability of information.

Efficient information management greatly increases the likelihood of making effective decisions.

In the context of sustainable development , the quantity and diversity of information is so extensive that accessibility to information and sharing of information across institutions and disciplines is a must

Integrated Coastal Zone Management





Definitions

Terminology

Information: either knowledge about something or a collection of facts and data.

Data: statistics or numbers that summarise the characteristics of data collected.

Indicators: Statistical aggregates of processed and raw data, which try to capture in a simple fashion, complex events

Statistics may be defined as "a body of methods for making wise decisions in the face of uncertainty." - [W.A.. Wallis](#))



State of Play

Across the region we see a range of data, statistics, indicators and information relevant to ICAM being produced including:

- Basic demographic information
- Fisheries (very long time series)
- Water quality
- Coral Reef Monitoring
- Beach profiling
- Mangrove monitoring
- Tourism
- Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters



State of Play

Data and information collected in a variety of formats over differing time frames for example:

- Administrative records (e.g fisheries and tourism)
- Technical reports and monitoring programmes (e.g. water quality, beach profiling)
- Detailed Scientific study and survey (e.g coral reef and mangrove health)
- GIS (e.g land use change in coastal areas, vulnerable assests)
- Remote Sensing and satellite imagery

Context

Revised Treaty of
Chaguaramas (1973)
Specifically

- Articles 58 (Natural Resource Management) and
- 60 (Fisheries Management and Development)

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference) 1992
- World Summit on Sustainable Development ,2002
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)

Context

- United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 1994
- International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2005

The Caribbean Sea Basin Initiative

United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/214) '**Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations**', provided the impetus for the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and partners to pursue the Caribbean Sea Initiative. As a result of this resolution the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) [<http://www.acs-aec.org>] was established under the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in 2008 to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea

CONTEXT

- The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region which is a comprehensive, umbrella agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment. This regional environmental convention provides the legal framework for cooperative regional and national actions in the WCR.
- The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Cartagena Convention which has as its objective, to strengthen national and regional preparedness and response capacity of the nations and territories of the region. The Protocol also serves to foster and facilitate co-operation and mutual assistance among the nations and territories in cases of emergency in order to prevent and control major oil spill incidents.
- The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol) has been internationally recognised as the most comprehensive treaty of its kind. Adopted in Kingston, Jamaica by the member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme on 18 January 1990, the SPAW Protocol preceded other international environmental agreements in utilising an ecosystem approach to conservation.
- The designation by the IMO MARPOL Convention of the Wider Caribbean Region including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea as an Annex V Special Area where special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity to which our Member States are signatory, at its Eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties, a Programme of Work dedicated to the uniqueness and fragility of island biodiversity.

CONTEXT

- United Nations General Assembly(**A/RES/67/206**), as the International Year of SIDS (Small Island Developing States).
- The Third International Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States scheduled to be held September 1-4, 2014. The issue of Oceans is featuring predominantly as an area for major attention for all SIDS and of course for CARICOM SIDS. The Outcome document of the SIDS Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting which was held in Barbados in August 2013 and which will form the basis for negotiation among the international Community in **Paragraphs 93-112** pays specific attention to the issue of oceans and oceans governance



Regional successes

- The issue of environment statistics which includes Coastal and marine indicators is prioritised on the CARICOM Standing Committee of Statisticians which is vibrant and active.
- Within the Region there are many countries which produce environmental Statistics on a sustained basis including Jamaica, Suriname, Belize and Dominica. UN Statistics has played a significant role in building capacity in the Region in this area
- Barbados is in the process of producing its First Report on ILAC Indicators in conjunction with UNEP –ROLAC, while Cuba has already produced its report



Regional successes

- The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) Environment noted a list of statistics proposed as a set of key statistics required under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) to evaluate environmental performance within the context of the CSME and a proposed Community Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework
- [CARICOM Statistics](#)



Challenges

- National and Regional Governance Mechanisms
- Human , technical and financial resources
- Awareness/ attitudes towards information use
- Formats, frequency, accuracy
- Continuity
- Wide scale uptake of spatial data technology



Lessons Learned

- Ambition is good but start with a small manageable group of indicators for monitoring
- Advances in technology can make the job easier
- Build on existing positives (e.g well trained technicians, modern ICT infrastructure)
- There is the need for focussed and coordinated partnerships to advance the production and use of indicators for decision-making (e.g UN Stats, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, Mexico, Costa Rica)



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