The importance of regional cooperation and governance arrangements for Small Island Developing States

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Regional cooperation and governance arrangements

- Focus on SIDS because they have the most to gain from effective regional arrangements
- Primarily about coping with limited financial and human capacity in SIDS.
- Cooperation arrangements can facilitate:
  - Sharing expertise
  - Multi-country initiatives that take advantage of economies of scale
  - Collective representation
  - Governance at appropriate geographical scales
Regional cooperation and governance arrangements

- Regional and subregional cooperation has attendant tensions, primarily relating to sovereignty, balance of power between levels, and distribution of benefits.

- Familiar ground, so…

- How can GEF Projects promote regional cooperation?

- How the CLME project dealt with regional cooperation issues in the Wider Caribbean Region.
How the CLME Project dealt with regional cooperation

The Project:

- Was sensitive to the complexity and importance of regional arrangements from the outset
- Addressed these in the design of the project
- Engaged with 25 regional or subregional organisations in the WCR with some degree of responsibility for sustainable use of the ocean.
- Wanted to be sure that it understood the mandates and activities of these organisations, and their interrelationships
- So the SAP could adequately provide for their engagement in a regional framework or network.
Building regional cooperation requires a conceptual framework

- Scale
- Nesting
- Fit of institutions to ecosystems
- Interplay of organizations
- Regime complexes
- Network governance
- Subsidiarity

Ostrom’s Institutional Analysis Framework
The LME governance framework

A multi-level policy-cycle based governance framework

Policy cycles must be:

- Complete
- Linked vertically
- Linked laterally
- Diversity of policy processes as appropriate
The framework was used to design the CLME Project

- Implemented as a series of partnerships with key organisations
- Comprised PAG
- Facilitated engagement of all organisations
Framework was used to explore roles and relationships of organisations

- Each other
- Countries
- Global arena
The framework as a tool for assessment and intervention

Focused on:

- Visioning and principles at the level of the whole system.
- The gaps, overlaps and networking among regional organizations;
- Architecture of specific arrangements and associated policy processes;
- The national-regional interface;
- Overarching coordination and integration
How the CLME Project dealt with regional cooperation

- Regional arrangements were at the forefront in the CLME project.
- Issues of resource management, pollution, habitat degradation were seen in the context of these governance arrangements.
- Framework provided the basis for a discussion about regional arrangements.
- Concept of an emerging governance complex or governance regime became a part of the discussion.
- Ultimately, the SAP was designed around a regional governance framework.
- The project did not take on the persona of a regional organization, but kept to its role as a facilitator of regional cooperation.
REGION-WIDE OCEAN POLICY LEVEL
Regional ocean governance policy mechanism
(Caribbean Sea Commission, or equivalent, with membership of all relevant regional IGOs and NGOs)

PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL LEVELS

**Fisheries**

- **Reef fisheries ecosystem**
  - Lobster
    - CA lobster (OSPESCA)
    - Other lobster (CRFM/WECAFC)
  - Reef fisheries and biodiversity (UNEP)

- **Pelagic fisheries ecosystem** (CRFM/OESPESCA/FAO)
  - Large pelagics
    - Ocean-wide
    - Regional
  - Flyingfish (CRFM)

- **Continental shelf fisheries ecosystem** (CRFM/FAO)
  - North Brazil Shelf ecosystem
  - Other continental shelf

**Habitat destruction** (UNEP-SPAW)

**Pollution**
(UNEP-LBS/OSP, MARPOL IMO)
Problems with developing and gaining acceptance for the RGF

- New language and idea set – difficult conversation
  - But aren't we going to actually do anything?

- Organisational tensions
  - Roles
  - Overarching coordination

- GEF PCU tensions
Some conclusions and outcomes

Taking a structured approach allowed for:

- Regional complexity to be broken down into component parts that can be assessed.

- Development of interventions that target weak parts of the framework and strengthen them, with the long-term goal of a fully functional framework.

- Organizational actors to see
  - The framework as a whole, and
  - Their role in it, who they should be interacting with and what needs to be done to enhance their capacity to play that role.

- The conversation has been shifted.
Thank you