



WESTERN TROPICAL ATLANTIC REGION

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# CHALLENGES OF GETTING SCIENCE INTO POLICY IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

ROBIN MAHON AND LUCIA FANNING

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# MANY WELL-KNOWN CHALLENGES

- Doing relevant science
- Addressing the questions policy makers need answers to
- Formulating understandable outputs
- Understanding what science can offer
- No culture of evidence-based policy making
- Etc.

 **frontiers**  
in Marine Science

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## **A First Look at the Science-Policy Interface for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region**

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# SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES (ARENAS)

**Social processes which encompass relations between scientists and other actors in the policy process, and which allow for exchanges, co-evolution, and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of enriching decision-making”**

van den Hove, 2007

These processes take place within institutions, at institutional and individual levels



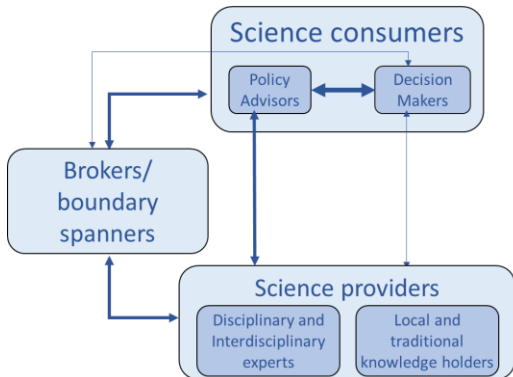
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# SCIENCE POLICY FRAMEWORK



## Boundary-spanning

“work to enable exchange between the production and use of knowledge to support evidence-informed decision-making in a specific context”.

## Boundary-spanners

“individuals or organizations that specifically and actively facilitate this process”.

Bednarek et al. (2018)

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## Scoping Science-Policy Arenas for Regional Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region

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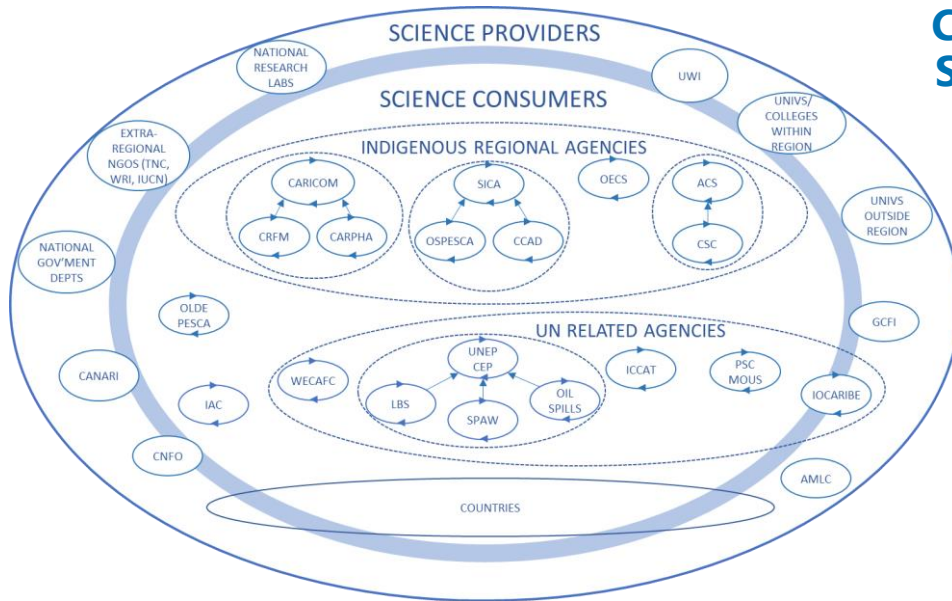
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# COMPLEX SET OF SCIENCE-POLICY ARENAS



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# SOME DEFICIENCIES

Major challenge for the region where most countries are small and have low capacity

- Processes appear somewhat separated from full diversity of potential science inputs
- Largely due to lack of accessibility and interest in both directions (providers <-> consumers)
- IGOs tend to use a relatively small subset of available expertise.

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Actors need to understand the networks of interactions (arenas) and actively develop them
- Innovative regional mechanisms that focus more on processes for accessing science than on assembling inventories of available information
- A managed information hub that can be used to build teams of scientists and advisors to address policy questions may be effective for the WCR given its institutional complexity.

There is a small number of boundary-spanners, many newly emerging, seeking to address the gap

- Recognition of the potential value of boundary spanning activities in getting science into policy
- Capacity for these should be built and boundary spanning organizations encouraged, formalized and mainstreamed



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



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**MUCHAS GRACIAS**

.....  
**THANK YOU**  
.....

**MERCI BEAUCOUP**

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