



## Marine Ecosystem Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance

Regional symposium sponsored by the Nippon Foundation, organized by Dalhousie University, the International Ocean Institute and the University of the West Indies, held at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, 10-12 December 2008

### EBM symposium summary and messages for Caribbean marine resource policy-makers and all other stakeholders

#### What is marine ecosystem based management (EBM)?

EBM is an integrated, comprehensive approach to the management of all human activities in the seas and oceans. Human systems and marine resource systems are managed as being closely linked and affecting each other. It also links the various sectors that share use of marine ecosystems, e.g. fisheries, tourism, shipping, energy, and addresses complexity.

#### What is principled ocean governance?

Principled ocean governance will become a reality for the Caribbean when all decisions that affect the Caribbean Sea are guided by a set of shared principles. Principles are drawn from international, regional and national statements of policy and law. They are needed to guide marine resource decisions at all levels from resource user to minister.



#### Symposium vision for marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean

**Healthy marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean that are fully valued and protected through strong institutions at local, national and regional levels providing effective governance that involves everyone, is fully understood and supported by the public, and enhances livelihoods and human well-being**

This vision was assembled from the elements of the four individual visions that emerged in working group sessions for reef ecosystems, pelagic ecosystems, continental shelf ecosystems and governance (see over).

## Why hold the regional symposium at this time?

Marine ecosystems of the Caribbean provide considerable economic and other benefits for the people of the region.

Sustainable use of marine resources cannot be approached piecemeal. There must be a holistic approach, NOW, that recognizes ecosystem complexity and how systems function at large scales.

This approach is essential to deal with the degradation that the Caribbean Sea has already experienced and with upcoming challenges such as climate change.

## What did the symposium set out to achieve?

The purpose of the symposium was to bring together a wide cross-section of leaders in living marine resource governance in the Caribbean.

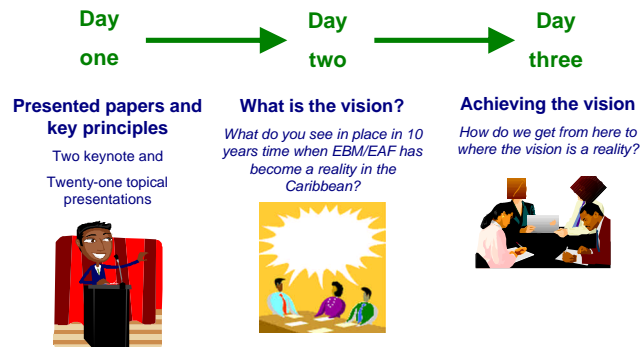
They came to explore the extent to which they are working from common principles, to develop a shared vision for EBM in the Wider Caribbean Region and to identify key strategic actions that are needed to implement EBM.

Creating linkages among key players will help to keep the EBM shared vision alive and in sight and will help to coordinate efforts regionally.

## Symposium specifics

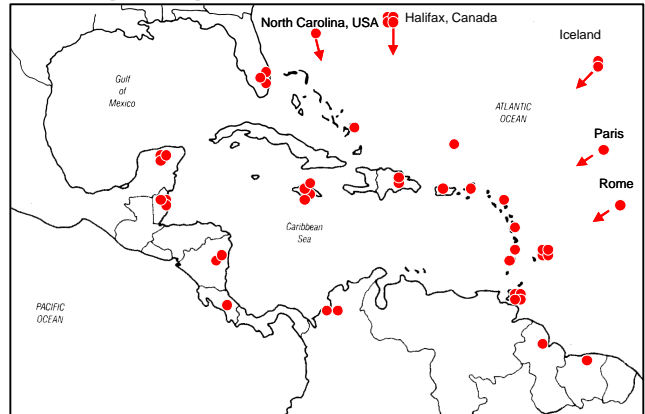
### What happened on each day

#### The flow of the symposium....



## Symposium statistics

### Where participants came from

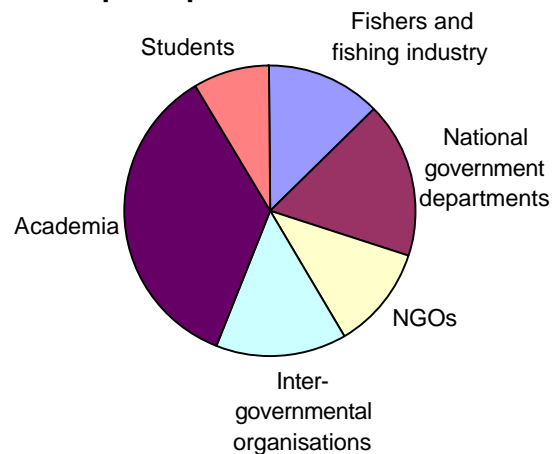


### What the groups were working on

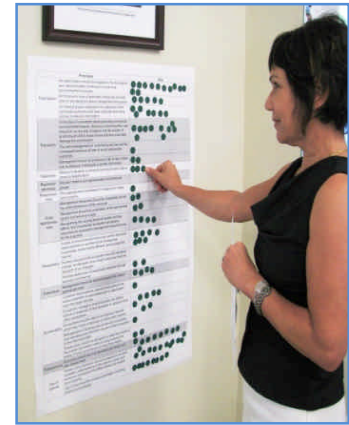
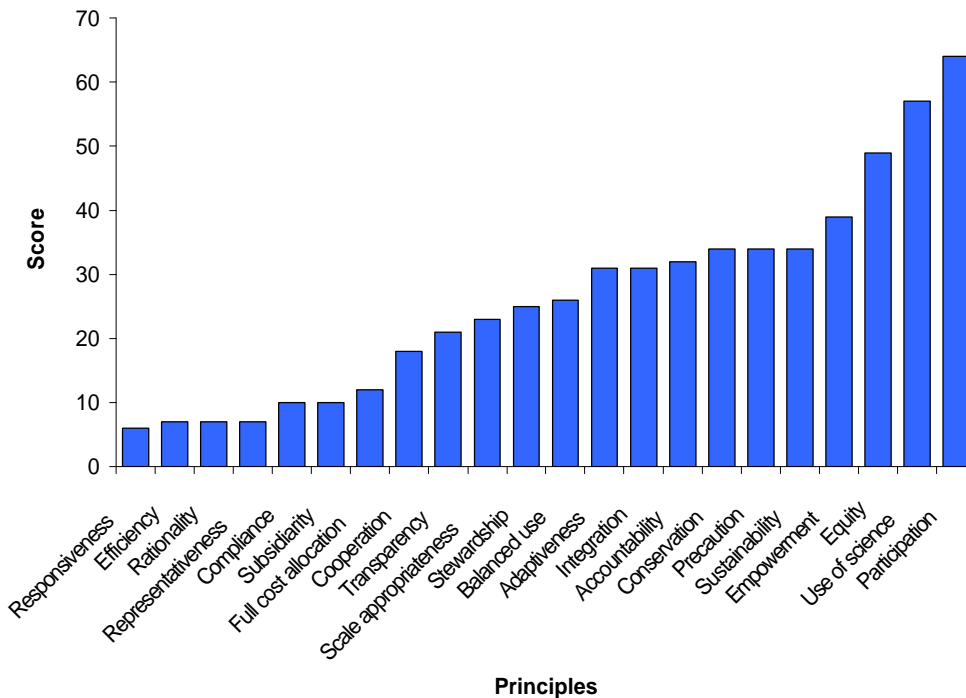
#### The ecosystems and governance

- Reef ecosystems
  - Inshore fishing, tourism, pollution
  - Multiple use, coastal development
- Pelagic ecosystems
  - Offshore fishing, oceanic issues
  - International jurisdiction, exports
- Continental shelf ecosystems
  - Shrimp fishery, river outflows
  - Industrial scale, export oriented
- Governance
  - Organisations, institutions, people
  - Livelihoods, civil society, choices

### Who the participants were



## A look at principles for marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean



Participants prioritized principles on a list drawn from many sources



## What are we going to do?

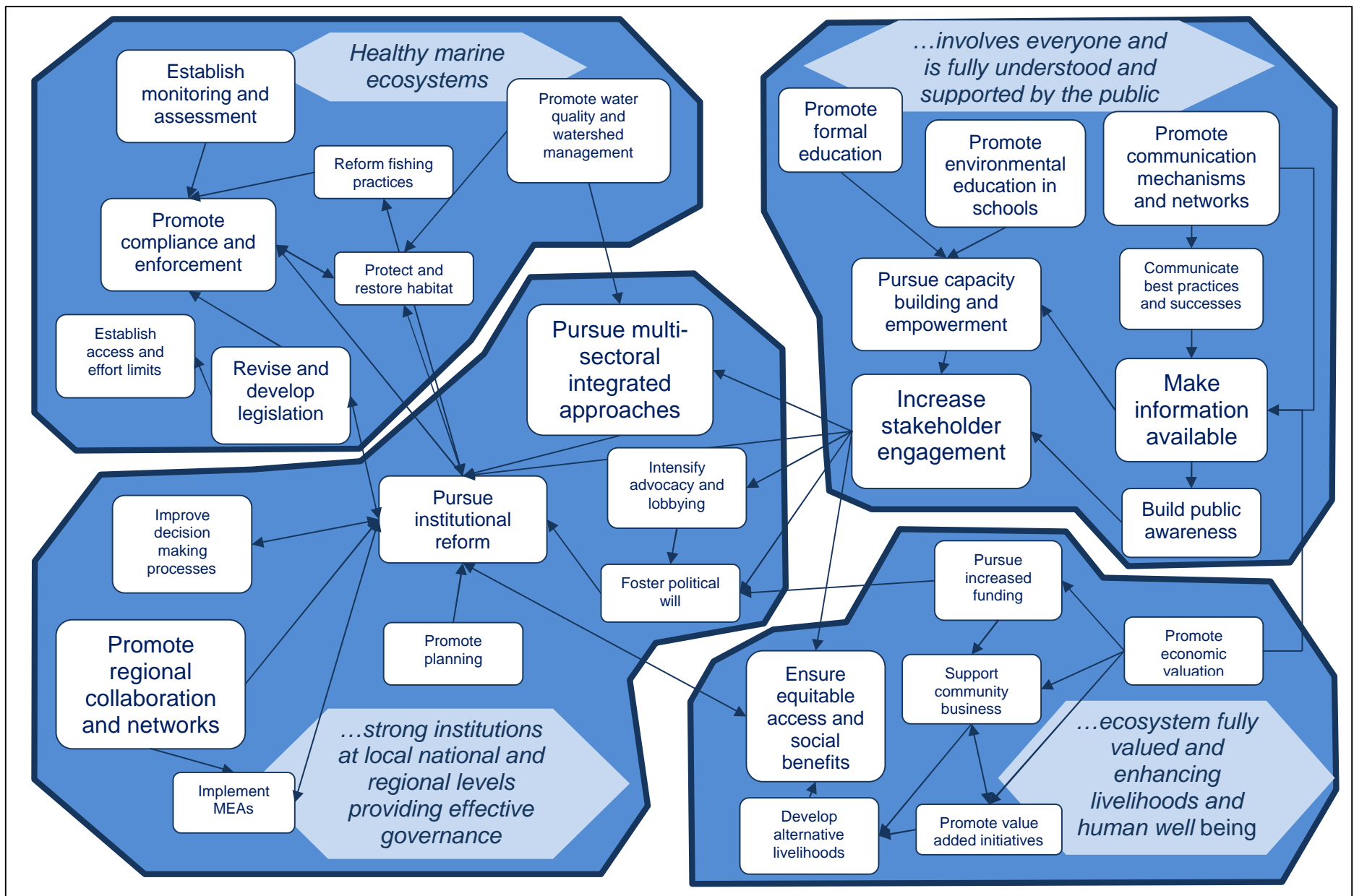
Our goal is to make the vision become a reality by strengthening policy networks for decision-making at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

This includes focusing on marine ecosystem-based management (EBM) as an essential component of principled ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean and turning the vision into practical action.

The network of strategic directions that emerged (see over) is a starting synthesis. It reflects the strategies that the symposium participants thought were most critical for moving towards marine EBM in the Caribbean. What emerged from the process was a strong focus on the human aspects of EBM. Stakeholder involvement, social justice, livelihoods, institutions and regional collaboration appear to be where most attention should be focused to achieve marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean region.

## How are we going to do it?

- Policy makers take leadership roles in initiatives such as the CLME project and CRFM Common Fisheries Policy
- All stakeholders start incorporating marine EBM and principles in practice
- Involve fisher folk organizations and other stakeholders in governance
- Incorporate marine resource valuations into inter-sectoral decision-making



The network of strategic directions that emerged as being needed to get from where we are towards the vision for marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean illustrates the diversity of activities required for sustainable use of marine resources. The bigger the font the more prominent the strategy in the discussions

Visit the EBM Symposium web site: [http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/MAP\\_Projects/EBM\\_Symposium.php](http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/MAP_Projects/EBM_Symposium.php) The report of the symposium, -presentations, chapters of the proceedings and more can be downloaded