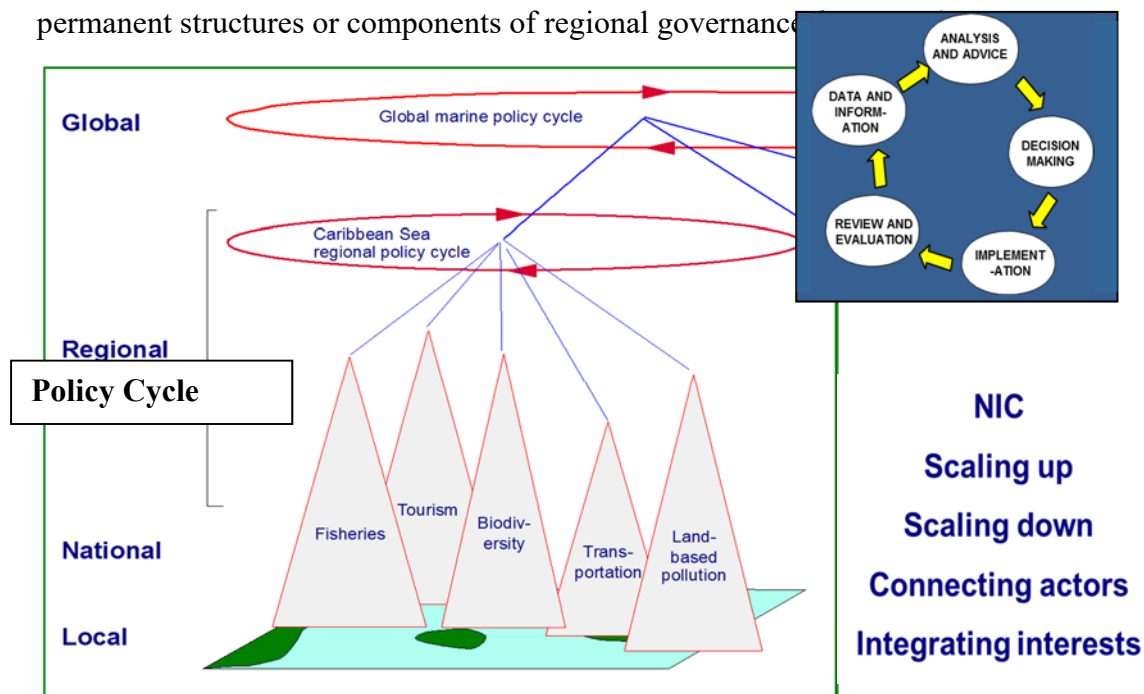


Information Sheet

National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs)

National intersectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs) are multi-level, multi-stakeholder organisational structures that facilitate effective governance through policy cycles. NICs can be seen as an operational arm of governance/policy processes, spanning several issues and economic sectors. NICs can serve as important links between regional and national levels of policy processes and play a key role in national and regional ocean governance. They are usually permanent structures or components of regional governance.



Source: McConney et al., 2016

The establishment of NICs is identified in the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) as a target at the national level for implementing ecosystem-based management (EBM) and an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) for shared living marine resource in CLME+. A well-designed NIC has the following features:

1. A comprehensive inclusion of stakeholders;

2. A supportive environment that creates opportunities for stakeholder participation and encourages individuals to become champions and leaders;
3. Be politically endorsed both administratively and legally with clear mandates;
4. Have well-established reviewing processes for evaluating effectiveness and enhancing growth through adaptation;
5. Have national multi-level integration of sectors;
6. Facilitate bilateral linkages between national and regional government processes; and
7. Have a scope and mandate that can address specific tasks.

Given the nature of the marine governance issues in the Caribbean, addressing them will require having nationally well-coordinated, and regionally linked, intersectoral mechanisms.

One of the main objectives of this project is to improve the education and awareness of NICs as well as fisheries advisory committees (FACs) about flyingfish fisheries management, ecosystem approach to fisheries and the policy cycle. Having NICs in place is important for the effective management of our fisheries and for supporting the implementation of projects such as CLME+ Project.