



# CARICOM Ocean Governance

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# Structure and Function of the Caribbean Community



15 Member  
States

4 July 1973

5 Associate  
Member States

16 million  
citizens

1.7 million  
sqkm of EEZ



# Regional decision-making process



- The principal Organs of the Community as laid out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (**Article 10**) are:
  - (a) the Conference of Heads of Government; and
  - (b) the Community Council of Ministers which shall be the second highest organ.
- In the performance of their functions, the principal Organs shall be assisted by the following Organs:
  - (a) the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP);
  - (b) the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED);
  - (c) the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), and
  - (d) the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD).

The COTED (Article 15) shall be responsible for the promotion of trade and economic development of the Community. In particular, COTED shall *inter alia*:

- promote and develop policies and programmes to facilitate the transportation of people and goods;
- promote measures for the development of energy and natural resources
- establish and promote measures for the accelerated development of science and technology;
- promote and develop policies for the protection of and preservation of the environment and for sustainable development;
- promote and develop, in collaboration with the Council for Foreign and Community Relations, coordinated policies for the enhancement of external economic and trade relations of the Community, and

The COFCOR ( Article 16 ) shall *inter alia*:

***“co-ordinate, in close consultation with the Member States, Community policy on international issues with the policies of States in the wider Caribbean Region in order to arrive at common positions in relation to Third States, groups of States and relevant inter-governmental organisations”***



# Ocean Resources in The Revised Treaty



## ARTICLE 58: Natural Resource Management

1. The Community shall adopt effective measures to assist the Member States in the management of their natural resources in support of the transformation and sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

2. The Community shall adopt measures for:

(a) the effective management of the soil, air and all water resources, the exclusive economic zone and all other maritime areas under the national jurisdiction of the Member States; and

(b) the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources of the Member States, especially those of important medicinal and traditional value.



## **ARTICLE 60.3:**

The Community shall collaborate with the Member States: (a) the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks; (b) ongoing surveillance of their exclusive economic zones; (c) the delimitation of maritime boundaries; and (d) safeguarding their marine environment from pollutants and hazardous wastes.



# Regional Institutions coordination



# Technical Advisory Group

## **Technical Advisory Group of CARICOM Institutions on Ocean Matters (TAGCOM)**

1. Provide overarching policy guidance to Member States on emerging issues of importance in our ocean spaces.
2. Review information on scientific developments and provide updates to the CARICOM Member States on scientific developments of relevance to the Region and applicable policy recommendations.
3. Articulate a CARICOM Specific Plan for Observation of the Decade of Ocean Science.
4. Provide technical guidance as requested to Member States during their participation in various international fora on oceans.
5. Provide guidance to the Secretary-General on matters pertaining to economic and social issues impacting our Region's ocean resources.
6. Raise the Region's profile and participation in International Law as it relates to Ocean Governance.
7. Promote gender inclusiveness in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as it relates to the Region's oceans.
8. Identify capacity needs with a view to determining a platform for capacity building.



# Other regional governance initiatives



# Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

- Established in 2002 as a regional institution of CARICOM
- “To promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”
- Ministerial Council, Fisheries Forum, CRFM Secretariat, permanent seat for fisherfolk organizations
- Common Fisheries Policy (2020)- binding treaty focusing on cooperation and collaboration of Caribbean people, fishermen and their governments in conserving, managing and sustainably utilising fisheries and related ecosystems

# Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem

- EBM and LME approach to regional governance or shared living marine resources and transboundary issues
- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) → Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
- Political Endorsement of 10-year SAP (2015-2025)
- Civil Society Strategic Action Plan called “People Managing Oceans”
- MOU between fisheries bodies (WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM)
- Regional strategies
- Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) to “enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment
- SOMEE reporting
- Permanent Coordination Mechanism

# Regional Coordination in high seas negotiations

- “the establishment of an **Interim Advisory Group (IAG)** of experts” to support coordinated CARICOM negotiations in the BBNJ process- COFCOR, 2016
- Negotiated as CARICOM
- Thematic leads, capacity building workshops, preparatory meetings and caucus, real-time coordination in negotiations
- to establish a **Multi- stakeholder Advisory Group** to support follow up including, raising awareness and outreach and preparing the region to participate in the first Conference of the Parties. – COTED,2023



# Challenges and Needs



- Diversity of geographic and thematic scopes
- Parallel decision-making risk. Need for intersectoral coordination at all levels
- Institutional gaps
- Financial and human resources (improved training and building capacity)  
(National and Regional)
- Lack of sufficient data (national and regional level)
- Need for a comprehensive ocean policy and Supporting regional mechanisms

# Thank you

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