The Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Governance Framework as a model for the Wider Caribbean Region

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Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean

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Format

- Terminology
- Why do we need a governance framework?
- What is its purpose?
- How should it be designed?

Terminology (Young 2008)

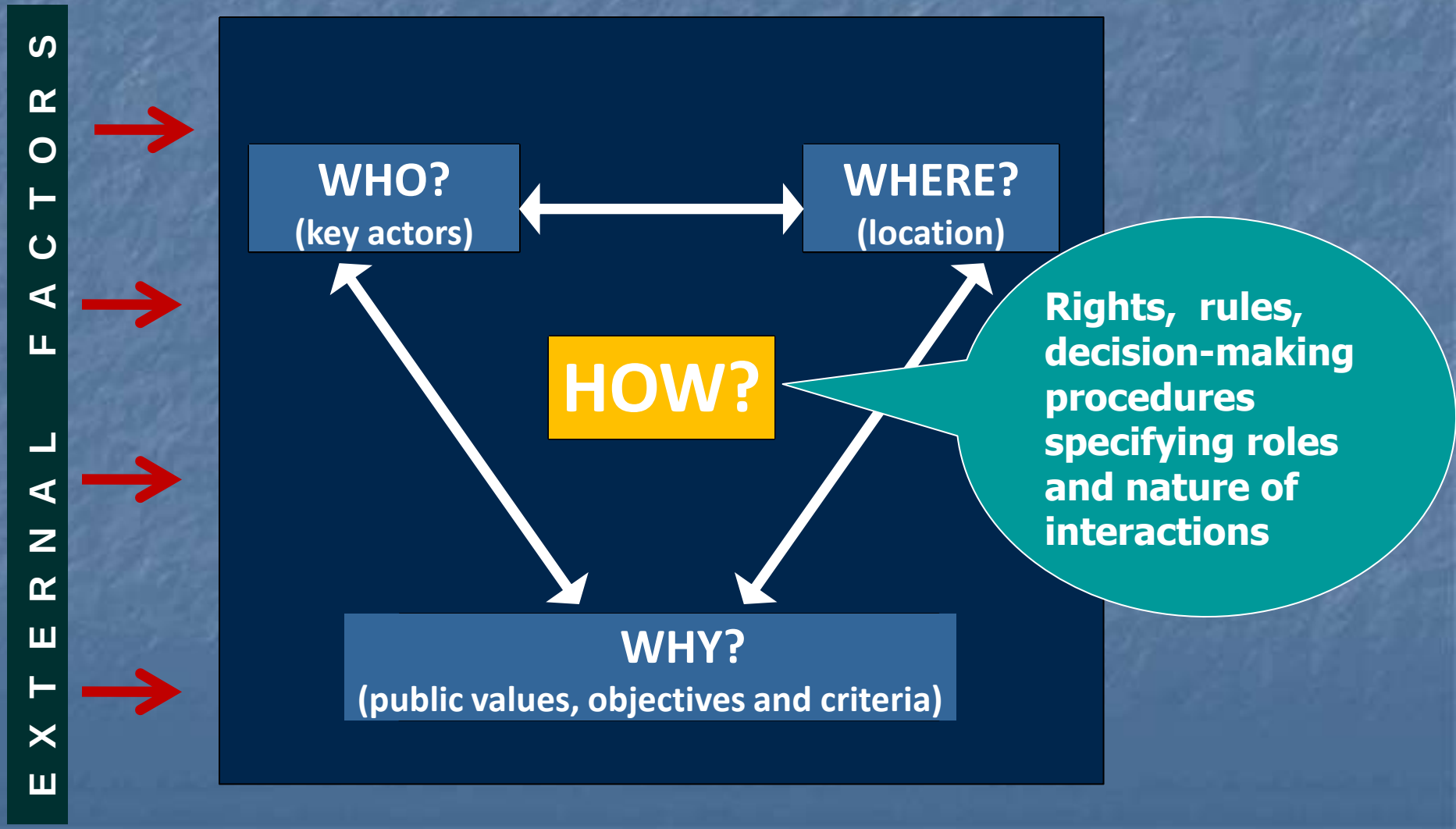
Governance:
Process of steering or guiding societies towards socially desirable collective outcomes and away from those that are undesirable

Institution:
A cluster of rights, rules and decision-making procedures that give rise to social practice, assigns roles and responsibilities and guides interactions among the occupants of the roles

Governance system:
An institutional arrangement (formal and informal) created to perform the function of governance with regard to a specific society and a specific issue(s).

Organisation:
An entity responsible for administering rights, rules and decision-making procedures, i.e. members share a common purpose

Context-Driven Elements of the Decision-Making Process



Factors affecting quality of decision-making outcomes – 4 P's

- Identification of the nature of the **problem** and understanding of it by the key players (organizations and individuals);
- Assessment of the **politics, political structures and policies** causing and affecting the implementation of possible solutions to the problem;
- Level of information gathering on the characteristics of the **players** and the motivation behind their possible exercise of influence; and,
- Assessment of current **practices** and metapractices that can affect possible solutions.

Why do we need an effective LME governance framework?

- Human-dominated Ecosystems
  - Coastal development
  - Pollution
  - Over-exploitation
  - Climate change
- Institutions serve as a major determinant in advancing key principles
  - Equity
  - Efficiency
  - Sustainability

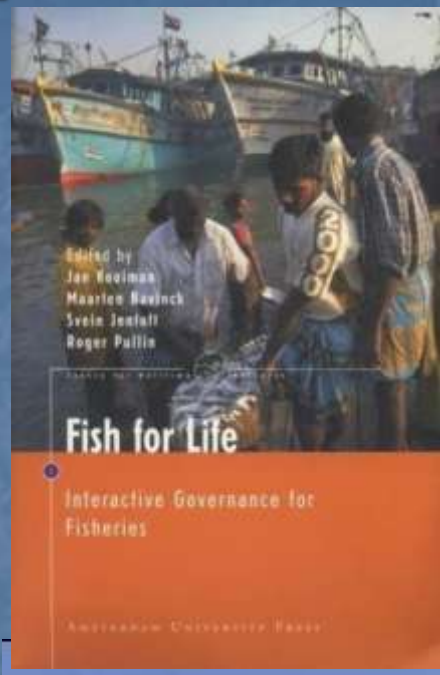
Issues of large scale and complexity in the Wider Caribbean

- Lots of technical work has been done
- Has little impact on governance
- Many local efforts at management
- Uncoordinated and disconnected at regional level
- Duplication of effort

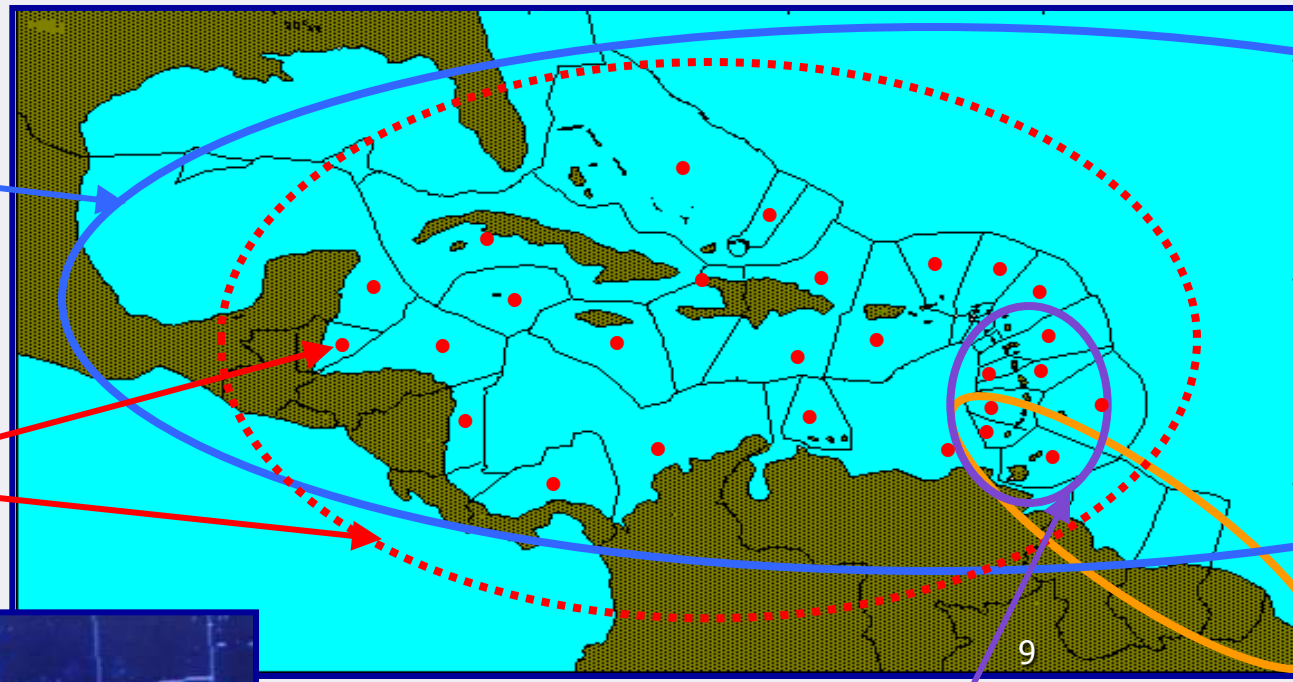
What is its purpose?

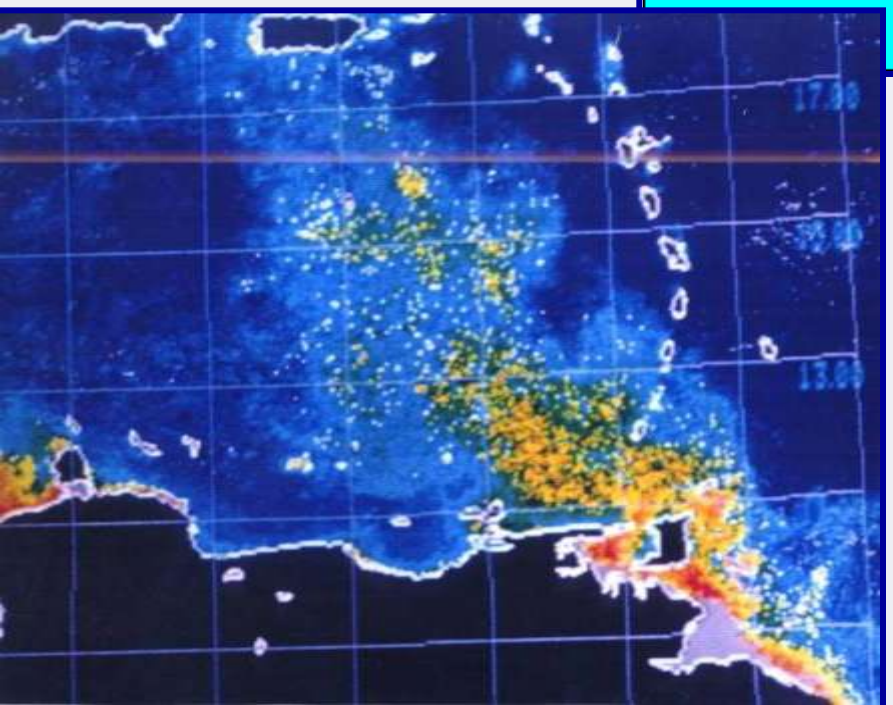
To address 3 interrelated orders of human activities in the Caribbean Sea:

- **Problem solving** or day-to-day management of a particular issue that has been identified
- The **institutional frameworks and arrangements** in place for solving problems associated with the issue
- Overarching **meta-governance**, which is about the principles and values that underlie the institutional frameworks.



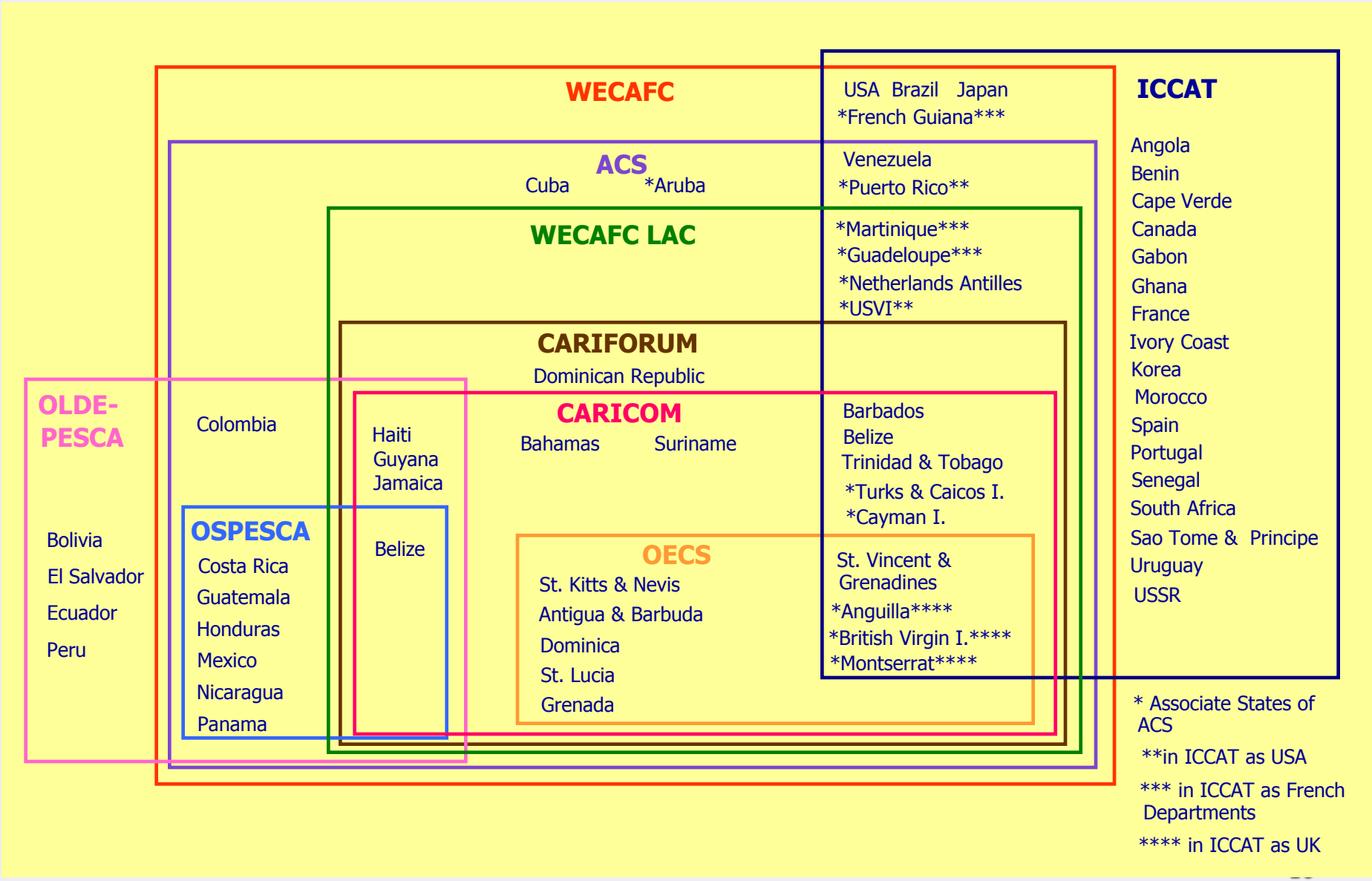
Natural resource scale





Institutional Scale

Overlapping and nested fisheries related organisations



Desired Design Characteristics

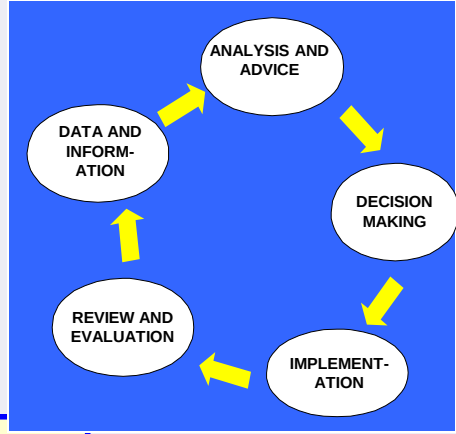
LME governance framework must embody some key properties as "one size does not fit all":

- Scale - both geographical scale and institutional scale;
- Context – co-occurring of different types of context-specific governance interactions and processes;
- Evaluative - different scale and process appropriate indicators can be used in different parts of the framework; and,
- Adaptive - processes must be iterative on time scales that are appropriate to adaptation and learning.

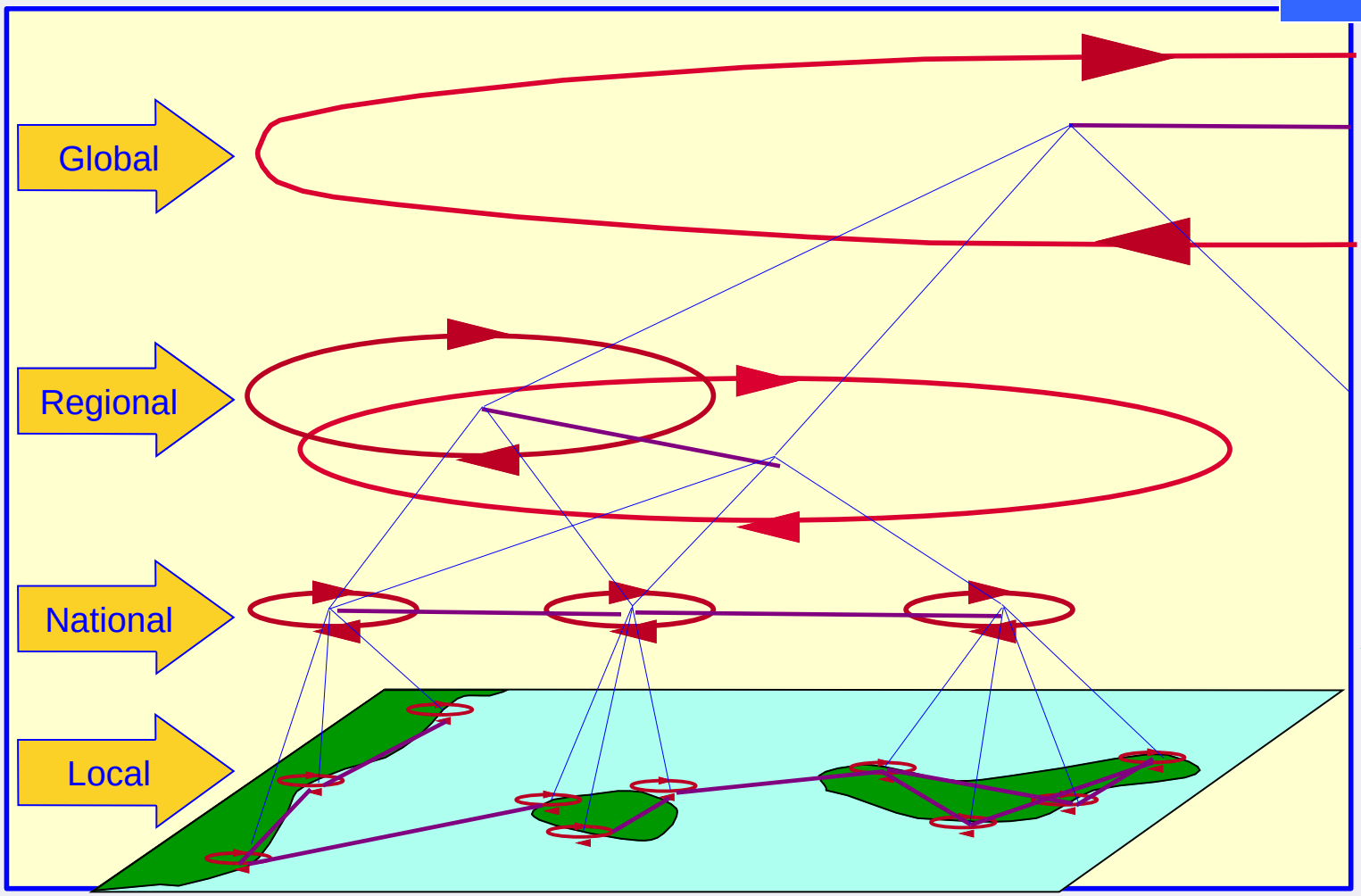
Intervention Requirements of the Framework

- It must help to identify and reform institutions that are '**misfits**' and unable to accommodate systems that are highly dynamic, multi-level and subject to a high degree of uncertainty;
- It must accommodate the **interplay** that necessarily exist between one set of institutional arrangements that exists for a given set of issues and another; and,
- It must allow for **scaling** to be used as a means to address equity concerns and to facilitate effort at all appropriate levels to solve problems.

The LME Governance Framework



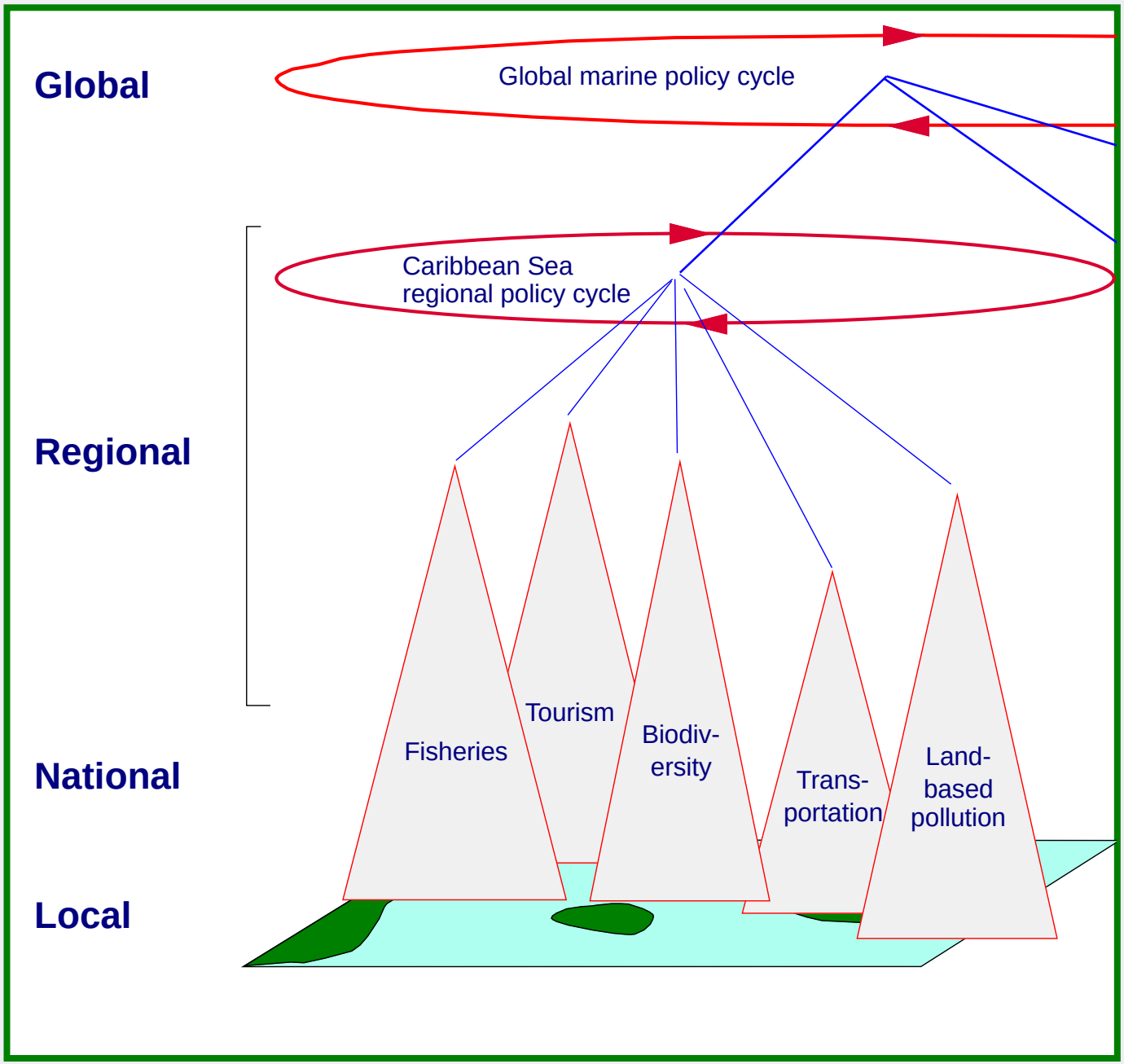
A multi-level policy-cycle based governance framework



Must be:

- Complete
- Linked vertically
- Linked laterally
- Diversity of cycles

LME Governance Framework



Governance framework diagnostic and priority-setting/interventionist advantages

Governance framework provides:

- Way for those involved at all levels to see where they fit in;
- Way to break the problem into manageable units through diagnosis;
- Targeted interventions to establish and/or enhance specific parts of the framework

Building the LME Governance Framework

"Learning by doing"

Long-term goal

Fully-functional policy cycles at all appropriate levels with the appropriate vertical and lateral linkages.

Framework building interventions

- Interventions can be:
  - Approached incrementally by targeting deficient areas
  - Specifically targeted at:
    1. Establishing or completing policy cycles
    2. Building or enhancing linkages