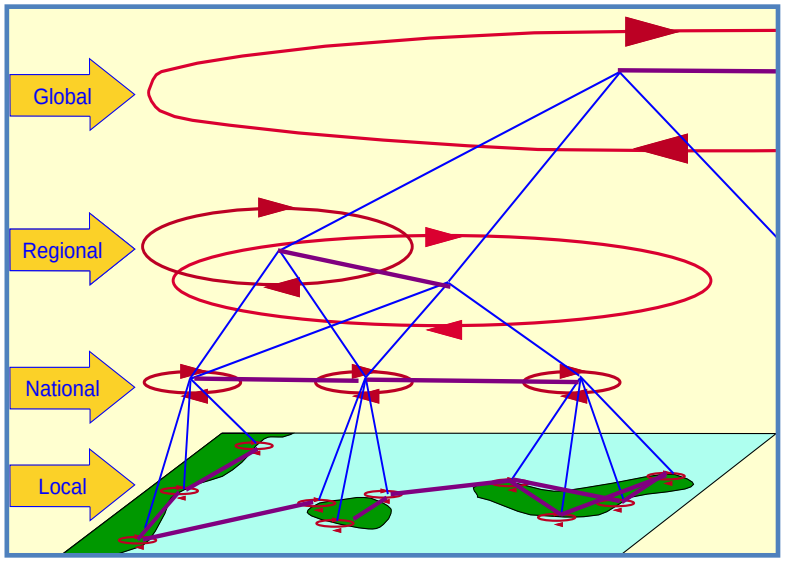
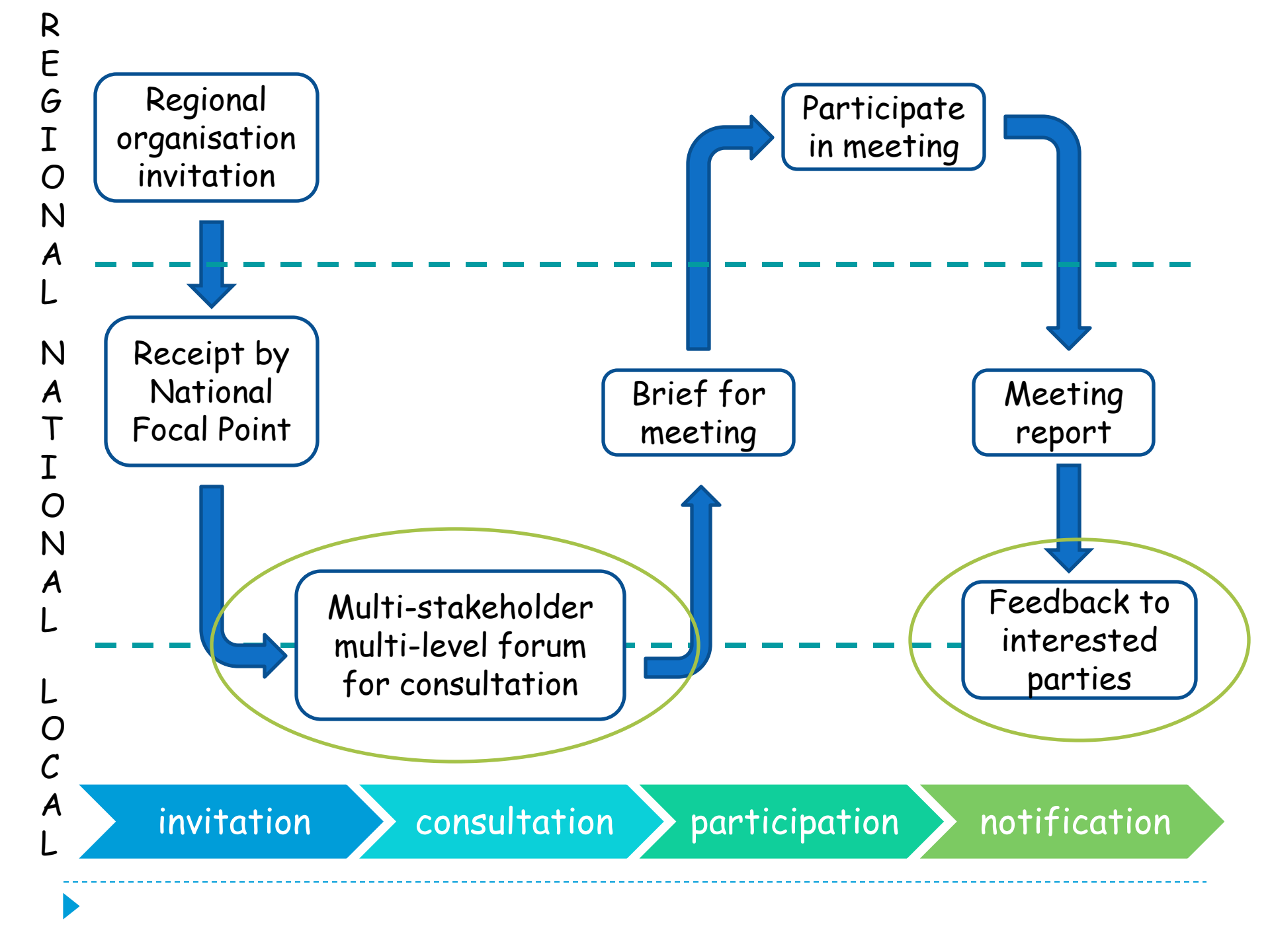
National level interactions with regional organisations



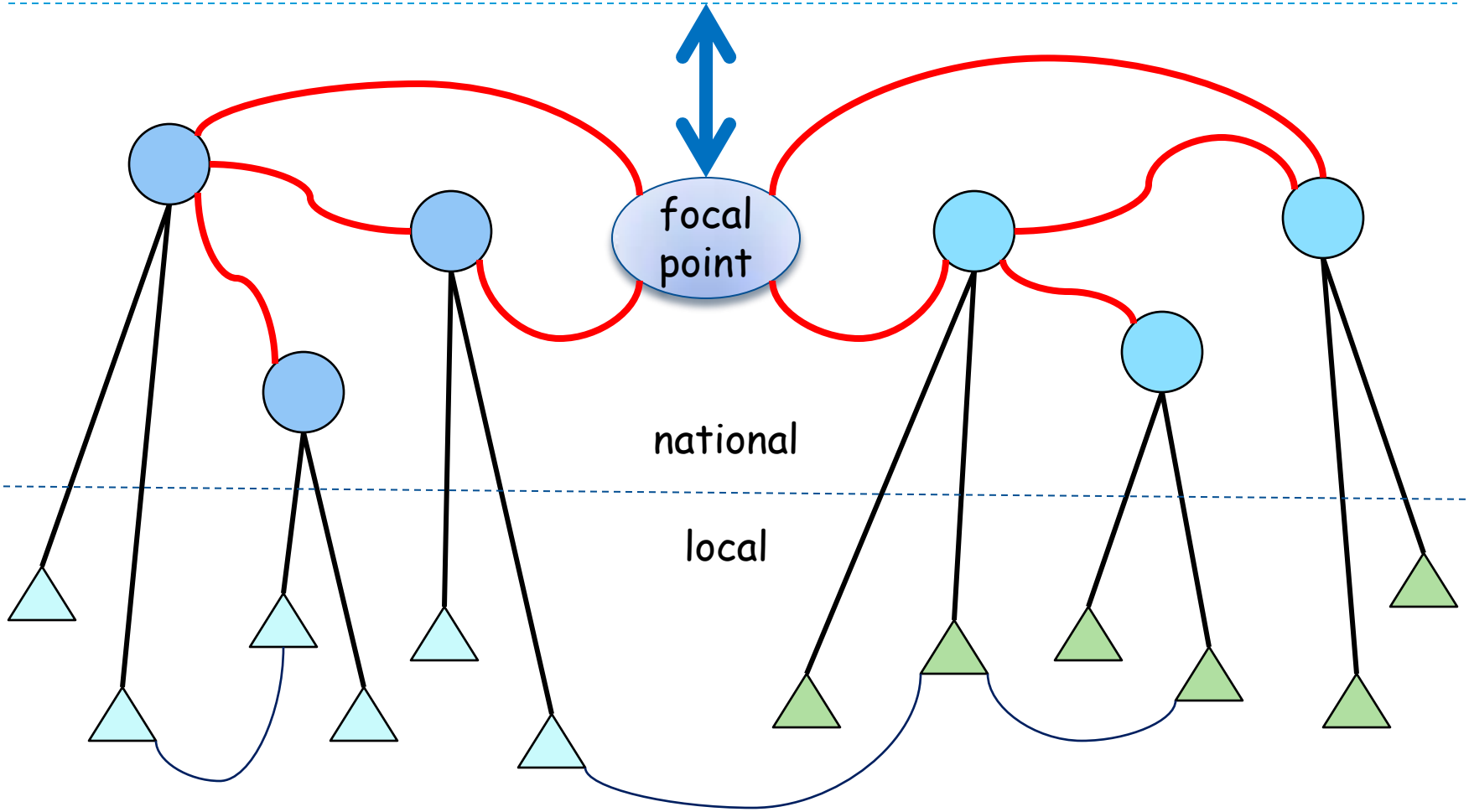
Patricia Goff, Lucia Fanning, Robin Mahon, **Patrick McConney**, Kemraj Parsram, Tim Shaw and Bertha Simmons

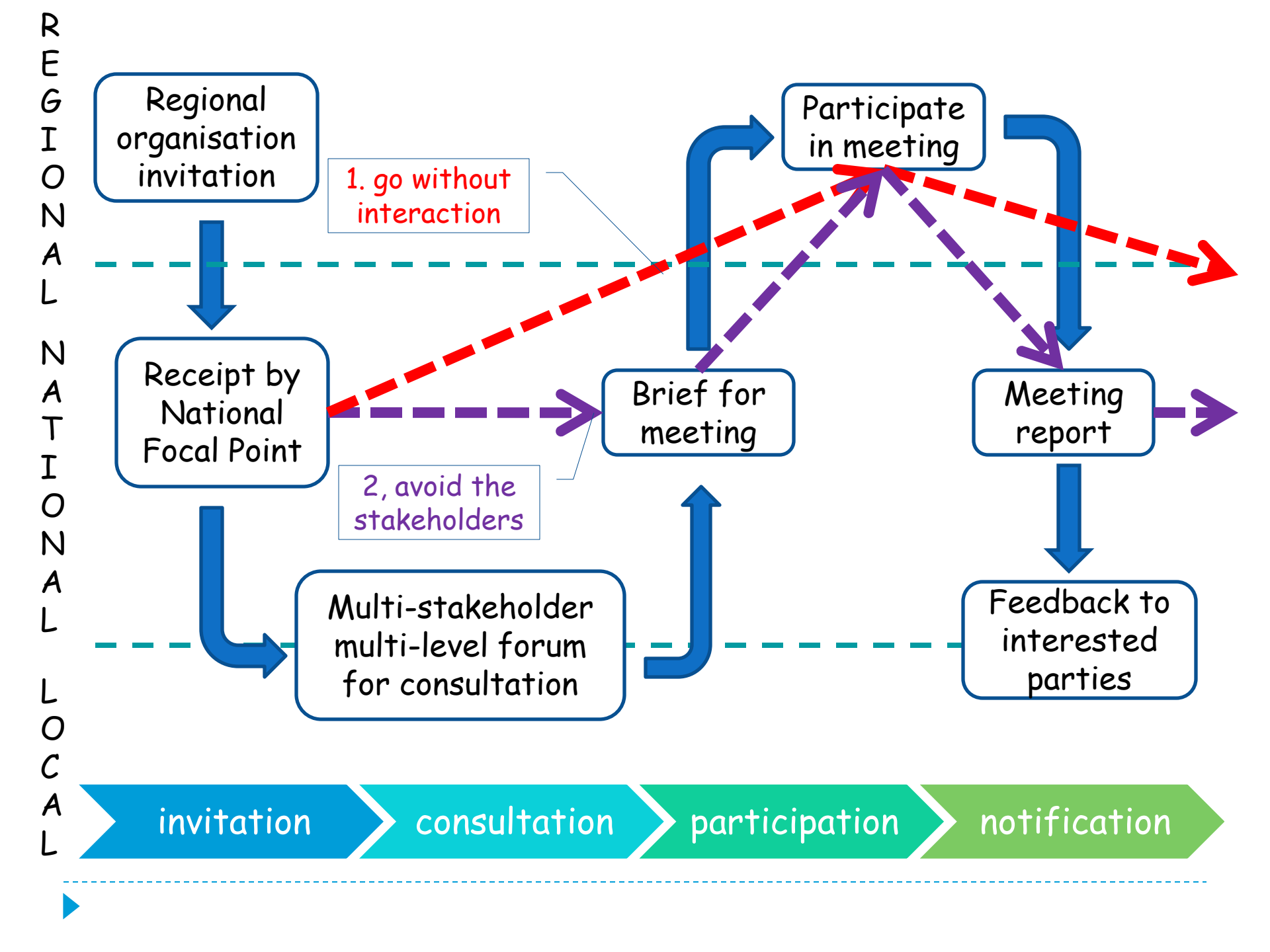
What interests us

- The Caribbean Sea Commission and other regional organisations inevitably hold meetings at which genuinely national representation is expected, but
  - (How) is genuine national representation generated?
  - Who are the players and what are the processes?
  - How resilient are national representation routines?
  - Why do patterns of preparation and feedback change?
  - What learning from research guides improvements?

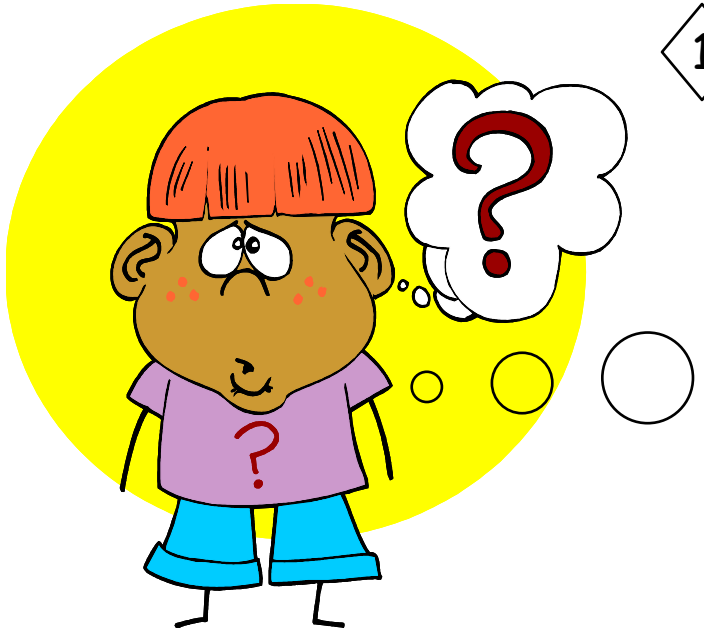

REGIONAL
NATIONAL
LOCAL
Regional organisation invitation
Receipt by National Focal Point
Multi-stakeholder multi-level forum for consultation
Brief for meeting
Participate in meeting
Meeting report
Feedback to interested parties
invitation
consultation
participation
notification

Multi-stakeholder multi-level consultation




REGIONAL NATIONAL LOCAL
Regional organisation invitation
1. go without interaction
Participate in meeting
Receipt by National Focal Point
Brief for meeting
Meeting report
2, avoid the stakeholders
Multi-stakeholder multi-level forum for consultation
Feedback to interested parties
invitation
consultation
participation
notification

Sustainable Governance of the Caribbean Sea: Exploring Horizontal and Vertical Linkages for Effective Governance



1

2

Let's do a small study to get some answers!

one earth FUTURE

CERMES

ACUNS
THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL ON THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

Institute of International Relations at UWI

Methods

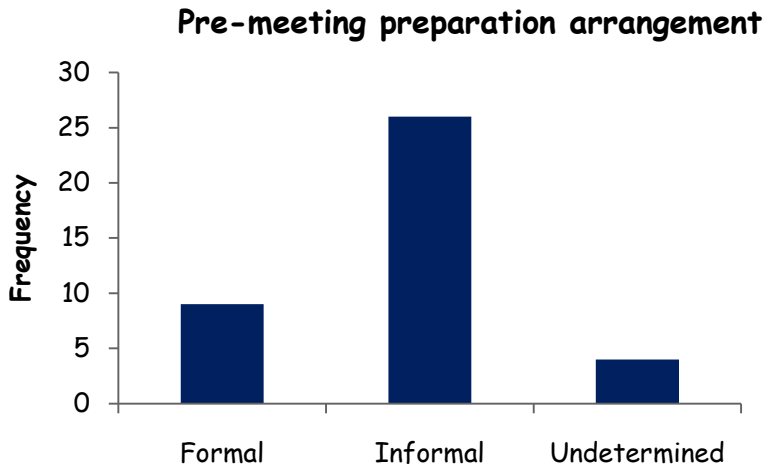
Preliminary assessment: Telephone survey solicited 3 expert opinions per country (39 countries) on national delegates' preparatory and feedback communication regarding meetings of intergovernmental agencies and/or regional projects dealing with marine matters.

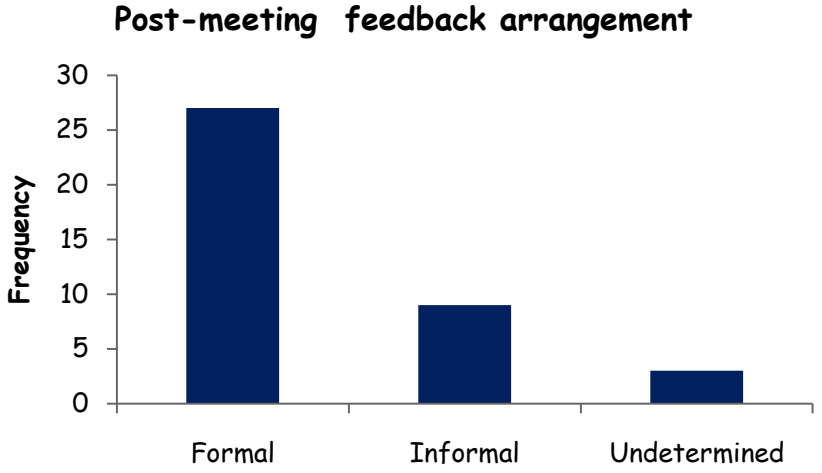
Detailed case studies: Belize, BVI, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Grenada, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Colombia visits.

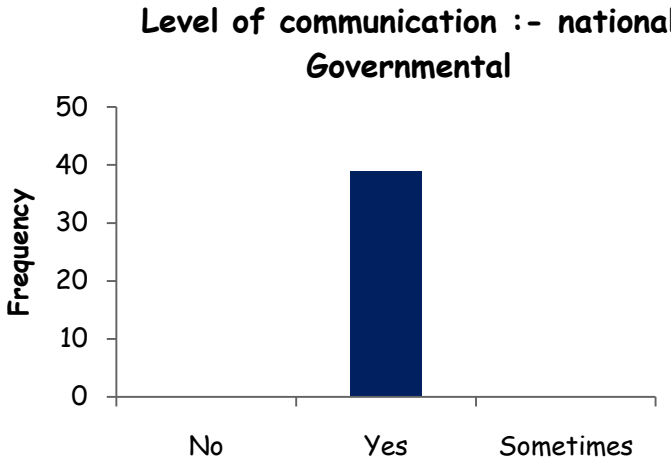
Face-to-face interviews with a selection of government, NGOs and private sector agencies.

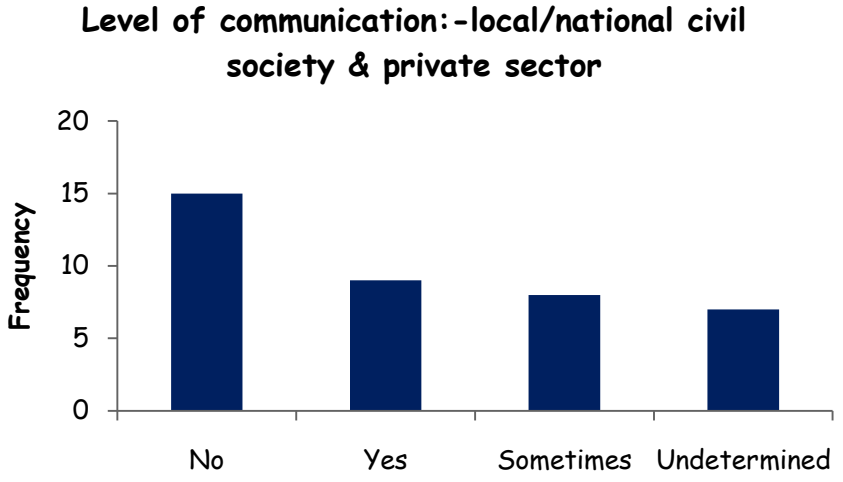
Questions regarding preparation and feedback relevant to the two most recent meetings of the UNEP IGM and the CLME project or other relevant regional meeting of a similar stature.

Preliminary assessment of communication arrangements

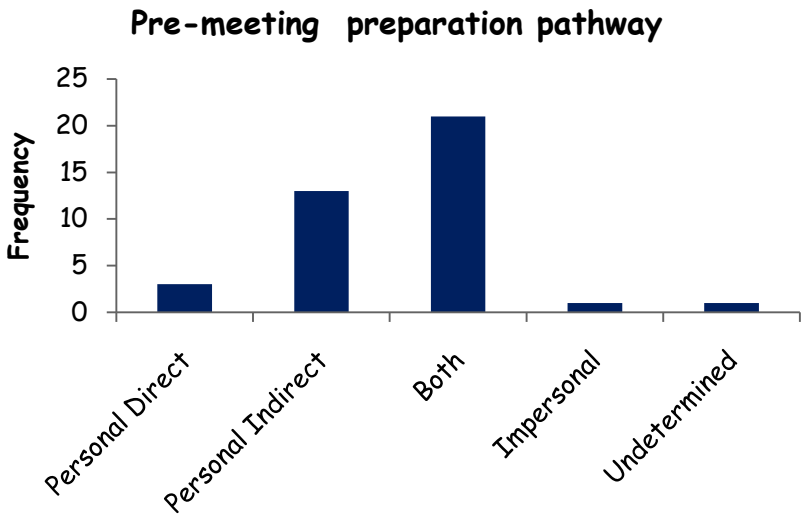


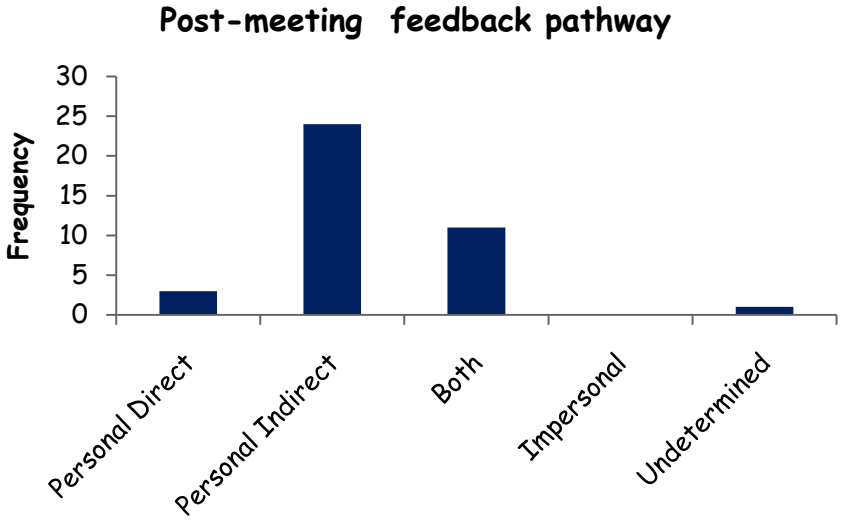


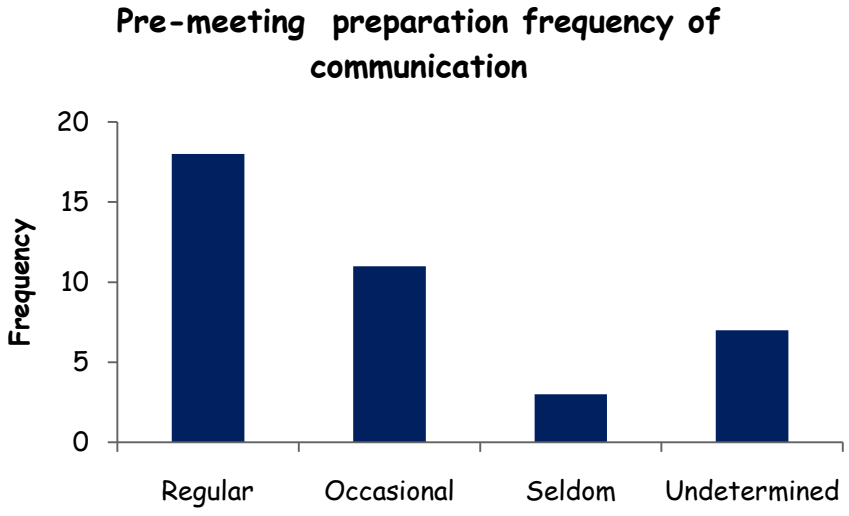


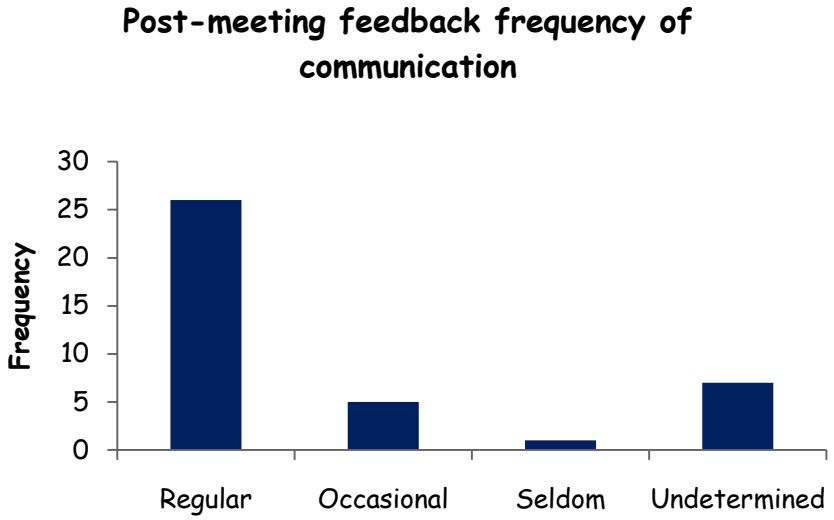


Preliminary assessment of means and frequency of communication

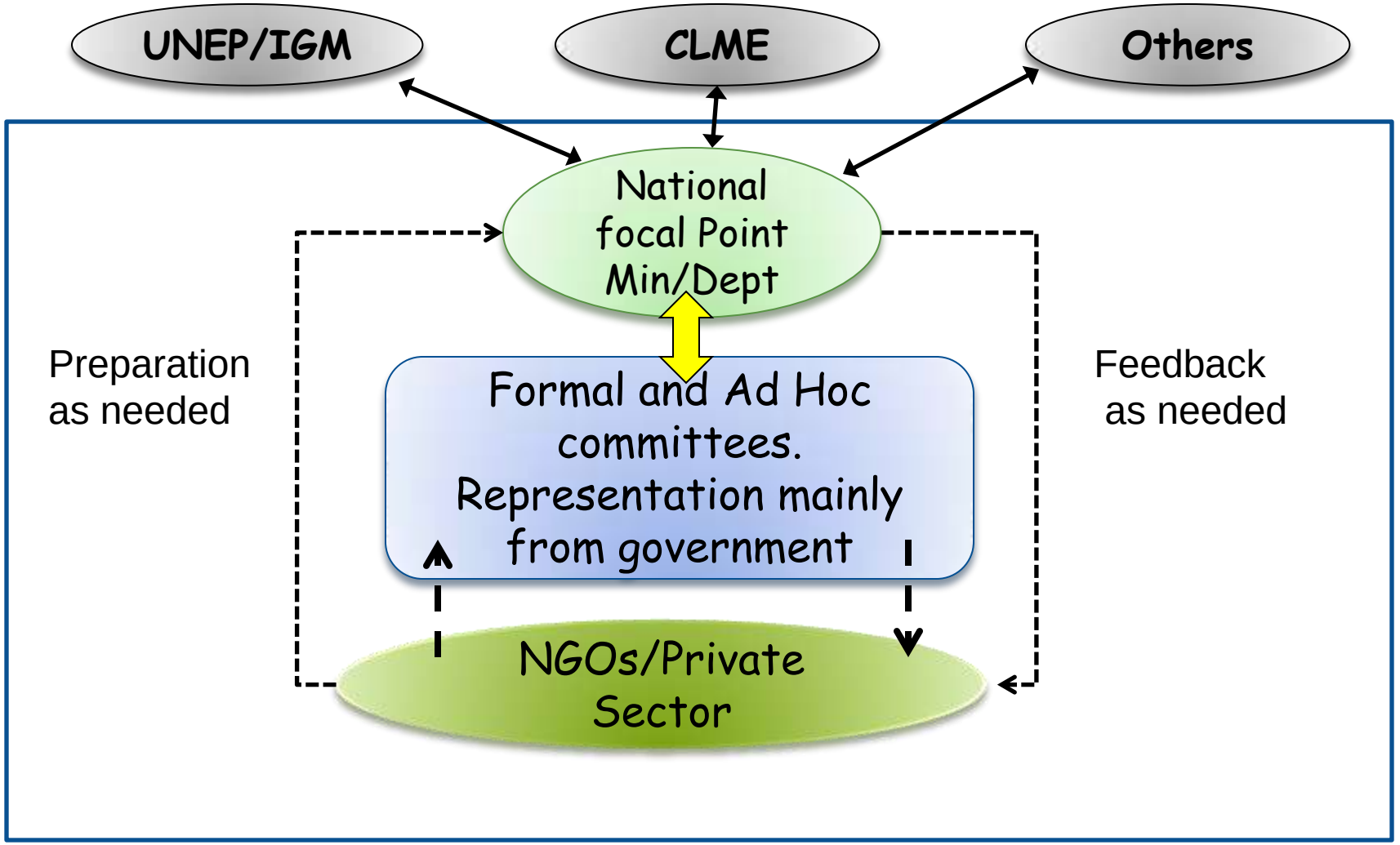




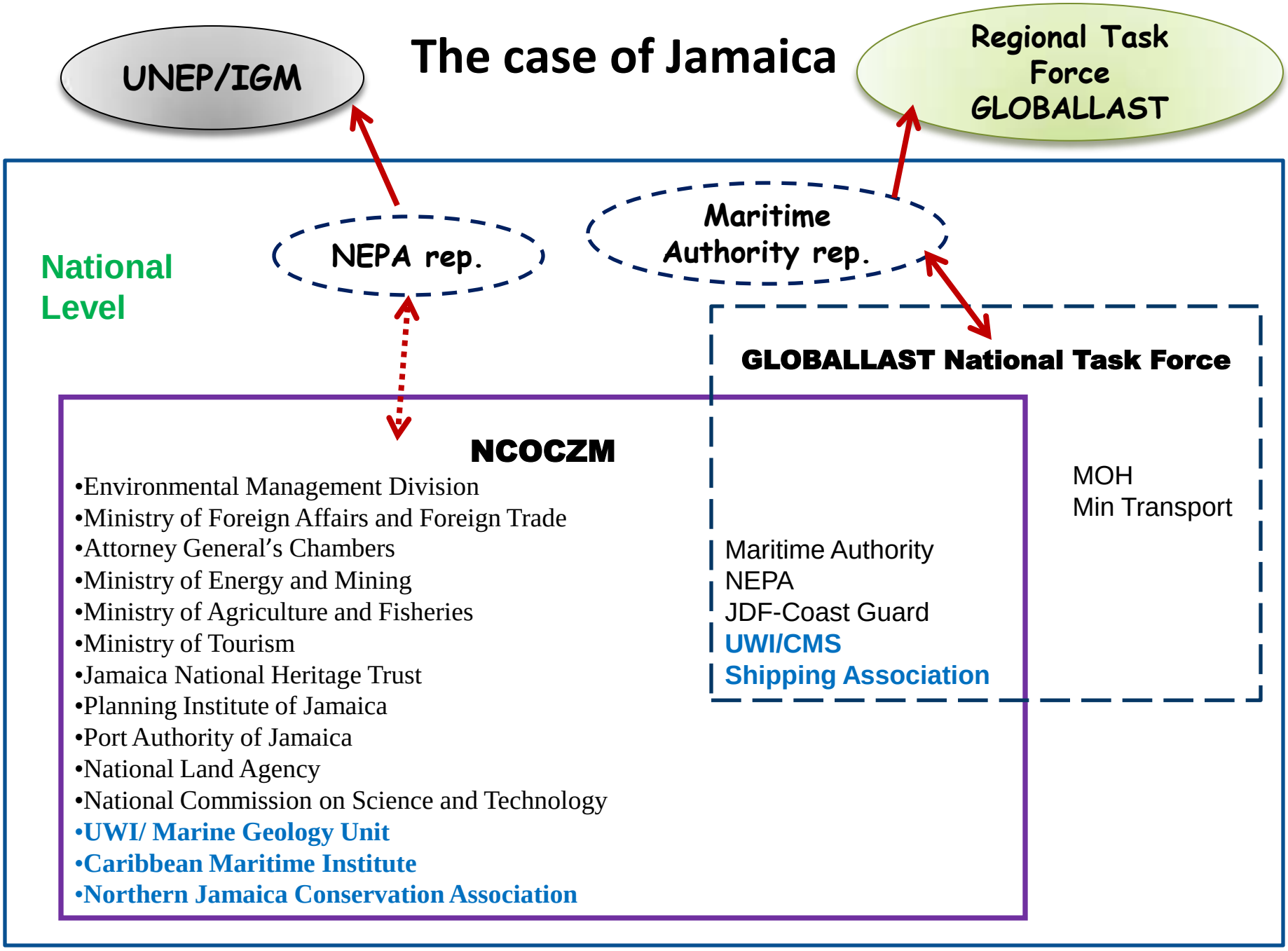




Example of national interaction/communication



The case of Jamaica



Some findings

- Sectoral/fragmented approach reduces effectiveness
- Ad hoc (in)formal committees hold infrequent meetings
- Multi-stakeholder arrangements recognized as promising
- Inadequate civil society /private sector representation
- Narrow forum agendas restrict input into marine meetings
- Post-meeting feed-back and communication is irregular
- Weak NGOs and CBOs make communication challenging
- Inappropriate representative = ineffective representation
- Informal relations/social networks key for communication
- Patterns of interaction are typically dynamic and complex
- **We are still extracting learning from the key findings**