



TRAINING MODULE



Achieving National and Sectoral Development Priorities

The use of integrated environmental assessment
tools for improved MEA implementation



International
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IEA Module

Achieving National and Sectoral Development Priorities: Using integrated environmental assessment tools for improved MEA implementation

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List of Acronyms

AIA	Advance informed agreement
AUC	African Union Commission
CARICOM	Caribbean Community Secretariat
CBD	Convention on Biological Biodiversity
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CNIRD	Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development
DPSIR	Drivers Pressures State Impact Responses
EEA	The European Environmental agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook
IEA	Integrated Environmental Assessment
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IPCC	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed & Coastal Areas Management
LBS	Protocol Concerning Pollution From Land-Based Sources And Activities To The Cartagena Convention For The Protection And Development Of The Marine Environment Of The Wider Caribbean Region
LMO	Living modified organisms
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MPA	Marine Protected Area
OECS	High Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas And Wildlife To The Convention For The Protection And Development Of The Marine Environment Of The Wider Caribbean Region
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP CEP	UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP ROLAC	UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Overview

Over the last decade governments around the world have come under pressure to tackle a growing array of environmental sustainability risks and manage the flow of ecosystem goods and services. Recognizing the need for coordinated action, governments have negotiated and entered into many multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that often include concrete commitments. Based on available evidence on environmental trends and conditions, there is clearly a gap between MEA commitments and action (Victor et al., 1998). The lack of effective action is clearly unsustainable and, besides raising questions about accountability, it also contributes to growing economic and human risks and costs of environmental degradation.

Experts across the Caribbean had the following to say regarding challenges in national-level MEA implementation:

“We need to highlight what the national benefit is of the MEAs. The minister needs to see how and why it is good for the country.”

“What is the national development plan and how does the MEA fit into this. We need to show that the MEA fits into the plan and is not additional work.”

“We need to move beyond the perception that a specific MEA belongs to a single Ministry and is not relevant to others”

The reasons for the often weak link between MEAs and mainstream development mechanisms are complex. Addressing them requires an integrated approach that must include, as an important component, the assessment of the interrelationships between environmental trends and outcomes and their policy drivers, both from a retrospective and forward-looking perspective. The assessment must cover not only environmental policies, but all relevant policies and policy options that significantly affect environmental outcomes, including as a priority those that are agreed upon in MEAs.

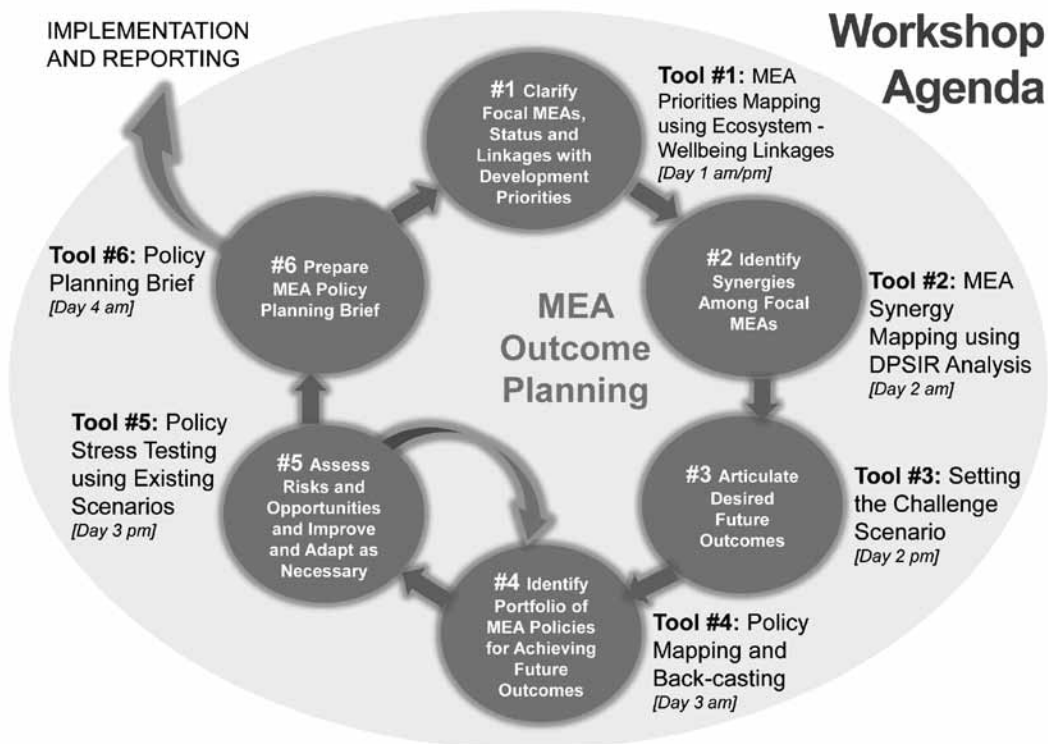
This module is designed to convey innovative integrated environmental assessment (IEA) tools that can generate win-win scenarios for achieving national development priorities in the Caribbean through more effective MEA implementation. Some of the same tools have already been used in and can build on the experience of those countries of the Caribbean that already have an IEA process in place and have published integrated environmental outlook reports.

The module addresses these challenges through a series of six hands-on working sessions, each representing a critical step in MEA Outcome Planning (Figure 1). Each session features a specific IEA tool that helps to more cogently demonstrate the relevance of the MEA to national and sectoral development priorities and the important synergies among MEAs. The sessions and featured tools include:

1. **Clarify Focal MEAs, Status and Linkages with Development Priorities**—This session features an *MEA Priorities Mapping Tool* designed to help demonstrate the relevance of an MEA to national development priorities by identifying the ecosystem services supported by the MEA and exploring how each of these services advances human well-being.
2. **Identify Synergies Among Focal MEAs**—This session features an *MEA Synergies Mapping Tool* designed to help illustrate the commonalities among the various MEAs that have been ratified by a country, and thus increase the efficiency of implementation efforts. This tool utilizes the Driving Forces-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) analysis framework to obtain a better systems and comprehensive view of an MEA.

3. **Envision Desired Future Outcomes**—This session uses insights gleaned from the first two sessions to provide guidance for identifying key progress indicators and targets related to future MEA outcomes. It sets an *MEA Challenge Scenario* for the future, recognizing the synergies among MEAs and their relevance to national development priorities.
4. **Identify a Portfolio of MEA Policies for Achieving Future Outcomes**—This session features a *Policy Mapping Tool* that uses the DPSIR analysis framework to inventory the key policy options in support of a specific MEA, identify major gaps, and make recommendations for achieving the desired future MEA outcomes.
5. **Assess Risks and Opportunities and Improve and Adapt as Necessary**—This session features a *Policy Stress Testing Tool* to help identify the MEA implementation risks and opportunities under different plausible future scenarios.
6. **Prepare MEA Policy Planning Brief**—This session helps workshop participants compile all of their results from the workshop into an *MEA Policy Brief* designed to help politicians and policy-makers understand, with supporting evidence, the importance of successful MEA implementation for advancing national development priorities.

Figure 1. Steps in MEA Outcome Planning



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Course Materials

1. Introduction

Noting the persistent gap between the need, availability and systematic use of scientifically credible, policy relevant information in policy-making, UNEP's Governing Council through the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building recognized the priority of capacity building for integrated environmental assessment (IEA) and reporting at global and the sub-global levels.¹ In collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and other partners, UNEP has developed and deployed an extensive set of IEA capacity development materials that have contributed over time to a growing number of institutionalized IEA processes and reports.²

Recognizing the fit between the need for strengthening Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) implementation on the one hand and the availability of strategic guidance in MEAs and related capacity building on the other, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP ROLAC) has initiated the development and deployment of this capacity-building effort targeting senior level national policymakers.

1.1 Challenges for MEA Implementation

In preparing this training module, experts from across the Caribbean were contacted and asked a series of questions to better understand the challenges related to MEA implementation and the use of IEA information in policy design. The expert responses illuminated three core challenges.

"We need to highlight what the national benefit is of the MEAs. The minister needs to see how and why it is good for the country."

"What is the national development plan and how does the MEA fit into this. We need to show that the MEA fits into the plan and is not additional work."

"The tendency is not to take on a specific MEA and due to a perception that it belongs to a single Ministry and not relevant to others"

Challenge #1: Clarifying the vertical relevance of MEAs. The large number of MEAs to be implemented, in contrast to the limited human resource capacity in a country, points to the importance of clarifying the relevance of MEAs to national development priorities. Furthermore, MEAs tend to fall under the responsibility of environment departments from the political and governance point of view, but these departments are often under-resourced and too

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