



Science to Policy Workshop

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Background

- **Decision CP7/17: *Science to Policy Engagements***
 - ❖ *To request* the Secretariat to hold and encourage partners to support regular science to policy dialogues to provide continuous interaction between the scientists, civil society, private sector, policy and decision makers.
- The Science to Policy Consultative Meeting for the Western Indian Ocean – August 2014 in Naivasha, Kenya

Key questions...

- Why do we need Science to Policy interaction?
 - Provide an opportunity for policy makers, practitioners articulate their data and information needs, and thereby influence the setting of research priorities
 - Enhance the understanding of scientists' on the regions' decision-making processes and improve the scientists contribution to policy
 - There is no forum for policy makers for reviewing major scientific findings such as Regional State of the Coast Report, findings of various reports such as birds and sharks status
 - Foster dialogue and build trust between policy/decision-makers and scientific community
- How to improve research uptake and utility in making decisions?
- How to develop mechanisms for sustained interaction between these communities?

Forum of Academic and Research Institution (FARI)

- Established during the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention held in Antananarivo, Madagascar in July 2004.
- With the main purpose of facilitating the sharing of information between these institutions and the Nairobi Convention as well as amongst themselves;
- enhancing cooperation amongst universities and research institutions in the region; and
- coordinating and facilitating identification of opportunities for collaborative research that are in line with the work programme of the Nairobi Convention.

What is being suggested?

- Establish a formal dialogue process between science and policy
- Who should be involve in the processe? Senior representatives of the Nairobi Convention Focal Institutions? Scientists through FARI?
- Should FARI be mandated to act as a formal advisory scientific and technical body with a mandate to provide advisory services to the governments?

Function of the proposed Science to Policy Dialogue

- Act as an intermediary or boundary agent between science, management and users
- Develop strategies to improve the recognition of coastal and marine issues in national research agendas
- Provide opportunity for networking including facilitating access to experts, data, and information
- Review assessments in support of the COP agenda and decisions
- Engage with global and regional processes in relation to science-policy interface.
- Actively engage in issuing position papers on issues of regional importance

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!