



**‘STRENGTHENING PRINCIPLED OCEAN GOVERNANCE NETWORKS -
TRANSFERRING LESSONS FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO THE WIDER OCEAN GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY’**

PROGOVNET

The world ocean is changing at what appears to be an exponential rate. The dual influences of a growing population, situated increasingly along the world’s coasts, plus accelerating climate change are viewed as major transformative influences. When diminishing resources and increased physical and chemical insults are added to this mix, the oceans are rapidly becoming the focus of growing contention and dispute. In the face of these changes, there is a growing imperative to put into practice broadly accepted practical mechanisms to encourage nations to cooperate, collaborate and move toward common principles of governance.

Responding to this challenge, **PROGOVNET** is a two-year project (2008-2009), funded by the Nippon Foundation in collaboration with Dalhousie University (Marine Affairs Program and the Marine & Environmental Law Institute), the International Ocean Institute – Canada and the University of the West Indies (Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies and Caribbean Law Institute Centre). For additional information, please contact lucia.fanning@dal.ca or rmahon@cavehill.uwi.edu

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to understand the role networks can play in the successful implementation of a principled ocean governance regime for the Wider Caribbean and to use the lessons learned to develop a regional ocean governance framework that can be adapted by other ocean governance communities throughout the world.

Building on current initiatives ongoing in the Caribbean, the objectives of the project are:

- (1) Establish strong institution-to-institution linkages between Dalhousie University, the University of the West Indies and other institutional partners to support long-term collaborative applied research in areas relating to principled ocean governance;
- (2) Construct a conceptual framework for testing that supports the development of principled ocean governance networks within the Caribbean and elsewhere;
- (3) Investigate and strengthen the linkages that exist among current networks involved in ocean governance at multiple scales in the Wider Caribbean;
- (4) Increase the capacities of members of Caribbean ocean governance networks to develop and implement mechanisms in support of principled ocean governance at multiple scales throughout the Wider Caribbean;
- (5) Facilitate the incorporation of the research results into initiatives related to principled ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean and elsewhere.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND OUTPUTS

The program elements constitute the mechanisms of interaction and transfer that will lead to the development of a regional ocean governance network framework as a model for use by the broader ocean community worldwide and improved governance capacity in the Caribbean. The main components by which this will be accomplished are: capacity development through graduate level and short course training; collaborative research linked to existing initiatives such as the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, the Marine Resource Governance (MARGOV) Project and the Sustainable Grenadines (SUSGREN) Project; and, dissemination of knowledge at seminars and a region-wide workshop bringing together key experts to advance ocean governance in the Caribbean.

Over the two years of the project, key outputs will include:

- Enhanced capacity in the field of principled ocean governance as a result of training for 7 Masters’ level students and 8 professionals trained at the IOI-Canada eight-week Ocean Governance Programme;
- Collaborative research outputs, in conjunction with initiatives such as the CLME, MARGOV and SUSGREN projects, on topics relating to effective governance for the sustainable transboundary management of large pelagics; ocean boundary disputes and transboundary cooperation; sustainability principles in ocean governance practice; compliance and enforcement in ocean governance; and information, data management and communication relevant to marine policy in the Caribbean;
- A region-wide workshop with published proceedings entitled :”Seeking a Path Towards Principled Ocean Governance: Ecosystem-based management as a case in point”;
- A seminar series focusing on showcasing the networking results of the project at both Dalhousie University and the University of the West Indies;
- A conceptual framework for strengthening principled ocean governance networking in the Caribbean and the wider ocean governance community.