Science Policy Interfaces

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Many successful Approaches

• Reports (eg GEO, Making Peace with Nature, Litter ....)

• Science-Policy Platforms (independent Resources Panel, IPBES, IPCC, Science-Policy Business Forum)

• Actor coalitions (e.g. Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP FI, WWQA)

• Campaigns (Breathe Life, Green Nudges)

• Formal UN collaborations

• Environment Initiative

• International Regimes

Photo: UN Photo/Fred Noy

https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/short-lived-climate-pollutants-slcp
A common model of SPI

**SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE**
- Thematic guidance on scientific knowledge requirements
- Peer-reviewed technical reports
- Science-policy briefs
- Referred journal articles
- Peer review of scientific assessments and science-based communications

**EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING**
- Advice in support of policy development
- Official UNCCD documents
- Formal policy decisions

**Produced by the SPI**
- SPI members & observers
  - Globally selected independent scientists
  - Regionally nominated independent scientists
  - Policymakers (CST bureau members)
  - Observers

**Produced by SPI interaction with country parties**
- Negotiated by country parties

**Communicating policy issues in need of scientific input**
Lessons learnt

- Socio-political-economic contexts have changed
- Science evolving rapidly but policy struggles to keep up the speed
- Social consciousness and awareness increasing
- Interactions between sector in society are changing
- Uncertainty and risks challenge decision making
Key Observations

A. SPI is non-linear

B. Political processes are integral to SPI functioning and evolution

C. SPI movement towards crafting solutions than stating problems

D. Need right actors, right evidence and productive exchange
The call for change...

- **UNEA Resolutions (UNEP/EA.4/Res.23 & 4/8)**: underscore the need to enhance the science-policy interface at all levels

- **MTS 2022-25**: Seeks to improve the delivery, coherence and uptake of science for transformative action; reduce time lapse between knowledge, solutions & policy

- **Our Common Agenda (A/RES/76/6)**: multilateral system under considerable stress – crucial need to ensure a prominent voice for science; system-wide solutions to the challenges of the 21st century

- **UNEP@50**: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future: A contribution to the dialogue on the Science-Policy Interface
UNEP and SPI

1. Generating Knowledge
2. Brokering
3. Synthesizing
4. Communicating
Considerations for SPI

1. Inclusive and distributive multilateralism
2. Consideration for ‘post normal science’
3. Need to strengthen natural science and social science linkages
4. Development of metrics and indicators
Role of SPI

- **Impact**: Effective, equitable, and inclusive approaches and policies on the best available scientific information
- **Trends**: Deepening understanding and options for solutions increasing
- **Influence**: Social and political influence changing
- **Response**: Need for science policy society interface
Preparing for the future!

• Addressing traditional knowledge
• Engaging a broader array of stakeholders
• Efficiency and transparency in scientific effort
• Open and accessible data information and knowledge
• Need to be able to deal with more complexity, more reflexive dynamic, agile models
• SPIs processes must help facilitate the exchange of scientific evidence and place it in the context of surrounding social values and make use of the social and behavioural sciences
Future science policy interfaces in the context of environmental management and governance
Our Common Agenda
Response by the Report

1. Inclusivity
2. Focus
3. Behaviour
4. Technology
Future Considerations

01 Environmental multilateralism relies of effective SPS interface

02 Focus on science policy society links critical making policy making transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral

03 SPS should consider knowledge as a factor than information
UNEP’s Future SPI: Four pre-conditions for success

1. Enabling open accessible and transparent data, information and knowledge

2. Placing significantly more emphasis on solutions, rather than challenges and barriers

3. Embracing a more diverse range of stakeholders, partners and

4. Engaging with a variety of decision-makers and influencers
SPI and Minamata COP

Mercury and its management

Community engagement

Enabling conditions

Creating impact