Towards Ecosystem-based Management

Best Practices and Governance

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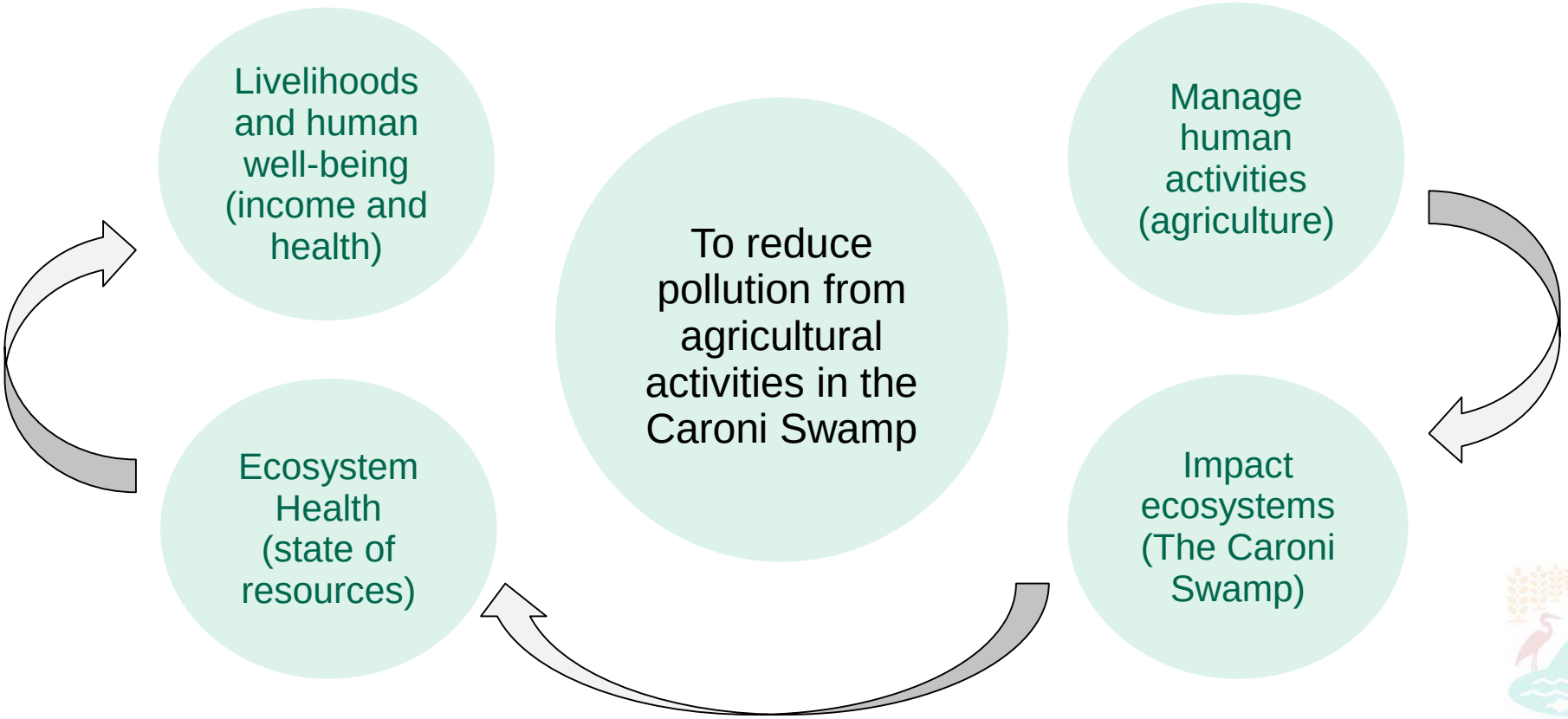
Community and Ecosystem Connections

Improving Human Wellbeing Sustaining Livelihoods

Why Ecosystem-based Management?



The Caroni Swamp

Characteristics

- Trinidad and Tobago's largest mangrove (~5000 ha) and second largest wetland (~8000 ha)

- Provides ecosystem services:
  Flood control
  Climate mitigation and adaptation
  Livelihood opportunities
  Cultural and recreational benefits

Legal Status

- Designated a wetland of international importance in 2005 – Ramsar Convention

- Patchwork of legal protection:
  Forests Act 1915
  Conservation of Wildlife Act 1958
  Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules 2001

Assessment of Resources

- Water quality (nutrients: ammonia, phosphates) - Poor
- Bacteriological water and oyster quality (faecal coliform and E. coli) - Some concern
- Fishery resources: blue land crab and tilapia (heavy metals and pesticides) - Some concern

Legal Framework

- Water Pollution Rules 2019
  (sets limits for water pollutants and ambient water quality standards)
- Food and Drugs Act 1960
  (set limits for trace metals, pesticides and chemicals for fish and fishery products – 1998 regulation)
- Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act 1979
  (regulates pesticide residue in foods)

Improving the Policy Framework

Key Policies	Description
1. Integrated Water Resources Management Policy	Draft policy provides direction and vision for the management of the country's water resources. • Agriculture water and wastewater management
2. Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy Framework	Draft policy to guide both development and conservation in the coastal zone by managing human activities. • Promote sustainable agriculture in the coastal zone
3. National Agricultural Policy	Updated policy required to guide development of sector and address multiple challenges including climate change. • Institutionalise good agricultural practices (GAPs) for safety, promote trade and competitiveness in the sector.

Improving Environmental Governance

Increase organisational and technical capacities

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries
- Water Resources Agency
- Local Government
- National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation
- Farmer Associations & Local Communities

Thank You!

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