

**Coastal wetlands:
The information and
monitoring challenge**

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supervising scientist

**COASTAL WETLANDS:
THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING
CHALLENGE**

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29 April-1 May 1998

Wetlands and Estuaries

Session I (1.30pm - 3.00pm)

Grand River Ballroom East

Workshop Leader: Max Finlayson

Workshop Facilitator: Bruce Hamilton

Mr Rod Applegate	Department of Lands, Planning & Environment
Ms Tania Ashworth	Department of Environment
Mr Nigel Bancroft	Busselton Shire Council
Mr Jon Bettink	Shire of Busselton
Ms Leanne Bowden	Department of Environment
Mr John De Campo	Department of Environment
Mr Matthew Dhulumburrk	Ramingining Homelands Resource Centre
Ms Sonia Edwards	Department of Environment
Dr Ian Eliot	University of Western Australia
Mr Mark Flanigan	Office of the Minister for Environment
Ms Kath Gosden	Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Ms Erica Griffiths	Warringah Council
Ms Wendy Haberecht	Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Ms Rebecca Hall	Environment Australia
Dr David Heggie	Australian Geological Survey Organisation
Miss Sharon Hinton	Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Mrs Robin House	South Coast Management Group
Mr Grant Hull	Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Mr David Kanaley	Byron Shire Council
Mr Sean Kenwery	Regional Estate Centre - WA
Ms Jane Lofthouse	Tweed Shire Council
Ms Sue Longmore	Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Ms Karen Majer	Waters & Rivers Commission
Mr Duncan Malcolm	Gippsland Coastal Board
Cr Joy Matthews	MacLean Shire Council
Mr Paul May	Planning Initiatives
Mr Brian McRae	Warringah Council
Ms Gail Sellers	Gladstone City Council
Mr Russ Smith	South West (WA) Regional Local Government Association
Mr Michael Storrs	Northern Land Council
Mr Gordon Sykes	City of Marion
Ms Margaret Tailby	Environment Australia
Ms Elizabeth Thorburn	Environment Australia
Ms Nicci Tsemjayvski	South West Local Government Association
Ms Clare Walsh	WA Municipal Association

**COASTAL WETLANDS:
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COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

- Truisms about coastal wetlands
- Loss and degradation of coastal wetlands
- Values and benefits of coastal wetlands
- Sectoral management of coastal wetlands
- Integrated management of coastal wetlands

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Truisms

- Many wetlands are an integral part of the coastal zone and associated catchments
- Wetlands provide many values and benefits to people
- Wetlands in the coastal zone have been and continue to be degraded and destroyed
- Wetland management is plagued by sectoral divides and poor communication

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Loss and Degradation

- National/international value (ESD, Ramsar/Biodiversity Conventions) but local loss
- Rates of areal loss poorly known, but possibly 50-75%
- Loss due to hydrological/physical changes, pollution, invasive species
- Detailed inventories lacking, hard to access or not updated
- Information on values and benefits lacking

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Values and benefits
tangible and non-tangible

- Products - fish & invertebrates, reeds, trees, water
- Functions - drainage basins, flood amelioration, sediment & nutrient sinks, groundwater recharge & discharge
- Attributes - aesthetic, cultural, biodiversity, geomorphic

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Sectoral management

- Multi-agency communication
- Local community involvement
- Sectoral arrogance - drainage, pollution, over harvesting
- Sectoral ignorance - lack of awareness, cooperation or communication, or absence of information

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Integrated management

- including relevant agencies and local communities
- agreement on objectives based on recognised values & benefits
- wise use of resources
- supported by information and information systems
- underpinned by effective monitoring and reaction systems

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Integrated Management

- Requires information and monitoring within an agreed management structure
- Information - values & benefits, management interests & processes, threats and solutions
- Monitoring - values & benefits, management interests & processes, threats and solutions

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Information requirements

- What information is available and where is it?
- What further information is required?
- How can information be stored and accessed?
- How can new information be obtained?

COASTAL WETLANDS: THE INFORMATION AND MONITORING MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Monitoring

- What monitoring is currently being undertaken at national, state and local levels?
- How effective is current monitoring and should it be continued?
- What further monitoring is required at national, state and local levels?

FIGURE 1

FRAMEWORK FOR THE

ALLIGATOR RIVERS REGION COASTAL MONITORING NODE (ARR-CMN)

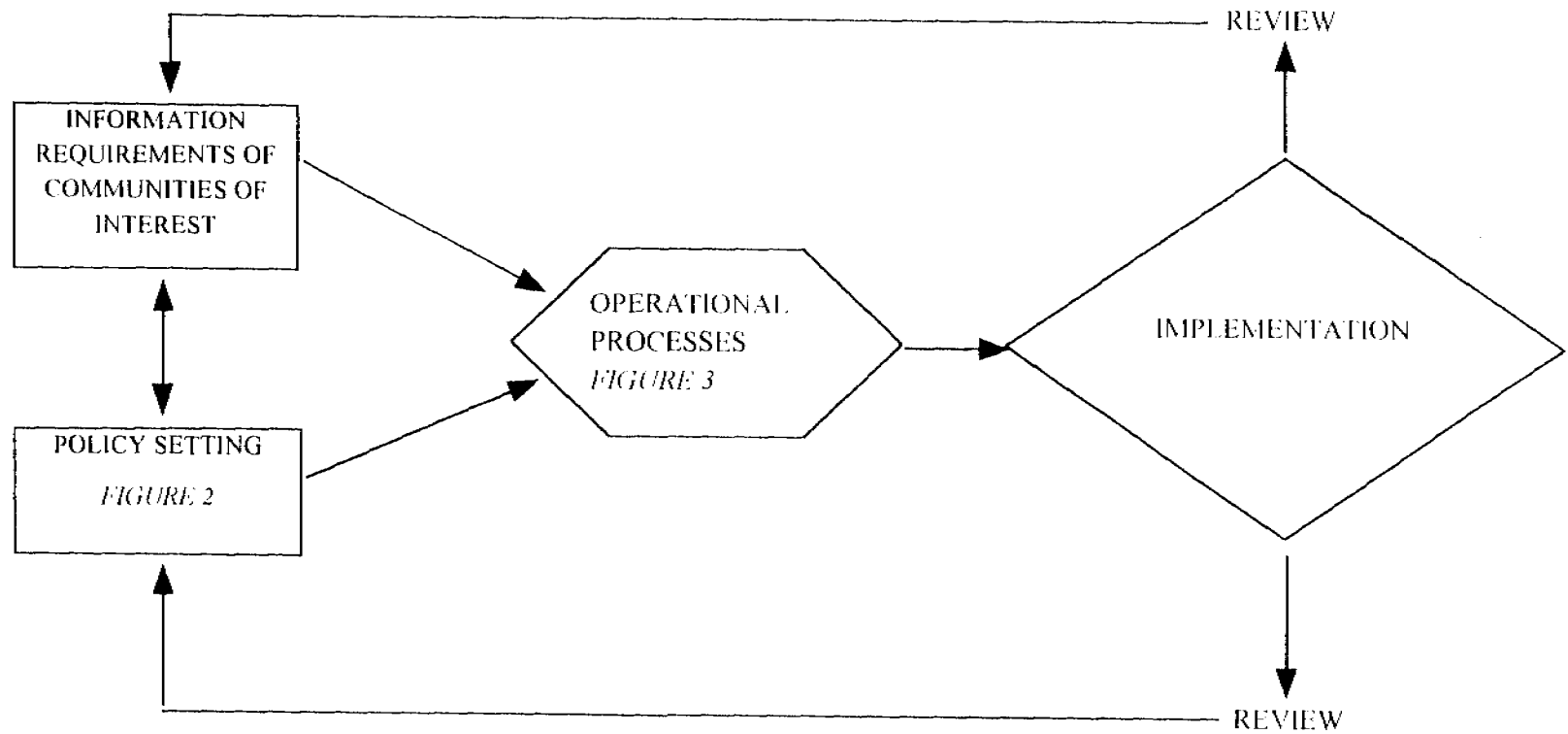


FIGURE 2
POLICY SETTING FOR THE
ALLIGATOR RIVERS REGION COASTAL MONITORING NODE

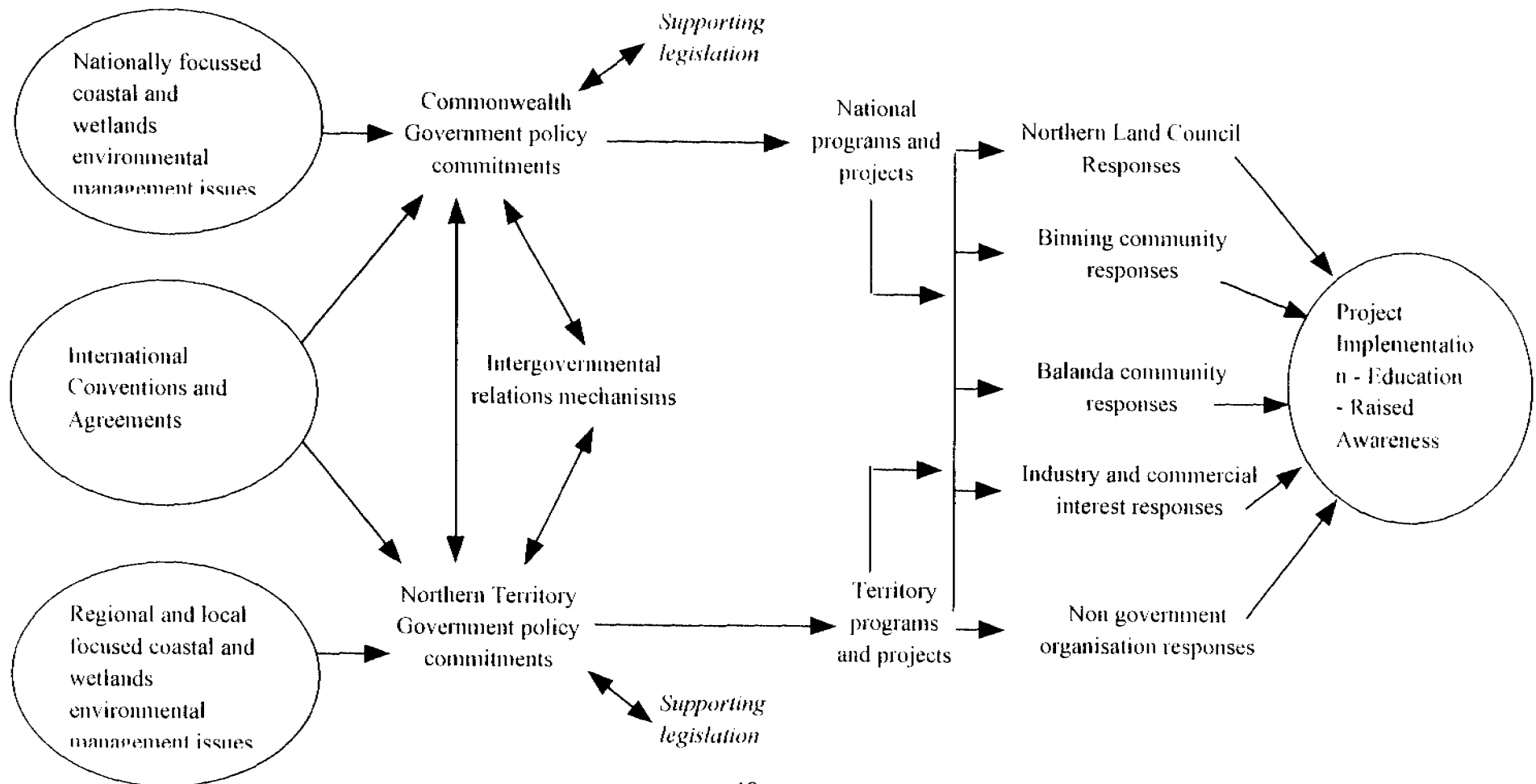


FIGURE 3
OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR THE
ALLIGATOR RIVERS REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING NODE (ARR-CMN)

