

Perspectives on Federal Agency Support for Local Action Strategies

USCRTF

Howard Hankin

November 3, 2009



Overall Federal Support for LAS: Federal Perspective

- “Overall” support from 10 federal agencies with 7 responding to the survey ranks “low” for LAS implementation.
- The types of support provided by individual federal agencies varies from Region to Region, and from Island Nation to Island Nation.



Direct Funding Assistance

Reasons for low / no direct funding to support LAS activities include:

- No authority
- No funding for coral conservation or research
- Limited discretionary funding
- No funding mechanism available



Technical Assistance Provided:

- TA is provided when LAS activities coincide with agencies' missions or vice versa.
- Agencies are able to provide TA through Research and Development, where applicable.
- No TA was available if LAS activities did not include research relevant to some agencies' mission areas.
- TA not available in all jurisdictions
- There are LAS concerns that none of the CRTF agencies can address alone, such as climate change and population growth.



Direct Project Implementation

- No agencies ranked “high” in this category and most had “low” or “no” direct project implementation.
- Reasons include: no relevance to agencies’ missions, no staff available in all regions, no authority, no funding, no decision making actions and no direct resource management responsibilities.



Coordination Assistance

- For the majority of CRTF agencies the responses ranged from “no” assistance to “low” assistance.
- One agency replied “unknown”.



What can federal members do to increase support for locally driven initiatives?

- Participate in development of a Watershed Management Plan and identify how each and every federal agency can assist.
- Assist Jurisdictions in development of Local Action Strategies to implement the watershed management plan and identify all potential resources.
- Ensure federal agencies and watershed stakeholders are coordinated and financial and technical resources are identified for implementation.



And finally,

- Identify all non-government organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders on the Island.
- Ensure the NGOs and stakeholders are informed from the beginning of the development of the watershed plan and seek their input, and sources of technical and financial assistance.
- Continue to build stakeholder capacity through collaboration, education and outreach.

