



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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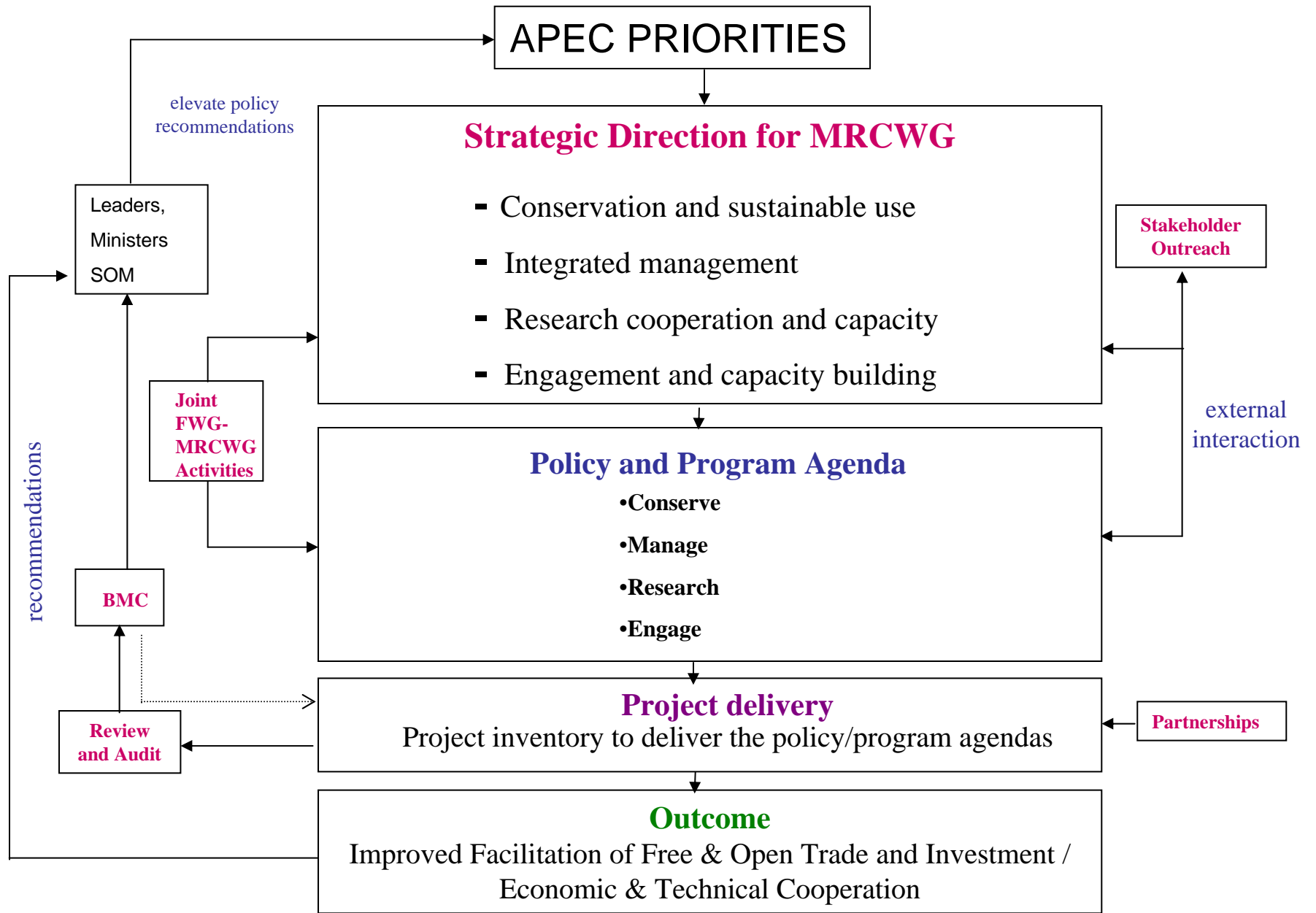
Revised MRCWG Strategic Framework

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: Lead Shepherd



**18th Marine Resource Conservation Working
Group Meeting
Phuket, Thailand
17 -19 May 2005**

Strategic Framework¹ for the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group



Annex to the Strategic Framework for the MRCWG

Leaders have expressed the importance of oceans for food security and sustainable economic development. Ministers have underscored that APEC economies are united by oceans and seas and that the health of the marine environment is critical to these economies' economic, social and environmental well-being. The work of the MRCWG is ***“to facilitate a balanced policy and program agenda for the sustainability of the marine environment to achieve efficient use of shared marine resources in support of the APEC vision of free and open trade and investment”***¹.

According to the Strategic Direction of the MRCWG our main objectives are to:

- Prevent, Reduce, Control Marine Pollution
- Conserve Marine Resources
- Integrate Approaches to Coastal and Ocean Management
- Respond to emerging APEC priorities
- Broaden Public, Private, Academic and Civil Society Engagement

To achieve these objectives the MRCWG and individual economies will develop relevant projects, actions and policy responses to:

- Apply an ecosystem-based approach to coastal and marine decision-making
- Support scientific collaboration and research
- Improve marine environmental quality and standards
- Support regional and domestic efforts in accordance with relevant international instruments
- Improve regional cooperation for the responsible care of oceans and coasts
- Improve cooperation and coordination on marine-related matters among APEC fora
- Accelerate efforts to address environmental threats to marine-related trade and investment
- Facilitate capacity building through technology transfer, training, sharing of best practices, and education

These actions will lead to the following results:

- Improved food safety and security
- Improved environmental health
- Improved knowledge
- Improved regional harmonization
- Improved human capacity

These conditions underpin the APEC vision of free and open trade and investment.