

Discussion input to the
IHP V, Sub-theme 4
Strategies for water resources
management in emergency and
conflicting situations

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working group



"An expert is someone who knows more and more about less and less, until eventually he knows everything about nothing."

- Anon.



Underlying Theme 4

- Shared resources may cause multitude of conflicts – but also cooperation
- Increased stress – more conflicts
- Water conflicts have strong cultural/political components
- Vulnerability most evident under emergency situations
- Past approaches too simplistic

!!Reflections!!

- Theme 4 part of the new approach to what IHP can deal with, paradigm shift? Only with "STRATEGIES..."
- Focus on managerial, social and political issues and not only pure scientific aspects - Clear decision-making relevance
- Very forward looking
- Global approach – national committees

!!Reflections!!

- Initiatives focusing on possibilities rather than problems
 - Negotiations over water - including training!
 - Public participation - participatory processes
 - River basin management - cooperation

!!Reflections!!

- Truly interdisciplinary activities
 - hydrology leaving its pigeon hole! Knowledge sharing.
 - Hydrologists
 - Water resources managers
 - Managers
 - Social scientists
 - Economists
 - Engineers
 - Legal experts

!!Reflections!!

- State of the art knowledge, from an academic point of view!
- Clear and valuable documentation from workshops
- Interesting focus on some "Hot-spots" (Aral Sea, Caspian Sea)
- Challenging topics - interbasin transfer, negotiations etc.
- Broadening scope - from EIA to SIA and Economics.

??Reflections??

- Funding for activities!
- Where are the strategies?
- Comprehensive Risk Management Plans
- Intergovernmental mandate – provide support for decisions – but how do you get them to listen?? Water issues so important??
- Where are the implementors – from theory to practice? Knowledge transfer!
- Involvement of additional actors – less focus on traditional academia?
- Be a platform for dialogue!

??Reflections??

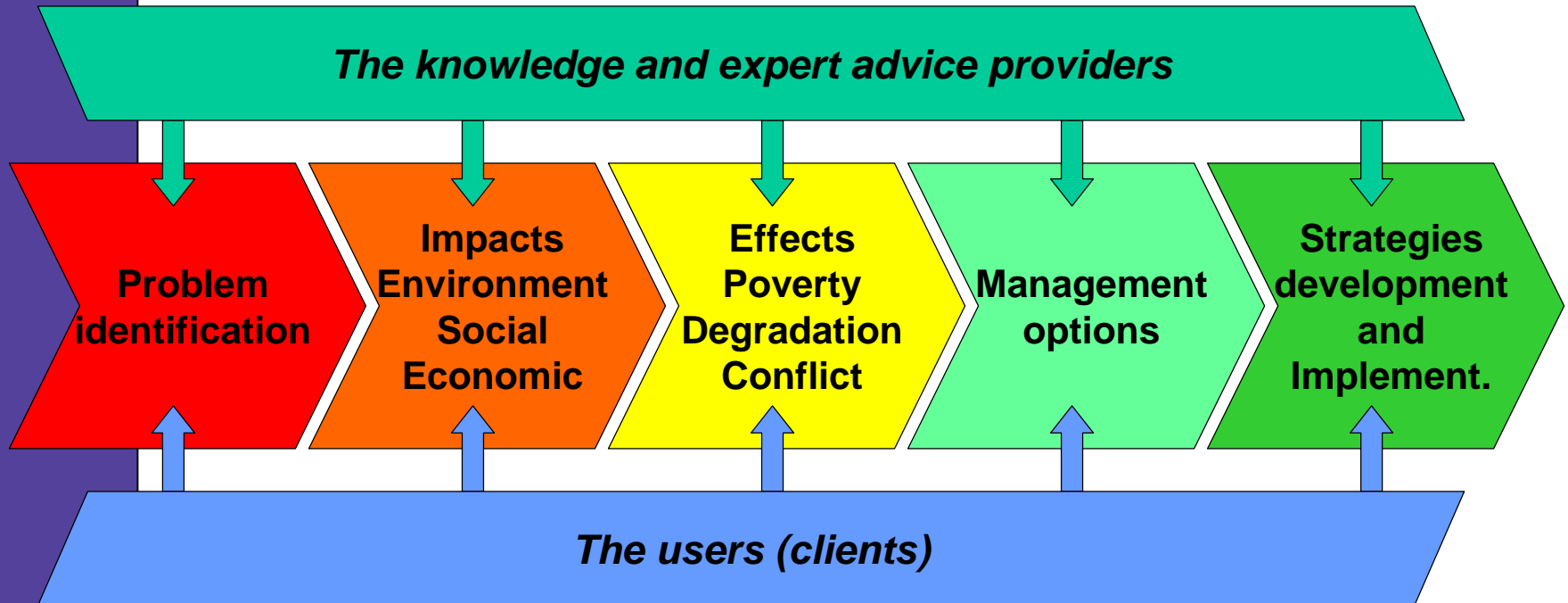
- Link between theme and activities sometimes questionable – more focused!
- Challenge conventional wisdom and narrow-mindedness and be more proactive in communication
- Involve behaviour scientists etc – new groups – but do not forget hydrology!
- Identification of next generation of scientific challenges within the field
- Focus further on dealing with “real world” challenges

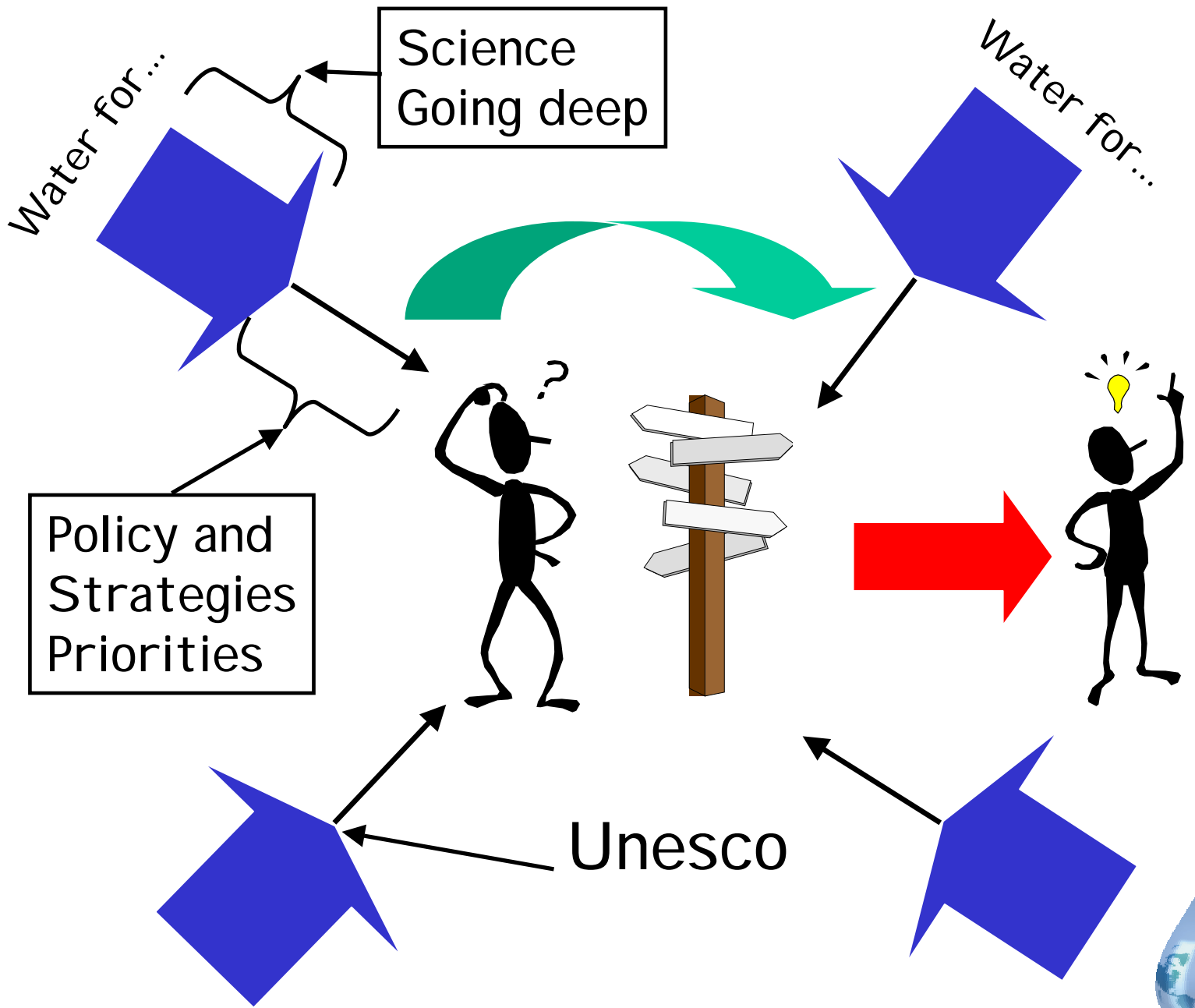


IHP VI

- Very clear link between theme 4 and IHP VI themes 1, 4 and 5.
- Very interesting activities – reflecting current developments (water value, ethics, digital divide etc)
- Challenge of getting relevant people involved

For IHP in the Future

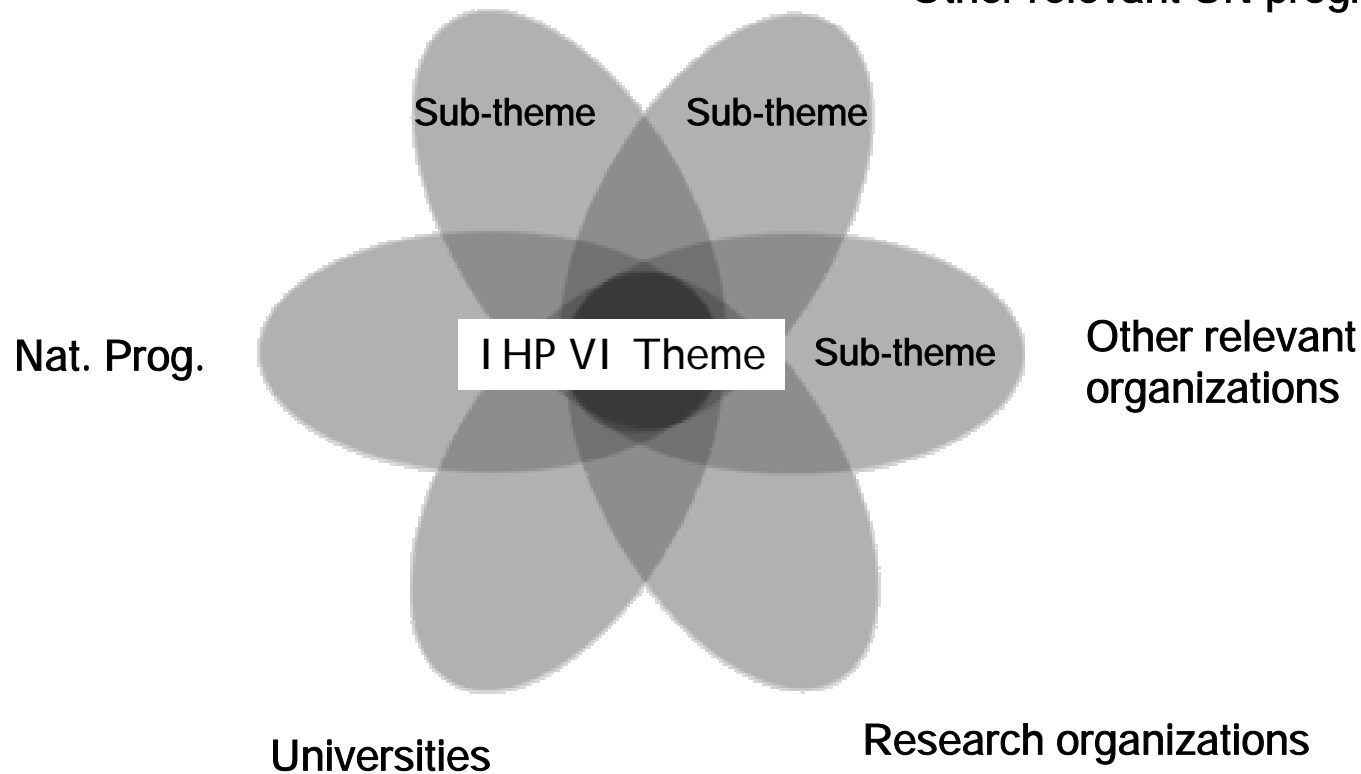




Make connections through the IHP VI

Other UNESCO programmes

Other relevant UN programmes



Support for success and efficiency

- Safeguard that information and knowledge is transferred from one phase to the other (one generation to the next) – avoid duplication
- Horizontal cooperation between themes – capacity of the secretariat
- Match ambition with funding and support from the start? Review!
- Flexibility through the programme – adaptability to a changing world
- Dare to address sensitive issues

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

-- Fred Allen

Some things never change - or will they?

Thank you!

