MCC

Mercator Research Institute on
Global Commons and Climate Change

Designing effective Global Environmental Assessments? The FOGEAM project

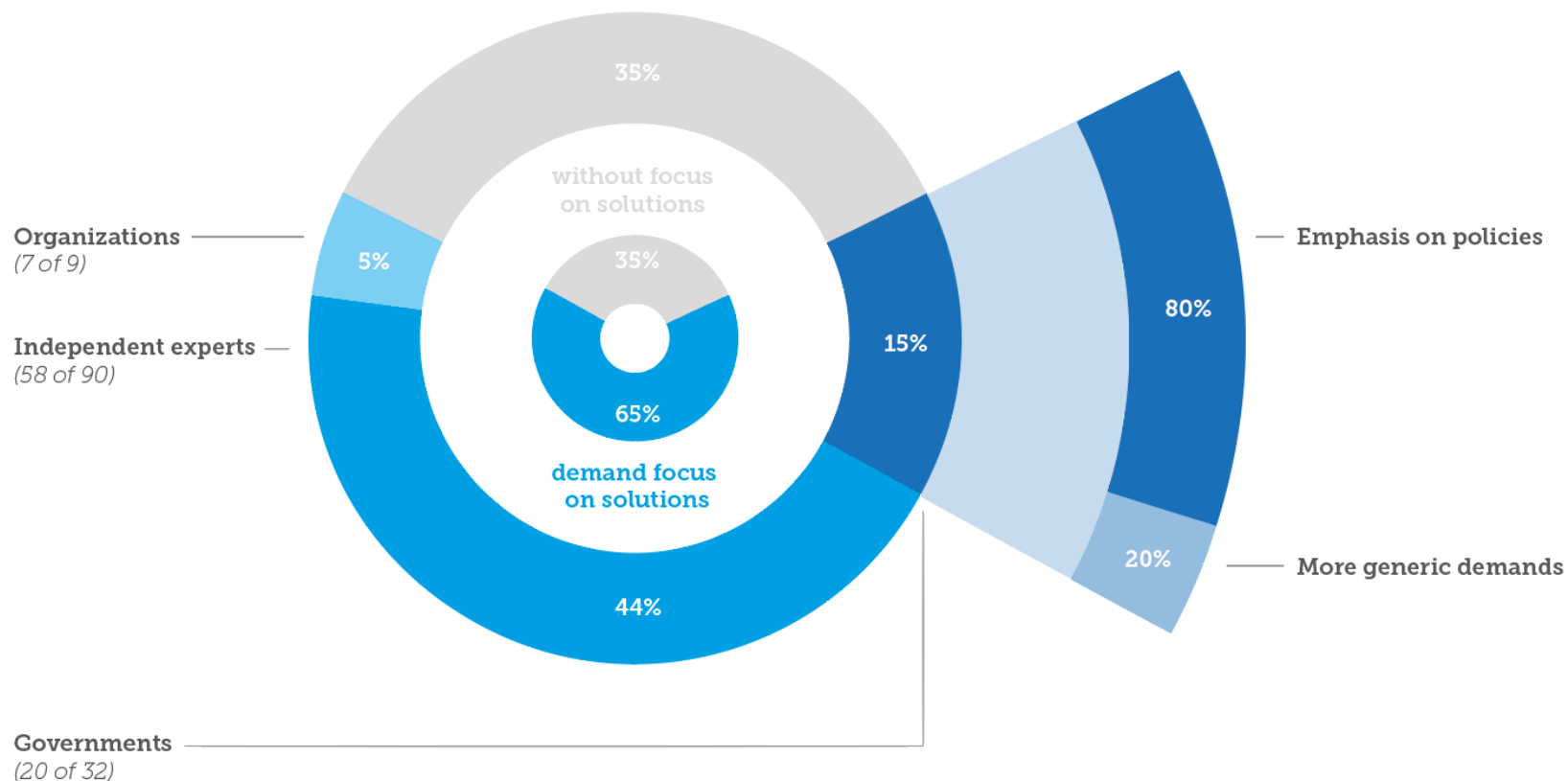Martin Kowarsch & Pauline Riousset

TIAS webinar
16 June 2017

GEAs as promising tools
at the science-policy-society interface

Policy-makers
Multiple stakeholders

Diverse values and viewpoints

Often: mandate from governing bodies

Assessment process

Diverse scientific experts

Knowledge integration towards alternative policy options and implications

Pre-assessments (meta-analysis, etc.)

Review papers

Numerous research papers: multiple disciplines, different policy aspects

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014
Mitigation of Climate Change

GEO5
Global Environment Outlook
Environment for the future we want

ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING
VOLUME 3
POLICY RESPONSES

Agriculture at a Crossroads
Global Report

High demand for more assessment of solutions

131 IPCC reform responses

Organizations
(7 of 9)

Independent experts
(58 of 90)

Governments
(20 of 32)

without focus on solutions — 35%

demand focus on solutions — 65%

35%
5%
15%
44%

Emphasis on policies — 80%

More generic demands — 20%

Current research about GEAs

Different communities, but current GEAs underresearched; often narrow evaluation criteria and focus on politics

The FOGEAM research initiative

- **MCC & UN Environment research project (2013–2016):**
  "*The Future of Global Environmental Assessment Making (FOGEAM).
  Reflecting on past experiences to inform future choices*"

  - Analysis of various GEAs, particularly GEO-5 and IPCC WG III AR5
    - Focus on lessons learned for **solution-oriented policy assessment**
    - **SDGs** as one example of possible future application

- **Outputs:** Report for UNEP IGMS (2014); Special Issue of
  EnvSci&Pol (2017); *Nature Clim.Ch.* synthesis paper (2017)

Methods: empirical & theoretical

- **~100 semi-structured interviews**
  - With individuals engaged in various GEAs; mostly GEO-5 and IPCC WG III
  - Skype or telephone; ~50 min on average; recorded & transcribed; MAX QDA

- **Expert workshops for information & discussion**
  - UNEP-DEWA workshop (Aug 2013); GEO author workshop Berlin (Oct 2013); UNEP IGMS on GEO-6 (Oct 2014); Expert meeting on studies of IPCC (Jan 2015); Future of IPCC workshop Berlin (Feb 2015); ICPP conference Milan (Jul 2015); FOGEAM expert workshop Berlin (Oct 2015); World Science Forum Budapest (Nov 2015)
  - Numerous informal conversations with IPCC TSU, GEO staff and SPI experts

- **Analysis of GEA background documents**
  - Including scoping papers, meeting reports, independent evaluations, official UN documentation, government reports, news articles, assessment reports
  - Compilation and analyses of a GEA metadata catalogue

- **Literature review and synthesis**

- **Conceptual and theoretical reflections**

Strategic perspective on GEAs
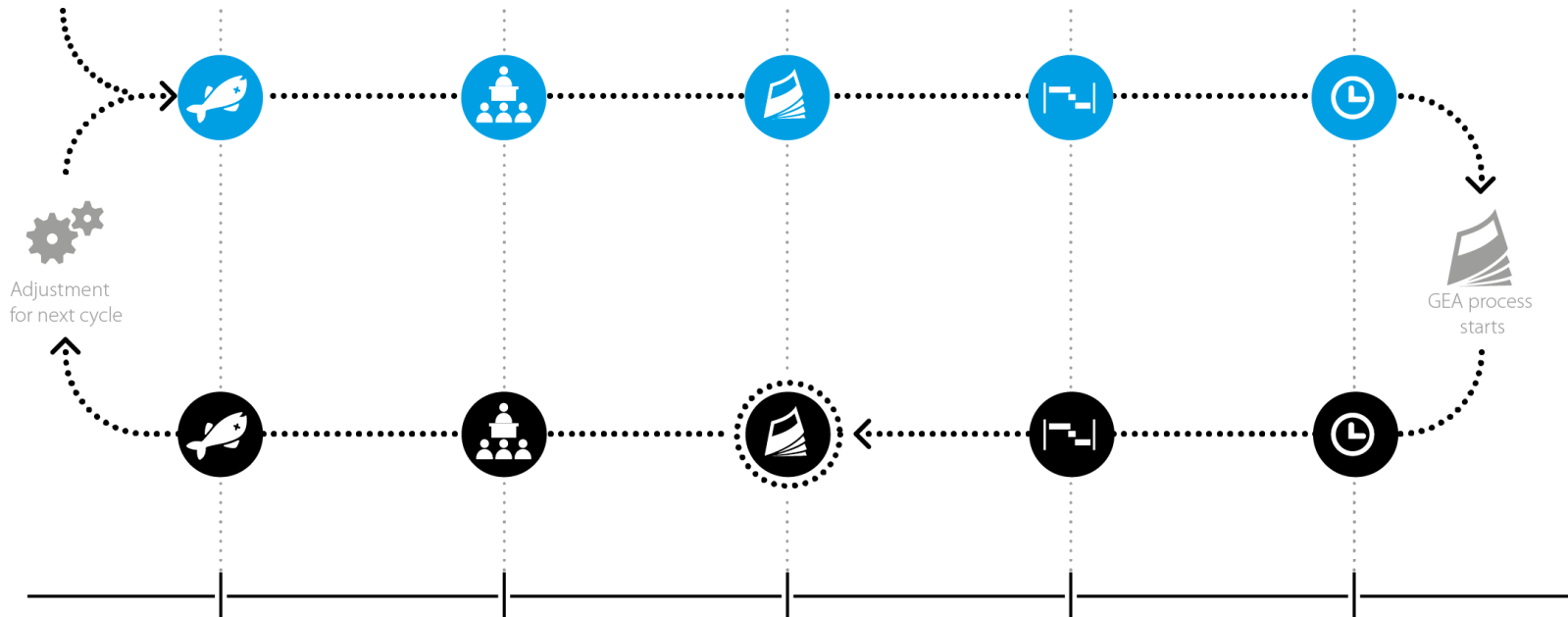
Adjustment for next cycle

GEA process starts

1) Policy problem

e.g., shrinking biodiversity and insufficient policy regulations (at t_0 and t_1)

2) GEA impacts on policy discourses

e.g., envisaged or actual learning within public policy discourses

3) Scope and objectives for GEA

e.g., identifying promising climate mitigation pathways (IPCC WG III)

4) GEA methods, processes and procedures

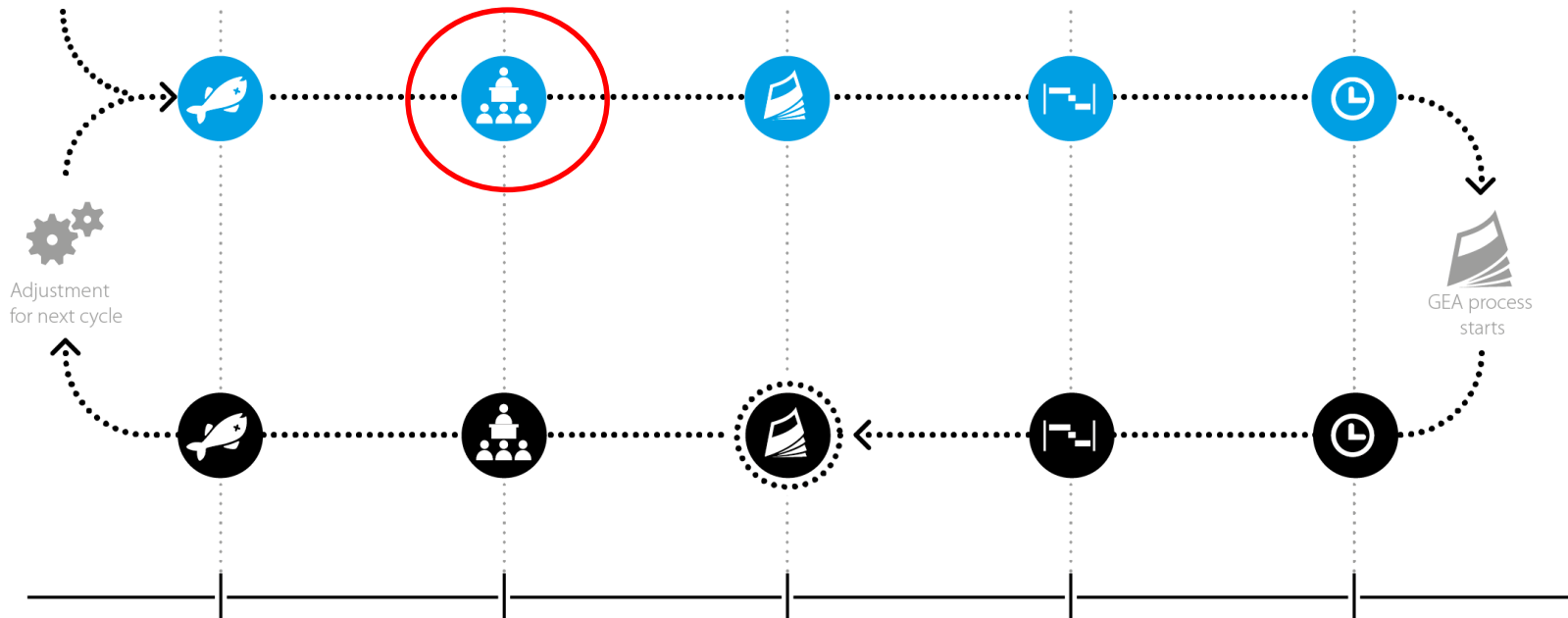e.g., DPSIR and regional consultations in GEO-5

5) Resources for GEA

e.g., expertise available, funds, time

Envisaged   Realized

Strategic perspective on GEAs

1) Policy problem

e.g., shrinking biodiversity and insufficient policy regulations (at t_0 and t_1)

2) GEA impacts on policy discourses

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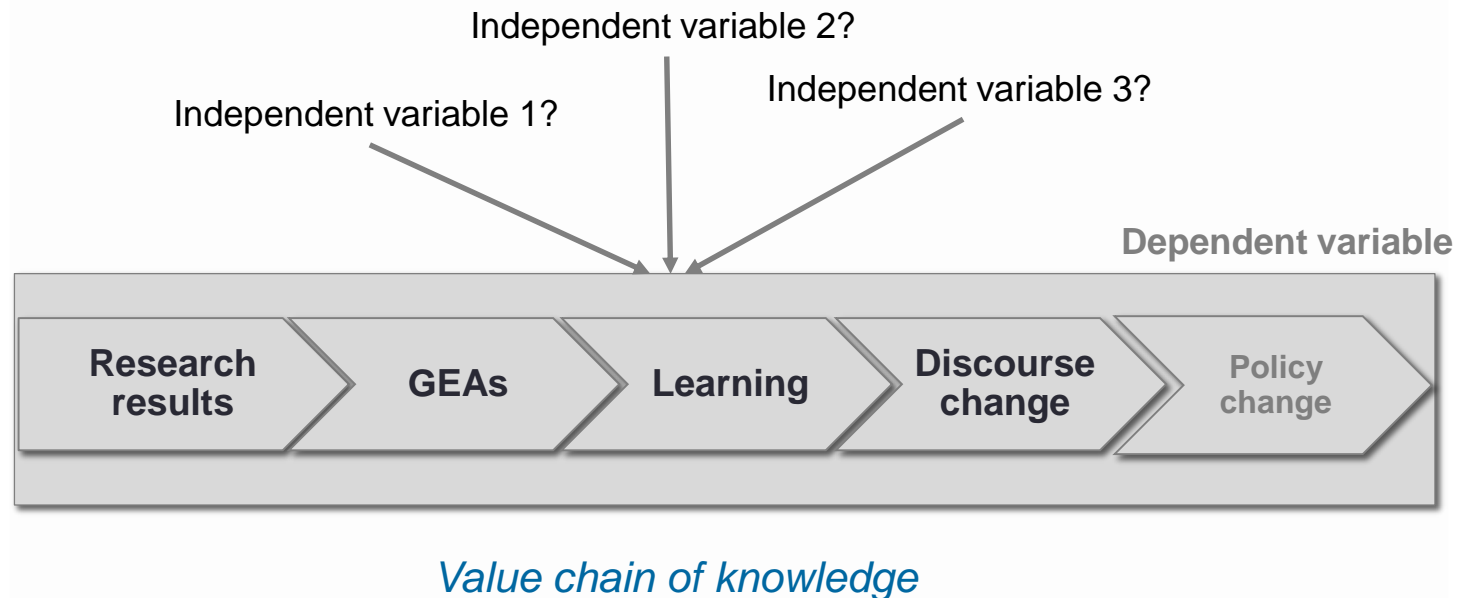
5) Resources for GEA

e.g., expertise available, funds, time

Adjustment for next cycle

GEA process starts

● Envisaged   ● Realized

Exploring GEA impact mechanisms

Exploring GEA impact mechanisms

Value chain of knowledge

How GEAs influence policy discourses

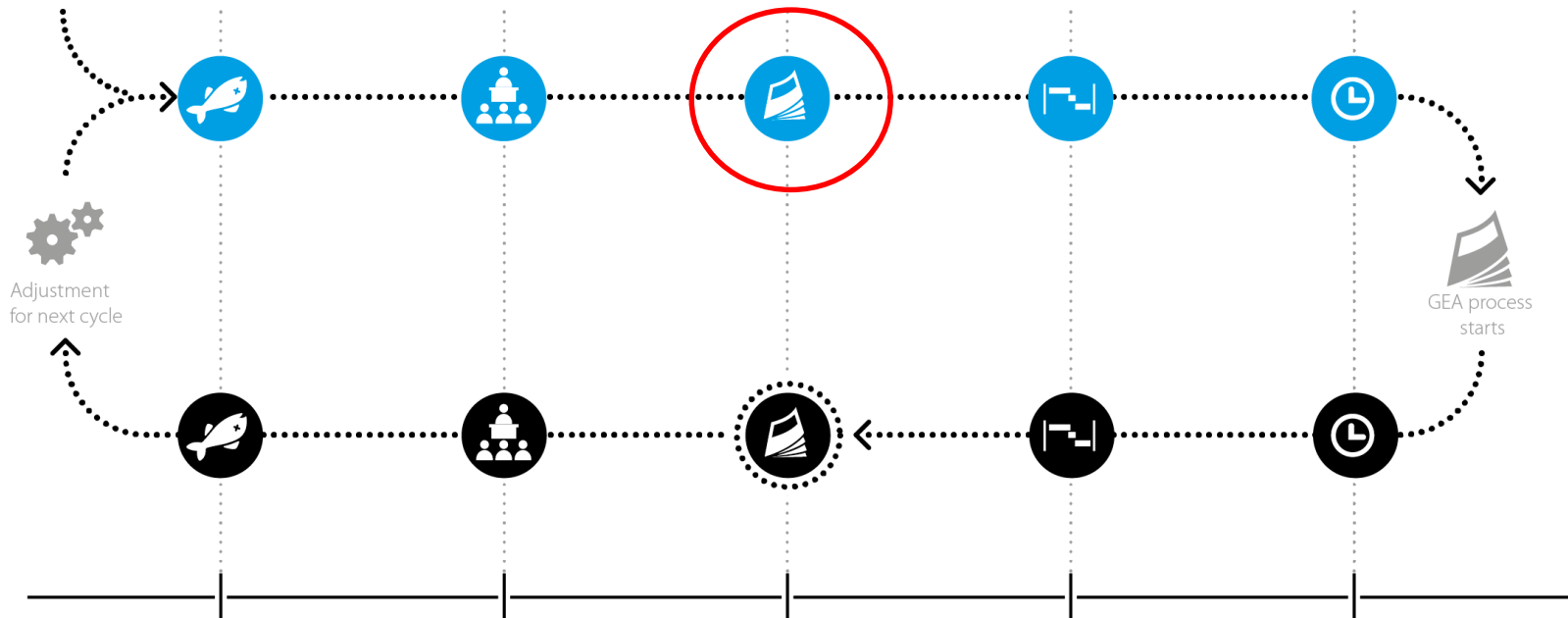|	Coordinative discourses
Inter-national	Shape actor networks
	Generate scientific premises for negotiations
National	Learning platforms
	Contextualize & Multiply info.
	Reinforce & standardize methodological capacities

How GEAs influence policy discourses

	Coordinative discourses	Communicative discourses		
Inter-national	Shape actor networks	Reassert the urgency of tackling envt. issues	Empower knowledge brokers	Empower top-down discourses on envt. issues
	Generate scientific premises for negotiations			
National	Learning platforms			
	Contextualize & Multiply info.			
	Reinforce & standardize methodological capacities			

Riousset et al., *Env Sci & Pol.*, 2017

How GEAs influence policy discourses

	Coordinative discourses	Communicative discourses			Scientific discourses	
Inter-national	Shape actor networks	Reassert the urgency of tackling envt. issues	Empower knowledge brokers	Empower top-down discourses on envt. issues	Identify critical research gaps	Opportunity to shape research agendas
	Generate scientific premises for negotiations					
National	Learning platforms					
	Contextualize & Multiply info.					
	Reinforce & standardize methodological capacities					

Riousset et al., *Env Sci & Pol.*, 2017

Strategic perspective on GEAs

1) **Policy problem**

e.g., shrinking biodiversity and insufficient policy regulations (at t_0 and t_1)

2) **GEA impacts on policy discourses**

e.g., envisaged or actual learning within public policy discourses

3) **Scope and objectives for GEA**

e.g., identifying promising climate mitigation pathways (IPCC WG III)

4) **GEA methods, processes and procedures**

e.g., DPSIR and regional consultations in GEO-5

5) **Resources for GEA**

e.g., expertise available, funds, time

Envisaged   Realized

Adjustment for next cycle

GEA process starts

Integrated assessment of policy alternatives

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Integrated assessment of policy alternatives

…to enable inclusive (multi-stakeholder) **deliberative learning processes** about **policy alternatives** and their various practical implications.

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Thanks for your attention.

FOGEAM website:

www.mcc-berlin.net/en/research/cooperation/unep.html

References

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- Kowarsch, M, Flachsland, C, Jabbour, J, Garard, J, Riousset, P (2014): **The Future of Global Environmental Assessment Making (FOGEAM): Reflecting on past experiences to inform future choices.** MCC Report prepared for UNEP's IGMS consultation on GEO-6, Oct 2014, Berlin. Online: http://www.mcc-berlin.net/fileadmin/data/events/FOGEAM_Preliminary_Draft_Report_17102014.pdf.

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http://www.mcc-berlin.net/en/research/cooperation/unep.html